



Core Consultants

MOGAS®
SEVERE SERVICE BALL VALVES



Nickel Market Update

Date: June 2016

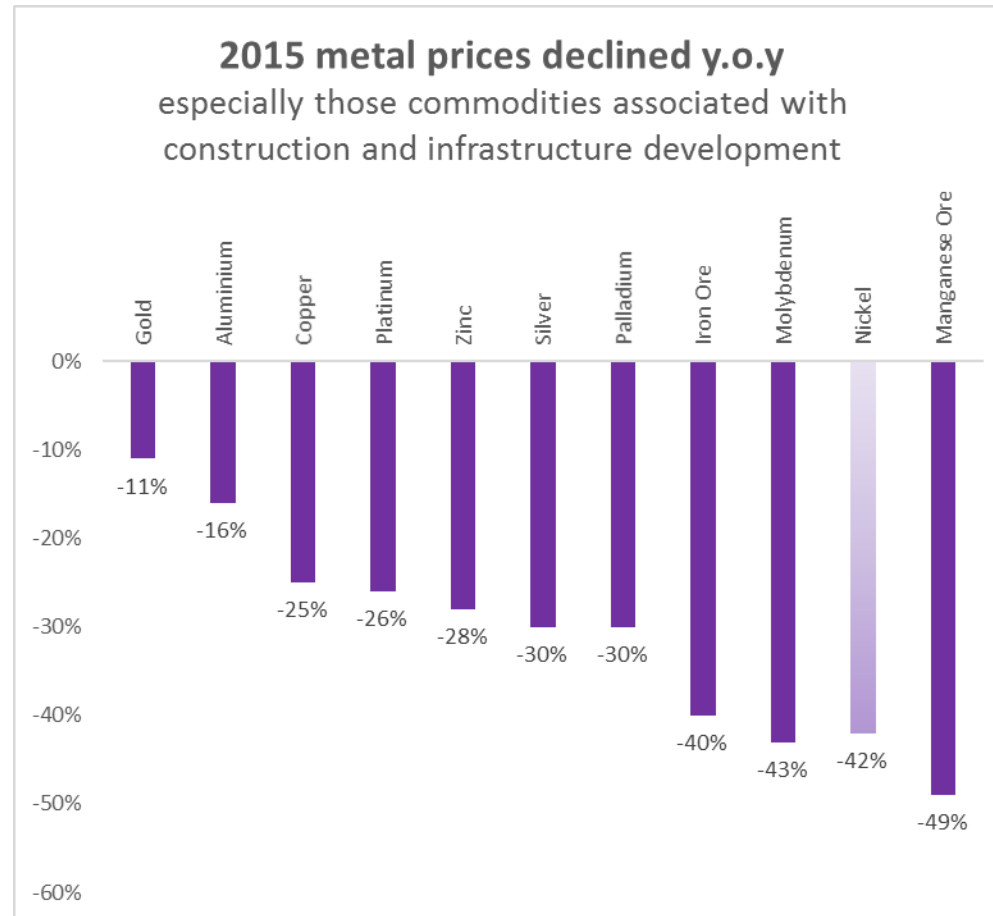
Email: info@coreconsultants.org

Website: www.coreconsultants.org



Metal prices of the last year

A consideration of the raw material sector indicates that prices in 2015 fell between 11-49%. Gold showed the most resilience, due to relative macroeconomic uncertainty, while bulk commodities and metals associated with construction and infrastructure activity fell by over 40%.





Nothing cures low prices like
low prices

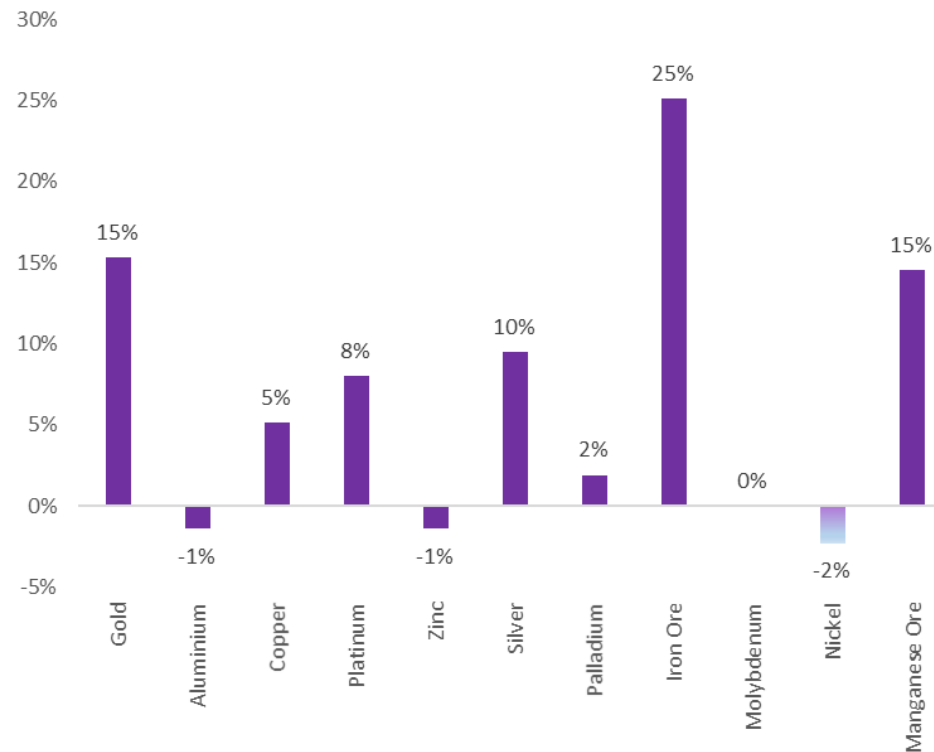
Some prices have rebounded, albeit off a low base. However nickel prices are still heading lower if we compare 1Q16 to 4Q15.



Why did nickel not improve?

1Q16 vs 4Q15 metal prices showed recovery

Nickel however continued to decline



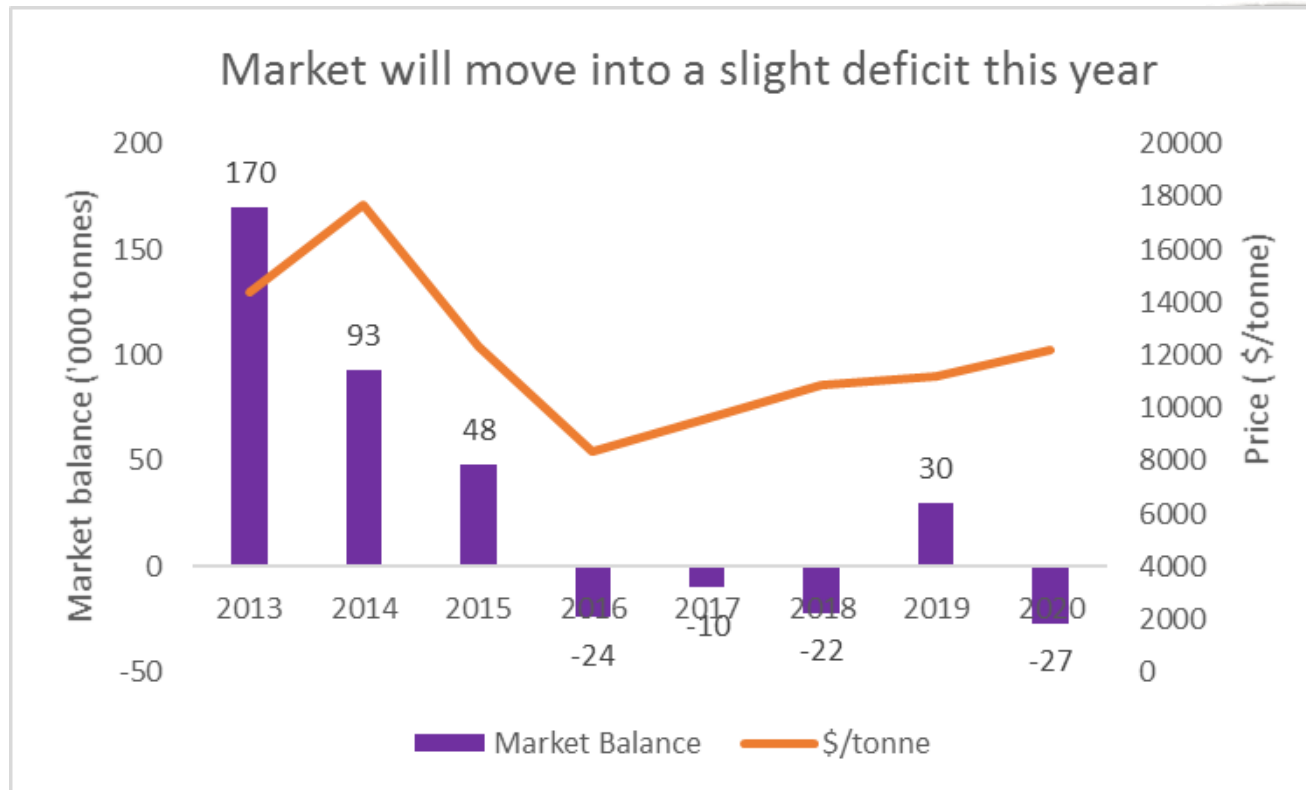


Factors impacting nickel market

- Questions surrounding demand for Chinese stainless steel places downward pressure on nickel prices.
- Higher cost stainless steel producers are expected to shut operations which will remain a key factor in demand for nickel and nickel prices.
- Similarly on the supply side, higher cost nickel producers expected to shut operations, which will affect prices.
- 2Q15 Indonesia reaffirmed its nickel ore ban, some of the impact has been offset in the past by higher supply from the Philippines.
- However in around March this year, the Philippines announced it would reduce output by 20%, along with a reduction in Chinese NPI production.
- LME inventories have fallen, though for now are in surplus- which is the reason prices haven't recovered. The expectation was for a deficit market in 2016, though this has yet to materialise!



Will Nickel be in deficit this year???

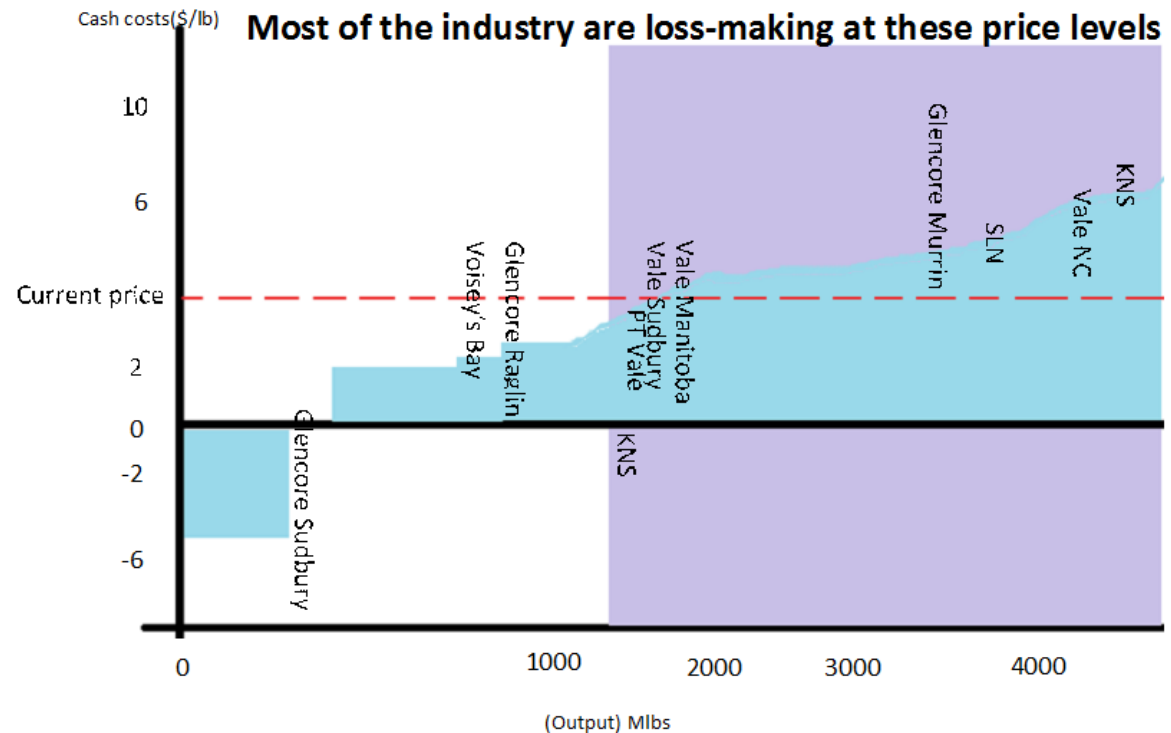


We expect the market to go into deficit and we have a positive view on nickel for the next few years.



Where are we now?

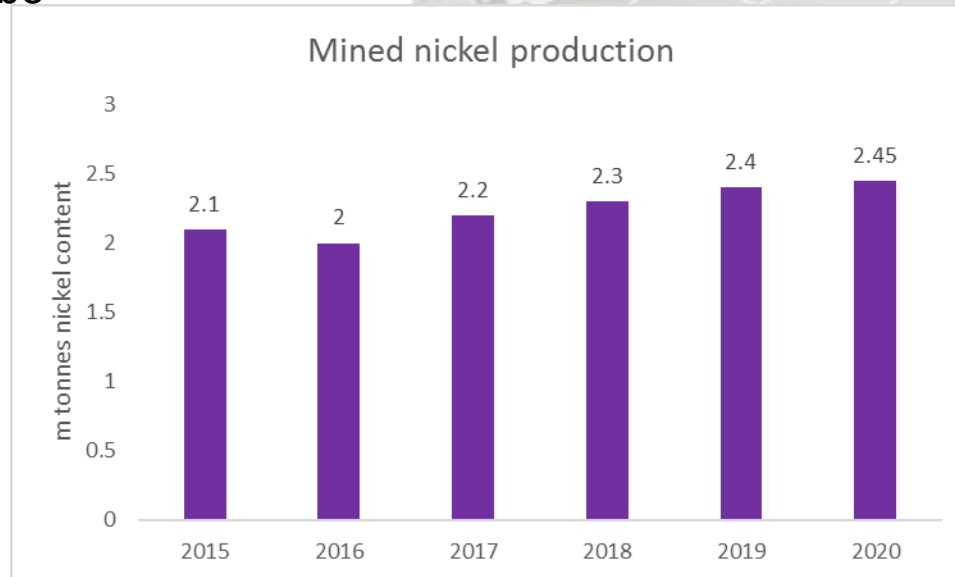
- Global supply has declined by 1% y.o.y in 2015 to 2.1m tonnes and is expected to fall to 2m tonnes in 2016
- Higher productions in US, New Caledonia is insufficient to offset reductions in Botswana, Indonesia and now the Philippines





Where are we now?

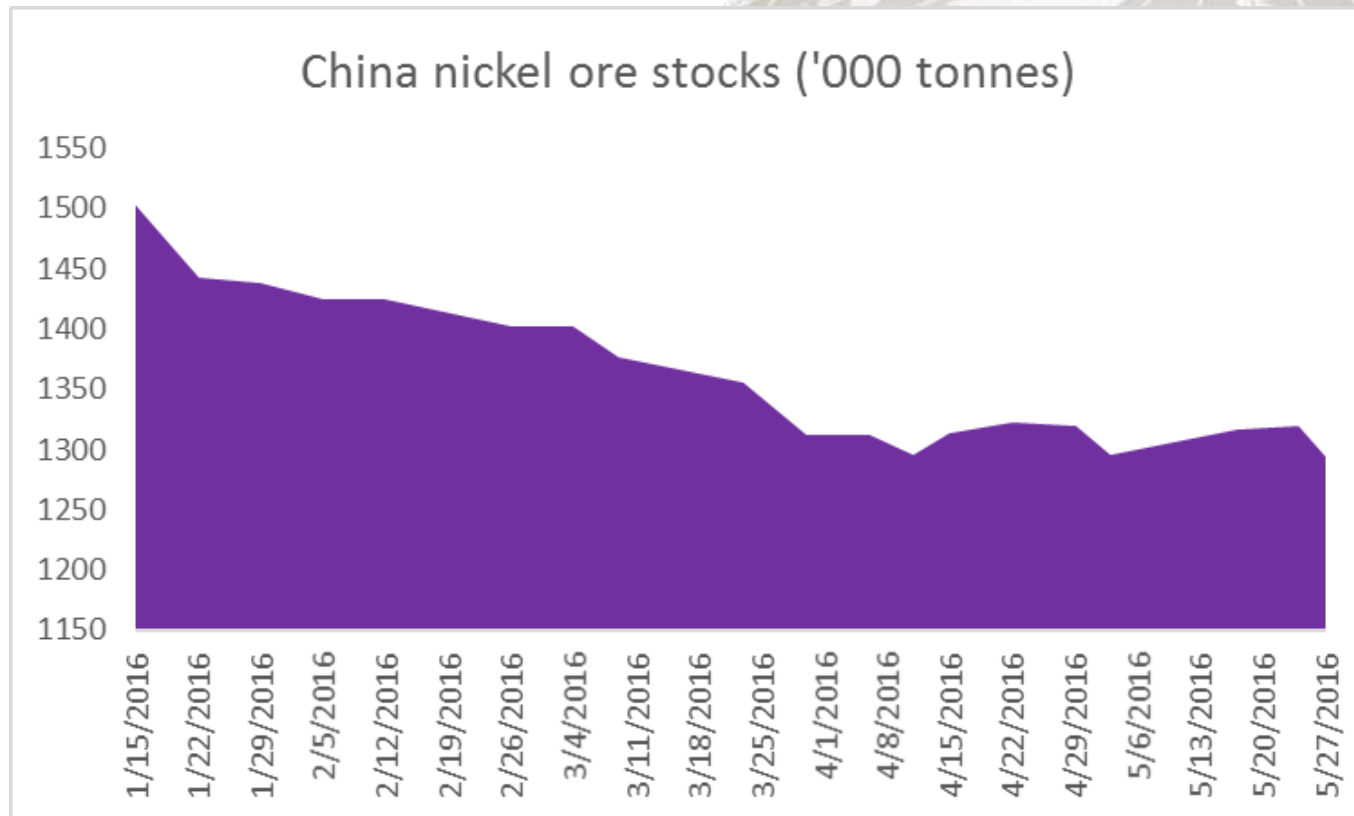
- Lower production expected in 2016, but overall growth in output over the next four years as expansion offset planned closures
- Short term, global miners are risking low profitability, delays in commissioning of new projects. Closures of major mines such as Ravensthorpe's plant, Murrin Murrin, Koniambo





Where are we now?

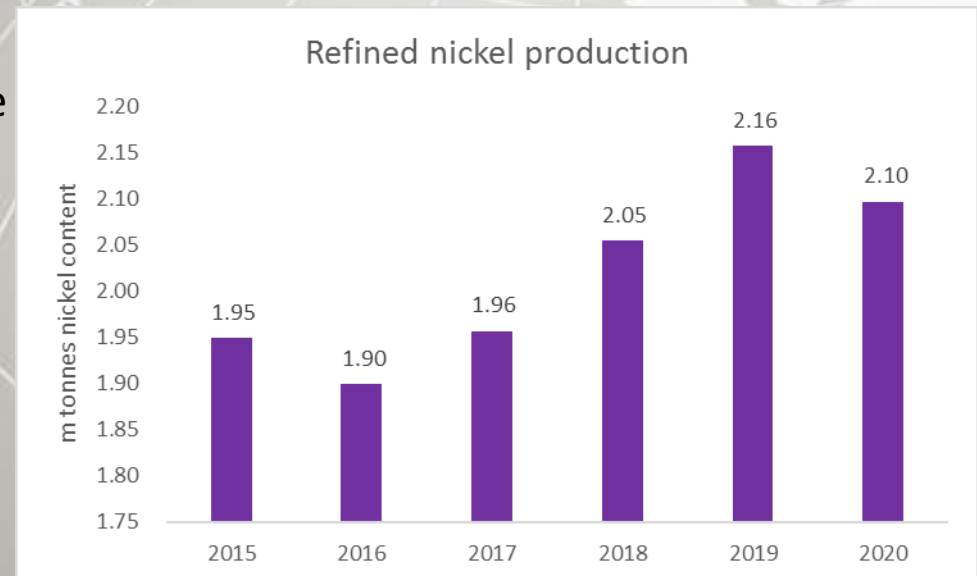
- Port stocks in China have been falling the whole year and is expected to continue this trajectory, which should help stimulate mine production in 2017





Where are we now?

- Lower expected output in China will reduce the overall refined nickel production this year to around 1.9m tonnes from 1.95m tonnes in 2015
- Beyond 2016, refined nickel is forecast to grow 2.5% CAGR to 2020, driven by new ferronickel and pig iron operations, particularly in Asia, such as Indonesia. These increases are expected to offset losses in production caused by shut-downs of non-profitable operations.
- However we bear in mind that despite Low prices, there has been investment in The sector. In 1Q16, over \$2.46bn was Channeled into Nickel-M&A activity, Including the acquisition of Freeport Indonesia PT in January 2016.





Where are we now?

- Nickel consumption expected to increase slightly in 2016, driven by:
 - low stocks in China
 - Adoption of EU anti-dumping measures and elsewhere should to some extent see a rebound in stainless production outside of China, leading to higher nickel consumption.
- Going forward, developing countries including India, China, other Asian economies are expanding infrastructure and industrial output which should lead to higher levels of consumption.

