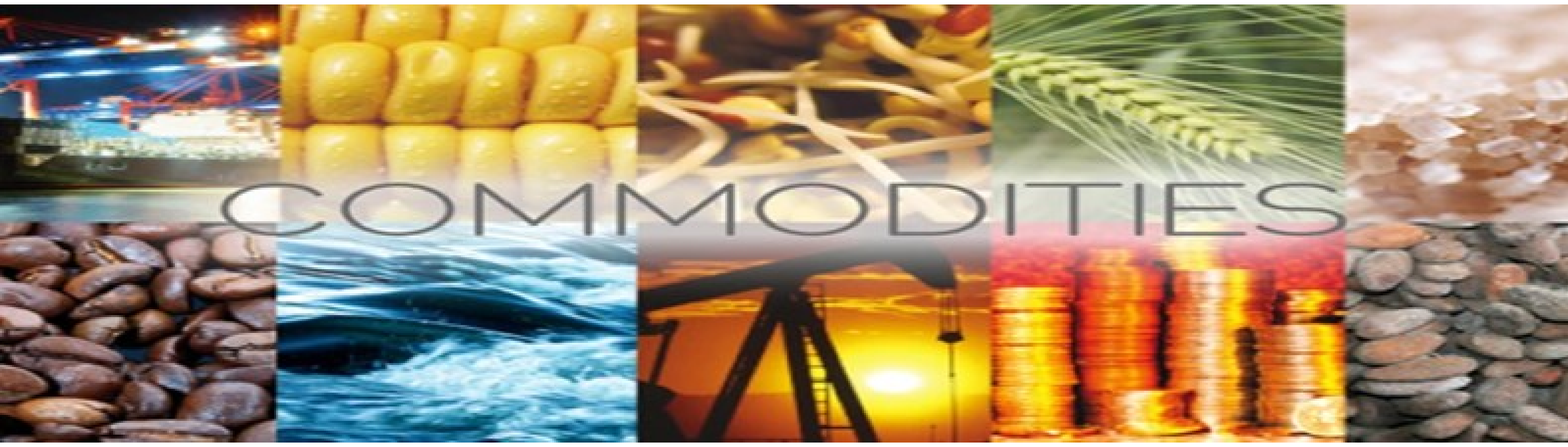
ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

ITA Beijing Office

NEWSLETTER

COMMODITIES
13 - 19 July 2026



Alumina Prices Near Recent Lows on Oversupply Concerns
China's alumina futures fell toward a recent low as rising supply, high inventories and weaker cost support weighed on prices. Operating capacity reached 95 million tonnes, while social inventories stood at 5.62 million tonnes. Heavy rainfall in Guangxi has temporarily disrupted shipments, raising the risk of short-term supply disturbances, though the broader oversupply outlook remains unchanged. **(Xinhua Finance)**

Sulfur Prices Stay Elevated Despite Recent Pullback
China's sulfur prices surged in the first half of 2026, lifting producers' earnings. The benchmark price stood at 8,669 yuan per tonne (about $1,210) on July 8, down 2.98% from the start of the month and about 26% below its June peak. Analysts said easing supply tightness and weak seasonal demand are driving a more volatile market. **(Securities Times)**

China Steel Output Eases as Inventory Pressure Softens
China's major steel producers adjusted output in late June, with daily crude steel production falling 3.6% to 2.024 million tonnes. Steel inventories dropped 9.1% to 16.28 million tonnes, easing short-term pressure. However, inventories remained 15.1% above the start of the year, suggesting that despite improving destocking, the market still faces persistent oversupply and uncertain demand. **(China Iron and Steel Association)**

Soda Ash Prices Hit Decade Low As Oversupply Persists
China's soda ash prices fell to their lowest level in nearly a decade as expanding capacity and weak demand continued to weigh on the market. Analysts said 2026 will likely remain a bottoming year, with recovery unlikely before late 2027. Supply still exceeds demand, while glass and photovoltaic sectors remain weak, delaying a market turnaround. **(Futures Daily)**

China's Summer Grain Output Rises 0.7% in 2026
China's summer grain output reached 150.75 million tonnes in 2026, up 0.7% year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Average yield increased 0.8% despite a 0.2% decline in planted area, while wheat production rose 0.6% to 138.95 million tonnes, highlighting resilient agricultural productivity and stable grain supply despite reduced acreage. **(Xinhua Finance)**