

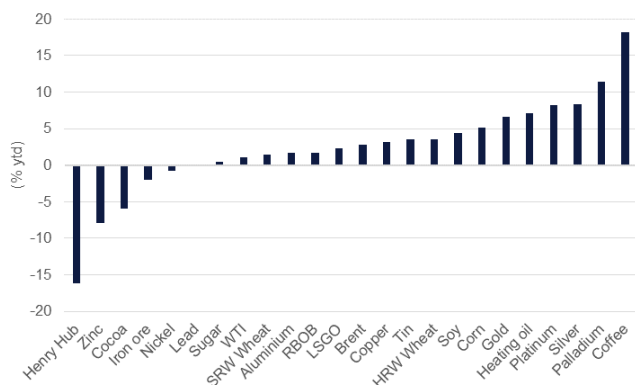


# Commodities monthly round up

Market Economics | 3 February 2025

Commodity markets had a positive January with nearly all major markets gaining. The Commodity Research Bureau spot index gained 1% year-to-date by the end of January even amid uncertainty around global demand for industrial raw materials this year. Leading the way were precious metals markets with spot gold prices up 6.6% ytd at USD 2,798/troy oz by the end of January, a new record high level. The rest of the precious metals complex performed better than gold with palladium recording the strongest gains since the start of the year. The uncertainty for the global outlook this year is arguably a positive for gold markets (and the rest of precious metals) though the prospect of a higher path for US rates will impose a drag effect.

## Commodity returns in January



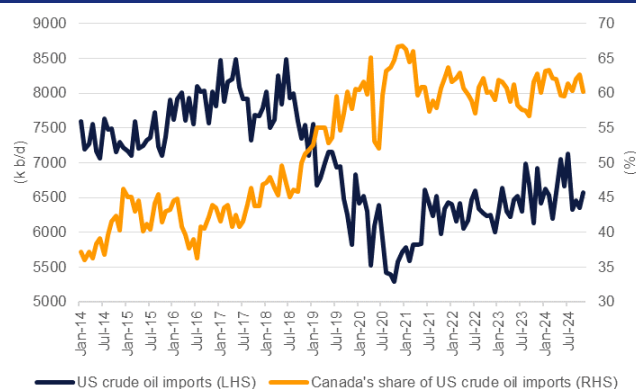
Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research.

Crude oil markets gained in January, rising initially on geopolitical anxieties over sanctions from the outgoing Biden administration in the US on Russian oil exports. Brent futures gained 2.8% in January to close the month at USD 76.63/b, having hit a ytd high closing prices of USD 82.03/b midway through the month. WTI futures added 1.1% at USD 72.53/b.

The near-term outlook for oil markets will be set by market reaction to US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on the key US trading partners of Canada, Mexico and China. Canadian energy exports to the US received a lower tariff rate of 10% (compared with

25% for all other goods) to soften the blow of the new, higher cost to trade. As of November 2024, Canada accounted for 60% of total crude oil imports into the US and represents nearly 100% of total imports in some parts of the US (the Mid-West and Rocky Mountain PADs).

## US imports of Canadian oil



Source: EIA, Emirates NBD Research.

OPEC+ will hold a joint ministerial monitoring committee meeting on February 3rd where they are likely to endorse the exporters' alliance's plan to incrementally add oil back to the market from April onward. US President Trump has called out for more oil production from OPEC members, which fits with their announced plans, though the US government and OPEC+ will differ on what levels are appropriate for prices.

Industrial metals have shown a mixed performance since the start of the year. Iron ore futures came off by roughly 2% ytd at USD 101.59/tonne while LME aluminium and copper forwards were both stronger, up 1.7% at USD 2,594/tonne and 3.2% at USD 9,048/tonne respectively. Iron ore inventories in China were roughly steady for the month while SHFE base metal inventories either levelled off from recent draws or were moderately higher.

**Edward Bell**, Acting Group Head of Research and Chief Economist  
[edwardpb@emiratesnbd.com](mailto:edwardpb@emiratesnbd.com)



## Disclaimer

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESS FOR THE PUBLICATION BEFORE THE USE THEREOF. By continuing to access and use the publication, you signify you accept these terms and conditions. Emirates NBD reserves the right to amend, remove, or add to the publication and Disclaimer at any time. Such modifications shall be effective immediately. Accordingly, please continue to review this Disclaimer whenever accessing, or using the publication. Your access of, and use of the publication, after modifications to the Disclaimer will constitute your acceptance of the terms and conditions of use of the publication, as modified. If, at any time, you do not wish to accept the content of this Disclaimer, you may not access, or use the publication. Any terms and conditions proposed by you which are in addition to or which conflict with this Disclaimer are expressly rejected by Emirates NBD and shall be of no force or effect. Information contained herein is believed by Emirates NBD to be accurate and true but Emirates NBD expresses no representation or warranty of such accuracy and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission taken as a result of the information contained in the publication. The publication is provided for informational uses only and is not intended for trading purposes. Charts, graphs and related data/information provided herein are intended to serve for illustrative purposes. The data/information contained in the publication is not designed to initiate or conclude any transaction. In addition, the data/information contained in the publication is prepared as of a particular date and time and will not reflect subsequent changes in the market or changes in any other factors relevant to their determination. The publication may include data/information taken from stock exchanges and other sources from around the world and Emirates NBD does not guarantee the sequence, accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of information contained in the publication provided thereto by or obtained from unaffiliated third parties. Moreover, the provision of certain data/information in the publication may be subject to the terms and conditions of other agreements to which Emirates NBD is a party.

None of the content in the publication constitutes a solicitation, offer or recommendation by Emirates NBD to buy or sell any security, or represents the provision by Emirates NBD of investment advice or services regarding the profitability or suitability of any security or investment. Moreover, the content of the publication should not be considered legal, tax, accounting advice. The publication is not intended for use by, or distribution to, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such use or distribution would be contrary to law or regulation. Accordingly, anything to the contrary herein set forth notwithstanding, Emirates NBD, its suppliers, agents, directors, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, affiliates or subsidiaries shall not, directly or indirectly, be liable, in any way, to you or any other person for any: (a) inaccuracies or errors in or omissions from the publication including, but not limited to, quotes and financial data; (b) loss or damage arising from the use of the publication, including, but not limited to any investment decision occasioned thereby. (c) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NEGLIGENCE, SHALL EMIRATES NBD, ITS SUPPLIERS, AGENTS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AFFILIATES OR SUBSIDIARIES BE LIABLE TO YOU FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES EVEN IF EMIRATES NBD HAS BEEN ADVISED SPECIFICALLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, ARISING FROM THE USE OF THE PUBLICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF REVENUE, OPPORTUNITY, OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS OR LOST BUSINESS. The information contained in the publication does not purport to contain all matters relevant to any particular investment or financial instrument and all statements as to future matters are not guaranteed to be accurate. Anyone proposing to rely on or use the information contained in the publication should independently verify and check the accuracy, completeness, reliability and suitability of the information and should obtain independent and specific advice from appropriate professionals or experts regarding information contained in the publication. Further, references to any financial instrument or investment product is not intended to imply that an actual trading market exists for such instrument or product. In publishing this document Emirates NBD is not acting in the capacity of a fiduciary or financial advisor.

Emirates NBD and its group entities (together and separately, "Emirates NBD") does and may at any time solicit or provide commercial banking, investment banking, credit, advisory or other services to the companies covered in its reports. As a result, recipients of this report should be aware that any or all of the foregoing services may at times give rise to a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report.

The securities covered by this report may not be suitable for all types of investors. The report does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situations and specific needs of recipients.

Data included in the publication may rely on models that do not reflect or take into account all potentially significant factors such as market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. Emirates NBD may use different models, make valuation adjustments, or use different methodologies when determining prices at which Emirates NBD is willing to trade financial instruments and/or when valuing its own inventory positions for its books and records. In receiving the publication, you acknowledge and agree that there are risks associated with investment activities. Moreover, you acknowledge in receiving the publication that the responsibility to obtain and carefully read and understand the content of documents relating to any investment activity described in the publication and to seek separate, independent financial advice if required to assess whether a particular investment activity described herein is suitable, lies exclusively with you. You acknowledge and agree that past investment performance is not indicative of the future performance results of any investment and that the information contained herein is not to be used as an indication for the future performance of any investment activity. You acknowledge that the publication has been developed, compiled, prepared, revised, selected, and arranged by Emirates NBD and others (including certain other information sources) through the application of methods and standards of judgment developed and applied through the expenditure of substantial time, effort, and money and constitutes valuable intellectual property of Emirates NBD and such others. All present and future rights in and to trade secrets, patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, know-how, and other proprietary rights of any type under the laws of any governmental authority, domestic or foreign, shall, as between you and Emirates NBD, at all times be and remain the sole and exclusive property of Emirates NBD and/or other lawful parties. Except as specifically permitted in writing, you acknowledge and agree that you may not copy or make any use of the content of the publication or any portion thereof. Except as specifically permitted in writing, you shall not use the intellectual property rights connected with the publication, or the names of any individual participant in, or contributor to, the content of the publication, or any variations or derivatives thereof, for any purpose.

YOU AGREE TO USE THE PUBLICATION SOLELY FOR YOUR OWN NONCOMMERCIAL USE AND BENEFIT, AND NOT FOR RESALE OR OTHER TRANSFER OR DISPOSITION TO, OR USE BY OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF, ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY. YOU AGREE NOT TO USE, TRANSFER, DISTRIBUTE, OR DISPOSE OF ANY DATA/INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PUBLICATION IN ANY MANNER THAT COULD COMPETE WITH THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF EMIRATES NBD. YOU MAY NOT COPY, REPRODUCE, PUBLISH, DISPLAY, MODIFY, OR CREATE DERIVATIVE WORKS FROM ANY DATA/INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PUBLICATION. YOU MAY NOT OFFER ANY PART OF THE PUBLICATION FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTE IT OVER ANY MEDIUM WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF EMIRATES NBD. THE DATA/INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PUBLICATION MAY NOT BE USED TO CONSTRUCT A DATABASE OF ANY KIND. YOU MAY NOT USE THE DATA/INFORMATION IN THE PUBLICATION IN ANY WAY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ANY DATA SOLD OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY YOU TO ANY THIRD PARTY. FURTHERMORE, YOU MAY NOT USE ANY OF THE TRADEMARKS, TRADE NAMES, SERVICE MARKS, COPYRIGHTS, OR LOGOS OF EMIRATES NBD OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES IN ANY MANNER WHICH CREATES THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH ITEMS BELONG TO OR ARE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU OR, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED WITH EMIRATES NBD'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT, AND YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE NO OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN AND TO ANY OF SUCH ITEMS. MOREOVER YOU AGREE THAT YOUR USE OF THE PUBLICATION IS AT YOUR SOLE RISK AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PUBLICATION AND ANYTHING CONTAINED HEREIN, IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE," AND THAT EMIRATES NBD MAKES NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE PUBLICATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MERCHANTABILITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT, TITLE, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. You agree, at your own expense, to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Emirates NBD, its Suppliers, agents, directors, officers, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees, arising out of or in connection with the publication, including, but not limited to: (i) your use of the data contained in the publication or someone using such data on your behalf; (ii) any deletions, additions, insertions or alterations to, or any unauthorized use of, the data contained in the publication or (iii) any misrepresentation or breach of an acknowledgement or agreement made as a result of your receiving the publication.