



Release of ICSG 2013 Statistical Yearbook

The International Copper Study Group released its 2013 Statistical Yearbook covering world copper supply and demand data for the 10-year period 2003-2012.

According to ICSG data, world copper mine production rose by 21% during the 10-year period from 13.8 million metric tonnes (Mt) in 2003 to 16.7 Mt in 2012: copper in concentrates rose by 18% while solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) production rose by 35%. The SX-EW share of total mine production increased from 20% in 2003 to 22% in 2012. While the mine capacity utilization rate averaged around 86% over the period, the rate fell sharply during latter years. Over the 2008-2012 period, as a result of numerous factors including lower head grades, labour unrest, accidents, technical problems, and temporary shutdowns or production cuts, capacity utilization averaged 82% and mine production grew by a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of only 1.8%: Mine production grew 3%/yr during the preceding five years and averaged 2.2% over the 10-year period. Notable changes in mine production over 2003-2012 included increases of 876,000 t in China, 530,000 t in Chile and 503,000 t in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to expansions and start up of new projects. The revival of the African copper belt led to an increase in African copper mine output of 867,000. Conversely, operational issues led to a decline of 604,000 t (60%) in Indonesia compared with the 2003 production level. Output from countries that were minor producers in 2003, or where copper mining production was non-existent, increased by almost 600,000 t. On a regional basis, production increased by 149% in Africa (867,000 t), 18.6% in Latin America (1.1 Mt), 22.1% in Asia (567,000 t), 10.3% in Europe (158,000 t), 11.2% in North America (228,000 t) and 0.4% in Oceania (4,000 t).

Over the 10-year period, annual world refined production rose by 32% from 15.3 Mt in 2003 to 20.1 Mt in 2012, with a CAGR of 3%. Primary (electrolytic and SX-EW) and secondary (from scrap) refined production increased by 23% and 101%, respectively. The share of secondary production in total refined production averaged 15% over the period and, owing to the combined effects of concentrate shortages and higher refined prices, averaged 18% in the last three years. Over the full 10-year period, China's annual refined production more than tripled, increasing from 1.8 Mt to 5.8 Mt; Chile's production remained unchanged at around 2.9 Mt; and significant increases in India, Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia together added 1.1 Mt to world refined production. In North America, production fell by 20.8% (433,000 t) due to refinery closures in the United States and Canada. Refined production in the EU rose by 15.2% to 2.7 Mt over the same period.

World annual refined copper usage increased by 31% (CAGR of 3%) over the 10-year period from 15.7 Mt to 20.5 Mt. Growth was driven by China¹ where apparent usage over the 10-year period increased by around 5.7 Mt (+186%) and its share of world usage grew to 43% from 20% in 2003. World usage excluding China decreased by 7.3% (916,000 t) during the period, with particularly weak usage in 2008 and 2009 due to the world economic recession. On a regional basis, usage grew in Africa by 46.6% (80,000 t), in Asia ex-China by 5.4% (221,000 t), and in Europe ex-EU by 51.9% (392,000t). Usage decreased in the Americas by 16.8% (572,000 t), in the EU by 24% (965,000 t), and in Oceania by 39% (71,000 t).

The ICSG 2013 Statistical Yearbook is included as part of the ICSG Monthly Bulletin annual subscription and is also available for sale as a separate issue (€200 for orders originating from ICSG member countries and €300 for other orders).

¹ China's apparent copper usage is based only on reported data (production + net trade +/- SHFE stock changes +/- industry stock changes, if reported) and does not take into account changes in unreported stocks [State Reserve Bureau (SRB), producer, consumer and merchant/trader], which may be significant during periods of stocking or de-stocking.

World Refined Copper Usage and Supply Trends, 2003-2012

Thousand metric tonnes, copper

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
World Mine Production	13,757	14,592	14,923	14,984	15,516	15,569	15,943	16,053	16,076	16,697
World Mine Capacity	15,193	15,921	16,628	16,898	17,900	18,551	19,254	19,560	19,824	20,380
Mine Capacity Utilization (%)	90.6	91.7	89.7	88.7	86.7	83.9	82.8	82.1	81.1	81.9
Primary Refined Production	13,485	13,848	14,411	14,678	15,165	15,391	15,407	15,732	16,126	16,546
Secondary Refined Production	1,786	2,069	2,161	2,613	2,738	2,823	2,841	3,250	3,470	3,583
World Refined Production (Secondary+Primary)	15,272	15,918	16,572	17,291	17,903	18,214	18,248	18,981	19,596	20,129
World Refinery Capacity	18,824	19,171	20,185	20,530	21,787	22,588	23,457	23,839	24,385	25,489
Refinery Capacity Utilization (%)	81.1	83.0	82.1	84.2	82.2	80.6	77.8	79.6	80.4	79.0
World Refined Usage 1/	15,717	16,838	16,674	17,034	18,196	18,053	18,070	19,346	19,830	20,550
Refined Stocks End of Period	1,781	866	810	1,075	970	1,102	1,376	1,199	1,205	1,406
Period Stock Change	-316	-915	-56	265	-105	132	275	-177	6	200
Refined Balance 2/	-446	-920	-102	257	-293	161	178	-365	-234	-421
LME Copper Price 3/	1,780	2,868	3,684	6,727	7,126	6,952	5,164	7,539	8,811	7,950

Due to the nature of statistical reporting, the published data should be considered as preliminary since some figures are currently based on estimates and could change. p/ preliminary 1/ Based on EU apparent usage 2/ Surplus or deficit is calculated using total refined production minus refined usage 3/ Averages for the period in US dollars per ton of copper.