



Investors sought to fund expansion of the Mopani copper mine in Zambia

Zambian state-owned ZCCM Investments Holdings PLC provisional results [showed](#) that the Mopani copper mine recorded a loss of US\$ 298.1 million in 2022 compared to a loss US\$74.2 million in 2021 as a result of a fall in copper production from 87,618 tonnes to 72,694 tonnes. Mopani's future growth prospects are dependent on expansion projects that would give the mine the capacity to produce over 200,000 tonnes of copper cathode from 2027 onwards. An estimated US\$300 million is required for the expansion projects in addition to \$150 million of working capital. Rothschild has been engaged to find new investors. Reuters [reported](#) that Zijin Mining Group and Sibanye Stillwater are among those shortlisted, and ZCCM's CEO has indicated that the selection process is likely to be completed within two months.

Imerys, a leading provider of mineral-based specialty solutions, [acquired](#) an 80% stake in British Lithium. British Lithium has developed a unique process and pilot plant to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate from Cornish granite. As part of the JV, Imerys will provide a lithium deposit in Cornwall with 161 million tonnes of inferred resources at 0.54% lithium oxide content. These resources suggest a life of mine exceeding 30 years at a production rate of 20,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent per year. Imerys indicated that this project in combination with the [EMILI](#) project in France would make it the largest integrated lithium producer in Europe with more than 20% of announced lithium output in 2030.

There was more news on foreign involvement in the lithium sector in Bolivia. Uranium One Group JSC (an entity of ROSATOM) and YLB (Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos) [signed](#) a framework agreement on the construction of lithium carbonate mining and production complex in Potosí Department. It is ROSATOM's first large-scale foreign project in the field of lithium production involving an investment of US\$600 million. It is planning to build a processing facility with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate per year. Separately, China's Citic Guoan Group signed a similar agreement and is [reported](#) to be planning to invest US\$857 million to develop lithium resources. On the back of the agreements, Bolivia expects to produce 100,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate in 2025.

LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, year to date to 30 June 2023)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (30 June)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Gold	1912.25	-1.0%	5.4%	103.4%	93.4%
Silver	22.47	0.6%	-6.2%	100.5%	86.3%
Palladium	1254	-2.0%	-29.4%	74.3%	54.2%
Platinum	897	-2.9%	-13.0%	90.8%	79.5%
Cobalt	29365.6	0.7%	-32.0%	72.5%	38.4%
Copper	8210	-3.3%	-2.1%	97.6%	87.0%
Nickel	20125	-3.7%	-33.9%	82.2%	64.5%

Bloomberg codes: GOLDLNPM, SLVRLND, PLDMLNPM, PLTMLNPM, BYW1, LOCADY, LONIDY

Notes. All performance data to 30 June 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

3 July	AU, CN, EU, UK, US: Manufacturing PMIs; JP: Tankan Large Manufacturers Index;
4 July	AU: Interest Rate Decision; CA: Manufacturing PMI; DE: Balance of Trade
5 July	AU, EU, JP, UK: Services and Composite PMIs; US: Factory Orders, FOMC Minutes
6 July	AU, CA, US: Balance of Trade; EU, UK: Construction PMIs; US: ISM Services PMI
7 July	DE: Industrial Production; UK: Halifax House Price Index; US: Non Farm Payrolls

Further reading

Bloomberg [With Plenty of Clean Energy, Brazil Aims for Green Hydrogen Export Market](#)

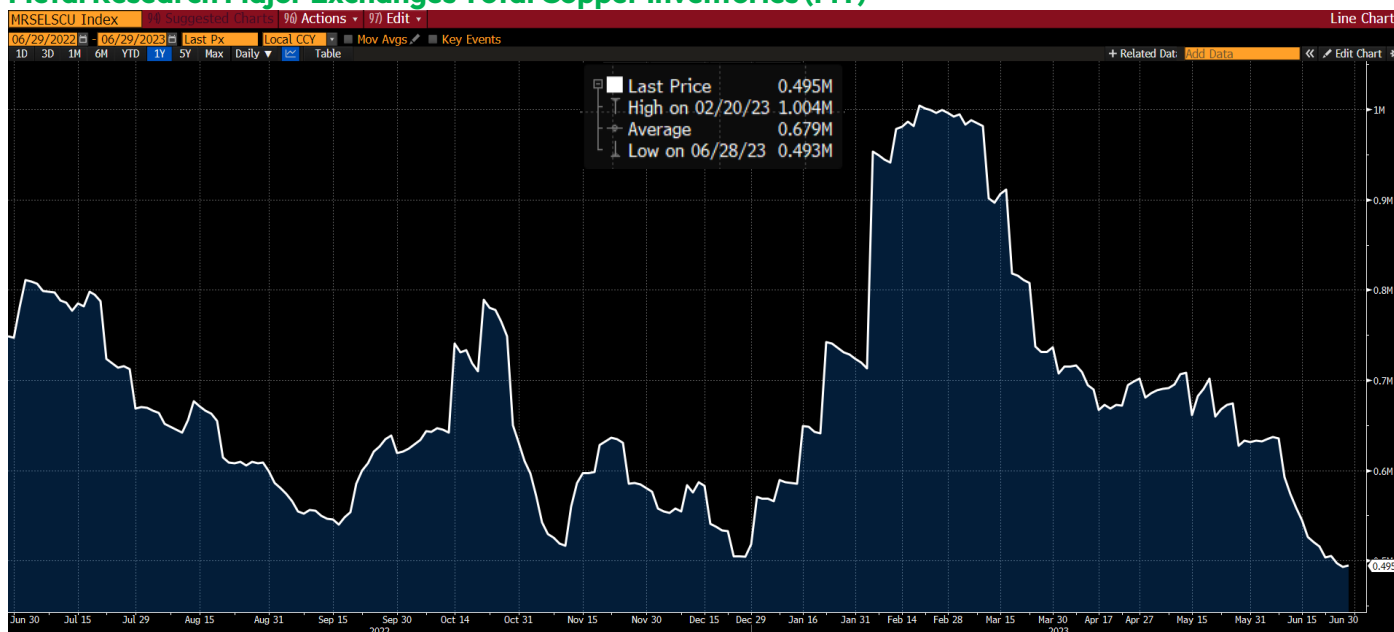
Bloomberg [Wind Turbines That Shake and Break Cost Their Maker Billions](#)

Bloomberg [Electrifying America's Macho Trucks Is Still Too Hard](#)

Reuters [Column: Global exchange copper stocks sink to 15-year lows](#)

Reuters [Germany to earmark 900 million euros in subsidies for e-car charging systems](#)

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 29 June 2023

Source: Bloomberg

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