BLUGLANCE™

14 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)	1855	1856	1855	1843	-1.31%	0.33%	-6.33%
LME 3M FWD (USD/MT)	1907	1910	1884	1887	-1.20%	0.11%	-6.17%
LME Fut. (USD/MT)	1848	1848	1848	1845	-1.36%	0.05%	-6.85%
SHFE Fut. (CNY/MT)	15950	15950	15880	15900	0.16%	1.50%	-8.07%
MCX Fut. (INR/KG)	197.90	198.10	196.60	197.35	-0.43%	-0.10%	1.21%

Lead Struggles for Direction as Contango and Stocks Weigh on Prices

Among the base metals, lead remains one of the most vulnerable due to its relatively weak demand outlook and ample supply conditions. Historically, whenever broader macroeconomic stress emerges or profit-taking occurs across the base metals complex, lead tends to react more sharply on the downside. This pattern was once again evident this week as LME three-month lead, after reaching a high of around $1,922/MT, corrected quickly to nearly $1,888/MT.

The recent decline reflects broader profit-booking activity across the metals sector, with lead emerging as the weakest performer. Market sentiment continues to be weighed down by elevated inventories, with total exchange stocks estimated at around 480,000 MT, including more than 400,000 MT held in LME warehouses. Such inventory levels continue to cap upside potential and reinforce the perception of a well-supplied market.

Another bearish indicator is the persistent cash-to-three-month contango of more than $40/MT, which has remained in place for several weeks. The structure suggests adequate near-term availability of metal and limited urgency from consumers to secure prompt supplies.

The spread structure across major exchanges further supports the view of a comfortably supplied market. On SHFE, nearby contracts maintain a contango of around 60–70 yuan per ton, reflecting sufficient inventory availability and the absence of immediate supply tightness. Likewise, at MCX, exchange inventories remain extremely low at below 400 MT. Despite the limited stocks, the August, September, and October contracts continue to trade at a marginal contango, although volumes remain relatively thin. Given the current parity between LME and MCX, any fresh deposits into MCX warehouses could potentially widen the August-September and August-October spreads. Nevertheless, the broader market structure is expected to remain in contango across exchanges, reinforcing the prevailing well-supplied fundamentals.

CFTC positioning also remains bearish. Investment fund longs declined by 1,758 tonnes to 37,188 tonnes, while shorts increased by 879 tonnes to 58,085 tonnes. On a WoW basis, longs fell 5% while shorts rose 2%, further widening the net-short position and indicating limited speculative conviction on the upside.

As a result, lead prices have struggled to establish a sustained move above the $1,920/MT level. While buying interest tends to emerge near $1,860–1,870/MT, demand fades as prices approach or exceed $1,920/MT. This has effectively created a well-defined trading band, with the market repeatedly reverting to its established range.

Looking ahead, we expect lead prices to remain under pressure through the remainder of August and potentially into early September. Unless there is a meaningful withdrawal of exchange inventories or a significant improvement in physical demand neither of which appears likely at present the probability of a sustained move above $1,940/MT remains limited.

For the near term, we continue to prefer a trading range of $1,860–1,870/MT on the downside and $1,920/MT on the upside. Given the current market structure, a trading band of approximately $50/MT around the $1,900/MT level appears reasonable for range-based trading strategies.

With prices now approaching key technical support levels following the recent correction, we expect lead to continue trading within this established range during the coming week.

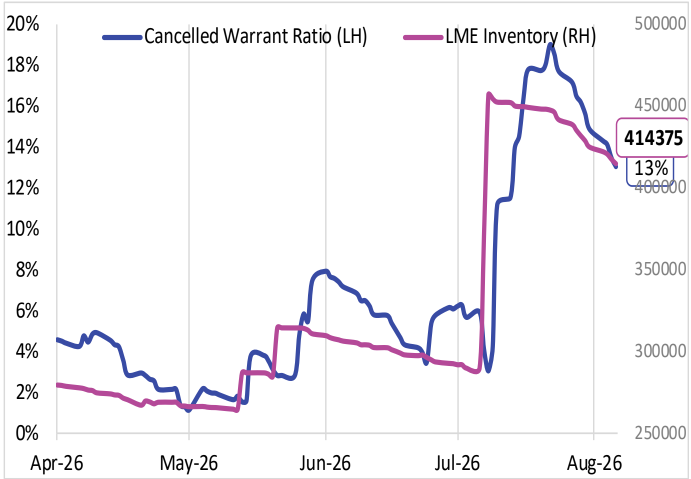
Spread Analysis

(USD/MT)	Spread 13-Aug	Spread 12-Aug
LME Cash -3M	-44.0	-43.0
LME 1st - 2nd	-15.0	-16.0
LME 3M - SHFE 1st	-470.3	-443.2
LME 3M - MCX 1st	-180.7	-169.0
SHFE 1st - 2nd*	-65.0	0.0
MCX 1st - 2nd*	0.2	0.0

Negative = Contango; Positive= Backwardation

Exchange Inventory

Exchange Inventory (MT)				
LME	13-Aug	12-Aug	Change	YTD Chg.
	414375	417075	-2700	172450
MCX	12-Aug	11-Aug	Change	YTD Chg.
	373	373	0	-262
SHFE	07-Aug	31-Jul	Change	YTD Chg.
	70698	71617	-919	42694
Total	**485446**	**489065**	**-3619**	**214882**



Ratio Table:

	Commodity	13-Aug	31-Dec	% Change
Mining Resources	Zinc	3752	3118	20.4%
	Lead	1887	2011	-6.2%
	Zinc/Lead	1.99	1.55	
Macro Relation	Copper	14149	12423	13.9%
	Lead	1887	2011	-6.2%
	Copper/Lead	7.50	6.18	

Source: Bloomberg, Bluglance

Lead Daily Report

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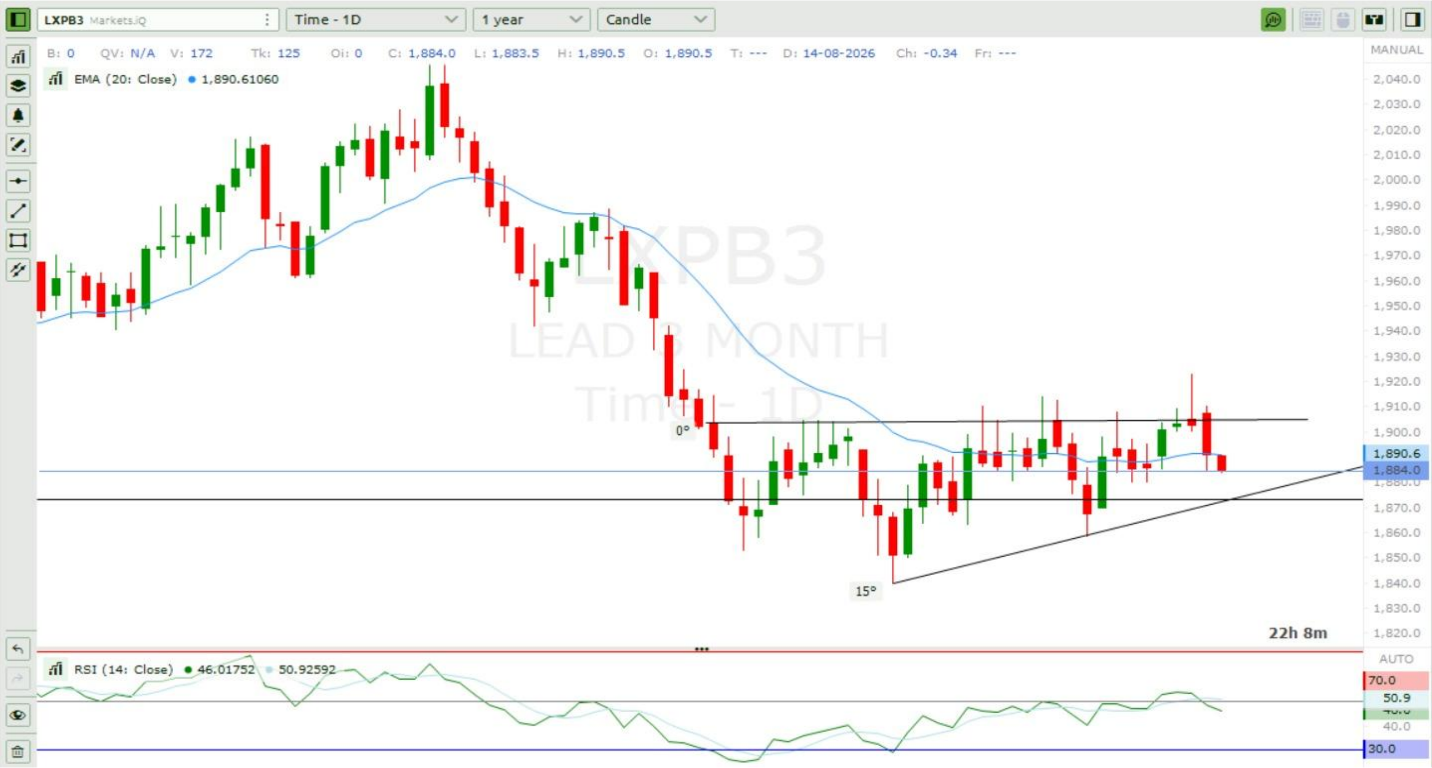
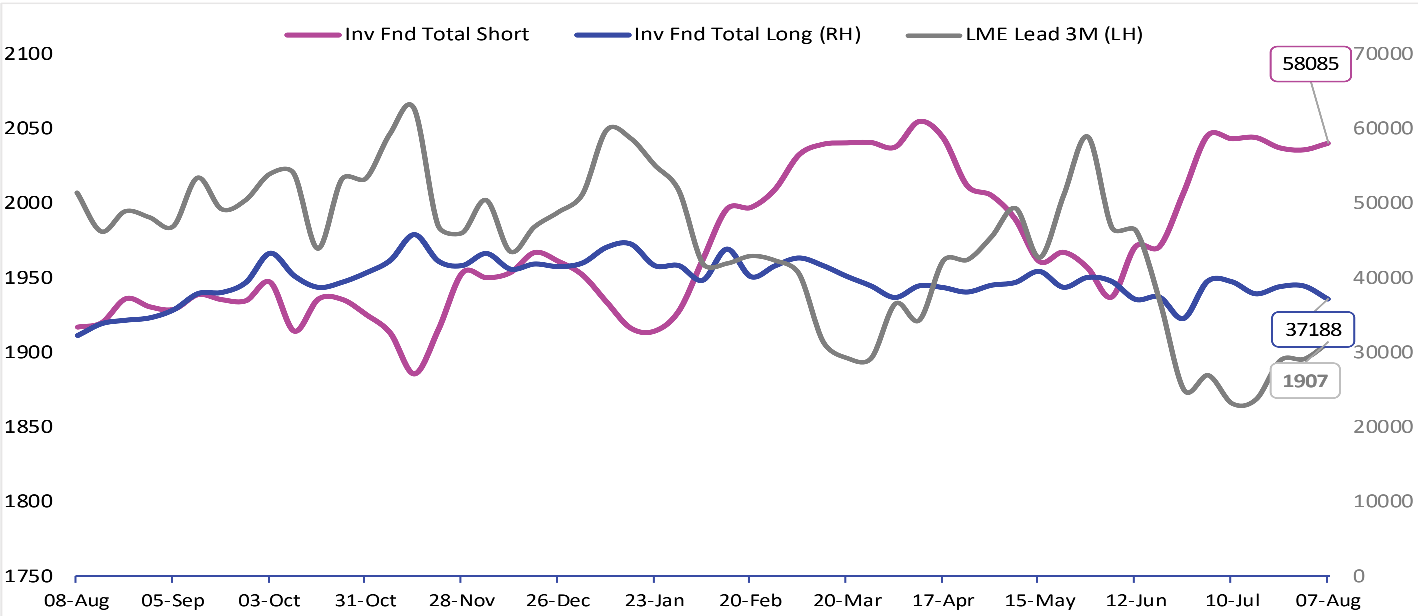
Technical Analysis: Lead



	Close	Pivot	Support 2	Support 1	Resi.1	Resi.2
LME Cash (USD/MT)	1843	1851	1850	1847	1848	1852
LME 3M FWD (USD/MT)	1887	1894	1868	1877	1903	1920
LME Fut. (USD/MT)	1845	1847	1847	1846	1846	1847
SHFE Fut. (CNY/MT)	15900	15910	15840	15870	15940	15980
MCX Fut. (INR/KG)	197.4	197.4	195.9	196.6	198.1	198.9

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.

Economic Events

Time	Country	Relevance	Event	Period	Survey	Prior
12:00	India		Output PPI YoY	Jul	--	9.57%
12:00	India		Wholesale Prices YoY	Jul	10.00%	9.87%
14:30	EC		GDP SA YoY	2Q S	1.00%	1.00%
14:30	EC		Trade Balance SA	Jun	--	-5.0b
18:00	US		Retail Sales Advance MoM	Jul	0.10%	0.20%
19:30	US		U. of Mich. Sentiment	Aug P	54.6	55.2
	India		Trade Balance	Jul	-$30600m	-$30428m