

# Johnson Matthey

**EMBARGO UNTIL 13:00 HRS LONDON TIME ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

## **JOHNSON MATTHEY RELEASES “PLATINUM 2009” MARKET REVIEW**

### **PLATINUM**

#### **PLATINUM MARKET IN DEFICIT BY 11.7 TONNES IN 2008**

Global platinum demand fell by 5.0 per cent to 197.4 tonnes in 2008, according to Johnson Matthey in “PLATINUM 2009”, released today. Autocatalyst demand suffered due to a slowdown in North American and European vehicle production. Industrial demand was also affected by the growing weakness in the world economy and declined slightly. However, a fall in the price of platinum revived demand from the jewellery and physical investment sectors in the second half of the year. Supplies of platinum fell by 9.5 per cent to 185.7 tonnes last year mainly due to a difficult operating environment in South Africa. Overall, the platinum market was in deficit by 11.7 tonnes.

#### **PLATINUM SUPPLY DECLINES DUE TO PROBLEMS AT SOUTH AFRICAN MINES**

Global supplies of platinum decreased by 19.6 tonnes in 2008 to a total of 185.7 tonnes. Sales of metal from South Africa fell by 16.8 tonnes to 140.9 tonnes as production was badly hit by a wide range of problems including interruptions to electricity supply, bad weather, safety closures, smelter shutdowns and shortages of skilled staff. Russian platinum supplies decreased by 3.0 tonnes to 25.5 tonnes, while sales of metal from other producing nations climbed marginally.

#### **AUTO INDUSTRY DEMAND FOR PLATINUM FALLS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1999**

Gross autocatalyst platinum demand fell by 8.2 per cent to 118.3 tonnes last year and remains weak. European auto makers reduced their purchases of platinum for use in catalytic converters due to lower light duty vehicle production, despite the greater use of platinum-containing particulate filters on diesel cars. Platinum use in North America also fell, reflecting lower vehicle output and continuing efforts to replace any remaining platinum in gasoline catalyst formulations with palladium.

#### **JEWELLERY DEMAND IMPROVES IN SECOND HALF AS PLATINUM PRICE WEAKENS**

Global jewellery manufacturing volumes were depressed in early 2008 by the high platinum price but recovered later in the year in Japan and China as the price fell. The amount of old jewellery recycled in Asia was extremely high at the start of the year but decreased sharply as the falling price squeezed recyclers’ profit margins and discouraged individuals from selling second-hand pieces. Annual net demand was thus much stronger than previously expected, falling by only 6.2 per cent to 42.5 tonnes. Net global physical investment demand increased by 150 per cent to 13.3 tonnes as Japanese investors responded positively to the falling metal price in the second half of the year.

#### **PLATINUM FORECAST TO TRADE BETWEEN \$950 AND \$1,350**

While demand for platinum from the automotive and industrial sectors remains poor, purchases by China’s jewellery industry and by investors have offset this weakness to date in 2009. Global platinum supplies are forecast to rise marginally in 2009 compared to the previous year. Johnson Matthey expects that supply and demand will be more closely matched in 2009 than in 2008 and that the price of platinum will be much less volatile. Any improvement in the economic environment could help drive platinum as high as \$1,350 within the next six months. In any case, platinum should derive good support from physical buying in Asia and from its strong longer-term fundamentals and is expected to trade above \$950 during the same period.

## PALLADIUM

### **PALLADIUM MARKET IN SURPLUS BY 14.3 TONNES IN 2008**

Palladium demand grew by 0.5 tonnes to 213.1 tonnes in 2008 despite the effects of the global economic slowdown. Gross autocatalyst palladium demand fell in North America due to a sharp decline in vehicle production but climbed in Europe, China and the Rest of the World region. Net jewellery demand and investment demand both increased strongly as did demand in many industrial sectors. Total palladium supplies fell by 39.5 tonnes to 227.4 tonnes due to lower primary production and a fall in sales of palladium from Russian state stocks. The palladium market remained in a surplus of 14.3 tonnes in 2008.

### **SUPPLIES OF PALLADIUM DRIVEN LOWER BY FALL IN MINE OUTPUT AND DECREASED SALES OF RUSSIAN STATE STOCKS**

Total palladium supplies fell by 14.8 per cent to 227.4 tonnes in 2008. South African palladium sales fell by 10.4 tonnes to 75.6 tonnes due to the wide range of problems experienced by its mining industry. North American supplies of palladium decreased to 28.3 tonnes as production was cut in the final quarter of the year. Total Russian supplies declined to 113.9 tonnes: primary production fell and sales of palladium from state stocks were 29.9 tonnes, over fifteen tonnes lower than in the previous year.

### **PALLADIUM AUTOCATALYST DEMAND FALLS BUT FINDS SUPPORT IN SOME REGIONS**

Gross autocatalyst palladium demand decreased by 3.6 per cent in 2008 to 136.2 tonnes. Although North America remains the largest market in terms of palladium consumption, purchases of metal in this region decreased by more than twenty per cent to 41.8 tonnes as light duty vehicle production fell sharply. In Europe, increasing use of platinum/palladium catalysts in the diesel sector outweighed the effects of lower vehicle output and drove total palladium demand 1.0 tonnes higher to 29.6 tonnes. Gross autocatalyst demand for palladium climbed in China, Japan and the Rest of the World.

### **NET PALLADIUM DEMAND INCREASES IN THE JEWELLERY MARKET**

Net demand for palladium from the jewellery industry increased by 19.6 per cent to 26.6 tonnes in 2008. Palladium jewellery demand in Europe and North America grew to a combined 3.3 tonnes as palladium continued to establish itself as a mainstream jewellery metal. In China, net demand rose from 15.5 tonnes in 2007 to 20.2 tonnes in 2008 as the flow of recycled old Pd950 jewellery stock decreased and manufacturing volumes of Pd990 palladium jewellery were strong in the first three quarters of the year.

### **PALLADIUM TO TRADE BETWEEN \$180 AND \$280 DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS**

Although palladium demand increased during 2008, purchases are now being affected by the weakness in the global economy: autocatalyst demand for palladium is forecast to fall below 2008 levels and industrial demand remains soft. While physical investment and jewellery demand could show some growth, overall demand is expected to fall in 2009. Primary production is set to decline, and if no sales of palladium are made from Russian state stocks, the market could be in deficit. However, Johnson Matthey forecasts that sales will again be sufficient to keep the palladium market in surplus. Investor behaviour will be key to the performance of the palladium price: any rise in commodity investment could see palladium trade as high as \$280 within the next six months. Without this investor interest, palladium could trade as low as \$180 within the same period.

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*Platinum 2009 is Johnson Matthey's latest market survey of platinum group metals supply and demand. This report, widely regarded as the world's principal source of information on platinum group metals, is free of charge. It can be viewed and downloaded as an electronic file or can be ordered in printed form from Johnson Matthey at <http://www.platinum.matthey.com/publications/pgmreview.html>*

*Johnson Matthey is the world's leading authority on the production, supply and use of platinum and the other metals of the platinum group. The company's main activities include the manufacture of autocatalysts, platinum process catalysts and speciality chemicals and the refining, fabrication and marketing of platinum group metals.*