



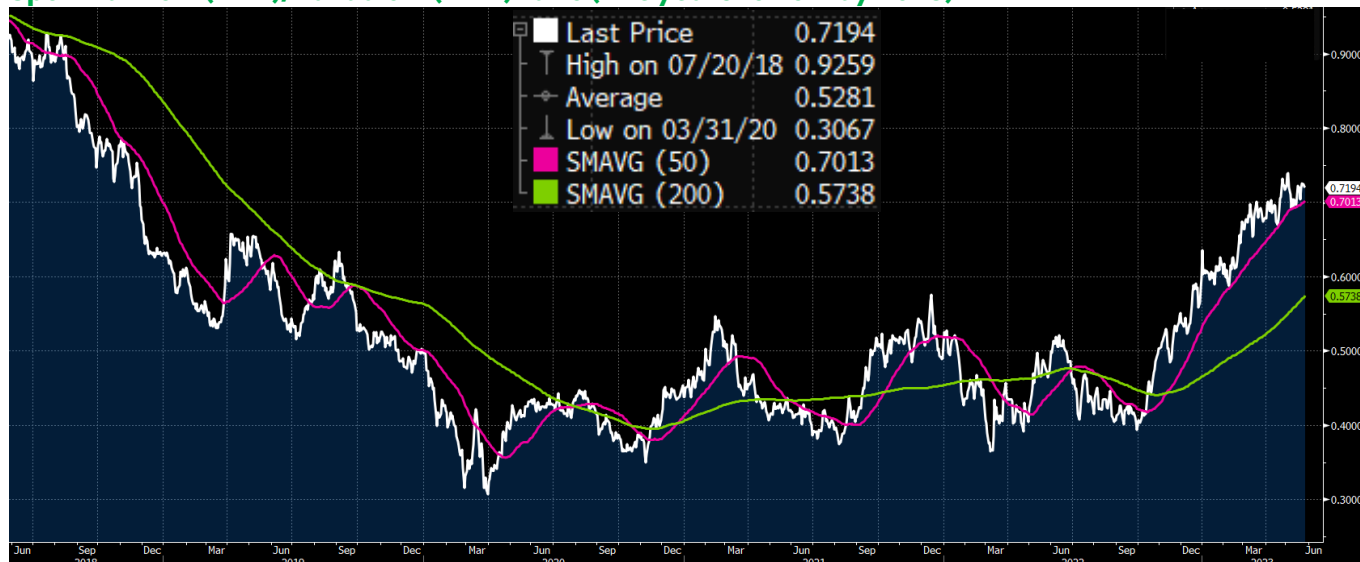
Ford's lines up lithium suppliers for its five planned Gigafactories

At its capital markets day, Ford [highlighted](#) that it has entered into lithium supply agreements with Albemarle, SQM and Nemaska, as well as making investments in US-based development projects through agreements with Ioneer, Compass Minerals and EnergySource Minerals. [Albemarle](#), for example, will supply more than 100,000MT of battery-grade lithium hydroxide for approximately 3 million future Ford EV batteries. The five-year supply agreement starts in 2026 and continues through 2030. With Canada's [Nemaska Lithium](#), it has an agreement for the supply of lithium products, including lithium hydroxide, over an 11-year period, with delivery of up to 13,000 tons of lithium hydroxide per year. The agreements are designed to ensure that eligible Ford EVs would qualify for consumer tax benefits under the IRA.

Standard Lithium [reported](#) that it has sampled lithium grade brine with a grade of 581 mg/L at its South West Arkansas Project. This led to a rise in its share price as the preliminary economic assessment (PEA), which projected a post-tax NPV US\$1.97 billion and IRR of 32% at 8% discount rate, was based on more conservative assumptions of grade quality. The [PEA](#), published in 2021, estimated a 20-year mine-life producing an average of 30,000 tonnes per year of battery-quality lithium hydroxide monohydrate (LHM), and an in-situ inferred resource of 1,195,000 tonnes lithium carbonate equivalent. The company will use a direct lithium extraction process, which increases the effective recovery of lithium.

Sandfire Resources [announced](#) the first production of copper concentrate at its Motheo mine in Botswana's Kalahari Copper Belt. It will now focus on the completion of commissioning activities and the ramping up of the processing plant to its initial 3.2Mtpa processing capacity, which is expected to be achieved in the latter part of 2024. Separately, it has received approval to develop another pit at Motheo, which would take processing capacity to 5.2Mtpa, which would see contained copper production rates reach around 50ktpa in FY2025. Combined with production at the MATSA Copper Operations in Spain, Sandfire is [projecting](#) copper production of 110-120ktpa in FY2025.

Spot Platinum (XPT)/Palladium (XPD) ratio (five years to 26 May 2023)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (26 May)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Gold	1947.9	-0.7%	7.4%	106.7%	95.1%
Silver	23.145	-2.2%	-3.3%	105.9%	88.9%
Palladium	1442	-5.0%	-18.8%	81.1%	62.3%
Platinum	1025	-4.3%	-0.6%	104.7%	90.9%
Cobalt	30376.6	-0.7%	-29.7%	69.9%	35.0%
Copper	8082	-1.7%	-3.6%	96.6%	83.2%
Nickel	21450	-0.1%	-29.5%	87.3%	68.8%

Bloomberg codes: GOLDLNPM, SLVRLND, PLDMLNPM, PLTMLNPM, BYW1, LOCADY, LONIDY Notes. All performance data to 26 May 2023. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance and the value of an investment may fall as well as rise. Investors take on currency risk when taking unhedged exposure to commodities.

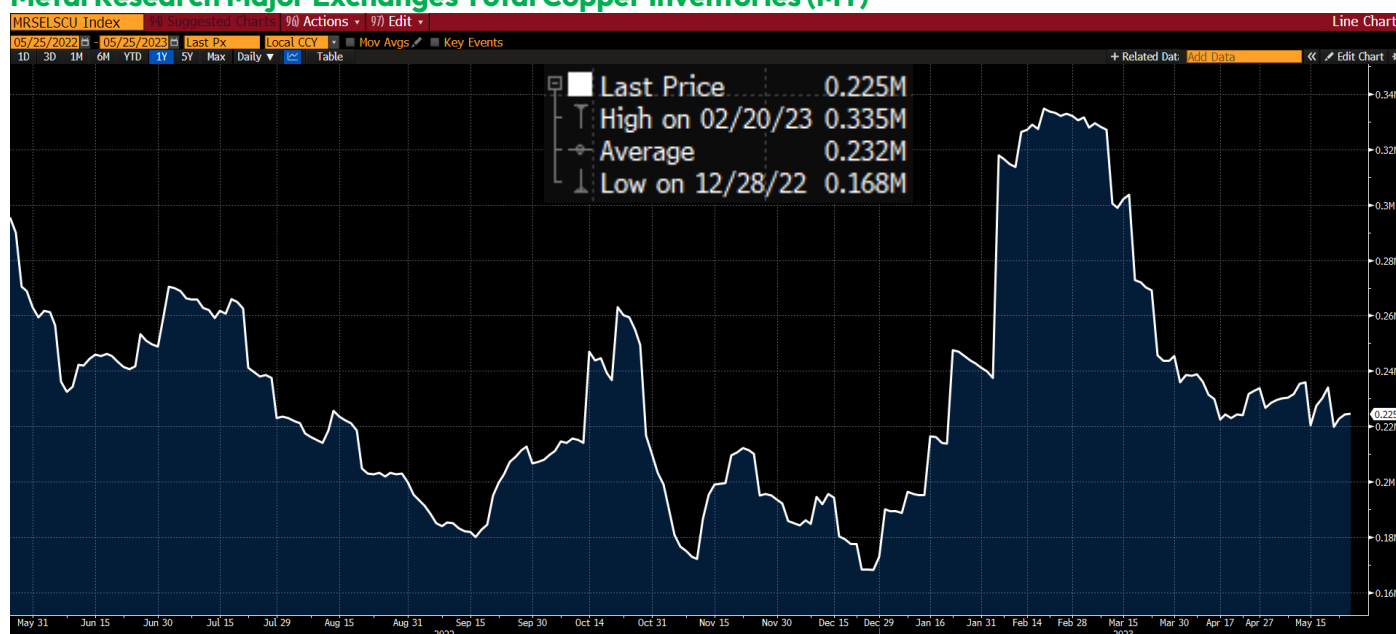
The week ahead

30 May	EU: Economic Sentiment; US: S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price, CB Consumer Confidence
31 June	DE: Inflation Rate; JP: Industrial Production; US: MBA 30 Year Mortgage Rate
1 June	AU, CN, DE, IT, JP, KR, UK, US: Manufacturing PMI; US: ISM Manufacturing Employment
2 June	FR: Industrial Production; KR: Inflation Rate, GDP; US: Non Farm Payrolls

Further reading

- Bloomberg [EV Battery Leader CATL Joins BYD, Tesla to Tap Solar’s Boom](#)
- Bloomberg [Multiplying Solar and Battery Factories Put Net Zero in Closer Reach](#)
- Hyundai [Hyundai Motor Group and LG Energy Solution to Establish Battery Cell Manufacturing Joint Venture in the U.S.](#)
- Reuters [Column: China's refined nickel imports slump to near 20-year lows](#)
- Reuters [BHP-backed Tanzania nickel miner in talks for offtake contracts](#)

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 25 May 2023

Source: Bloomberg

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