



## Chile targeting a one million tonne increase in copper production

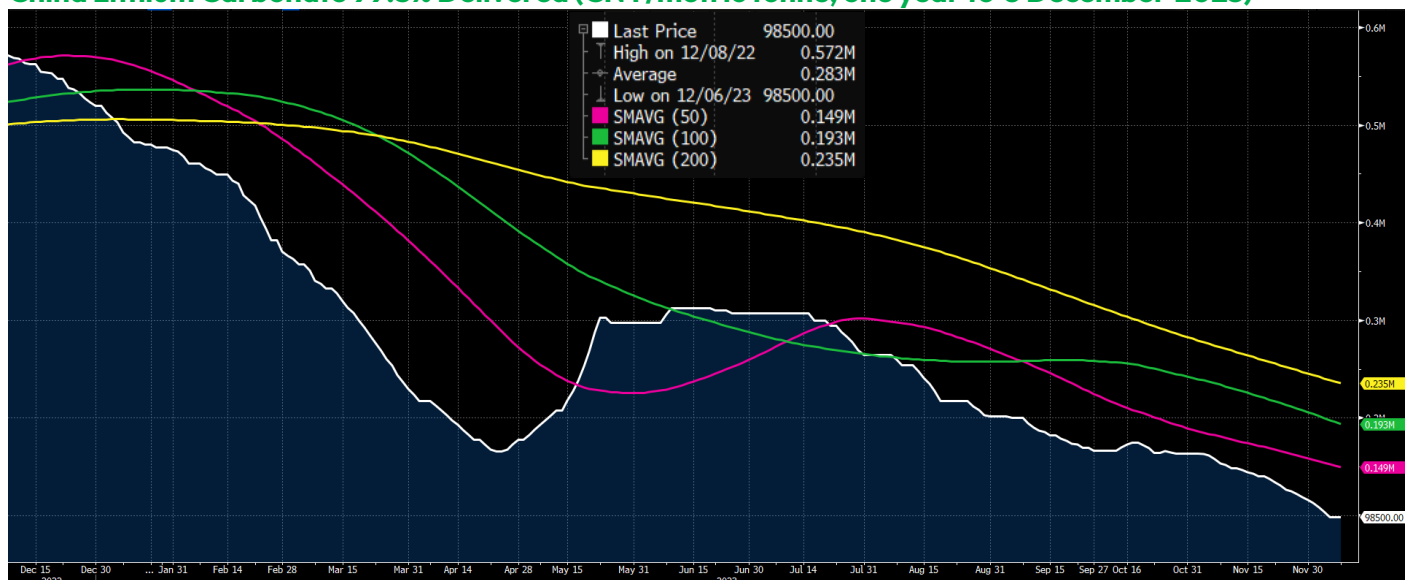
Bloomberg [reported](#) that Chile's government is targeting an increase in copper production by one million tonnes, the equivalent of Escondida's annual copper production, by 2026, which would represent a 19% increase from 2022's production of 5.3 million tonnes (Mt). Separately, Bloomberg [reported](#) that Chinese companies have been in discussions with Chilean officials about involvement in a \$1.4 billion project for a major upgrade of Enami's Hernán Videla Lira smelter at Paipote. The project is expected to start in 2025.

Following its difficulties in Panama, First Quantum Minerals is looking to expand its activities in Zambia where it already operates the Sentinel and Kansanshi copper mines. It has [signed](#) a revised Kashime Development Agreement with Mimosa Resources to fast track the development of the Fishtie copper project in Mkushi, Zambia. Mining operations could start by 2026, with maximum production of 30,000tpa reached by 2030. As part of the agreement, First Quantum is committed to finance and conduct exploration within the wider licence area. First Quantum [produced](#) 388,000 tonnes of copper in Zambia in 2022.

Rio Tinto, at its [presentation](#) to investors on 6 December, highlighted expectations for lithium demand to grow from its average of 0.22Mtpa in 2003-22 to 2.34Mtpa by 2023-35. It is devoting 25% of its exploration spend on lithium with projects in a number of countries including Australia, Canada, Chile, Rwanda and the USA. The principal focus of its exploration spend is copper, and it is expecting US copper demand to grow from 2Mtpa to 4Mtpa over the next decade.

Canadian Solar announced two BESS projects in Scotland with a total capacity of 556 MW. Both involve e-Storage, which operates an energy storage solution using high-cycle capacity LFP cells. The [first](#), a supply and integration contract for 500 MW / 1,170 MWh DC of energy storage solutions, was awarded by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partnership Flagship Funds for the Coalburn 1 Project, and the [second](#) is an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction agreement with ENGIE for projects at Cathkin and Broxburn.

## China Lithium Carbonate 99.5% Delivered (CNY/metric tonne, one year to 8 December 2023)



Source: Bloomberg

**Metal prices**

Metal	Price USD (8 December)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Gold	2008.1	-1.8%	10.7%	103.1%	98.0%
Silver	23.79	-5.4%	-0.6%	101.8%	91.4%
Palladium	975	-3.4%	-45.1%	75.6%	49.9%
Platinum	917	-1.3%	-11.1%	95.8%	81.3%
Cobalt	29904.1	-2.4%	-30.8%	90.7%	68.0%
Copper	8348	-1.3%	-0.5%	99.6%	88.5%
Nickel	16605	-0.3%	-45.4%	80.5%	53.2%

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

Notes. All performance data to 8 December 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.

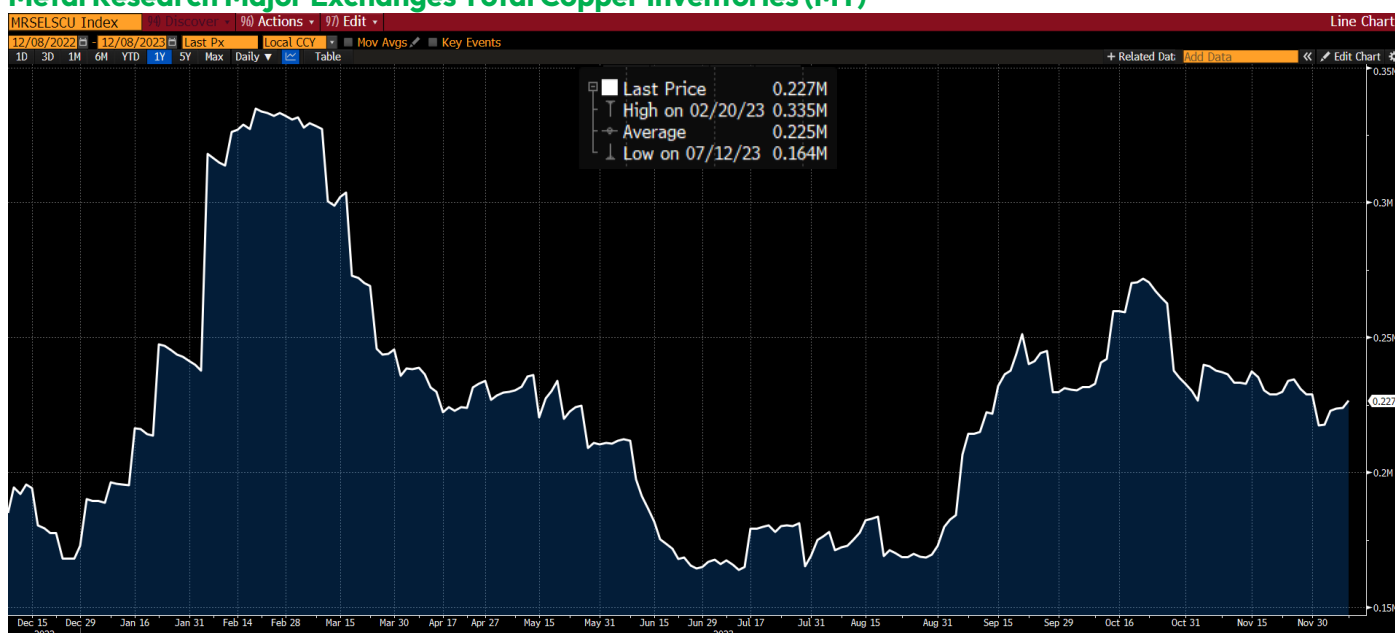
**The week ahead**

11 Dec	AU: Westpac Consumer Confidence Index; JP: PPI
12 Dec	AU: NAB Business Confidence; JP: Tankan Large Manufacturers Index; UK: Unemployment Rate; EU, DE: ZEW Economic Sentiment Index; US: Core Inflation Rate, Inflation Rate, CPI
13 Dec	JP: Machinery Orders; UK: GDP, Goods Trade Balance; EU, UK: Industrial Production US: PPI, Fed Interest Rate Decision,
14 Dec	AU: Unemployment Rate, Participation Rate, Judo Bank Manufacturing and Services PMIs EU, UK: Interest Rate Decision; US: Retail Sales
15 Dec	JP, EU, DE, FR, UK, US: Manufacturing and Services PMIs; CN: House Price Index, Industrial Production, Retail Sales; US: NY Empire State Manufacturing Index, Industrial Production

**Further reading**

Bloomberg	<a href="#">China's CMOG Says Geopolitics Helped Drive Australia Sale</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">Canada Cuts Red Tape for Offshore Wind Along Atlantic Coast</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">Bribery Case Snares Man Who Held Trafigura's Secrets and Purse Strings</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">China says Biden plan to shut it out of US battery supply chain violates WTO rules</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">US IRA is 'cream on top' as Arcadium eyes lithium growth</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">GM hydrogen unit to supply fuel cells for Autocar's heavy vehicles</a>

**Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)**



Data: as at 8 December 2023

Source: Bloomberg

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