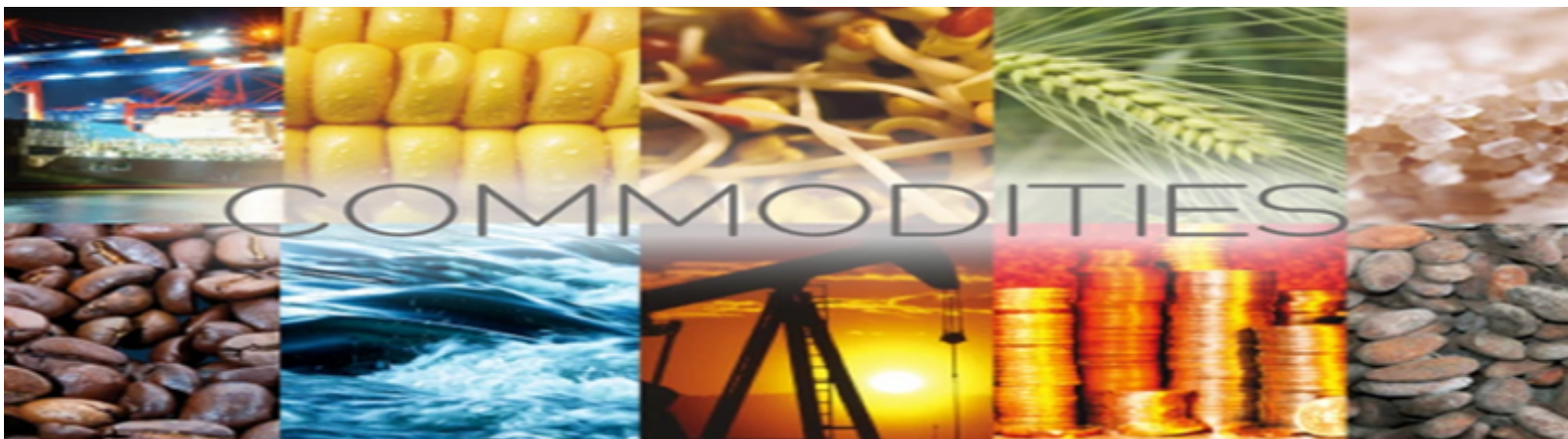


NEWSLETTER

COMMODITIES

4 - 10 May 2026



China's nonferrous metals sector logs profit surge in Q1

China's nonferrous metals sector reported strong growth, with profits rising 110.7% year on year in Q1 2026, according to the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association. Total profits reached 192.85 billion yuan across 12,325 firms. Growth was driven by demand from AI, EVs and energy storage, boosting consumption of nickel, cobalt, lithium, copper and aluminum products. (**Xinhua**)

AI and structural upgrades forge a more robust Chinese steel industry

China's steel industry is advancing through AI integration and structural upgrades. Smart systems at firms like HBIS Group have boosted efficiency by 10.3% while cutting energy use by about 10%. Manufacturing demand now exceeds construction (51% vs 49%), as AI supports high-end steel for EVs, robotics and advanced equipment, accelerating industry transformation. (**People's Daily**)

China Commodity Index rises 1.7% in April

China's commodity price index rose to 132.1 in April, up 1.7% month-on-month and 20.2% year-on-year, according to China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing. Prices of 38 out of 50 tracked goods increased, led by chemicals. Despite slower growth, the market remains stable, supported by resilient supply chains and macroeconomic policies. (**CCTV**)

China's soybean imports to stay high in 2026

China's soybean imports are expected to remain elevated in 2026, according to a report by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. While overall agricultural trade stays stable, demand for soybeans remains strong, with diversified supply from Brazil and Argentina. The outlook reflects steady domestic demand and a more stable global agricultural market despite price fluctuations. (**China News**)

China's containerboard imports surge in March

China's containerboard imports reached 454,900 tons in March 2026, surging 74.5% from the previous month as overseas supply increased significantly. The sharp rise may pressure domestic spot prices in the short term. However, total imports in the first quarter still declined 13% year-on-year to 1.16 million tons, suggesting overall supply remains tighter than last year despite the recent rebound. (**100PPI**)