BLUGLANCE™

12 August 2026

GLOBAL LEAD MARKET PULSE

Global Lead Market:

A product of Bluglance Consulting

Prices, Spreads, Premiums & Strategies

Daily Report

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Lead Daily Report

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Lead Price Table

	Open	High	Low	Close	% Change	5 Day % Change	YTD % Change
LME Cash (USD/MT)	1874	1878	1874	1870	0.32%	0.97%	-4.96%
LME 3M FWD (USD/MT)	1902	1909	1900	1907	0.21%	0.58%	-5.17%
LME Fut. (USD/MT)	1880	1880	1872	1874	0.27%	0.70%	-5.38%
SHFE Fut. (CNY/MT)	15795	15870	15760	15790	0.41%	3.34%	-8.70%
MCX Fut. (INR/KG)	198.00	198.70	197.70	197.90	-0.05%	-0.60%	1.49%

Lead is currently trading above USD 1,900/MT at around USD 1,907/MT, while it closed the previous session firmer, with LME 3M FWD settling at USD 1,907/MT, up 0.21%.

LME inventory stands at 420,300 MT as of 11 August, down 1,500 MT from 421,800 MT on 10 August. The cancelled warrant ratio has continued easing, tracking lower alongside the inventory drawdown after peaking near 18% in early August.

Lead gained USD 9.50/MT, or 0.5%, but continued to lag the broader base metals complex despite a sizeable LME inventory draw. With Cash–3M contango holding around USD 44.50/MT and exchange stocks remaining elevated, the inventory decline does not yet point to a significant tightening in the physical market.

Supply & Demand Fundamentals: China's secondary lead sector remains under pressure. SMM data shows that July refined lead output from secondary producers was impacted by around 16,800 MT MoM, as smelters cut production amid losses and limited availability of raw materials. The industry's operating rate fell to 29.81%.

Although the recent recovery in lead prices has improved margins slightly, most secondary smelters remain loss-making. Some East and North China producers have shown willingness to resume or increase production, but a broad-based recovery in secondary supply has yet to emerge.

On the raw material side, waste e-bike battery prices eased to around CNY 9,175/MT, offering some relief to smelters, although scrap battery availability remains limited.

Demand remains subdued as the lead-acid battery sector stays in its traditional off-season, with downstream buyers continuing to procure cautiously. As a result, the recent price recovery appears to be driven more by primary-side supply cuts and short covering than by a meaningful improvement in end-use demand. Secondary lead supply is therefore expected to remain relatively low in August, while the pace of any production recovery will depend on lead prices, scrap availability and downstream demand.

Macro Watch: Oil prices remain volatile as uncertainty over the Strait of Hormuz continues, with Iran yet to agree to reopen the route. However, reports that the US and Iran are close to an arrangement could limit further upside in crude.

Attention now shifts to today's US CPI, which could influence expectations for the September Fed decision. While markets expect inflation to remain moderate, Goldman Sachs sees a possibility of a softer-than-consensus reading, while HSBC expects a moderate outcome. With recent weak labour market data already reducing expectations for a September rate hike, a softer CPI could further support a dovish outlook, while a hotter print could revive rate-hike expectations.

The US Dollar Index is trading around 99.86, while cautious equity markets and firmer Gold and Silver point to a relatively defensive tone. For Lead, the CPI release remains the key near-term catalyst, with a softer reading likely to support the metals complex through a weaker Dollar, while a hotter print could weigh on prices.

LME COTR – Investment Funds
Investment fund longs declined by 1,758 MT to 37,188 MT, while shorts increased by 879 MT to 58,085 MT. This pushed the net short position wider, indicating that speculative sentiment towards Lead has become more bearish. On a YTD basis, longs are down 11.55%, while shorts have increased 43.93%, showing that bearish positioning remains firmly entrenched.

Key takeaway: Funds are becoming more bearish on Lead, which could continue to limit upside momentum despite the recent price recovery.

Bluglance View: Lead continues to approach the upper end of its trading range, with the bias improving towards bullish. A decisive break above USD 1,913–1,914 could confirm the breakout and open the way towards USD 1,940, while supports remain at USD 1,892 and USD 1,871.

Bias: Sideways to Marginally Bullish

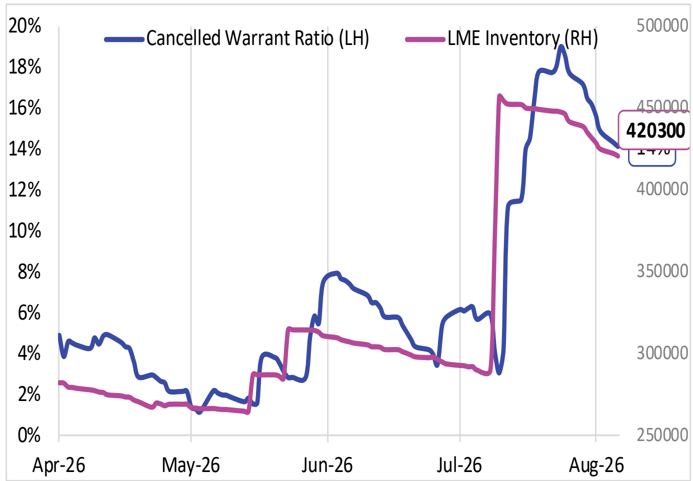
Spread Analysis

(USD/MT)	Spread	
	11-Aug	10-Aug
LME Cash -3M	-37.0	-39.0
LME 1st - 2nd	-15.0	-15.0
LME 3M - SHFE 1st	-433.6	-428.0
LME 3M - MCX 1st	-166.5	-174.7
SHFE 1st - 2nd*	-70.0	-20.0
MCX 1st - 2nd*	-0.3	0.8

Negative = Contango; Positive= Backwardation

Exchange Inventory

Exchange Inventory (MT)				
LME	11-Aug	10-Aug	Change	YTD Chg.
	420300	421800	-1500	178375
MCX	10-Aug	09-Aug	Change	YTD Chg.
	422	422	0	-214
SHFE	07-Aug	31-Jul	Change	YTD Chg.
	70698	71617	-919	42694
Total	**491420**	**493839**	**-2419**	**220855**



Ratio Table:

	Commodity	11-Aug	31-Dec	% Change
Mining Resources	Zinc	3729	3118	19.6%
	Lead	1907	2011	-5.2%
	Zinc/Lead	1.96	1.55	
Macro Relation	Copper	14157	12423	14.0%
	Lead	1907	2011	-5.2%
	Copper/Lead	7.42	6.18	

Source: Bloomberg, Bluglance

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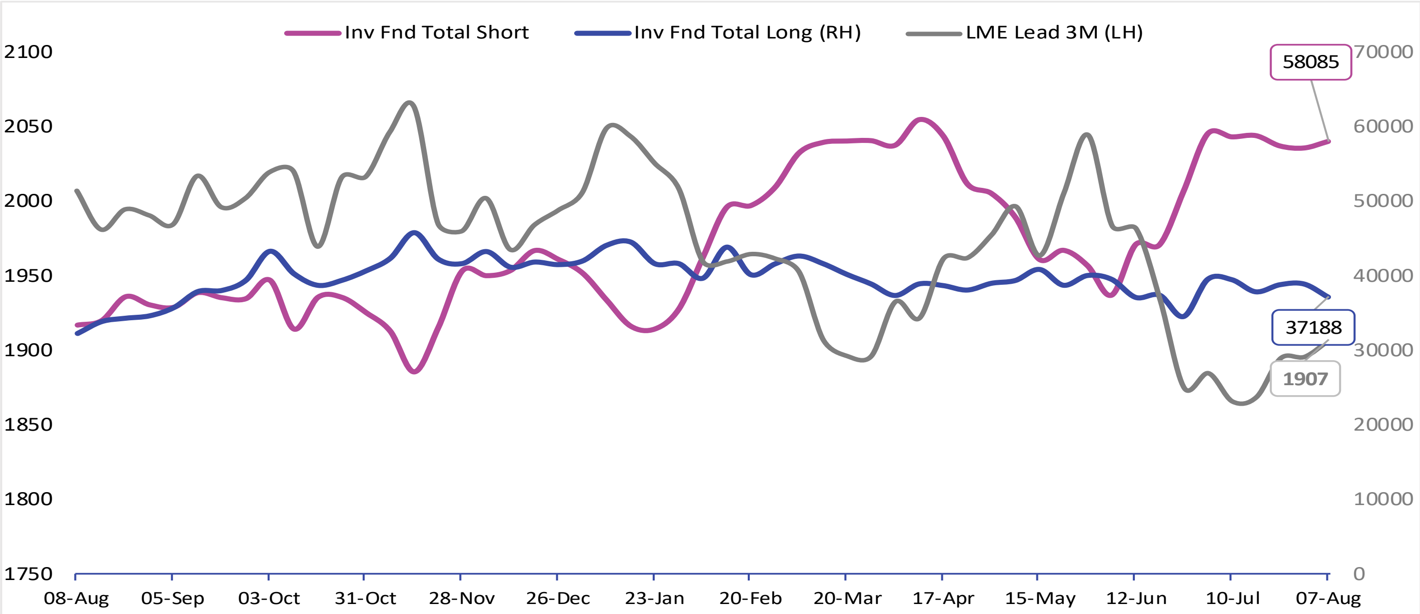
Technical Analysis: Lead

	Close	Pivot	Support 2	Support 1	Resi.1	Resi.2
LME Cash (USD/MT)	1870	1874	1870	1870	1874	1878
LME 3M FWD (USD/MT)	1907	1905	1896	1902	1911	1914
LME Fut. (USD/MT)	1874	1875	1867	1871	1879	1883
SHFE Fut. (CNY/MT)	15790	15807	15697	15743	15853	15917
MCX Fut. (INR/KG)	197.9	198.1	197.1	197.5	198.5	199.1

LME Commitment of Traders (Investment Funds)



CFTC Updates: Investment fund longs declined by 1,758 tonnes to 37,188 tonnes, while shorts rose by 879 tonnes to 58,085 tonnes. On a week-on-week basis, longs fell 5% while shorts edged up 2%. On a YTD basis, longs are down 11.55% while shorts have risen 43.93% from the start of the year, with the net short position continuing to widen as bearish speculative conviction in lead deepens through 2026.

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Economic Events

Economic Events						
Time	**Country**	**Relevance**	**Event**	**Period**	**Survey**	**Prior**
16:00	India		CPI YoY	Jul	4.40%	4.38%
16:30	US		MBA Mortgage Applications	07-Aug	--	-2.90%
18:00	US		CPI YoY	Jul	3.40%	3.50%
18:00	US		Core CPI YoY	Jul	2.50%	2.60%
23:30	US		Federal Budget Balance	Jul	-$383.0b	-$291.1b