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National Day Approaching

China's October 1 National Day (and consequential seven-day Golden Week holiday) is fast approaching and, as with other years, directives will be underway to ensure blue skies in Beijing and a significant overall reduction in pollution. New this year, though, is restrictions on industrial production will not be as severe and all-encompassing as seen in years past (due to pollution already becoming much improved this year and as the government is very concerned over this year's ongoing slowdown in overall economic growth). Steel output in and around Hebei province (which lies in close proximity to Beijing) in particular will face some restrictions in the upcoming months, but a robust amount of steel output is still likely and strong year-on-year growth is likely to be maintained.

Jeffrey Landsberg | Managing Director
[Commodore Research & Consultancy](#)

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