The Commodity Analyst

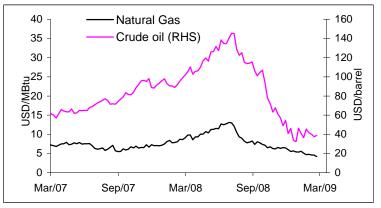
March 3, 2009

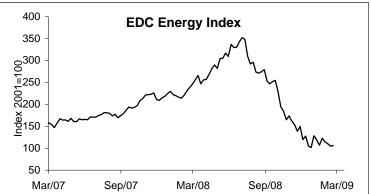
Energy

We have a neutral-to-modest bullish outlook for crude prices. First and foremost, we believe the market truly appreciates the scale of risks facing the global economy. Meanwhile, the gap between Brent and WTI has narrowed, speculators are fairly neutral and the USD looks unlikely to drop anytime soon. Still, the only sure thing at this point is that prices will be volatile.

Natural gas prices continued to plunge last month as US inventories surged 17% y/y and are now 12% higher then 5-year norms. Unfortunately the pace of inventory build isn't showing signs of moderating as changes in supply are not yet keeping up with the drop in demand-US industrial production plunged 10% y/y in January. However, producers are responding. Natural gas drilling activity in February was down 25% y/y in the US and 34% y/y here in Canada. It will take time for these actions to reduce inventories (possibly Q4 2009), but when they do, prices will rise.

Metallurgical coal prices are set to plunge. Negotiations for the coming coal year (April-March) could see prices fall from roughly US\$300/ton last year to US\$100/ton this year. Buyers have all the power in the current market as producers scramble to cut output.





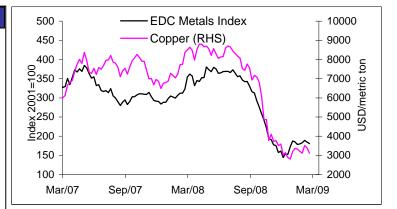
Metals

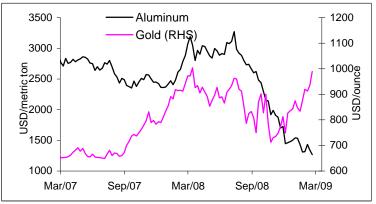
Copper ended the month of February stronger than when it began, but volatility was pervasive throughout the month, mostly due to expectations surrounding the US stimulus bill. Inventory levels continue to build and the demand outlook remains weak.

Nickel inventories, already at a 13-year high, are set to rise significantly over the next month. This as losses and job cuts at stainless steel manufacturers mount world wide.

Aluminum Corp of China's (Chinalco) planned \$19.5 billion investment in Rio Tinto is meeting with opposition from Australia. Public opinion is strongly against increased ownership of Australian natural resources by foreign state owned companies.

Investors continue to seek the safety and security of gold and silver as financial market turmoil persists and bonds lose their allure (on the rising costs of fiscal stimulus). The near term outlook for silver is favourable, with gold prices already up significantly. Peru and Mexico, the world's largest producers of silver, will be the main benefactors.





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Forestry

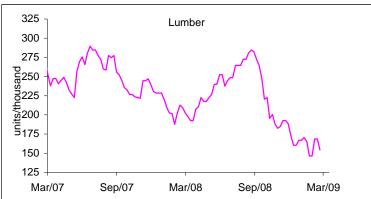
Lumber prices rallied for the first two weeks in February on increased production cuts and indefinite shut-downs, only to stumble on news of weaker than anticipated housing starts. US housing starts dropped 16.8% between December and January to 466,000 units (SA). The end effect was a 2.7% m/m decline in lumber prices. There remains considerable uncertainty surrounding the industry's demand/supply outlook.

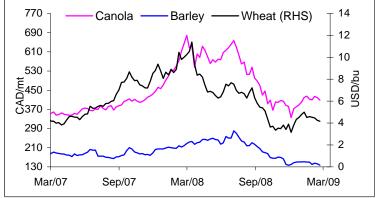
The OSB market showed some regional disparities, but sales were generally grim and buyers limited purchasing, sending prices tumbling 3.3% m/m.

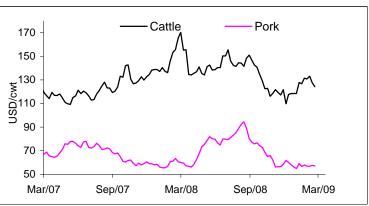
Pulp prices fell 3.9% m/m despite continued industry closures. The market may stabilize in the coming months as expected production curtailment and mill closures materialize.

Newsprint inventories continued to pile in January despite production curtailments; prices were down 2.1% m/m. Further market closures/downtimes are needed in order to restore market balance and to stop further price erosion. Especially as more US papers are expected to fall victim to the recession.

800 950 NBSK Pulp (RHS) Newsprint 900 750 850 ₈₀₀호 <u>등</u>700 USD/metric 000 000 650₩ 600 550 550 500 500 Mar/07 Sep/07 Mar/08 Sep/08 Mar/09







Agriculture

In the absence of significant fundamental news, the grain and oilseed complexes continue to be weighed down by concerns over the global economic slump.

Wheat (-8.8% m/m), barley (-7.8%), and soy (-7.3%) all posted monthly losses as markets priced in the abundance of global wheat supply, weak malt demand, soft livestock and meat markets and, in the case of soy, the return of moisture in Argentina.

Canola (+2.0% m/m) continued to benefit from strong export demand in spite of Canada's supply glut this season. Chinese buyers remain active in the market.

Performance in the meat and livestock complexes was mixed, with cattle gaining 1.4% on the month while hogs lost another 1.0%. Red meat prices are increasingly at the mercy of price-sensitive buyers and weak overall consumer demand. Herd liquidation is beginning to bear fruit, albeit marginally, for cattle markets. We expect a similar story to play out for hogs over the coming months.

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The Commodity Tracker

March 2, 2009

BOC Monimosity index	EDC Index (Ion 2004–400)	0/ 01			Wasta Facilian				Month				Vaca			VTD Town 1 Control 2		
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CAD/euro exchange rate -0.6 -1.7 -7.6 1.61 1.60 1.60 1.59 1.57 1.68 1.63 1.60 1.43 1.47 1.56 1.61 → Fed discount rate -0.0 0.0 -2.8 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 1.00 0.63 0.25 0.25 4.97 5.05 2.09 0.25 MSCI Global -2.6 -10.0 -49.5 187 192 209 216 216 219 218 201 334 393 326 210 LIBOR (1-month) -0.0 0.1 -2.6 0.50 0.47 0.46 0.45 1.60 0.96 0.40 0.47 5.10 5.24 2.68 0.43 Baltic Dry Index -5.4 85.6 -73.9 1986 2099 1908 1642 805 755 915 1909 3209 7116 6350 1357 ↑ ICSC Chain Store Sales -6.4 3.2 1.3 486 483 479 479 478 476 478 481 467 480 488 480 →																		
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MSCI Global -2.6 -10.0 -49.5 187 192 209 216 219 218 201 334 393 326 210		-0.6			1.61		1.60	1.59	1.57	1.68			1.43	1.47	1.56			
LIBOR (1-month) 0.0 0.1 -2.6 0.50 0.47 0.46 0.45 1.60 0.96 0.40 0.47 5.10 5.24 2.68 0.43 ↓ Baltic Dry Index -5.4 85.6 -73.9 1986 2099 1908 1642 805 755 915 1909 3209 7116 6350 1357 ↑ ICSC Chain Store Sales 0.6 3.2 1.3 486 483 479 479 478 476 478 481 467 480 488 480 →						0.25	0.25	0.25	1.00	0.63	0.25	0.25	4.97	5.05		0.25		
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ICSC Chain Store Sales 0.6 3.2 1.3 486 483 479 479 478 476 478 481 467 480 488 480 →	, ,		0.1	-2.6	0.50	0.47	0.46	0.45	1.60	0.96	0.40	0.47	5.10	5.24	2.68	0.43	₩	
		-5.4	85.6	-73.9	1986	2099	1908	1642	805	755	915	1909	3209	7116	6350	1357		
Semiconductors book-to-bill n/a -44.2 -46.1 n/a n/a n/a n/a 0.97 0.86 0.48 n/a 1.03 0.90 0.85 n/a n/a		0.6	3.2	1.3	486	483	479	479	478	476	478	481	467	480	488	480	→	
	Semiconductors book-to-bill	n/a	-44.2	-46.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.97	0.86	0.48	n/a	1.03	0.90	0.85	n/a	n/a	

Source: Bloomberg, iiHub, EDC Economics ¹ Trend arrow points up (down) if 5 week average exceeds (falls short of) the 15 week average by a factor of 2% or more. ² The price outlook gives an indication of where EAF believes prices will be at the end of the next 3 months compared to the last value of the previous month. ³ Series do not affect EDC indices for Canada but are included in the table because of their significance as a globally traded commodity.