



We feature in February pressure manway, project supply, plate processing, copper & nickel price, currency exchange and featured customer. We hope you enjoy this newsletter publication.

### January News Wrap up

#### Tasmania economy slips but 'still doing well'

Tasmania's economy is no longer the best performer in Australia, according to new figures from the Commonwealth Bank.

Three months ago, Tasmania had the best economy in Australia according to the CommSec "State of the States" report.

It has now slipped to third, behind Western Australia and the ACT, based on eight criteria. The report shows Tasmania still has the strongest population growth in the nation, as well as the second-best unemployment, and home-building rate.

But it is trailing most other States and territories in business investment, and housing finance.

The Treasurer, Michael Aird says the figures show the state's finances are still strong despite tough economic times.

"We're still performing very well, all of our key economic indicators are very good and that we're outperforming the rest of the country in terms of economic growth according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics," he said.

#### EU antitrust inquiry threat to BHP and Rio Tinto's iron ore merger

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto's \$129bn iron ore merger could face stronger headwinds, analysts say, after European Union regulators signalled they



would focus on seaborne iron ore markets, rather than total global production.

The EC is seen as the biggest potential regulatory block to the deal, which BHP and Rio want finalised this year.

BHP and Rio's combined Pilbara production of 334 million tonnes last year made up about 36 per cent of the seaborne iron ore market, but only about 15 per cent of total global production.

BHP and Rio yesterday highlighted their agreement to separately market their iron ore. (AFP)

#### Domestic stainless steel processing viable

Weld Range Metals has announced plans to build a stainless steel processor at Western Australia's newest Oakajee port.

The company has located a rich deposit of combined chromium, nickel and iron ore about 65 kilometres east of Meekatharra.

Preliminary studies show it is economically viable for onshore processing.

CEO of Weld Range Metals, Michael Naylor, says the company aims to produce 305,000 tonnes of stainless steel alloy for markets in Asia, the US and Europe.

However, he says this is not possible if there wasn't a high percentage of chrome in the ore. (ABC)

#### Global stainless steel output to hit 27 million tons in 2010

Global stainless steel output is expected to increase by 8 percent to 27 million tons in 2010 and 30 million tons in 2011, according to expectations in a report published by Roskill Consulting Group Ltd, a British market analyst.

Global stainless steel production in 2009 is estimated at 23.9 million tons, based on ISSF statistics.

The price of nickel is projected to remain stable at around US\$20,000/ton this year. During 2010 to 2012, it may rise above US\$22,000/ton. The nickel surplus may hit 75,000 tons, as stainless steel production increases. (Roskill Report)

#### China Tisco becomes world's biggest stainless steel producer

China's Taiyuan Iron & Steel (Tisco) produced 2.48 million tons of stainless steel products last year, becoming the biggest stainless steel mill in the world. Tisco achieved the revenue and profit of AUS 16.5 billion and 162 million respectively.

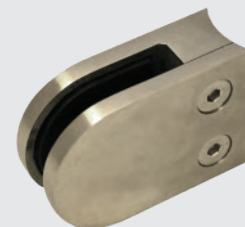
Stainless steel mills in the EU, the U.S., Japan and Korea cut their output by 20-40 percent, while Tisco increased their output by 38 percent in the last year. (Yieh)

#### Updated Online Catalogue



Our great online Product Catalogue is out now. Click [view](#) to see our online PDF catalogue.

#### Glass Clamps



#### Satin Finish Glass Clamps

We stock a wide range of balustrade fittings. For more information please contact [sales@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:sales@stirlingsaus.com.au)

#### Stirlings Staff Profile



Supervisor - Customer Services  
[andys@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:andys@stirlingsaus.com.au)

Andy Szlazak has been with Stirlings Australia since 1993, and he is our customer service supervisor.

Andy has always looked after himself, and continues to present the physique of a 20 year old!



### Pressure Vessels Manways (AS 1210 - 1997)

Stirlings Australia is now offering AS 1210 - 1997 certified pressure Vessels Manways.

This manway is developed specifically for the Australian Pressure Vessel Market. It is constructed with a keen eye for detail and quality. Each door is made to last and give the user practicality, aesthetic appeal, efficiency and value for money.

A European manufactured doors can also be provided with a T.U.V. certificate if required. It also complies with confined space requirements in Australia.

For more details, please contact Matthew Stevens at 08 9366 6765, or email [matthews@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:matthews@stirlingsaus.com.au)



- 450mm diameter, Grade 316.
- Eight bolts downs
- Hinged lid and handle
- Design pressure: 810 kpag
- Design temperature: 100 deg

#### Stirlings Warehouse

##### Western Australia

Cnr Baile Rd & Modal Cres  
Canning Vale, WA 6155

PO BOX 1462  
Canning Vale DC, WA 6155

Ph: + 61 8 9366 6700  
Fax: + 61 8 9366 6710

##### Tasmania

21 Greenbanks Road  
Bridgewater, TAS 7030

PO Box 354  
Brighton, TAS 7030.

Ph: + 61 3 6262 6300  
Fax: + 61 3 6263 6590

### Featured Services

#### Project Supply

Stirlings Australia has a dedicated team of project consultants, specialising in project supply management. The team has expertise in customising supply requirements to meet specific project needs and deadlines. Contacts:

Gavin Murray, [gavinm@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:gavinm@stirlingsaus.com.au)  
Steve Chatterley (Nickel Alloy Specialist), [stevec@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:stevec@stirlingsaus.com.au)



Project Supply Specialist  
Gavin and Steve

#### Plate Processing

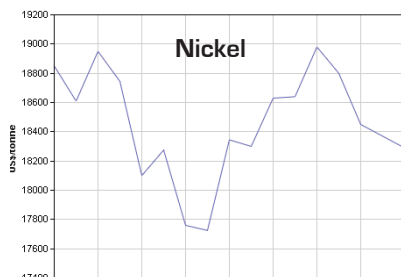
Stirlings Australia's value-adding services include Hi-Definition Plasma Cutting for precision cutting of plate. We can provide assistance with design development, Best-use Nesting and Estimating, DXF File communication, all with prompt, reliable and expert service. Contacts:  
Dave Pruden, [davep@stirlingsaus.com.au](mailto:davep@stirlingsaus.com.au)



Plasma Cutter

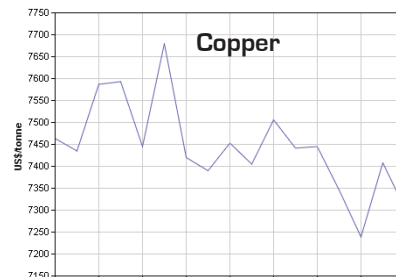
### Commodity Market Update

[source: www.lme.co.uk]



01 Jan 2010 - 31 Jan 2010  
January Average, Upward Trend  
US \$18,500 /Tonne

The rising price of nickel and the gradually recovering global economy are pushing the international stainless steel prices higher. Stainless steel FOB price may increase again in February. However, there are worries about tightening of credit in China.



01 Jan 2010 - 31 Jan 2010  
January Average, Upward Trend  
US \$7,515.00/Tonne

Copper price have been pressured by concerns about tightening of bank lending in China and stronger US dollar. The price of copper based products is expected to be steady or slight increase in February.



# Stirlings

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## Newsletter



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## Currency Exchange

[source: Reserve Bank of Australia]

Foreign currency per A\$ (January Average 2010)

**US Dollar: 0.9148 Euro: 0.6400**

Despite the continued positive local data releases and the surprising strength of the Australian economy, the AUD has been pushed around by overseas events with last weeks huge EUR/USD selling weighing heavily on the AUD.

The net impact is slightly higher landed cost when February booked orders arrive after production & shipping (relative to commodity prices).



## Featured Customer

### Minara Resource Limited

Minara Resources Limited is a leading Australian resources company based in Perth, Western Australia.

Minara Resources owns and operates the Murrin Murrin nickel cobalt joint venture project (60% Minara, 40% Glencore International AG).

The Murrin Murrin operation is located near Leonora in Western Australia's historic northern goldfields region.

Murrin Murrin is a world-class nickel/cobalt hydrometallurgical project which offers significant environmental benefits compared to traditional smelting processes.

Web: [www.minara.com.au](http://www.minara.com.au)



## Download and Links

[London Metal Exchange](#)

[Stainless Steel Product Handbook](#)

[Copper Nickel Catalogue](#)

[Marine Booklet](#)

[Balustrade Fittings Booklet](#)

[Corporate Video](#)

[Australian Stainless Steel Development Association](#)

[Nickel Institute](#)

[Copper Development Association](#)

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