At present, China's non-ferrous metal industry has a momentum of a slowdown growth after years of rapid growth. The reasons for the slower growth in the industry are as follows. Firstly, China's non-ferrous metal production and consumption accounts for about 30% of the global total, meaning that per capita consumption in China has surpassed the global average level. Secondly, cost continues to rise, and corporate profitability is declining after earlier rises, which gradually damps the corporate enthusiasm for sustained fast growth in capacity expansion. Thirdly, extensive economic growth has led to a tight supply of resources and energy in China and China has continuously rolled out regulatory and control policies, which will help the industry change the growth mode with focus on capacity expansion, and step onto the path of sustained development.
It is forecast that China’s output of non-ferrous metals will grow at a rate of around 10% in the period 2008-2010, even lower than 10%, and meanwhile growth rate of consumption will slow down accordingly.

After years of rapid rises, non-ferrous metal prices have begun dividing. Some of non-ferrous metal prices have dropped due to the impact of supply growth, and some have still remained at high level because of tight supply.

This report is optimistic about future prices of noble metals, aluminum, tin and rare earths, and is cautious about future prices of copper, zinc, lead, nickel and molybdenum. Detailed information is given in Chapter IV.

With the rapid development of non-ferrous metal industry in recent years, large-sized corporations have taken the initiative in the rapid growth. Aluminum Corporation of China, for instance, will dominate the future development of China electrolyte aluminum industry. The four gold producers, Zhongjin Gold Co, Shandong Gold Co, Zhaojin Industry and Zijin Mining Group, will share the gold market, while the copper market will be controlled by Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group Holdings Co., Jiangxi Copper Industry Co. and Yunnan Copper Industry Co. Detailed information on China’s key non-ferrous metal producers is provided in Chapter VI.

China’s investment in overseas market by its non-ferrous metal producers is increasingly active, but they are still at initial stage and still face great risk. In a long term, it is an inevitable trend for China’s non-ferrous metal companies to tap overseas market and participant in global competition in the future.
# Table of Contents

- **1. Overview of Non-Ferrous Metal Industry**
  1.1 Definition of the Industry and Research Scope of the Report
  1.2 Industry Characteristics and Main Influential Factors
  1.3 Status and Role of Non-Ferrous Metal Industry in National Economy
  1.4 Development Stages and Prosperity Degree of the Industry in 2008

- **2. Policy and Technology Environment**
  2.1 Policy and Law Environment
    2.1.1 Industry Management System
    2.1.2 Laws and Regulations
    2.1.3 Industry Programming
    2.1.4 Industry Policies
  2.2 Technical Environment
    2.2.1 Aluminum Electrolysis Technology
    2.2.2 Copper Smelting Technology
    2.2.3 Lead Smelting Technology
    2.2.4 Zinc Smelting Technology

- **3. Overall Supply and Demand**
  3.1 Supply
    3.1.1 Supply Scale and Growth
    3.1.2 Industry Structure

  3.2 Market Supply & Demand and Prices
    3.2.1 Market Supply & Demand
    3.2.2 Prices

- **4. Segmented Market of Non-Ferrous Metals**
  4.1 Supply and Demand of Copper Market
    4.1.1 Supply and Demand in International Copper Market
    4.1.2 Supply in China’s Market
    4.1.3 Demand in China’s Market
    4.1.4 Price Trend
  4.2 Supply and Demand of Aluminum Market
    4.2.1 Supply and Demand in International Aluminum Market
    4.2.2 Supply in China’s Market
    4.2.3 Demand in China’s Market
    4.2.4 Price Trend
  4.3 Supply and Demand of Lead Market
    4.3.1 Supply and Demand in International Lead Market
    4.3.2 Supply in China’s Market
    4.3.3 Demand in China’s Market
    4.3.4 Price Trend
  4.4 Supply and Demand of Zinc Market
    4.4.1 Supply and Demand in International Zinc Market
    4.4.2 Supply in China’s Market
    4.4.3 Demand in China’s Market
    4.4.4 Price Trend
4.5 Supply and Demand of Tin Market
4.5.1 Supply and Demand in International Tin Market
4.5.2 Supply in China's Market
4.5.3 Demand in China's Market
4.5.4 Market Prospect

5. International Trade
5.1 Import & Export and Trade Balance
5.2 Import
5.2.1 Import Product Structure
5.2.2 Distribution of Origin Country (Region)
5.2.3 Import Mode Structure
5.2.4 Import Prices of Main Products
5.2.5 Reliance on Main Import Products
5.2.6 Forecast on China's Import
5.3 Overview on Export Trade
5.3.1 Export Scale and Product Structure
5.3.2 Forecast on Export

6. Operations of the Industry and Key Companies
6.1 Performance of the Industry
6.2 Key Companies
6.2.1 Aluminum Corporation of China ((CHINALCO)
6.2.2 Jiangxi Copper Corporation
6.2.3 Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group Holdings Co., Ltd
6.2.4 Yunnan Copper Co., Ltd
6.2.5 Daye Non-Ferrous Metals Co., Ltd
6.2.6 Jinchuan Group Co., Ltd
6.2.7 Baiyin Nonferrous Metals Inc
6.2.8 Zhong Tiao Shan Nonferrous Metal Group Co
6.2.9 Huludao Nonferrous Group Co
6.2.10 Shenzhen Zhongjin Lingnan Nonfemt Co., Ltd
6.2.11 Yunnan Metallurgical Group
6.2.12 China Minmetals Non-ferrous Metals Co
6.2.13 Yunnan Chihong Zinc & Germanium Co., Ltd.
6.2.14 Shandong Gold Co
6.2.15 Zhongjin Gold Co
6.2.16 Zijin Mining Group
6.2.17 Yunnan Tin Co., Ltd
Selected Charts

China's GDP Growth and Consumption of Non-Ferrous Metals, 2001-2007
Changes in Power Price in an Aluminum Plant in Guizhou Province
Changes in Coke Price
Elastic Coefficient of Copper, Aluminum & Zinc Consumption, GDP and FAI
China's Output of Copper, Aluminum and Zinc, 2010
Output of Non-Ferrous Metals in 1H 2007 and 1H 2008
Fixed Assets Investment in Non-Ferrous Metals Industry, 1H 2008
Number of Firms with Total Assets Over CNY10 Billion at Year End, 2002-2007
Global Supply and Demand of Copper Metal
Output, Net Import & Apparent Consumption of Refined Copper in China, 2007
Copper Consumption Structure in China
Copper Apparent Consumption in China 2006-2008
Forecast of Copper Consumption in China
Copper Futures Prices in Shanghai Futures Exchange, Feb.-Jul. 2008
Copper Price in China, Jan.-May. 2008
Output of Vanadium (Lead Content) in the World, 2005-2007
Output of Lead Concentrate in the World, 2005-2008
Global Consumption of Fine Lead, 2005-2008
Spot Prices of Lead in LME in July 2008
Spot Prices of Lead in China in July 2008
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Tin Supply &amp; Demand, 2005-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output of Refined Tin in China, 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Demand in China, 2002-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upward Trend of China Demand for Tin, 2002-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China's Copper Ores and Concentrates Import, 2006-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China's Unwrought Copper and Rolled Copper Import, 2006-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportions of China's Imported Tin Products, 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Price Trend, May-July, 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Apparent Reliance on Imported Alumina/Bauxite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Aluminum Export Variety, 2005-June 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistic of China Tin Exports, 2004-March 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Tin Export Destinations in 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Refine Lead Export Volume, Jan. to Jun. 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output of Ten Kinds of Nonferrous Metals in China, 2002-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Energy Cost to Total of China Nonferrous Metal Smelting Firms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth of Key Energy, 1H2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel and Copper Output of Jinchuan Group, 2001-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Features of Main Sub-Industries of Non-Ferrous Metals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies on Non-ferrous Metal in China, 2005-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Export Duty on Non-ferrous Metals in China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Policy on China Non-Ferrous Metal Industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to Resources Tax Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Non-Ferrous Metal Output, 2006-2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refine Copper Consumption of Global and Major Countries &amp; Regions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Zinc Demand, Output and Consumption, 2006-2007
Global Tin Supply & Demand, 2002-2007
China’s Position in World’s Tin Output and Consumption, 2002-2007
China Tin Supply & Demand, 2002-2007
Import Data of China Nonferrous Metals, Jan.-May 2008
Export Data of China Nonferrous Metals, Jan.-May 2008
Import Product Structure of China Aluminum Industry, Jan.-May 2008
Export Product Structure of China Aluminum Industry, Jan.-May 2008
Import and Export of China Aluminum Industry, 2007
Distribution of Origin Country (Region) of China Aluminum Import, 1H2008
Distribution of Origin Country (Region) of China Aluminum Import, 2007
China Lead Import, Sep. 2007
Aluminum Import Statistics by Trade Mode, April 2008
Aluminum Import Statistics by Trade Mode, Jan. 2008
Zinc Import Statistics by Trade Mode, June 2008
Tin Import Statistics by Trade Mode, Jan-June 2008
Import Volume and Prices of Lead Products in China, Jan. 2007
Distribution of Country (Region) of China Aluminum Export, 1H2008
China Zinc Export, Jan.-Jun. 2008
Key Accounting Data of Aluminum Corporation of China, 2007
Profitability Forecast and Financial Results of Jiangxi Copper Co. Ltd.
Financial Indicators of Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group, Q1 2008
Financial Indicators of Zhongjin Lingnan, 2007-Q12008
# How to Buy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product details</th>
<th>How to Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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