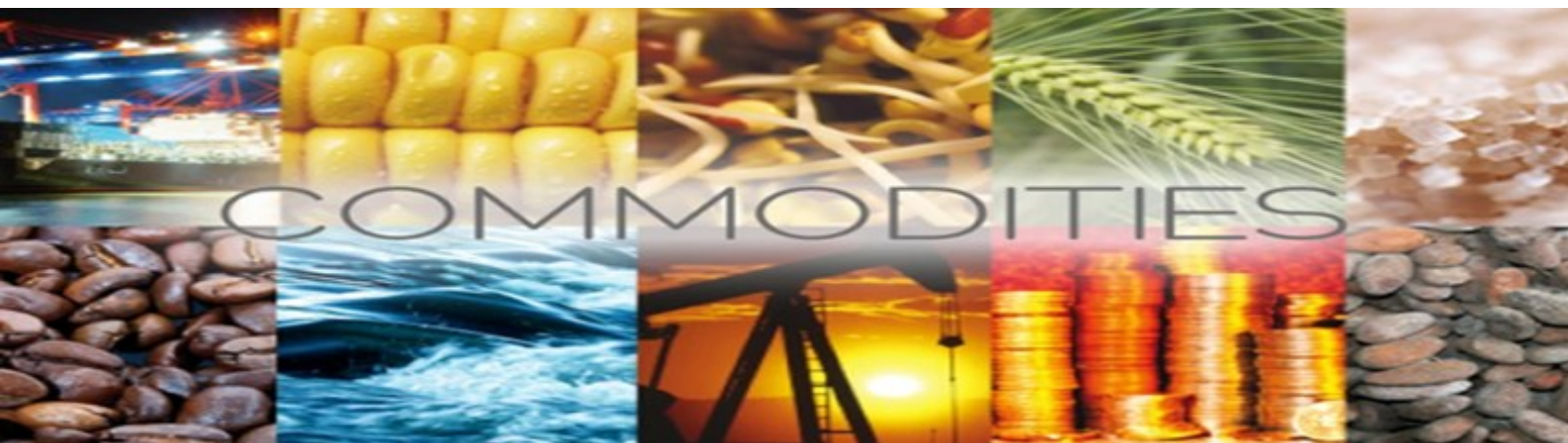


NEWSLETTER

COMMODITIES

30 March – 5 April 2026



China helium supply chain under pressure as domestic firms accelerate capacity buildout

China's helium prices jumped over 35 percent month-on-month amid global disruptions. Firms including JF Energy, Jinhong Gas and Hangyang are accelerating domestic extraction with projects lifting capacity to 1.5 million cubic meters per year while adding storage and electronics-grade supply. Analysts say China is reducing import dependence as semiconductor and aerospace demand rises. (**Securities Daily**)

China moves to stabilize hog market as pork prices hit multi-year lows

China's pork prices have fallen sharply, with live hogs down about 28 percent year-on-year and many farmers losing over 300 yuan per pig. Experts cite high supply, seasonal weak demand and accelerated slaughter. Authorities are increasing state reserve purchases, guiding capacity cuts and tightening monitoring to restore supply-demand balance in the second half of the year. (**Xinhua**)

Titanium dioxide prices rise three times in March, cost surge pressures producers

China's titanium dioxide prices rose three times in March, totaling 2,000 yuan/ton (USD 260/ton), driven by surging sulfur and sulfuric acid costs. Despite price hikes, first-quarter 2026 losses reached 2,300 yuan/ton (USD 298/ton). Tight supply and high raw material costs are expected to keep short-term market sentiment bullish, with further price increases possible in April. (**Securities Daily**)

China's lithium carbonate market stabilizes as supply-demand tightens

China's battery-grade lithium carbonate has stabilized at 150,000 RMB per ton (about 19,400 USD) in 2026, restoring profits for majors like Tianqi and Ganfeng. Analysts expect a tight-balance market as demand grows 27–30 percent, driven by energy storage. Low inventories and limited supply growth support prices, with resource-rich, low-cost producers positioned to lead the next cycle. (**Shanghai Securities Journal**)

China's steel sector shows recovery as march PMI returns to expansion

China's steel PMI rose to 50.6 percent in March, ending a seven-month contraction and signaling improving supply and demand. Demand strengthened as construction and manufacturing resumed, while mills increased output as winter restrictions eased. Raw material buying surged and prices climbed. With seasonal demand firming, April is expected to bring steady production and further price gains. (**China Steel Logistics Professional Committee**)