Copper prices dropped on May, pressured by concerns over the outlook for the global economy and metals demand as Washington and Beijing struggled to salvage a deal to end a bitter trade war. The trade conflict between the world's top two economies escalated on first wee on May with the United States hiking tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese goods after President Donald Trump said Beijing "broke the deal" by reneging on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations. Beijing has called on Washington to show "sincerity" if it is to hold meaningful trade talks, after the United States put China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world's biggest telecoms equipment maker, on a trade blacklist.

Investors remained cautious after weaker-than-expected Chinese retail sales and industrial output data. The figures for April largely pointed to a loss of momentum, after surprisingly upbeat March readings had raised hopes the economy was slowly getting back onto a firmer footing and would require less policy support.
The last week of May London copper prices find support as a new blockade at MMG Ltd's Las Bambas mine in Peru lent support to prices, although gains were capped by ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions. On 31st of May LME copper edged down to 5 months low to $5812.5. 3m LME copper closed May with a loss of 9.5%.

London copper made weak start to June because of the negative data. Growth in U.S. manufacturing activity slowed in May to its weakest pace in over two years as factory managers raised concerns about a trade war between the United States and China, a national survey showed. Manufacturing activity in the euro zone contracted for a fourth month in May and at a faster pace, as the U.S.-China trade war, slumping automotive demand, Brexit and wider geopolitical uncertainty took their toll, a survey showed. LME copper edged down to $5740 on 7th of June because of trade dispute, signs of slowing economic growth and disappointing US jobs data weakened the demand outlooks for metals.

The direction of the wind changed with strike and Fed definitions. Copper prices rose last week supported by supply disruptions as a labour strike halted output at one of the world's largest mines in Chile and Glencore's Zambian smelter shut for refurbishment. The Codelco-owned Chuquicamata mine, which produced 320,744 tonnes of copper in 2018, headed for its fourth day of a stoppage after a failed labour deal a week before. In Zambia, Mopani Copper Mines has shut down its Mufulira smelter for major refurbishment, the Glencore-owned company said late on 17th June.

The U.S. Fed on Wednesday left interest rates unchanged as widely expected, but said the case for lower rates was building, suggesting it could ease monetary policy as early as next month amid rising trade tensions and concerns about weak inflation. The dollar index eased against a basket of six major currencies. A weaker USD offset some concerns about the upcoming U.S.-China trade talks. Reports of the call between the two presidents suggested that their meeting at the G20 would only cover strategic issues, raising concerns that an agreement was still some way off. After tested $6027 level last week, LME copper start new week with $5915-6035 band.

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- The global world refined copper market showed a 51,000 tonnes deficit in March, compared with a 72,000 tonnes surplus in February, the International Copper Study Group said in its latest monthly bulletin.

- Fitch Solutions forecasts annual growth rate of 3.5% over the period from 2019 to 2028. Accordingly, the global output is predicted to surge from 21.4 million tonnes to 28.7 million tonnes during this period.

- Barclays expects copper prices to decline to $5,900 per tonne by the final quarter of 2019 but forecasts prices to recover to $6,300 per tonne by Q2 2020.

- Chile's central bank estimate for the average price of copper for 2019-2021 to 2.80$/lb from 2.90$/lb.

- Societe Generale forecasts copper prices to average $6,800 per tonne in six months.

- Goldman Sachs says copper prices are likely to find support in H2 2019, remains constructive on copper.
BHP's Escondida copper mine – the world's largest – saw production fall 14.8% to 274,800 tonnes in the first quarter.

The Collahuasi copper mine in northern Chile, a joint-venture between Anglo American and Glencore, produced 130,200 tonnes in first quarter, down 5.4% from the previous year.

KGHM enjoys a 23% annual increase in payable copper production to 58,600 tons in April, while copper sales rose 8% y/y to 51,700 tons, the company said in a market filing.

Codelco's copper output totaled 500,700 tonnes in January-April this year, marking a 14.4% decline from the 584,900 tonnes produced in the first four months of 2018.

Chile's Codelco said on Monday that its Chuquicamata copper mine, one of the World’s largest, had maintained output at 50% of capacity as it faced its fourth full day of a union strike.

Codelco has presented a new labor offer to the three trade unions on strike at its Chuquicamata unit and workers will deliberate on the matter on Wednesday June 19. Codelco proposed a 1.2% wage increase and a bonus amounting to 14.1 million Chilean pesos ($20,185) in a labor contract effective for 36 months. Under the country's law, all workers involved in the negotiations between the three unions and Codelco must vote on the offer.

Zambia's Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) has shut down its Mufulira smelter for major refurbishment, the Glencore-owned company said. "The majority of the programme is expected to last until the end of the year and will result in a total shutdown of the plant.

Zambia's 2019 copper output could be as much as 100,000 tonnes lower than last year as changes to mining tax drive miners to cut production, the Chamber of Mines said. Last year's output was 861,946 tonnes.

Kazakhstan's refined copper output rose 11.2% year on year in the first five months of 2019, Statistics Committee data showed.

Japan's copper cable shipments, including sales and exports, rose 3.3% in May from a year earlier to 56,800 tonnes, the Japan Electric Wire and Cable Makers' Association said.

Chile April copper output rose 2.3% to 462,046 tonnes. Copper output was 451,664 tonnes in April 2018.
In 2018, Chilean smelters produced 5.8 million tonnes of copper, according to the ICSG, and produced some 872,000 tonnes in January-February this year, compared with 929,000 tonnes over the same period a year earlier.

China's unwrought copper imports fell 10.9% from the previous month to 361,000 tonnes in May, and were down 23.2% from 470,000 tonnes in May 2018.

China will from July 1 restrict imports of high-grade Category 6 copper scrap, as well as aluminium and steel scrap, an extension of an earlier ban that started this year on Category 7 scrap, which has less metal content.

China is estimated to grow its copper cathode production by 600,000-700,000 tonnes in 2019 against 2018, indicating an increase of 2.4-2.8 million tonnes in copper concentrate consumption for the whole year.

China's refined copper output fell by 5.2% year-on-year and 3.9% month-on-month to 711,000 tonnes in May, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

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