



Kazatomprom lowers 2025 uranium production guidance

In a week that saw China announce the approval of the construction of 11 new nuclear reactors at five sites, Kazatomprom, the world's largest uranium miner, [released](#) its 1H 2024 results and provided a production update on 23 August. The lowering of its 2025 uranium production guidance was a key item, revising its 'initial intentions' of 30.5-31.5 kt down to 25-26 kt. Two factors lie behind the reduction: first, uncertainty in relation to sulphuric acid supplies, whose costs in 2024 have risen significantly above 2023 levels, and, secondly, delays in construction works at the newly developed deposits. While its stockpiles fell 20% to 6,132 tonnes, it indicated that it remains committed to its 2025 contractual obligations to all existing clients and it "has a comfortable level of inventories to fulfil its existing contractual commitments in 2025."

SQM, the lithium producer, [reported](#) a 63.2% slide in its quarterly profit due to lithium price weakness, which it expects will continue for the rest of the year. On the positive side, lithium sales volumes reached almost 52,300 tonnes for the second quarter of 2024, an increase of 21.3% compared to sales volumes in 2Q 2023. Ricardo Ramos, SQM's CEO, said some lithium producers may reduce output because low prices made projects economically unviable. SQM remains positive on the long-term outlook for the lithium industry. It is maintaining its lithium capex and Ramos indicated that SQM International Lithium's objective is to expand the portfolio of lithium assets outside Chile with a view to increasing SQM's annual production volumes by at least 100,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent by the end of this decade.

EDF Renewables UK [announced](#) that it has a pipeline of 300MW of battery storage projects. It has six projects in construction that are set to go live in the next 12 months. These include a 57MW battery in Braintree, Essex and a 47.5MW battery in Indian Queens, Cornwall. In July, it energised a 52MW battery in Sundon, Bedfordshire, and, this month, Dorset Council approved planning for a 47.5MW battery near Mannington. Its current portfolio consists of 150MW of battery energy storage systems in Oxfordshire, Kent and the West Midlands. In total, the company plans to deliver up to 2GW of transmission-connected battery storage.

LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, 1 year to 23 August 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (23 August)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	9072	1.5%	7.0%	101.1%	83.6%
Cobalt	23479	-1.1%	-19.6%	86.0%	67.2%
Nickel	16410	3.2%	0.7%	96.1%	77.1%
Palladium	942	-0.1%	-17.1%	96.0%	72.9%
Platinum	948	-0.6%	-5.2%	100.3%	89.0%

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

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 23 August 2024. 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

27 Aug	DE: GDP Growth Rate; UK: CBI Distributive Trades US: S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price, CB Consumer Price
28 Aug	AU: Monthly CPI Indicator; DE, FR: Consumer Confidence
29 Aug	EU: New Car Registrations; DE, ES: Inflation Rate; EU: Business Confidence; EU: Economic Sentiment; CA: Current Account; US: GDP Growth Rate, Corporate Profits, Goods Trade Balance, Retail Inventories, Wholesale Inventories, Pending Home Sales
30 Aug	JP: Industrial Production, Consumer Confidence; JP, AU, DE: Retail Sales JP, DE, IT: Unemployment rate; EU, FR, IT: Inflation Rate; FR, CA: GDP Growth Rate US: Core PCE Price Index, Personal Income, Chicago PMI, Michigan Consumer Sentiment

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Bloomberg	China Makes \$31 Billion Nuclear Push With Record Approvals
Bloomberg	A \$20 Billion Plan to Export Power to Singapore Wins Approval
Reuters	US energy storage surge will reward market-savvy developers
Reuters	BHP's return to Argentina marks new hope for untapped copper mines
Reuters	India's silver imports to double on demand for solar, investment
Reuters	Societe Generale leaves London Metal Exchange's open-outcry trading floor

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 23 August 2024

Source: Bloomberg

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