



# ICSG PRESS RELEASE

Copper: Preliminary Data for April 2003

The International Copper Study Group (ICSG) released preliminary April 2003 data for world copper supply and demand in its July 2003 Copper Bulletin.

According to ICSG data, the apparent refined copper balance for the first four months of 2003 indicated a production deficit of 151,000 tonnes (t). This compares with a production surplus of 196,000 t in the same period of last year.

The deficit resulted from a 5.3% increase in world copper usage in the first 4 months of 2003, compared with the same period of 2002, and a 1.7% decline in world refined copper production over the same comparative periods. The main contributor to the recovery in copper usage was Asia, with an overall increase of 14% (China +26%, Taiwan +12.5%, Japan +10.5%). Copper usage in the EU remained flat and in the Americas it declined by 3.7% (Canada -12%, USA -4%). On the supply side, refined copper production decreased in the Americas (-6.4%) and in Europe (-2.7%), but increased in Asia (+3.8%).

In contrast to refined output, mine production rose by 2.6% in the first 4 months of 2003 compared with that of the same period a year ago. Production declines, principally in North America and Oceania, were more than offset by significant increases in South America and Indonesia.

At the end of June 2003 copper stocks held at the major metal exchanges (LME, COMEX, SHFE) totalled 1,038,034 t, a decrease of 62,724 t from stocks held at the end of May 2003. Stock levels decreased at the warehouses of the COMEX and LME, but increased at the SHFE. Since the end of last year, the exchange stocks have declined by 254,954t. The average LME cash price for June 2003 was US\$1,686.5 per tonne, as compared with the May average of US\$1,648.3 per tonne.

## World Refined Copper Usage and Supply Trends, 1997-2003

Thousand metric tonnes, copper

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002	2003	2003			
							Jan-Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
World Mine Production	11,550	12,246	12,784	13,194	13,619	13,492	4,348	4,462	1,126	1,047	1,179	1,110
World Mine Capacity	12,392	13,107	13,801	14,204	14,460	15,055	4,893	5,100	1,311	1,188	1,320	1,282
Percent Capacity Utilization	93.2	93.4	92.6	92.9	94.2	89.6	88.9	87.5	85.9	88.1	89.3	86.6
Primary Refined Production	11,383	12,021	12,446	12,650	13,724	13,443	4,483	4,437	1,140	1,055	1,141	1,101
Secondary Refined Production	2,103	2,055	2,103	2,125	1,868	1,889	628	587	147	138	155	147
Refined Production (Secondary+Primary)	13,486	14,076	14,548	14,776	15,591	15,332	5,110	5,024	1,287	1,193	1,297	1,248
World Refinery Capacity	15,439	16,093	16,869	16,993	17,665	18,227	5,939	6,119	1,575	1,426	1,583	1,535
Percent Capacity Utilization	87.4	87.5	86.2	87.0	88.3	84.1	86.0	82.1	81.7	83.6	81.9	81.3
World Usage <sup>1/</sup>	13,093	13,468	14,266	15,102	14,842	15,093	4,914	5,175	1,291	1,192	1,371	1,321
Four Weeks of World Usage	1,007	1,036	1,097	1,162	1,142	1,161	1,147	1,208	1,166	1,192	1,238	1,233
Refined Stocks, End of Period <sup>2/</sup>	1,189	1,509	1,634	1,318	2,076	2,174	2,373	1,992	2,082	2,054	2,083	1,992
Period Stock Change	373	319	126	-316	757	98	298	-182	-92	-28	29	-91
Refined Surplus/Deficit <sup>3/</sup>	393	608	282	-327	750	240	196	-151	-4	0	-74	-73

**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.**

1/ Based on EU apparent usage

2/ Refined stocks includes those held by exchanges, producers, consumers, merchants and governments

3/ Surplus or deficit is calculated using total refined production minus refined usage