

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3
MARCH, 2025



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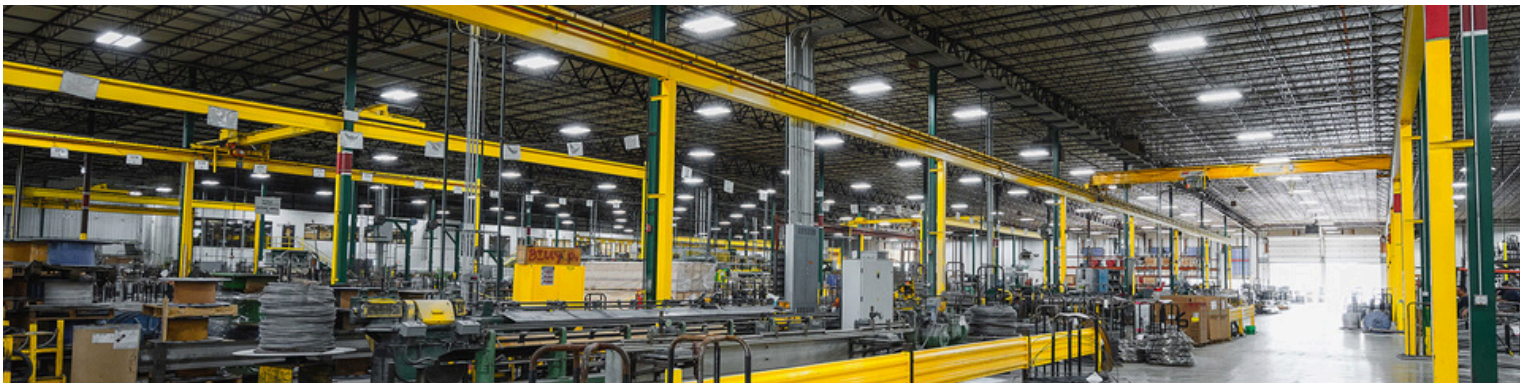
North America's Largest Re-Draw Mill and Inventory of HRAP

Tri Star Metals has invested over \$40M to build North America's largest and most advanced Stainless & Nickel Alloy Re-Draw Mill.



Leading Producer of Stainless Steel Bar & Aluminum Stockist

We are a unique hybrid, a multi-location service organization supported by our own domestic mill. Our regional service centers deliver your order accurately and on time to meet your critical demands.

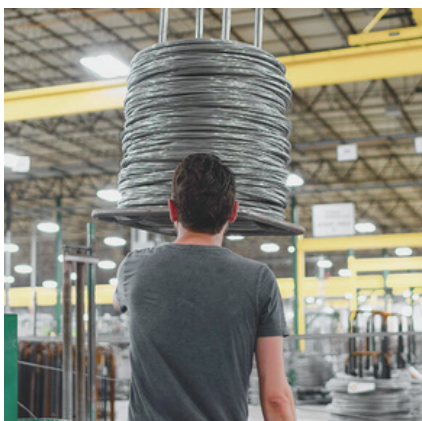


Delivering Stainless Steel, Nickel and Aluminum Solutions

www.tristarmetals.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Valued Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that 2024 was a period of significant transition. Throughout the industrial supply chain, we experienced notable destocking as customers adjusted their inventories to navigate shifting market conditions. Now, as we move into 2025, we're seeing a major shift in demand — a welcome and energizing change that positions us for an exciting year ahead.

The recent announcement of renewed tariffs has also played a role in kickstarting activity across the metals industry. As customers work to place orders ahead of these changes, we've seen a surge in demand that underscores the resilience and importance of our sector. This momentum only strengthens our bold outlook for the future of metals and our commitment to continued growth.

In support of that vision, we are making significant investments to enhance our capabilities and better serve you. A highlight of this issue is our new \$5 million top-of-the-line grinding center, a key step in improving our production efficiency and expanding our service offerings. Additionally, we've been actively hiring across our business to bolster throughput, reduce lead times, and ensure we have the right talent in place to support future growth.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Together, we're building a stronger, more dynamic future.



Jay Mandel

Jay Mandel
President / CEO

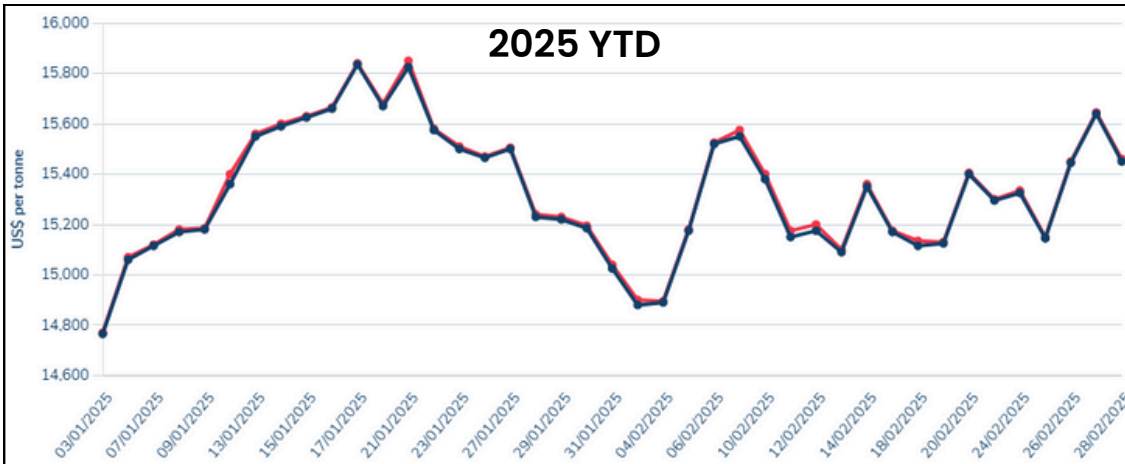
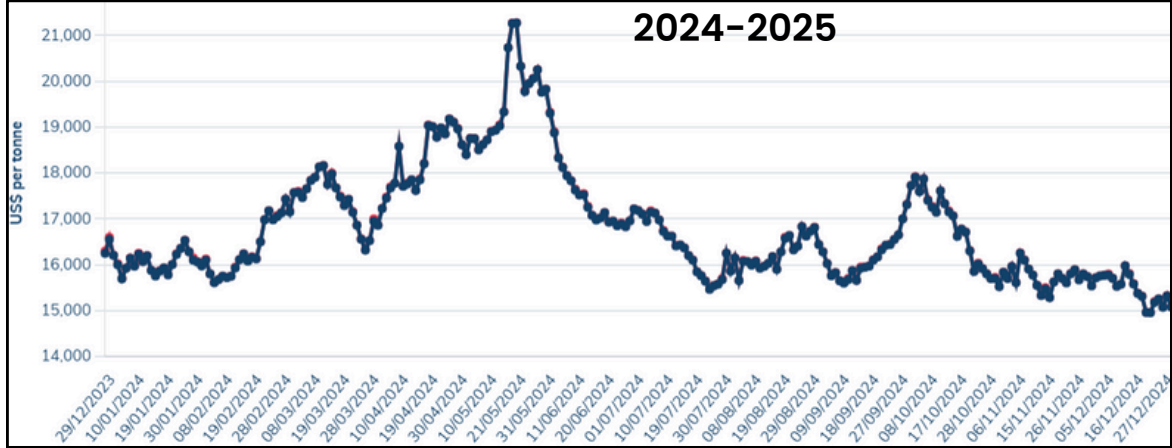


TRI STAR METALS LME NICKEL UPDATE

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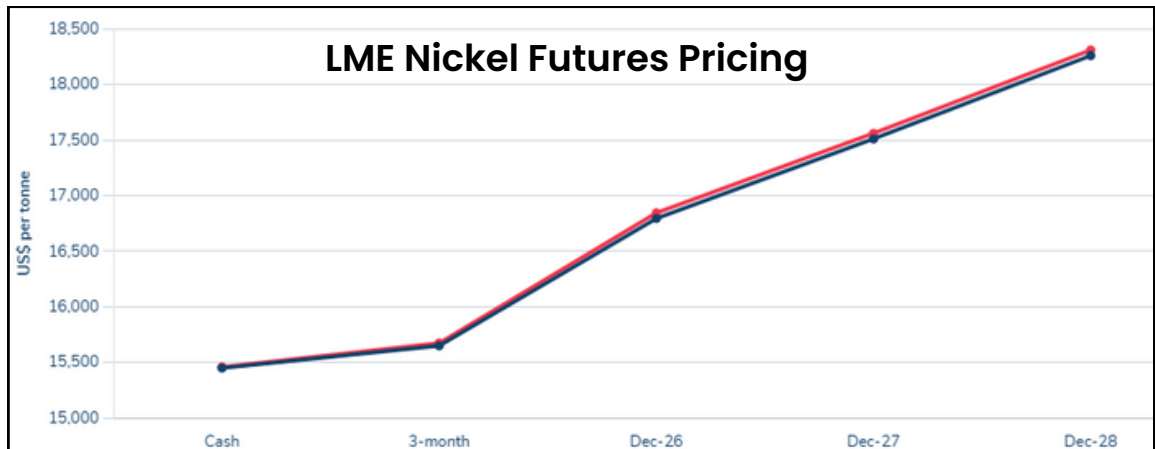
LME NICKEL PRICE

Despite a high volume of trading and a mid year ramp up of LME Nickel, LME inventory climbed from 64KMT to 164KMT from start to end of 2024 resulting in downward price pressure.



2025 LME nickel price has been relatively stable but at the lowest levels since 2020.

Long term market sentiment is that the oversupply situation will resolve itself and with rising EV production, the market will shift and pricing will begin to climb.





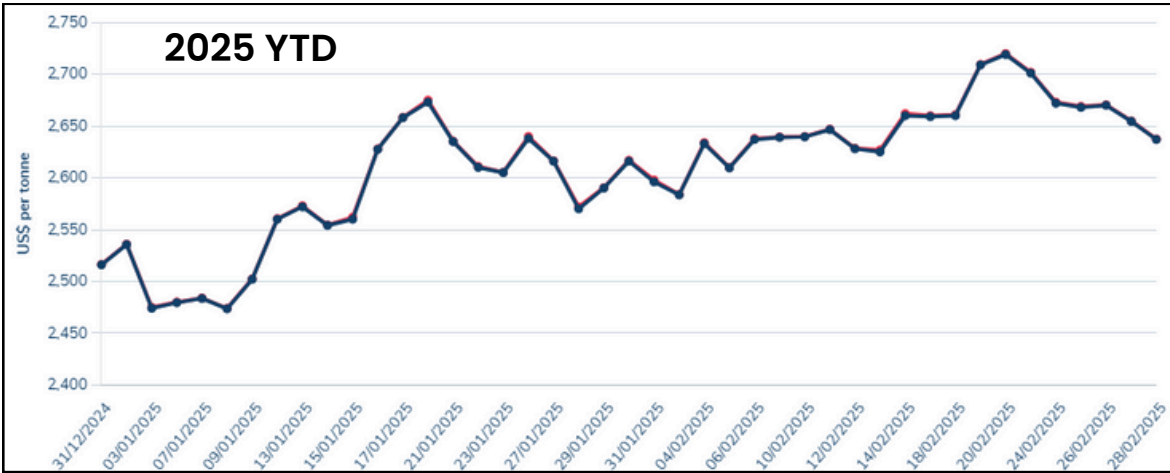
LME ALUMINUM UPDATE

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2024 DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT ALUMINUM PRICE VOLATILITY BUT RESULTED IN A STEADY INCREASE OVERALL. FUTURES PRICING TRENDS UPWARDS.

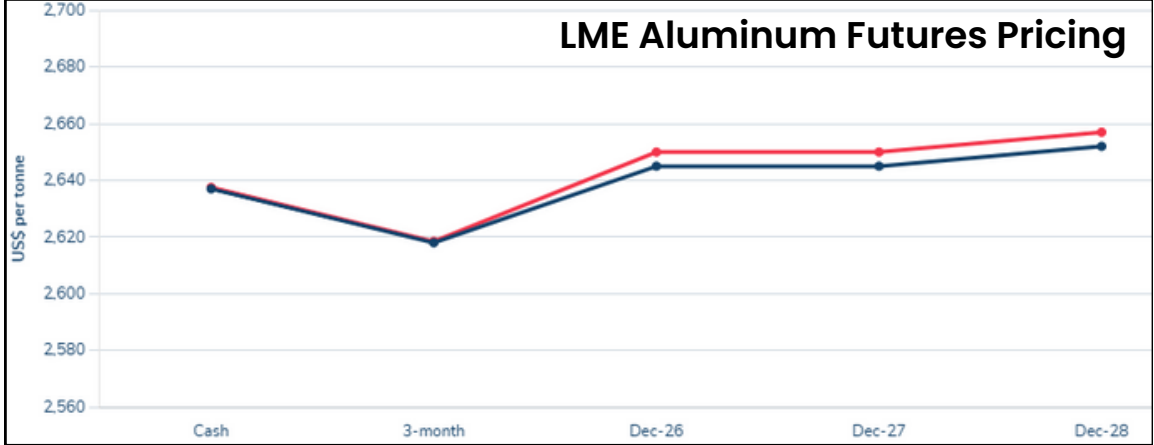
LME ALUMINUM PRICE

2024 was a year of ups and downs, with prices peaking in May, dropping in August and rebounding at the end of the year.



LME Aluminum price steadily increased in January and February.

LME Aluminum futures pricing trends upwards, but will be significantly impacted by looming tariffs.





TRI STAR METALS ALUMINUM MARKET UPDATE

ALLOY 2011 COMING TO AN END

As of September 1st, 2025, aluminum alloy 2011 will no longer be produced. The European Commission has decided that any lead in aluminum products greater than .05% (trace element) will be considered a hazardous waste. The solution for European mills is to completely remove lead from their facilities by phasing out the production of leaded alloys like 2011. Some mills will continue to produce 2011 through the end of 2024, while others plan to continue until mid-June 2025.

Some mills offer a replacement alloy called 2033, but since it is a non-lead-based alloy, it will machine differently and will require some tooling adjustments. While we stock and will continue to stock alloy 2011 this year and into 2025, we will eventually run out and need to offer 2033 instead. We do have access to sample material in quite a few sizes of round bar in small quantities for those customers who would like to test alloy 2033. Alloy 2033 is a new alloy and currently only the chemical composition has been registered to the Aluminum Association. It is not registered to ASTM yet as this process usually takes a long time.

2033 VS. 2011

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

Alloy	Si	Fe	Cu	Mn	Mg	Zn	Ti	Pb	Cr	Bi	Sn	Each	Total
2033-T3	.10-1.20	.70 max	2.20-2.70	.40-1.00	.20-.60	.50 max	.15 max	.05 max		.05-.80	.05 max	.05 max	.15 max
2011-T3	.40 max	.70 max	5.00-6.00	.05 max	.05 max	.30 max	.05 max	.20-.40	.05 max	.20-.60		.05 max	.15 max

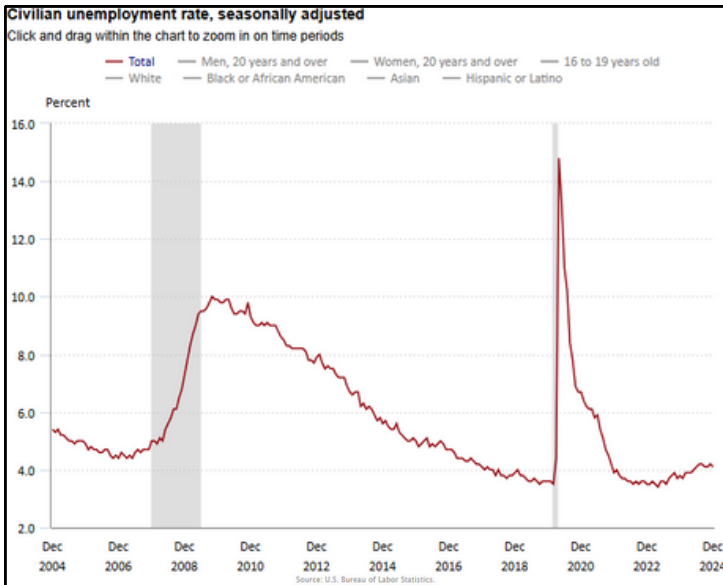
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Alloy	Diameter (In.)	Rm min.		Rp (0.2) min		A	A (2")	HB Min
		Mpa	KSI	Mpa	KSI	% Min	% Min	
2033-T3	.125-1.181	370	54	240	35	8	8	100
	1.182-3.00	370	50	220	32	8	8	100
2011-T3	.125-1.575	320	45	270	40	10	10	90
	1.576-1.969	300	43	250	36	10	12	90
	1.970-3.00	280	40	210	30	10	14	90

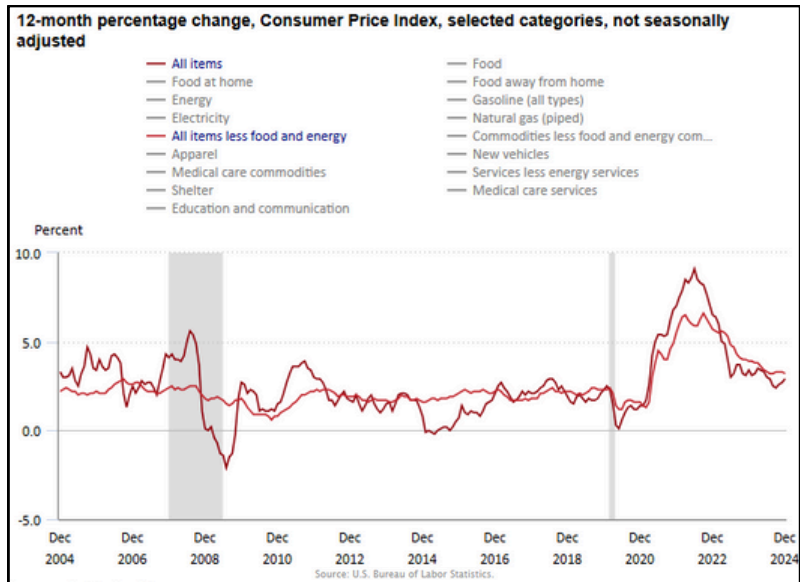
TRI STAR METALS MARKET HEALTH

The CPI rate of change was slowing for all items less food and energy. Food and energy however increased their rate during the fourth quarter. For the year, the PPI increased 3.3% for all goods and services. Final demand services was the main driver for the 12 month increase. It is also 3.3% when removing food and energy. Unemployment is holding steady at 4.1%. Employment trended up in health care, government, and social assistance with little to no change in all other areas.

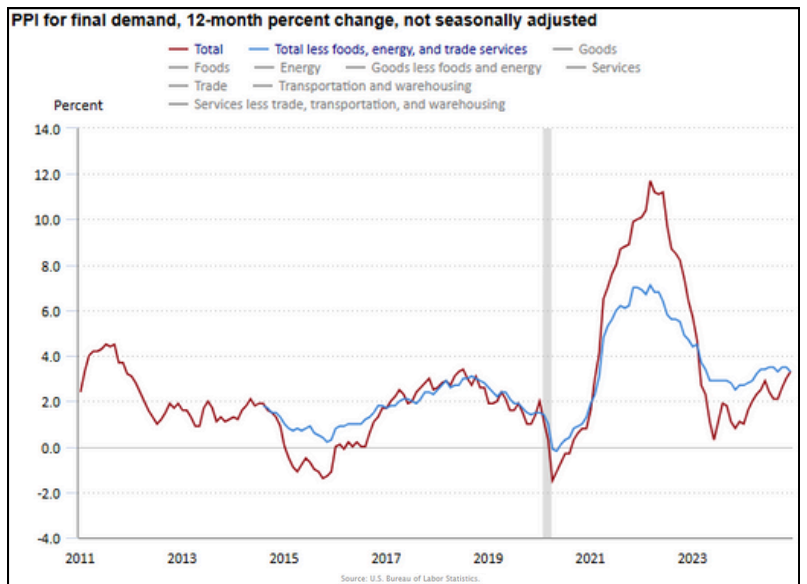
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



PRODUCER PRICE INDEX



TRI STAR METALS MARKET HEALTH

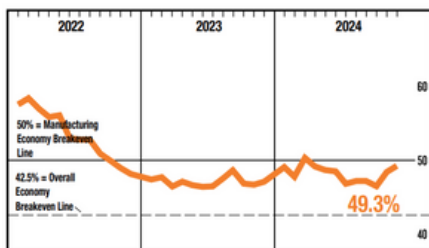
2024 ends with the US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) continuing its contraction. However, the contraction is slowing and could show expansion some time in 2025. US GDP continues to show strength with solid gains for approximately two and half years now. The Fed started to ease, but will most likely stand firm until it sees changes in its key metrics.

MANUFACTURING PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX

MANUFACTURING PMI[®] at 49.3%

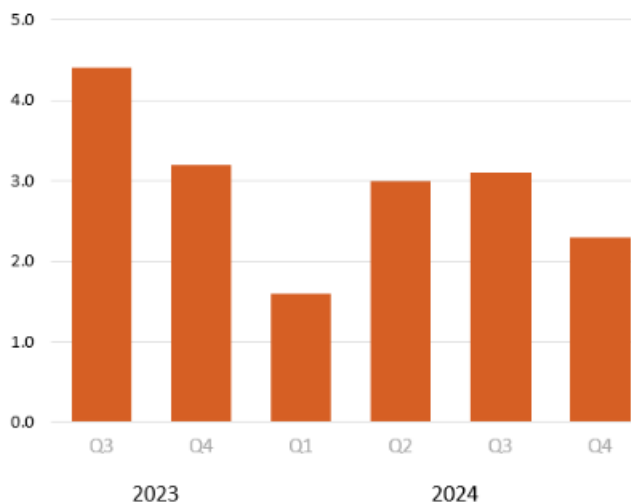
Source: Institute of Supply Management

The U.S. manufacturing sector contracted for the ninth consecutive month in December, as the Manufacturing PMI[®] registered 49.3 percent, 0.9 percentage point higher compared to the 48.4 percent reported in November. After breaking a 16-month streak of contraction by expanding in March, the manufacturing sector has contracted for the last nine months. Of the five subindexes that directly factor into the Manufacturing PMI[®], three (New Orders, Production and Supplier Deliveries) were in expansion territory, compared to only one in November.



GDP GROWTH

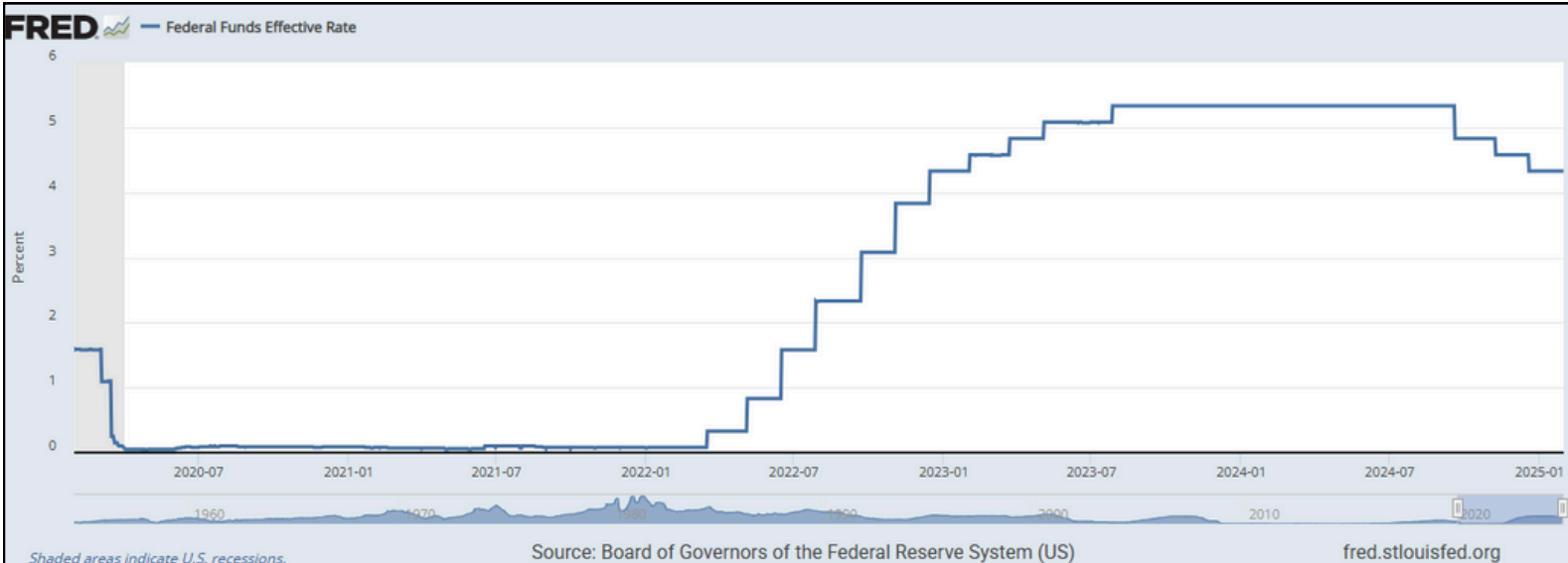
Real GDP, Percent Change from Preceding Quarter



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Seasonally adjusted annual rates

INTEREST RATES





TRI STAR METALS MARKET UPDATES

VOLUME 3
MARCH, 2025

REVISED SECTION 232 TARIFF PROGRAM

Dear Valued Partners,

We want to bring to your attention critical changes to the Section 232 tariff program which will significantly impact material imports. Below are the key points regarding this revision:

- 1. Effective Date** – The revised tariff program applies to all materials imported with a Customs Entry Date of March 12, 2025 and beyond.
- 2. Major Policy Shift** – This is not a new policy but a stringent revision of the original Section 232 action initiated in 2018. The revised program eliminates all prior exclusions, exemptions, duty drawbacks, and quota agreements, effectively closing previous circumvention loopholes.
- 3. Scope Expansion** – The scope remains largely unchanged but now includes Chapter 73 products - finished products such as Fasteners, Screw Machine Products, Springs, Belting etc....To be clear this part of the program has not been clearly defined yet. Chapter 75 (Nickel Alloys) remains excluded.
- 4. Government Objectives** – The administration aims to achieve 80% domestic utilization while keeping imports below 30%. This policy also serves as a broader negotiation tool beyond steel trade. Notably, U.S. stainless wire currently has a 65% import penetration.
- 5. Global Trade Impact** – This move is part of a worldwide negotiation strategy, not just a steel trade adjustment. A key aspect of the proclamation states: “The United States will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these actions in addressing our national security needs, and I may revisit this determination, as appropriate.”
- 6. Eliminating Circumvention Tactics** – The revision closes loopholes where products were shifted between countries to obscure their origin. More importantly, it now includes derivative products, meaning downstream steel and aluminum products are also covered. This addresses a significant past failure in both Section 232 and Section 301 tariffs.
 - a. Example:* Previously, tariffs applied to Chinese stainless bar but not to machined parts made from that bar, encouraging production shifts toward value-added work while penalizing end-users. With this update, imported parts made from covered materials will also face tariffs, likely impacting pricing.
- 7. Derivative Tariffs Effective Date** – The new tariffs covering derivative products take effect on **March 12, 2025**.
- 8. As of 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the date of this proclamation, the Secretary shall not consider any product exclusion requests or renew any product exclusion requests in effect as of that date.** The Secretary shall take all necessary action to rescind the product exclusion process, including publication in the Federal Register. All generally approved exclusions “GAEs” have been extinguished as well.
- 9. Granted product exclusions shall remain effective until their expiration date or until excluded product volume is imported, whichever occurs first.** The Secretary shall terminate all existing general approved exclusions as of March 12, 2025.
- 10. Potential Import Process Changes** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may introduce new steel content requirements for imported goods to better detect and prevent circumvention attempts.
- 11. Implementation Timeline** – The policy includes a **150-day process** to refine derivative classifications:
 - Trade associations (e.g., PMPA) will have **90 days** to review and ensure relevant products are covered.
 - The Department of Commerce will then have **60 days** to finalize and implement the measures.

This marks a **significant tightening** of prior policies, particularly in addressing the longstanding issue of downstream product loopholes. We anticipate major shifts in OEM component sourcing, potential disruptions, and an increase in domestic manufacturing demand. To reiterate, this tariff declaration applies to ALL countries exporting to the US with no exceptions.

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TRI STAR METALS TSM EXPANSION

TRI STAR METALS CONTINUES TO INVEST IN STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT, FACILITY UPGRADES AND HUMAN CAPITAL TO REMAIN A WORLD-CLASS MANUFACTURER.

TSM CENTERLESS GRINDING

We are excited to announce the expansion of our capabilities with the addition of a cutting-edge centerless grinding center. This investment enhances our control over processing, allowing us to complete more work in-house, improve throughput, and reduce lead times. By eliminating the need for external processing, we can operate more efficiently and offer more competitive pricing while maintaining the highest quality standards. Our commitment to top-tier equipment ensures we produce a superior-quality product, exceeding industry standards.

New Centerless Grinding Capabilities

- (2) 230-10 Grinders – Grinding range: .1000" to .3750"
- (1) 340-20 Grinder – Grinding range: .2500" to 1.000"
- Top-of-the-line grinding cell
- 100% laser gauging on every bar – Achieving tolerances tighter than industry standards
- Faster lead times – Increased efficiency and production speed

This expansion represents a significant step forward in our ability to serve our customers with precision, speed, and cost-effective solutions. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to grow!





TRAVIS ARNOLD

3rd Shift Supervisor

Tri Star Metals is proud to shine the spotlight on Travis Arnold, our 3rd shift supervisor, who coordinated an opportunity to work with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and their 12th Annual Toys for Tots Event over the holiday season. Travis brought the bin for employees to donate to and represented the company in giving the toys provided by TSM. Through donations from floor and office workers at Tri Star Metals, Travis collected enough toys for 20-30 kids to get a present this year. His efforts exemplify the generosity and community spirit that make Tri Star Metals proud, and we sincerely appreciate his dedication to making a difference.

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

12th Annual Toys for Tots Event

- Over \$46,000 collected at the local 12th Annual Toys for Tots Event on December 1st.
- 2 semi trucks of toys collected



Other Charities We Support

- Maverick's Community Foundation
- Helping One Woman
- Southwest Valley YMCA
- YMCA of Freeport
- St. Mary's Food Bank
- Mother Hubbard Kiddie Cupboard
- Hesed House
- Freeport Area Church Cooperative
- The Next Picture Show
- Highland Community College
- Dream Riders
- National MS Society
- Stephenson County Fair
- State Bank Foundation
- St. Canera Catholic Church
- BK 5K Youth Fund
- Freeport Concert Band
- Freeport Little League
- Community Safety Net - Stephenson County Health
- Freeport Phantoms Youth Football



CONNECT WITH US!  

APR
1-4

PMTS 2025
Cleveland, OH

PARIS AIR SHOW 2025
Paris, France

JUN
16-22

JUN
17-19

OMTEC 2025
Chicago, IL

MIDWEST FASTENER ASSOC. TABLE TOP SHOW
Lincolnshire, IL

AUG
23-29

SEPT
15-17

INTERNATIONAL FASTENER EXPO
Las Vegas, NV



Tri Star Metals

DEFENSE PROGRAM

Delivering Stainless, Alloy Steel, Aluminum and Nickel Solutions



Tri Star Metals is proud to add the high-performance products of Aubert & Duval to our defense portfolio. As the exclusive North American distributor of these premium proprietary alloys, we provide technical and logistical support. The focus of the A&D partnership is on the smaller caliber market with the exciting launch of ARMAD®, a technological breakthrough in barrel material.

AUBERT&DUVAL



ARMAD®

- **ARMAD® is a next generation specialized grade for small-caliber gun barrels.**
- **ARMAD® delivers exceptional toughness and higher strength, enabling a new level of barrel endurance and lighter designs even under extreme firing conditions.**
- **Implementation in U.S. and foreign military weapons systems, commercial and law enforcement applications.**

High-Performance Proprietary Grades of Aubert & Duval:

- Barrel Grades (GBQ): ARMAD®, GKH®, APX4®
- Component Grades: APX4®, NC310YW™, FADH™, 819AW™
- Other Proprietary Defense Grades: NC35M, Marval® 18, MY19™, CLARM®, MLX®17, MLX®19, AD730®

CONTACT US



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SHIPPING FROM



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7310 W Roosevelt St. Bldg. 2, Suite 28, Phoenix, AZ 85043



Tri Star Metals

DEFENSE PROGRAM

Delivering Stainless, Alloy Steel, Aluminum and Nickel Solutions






Tri Star Metals produces and supplies stainless, alloyed steels, aluminum, and nickel materials. Our products support US manufacturing of defense componentry. We combine the capabilities of our Freeport mill and the resources of our melt partners in the United States and Europe to provide the highest quality materials. TSM delivers added value with stocking programs and metallurgical support.





BARRELS	BARREL EXTENSIONS	BOLTS	EJECTORS	EXTRACTORS
ARMAD® (ALLOYED)	APX4® (STAINLESS)	NC310YW™	819AW™	FADH™
APX4® (STAINLESS)	ARMAD® (ALLOYED)	MARVAL® 18 (C250 MARAGING)	FND®	FDMA™
416/416R (GBQ)	MARVAL® 18 (C250 MARAGING)	MY19™ (C300 MARAGING)	GKH® (ALLOYED)	410
MY19™ (C300 MARAGING)	MY19™ (C300 MARAGING)	MY24™ (C350 MARAGING)	ARMAD® (ALLOYED)	416/416R (GBQ)
	MY24™ (C350 MARAGING)	17-4 PH (630)		
		15-5 PH (630)		
MUZZLE & BRAKES HIDERS	PICATINNY RAILS	PINS	SPRINGS	UPPER & LOWER RECEIVERS
APX4® (STAINLESS)	7075 (ALUMINUM)	NCAV™	302/304	7075 (ALUMINUM)
410	6061 (ALUMINUM)	819B™	316	
17-4 PH (630)		FDMA™	17-7PH	
		420/420F		

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-  7310 W Roosevelt St. Bldg. 2, Suite 28, Phoenix, AZ 85043

STAINLESS STEEL WIRE

Alloys	200/201/204CU, 302HQ, 303, 304/304L, 310/310S, 314, 316/316L, 321, 330/330CB, 347, 410, 416, 420/420F, 430/430F, 431, 434, 17-4PH, 17-7
Sizes	.0350" - .8750"
Finishes	Cold Drawn, EPQ, CHQ, Annealed, Spring Temper

COLD HEADING QUALITY (CHQ) WIRE

Alloys	302HQ, 304/304L, 305, 316/316L 321, 347, 410, 420, 430, 17-4, A286, NI600, NI601, NI718, M400, MK500
Sizes	.0670" - 1.0000"
Finishes	Annealed at Final Size (AFS), Annealed in Process (AIP), HRAP (rod)
Coatings	Tri-Coat Soap™, Tri-Coat Copper™, Tri-Coat Copper/Moly™, Tri-Coat Paste™

NICKEL BAR & WIRE

	Bar	Wire
Alloys	A286 (Aero & Auto), NI200/201, M400, L605, MK500, Alloy 20, Alloy 22, 95/5 Ni/Al, NI600, NI601, NI625, NI718, X750, A80-20CB, C276, 35-19CB, 330, HX, IN800, IN825	
Surface Finishes / Coatings	Centerless Ground & Polished	Bright Drawn, Tri-Coat Soap™, Tri-Coat Copper™, Tri-Coat Copper/Moly™
Sizes	.0625" - .8200"	.0670" - .8750"

STAINLESS STEEL BAR

Alloys	302HQ, 303/303SE, 304/304L, 309/309S, 310/310S, 316/316L, 317L, 321, 330, 347, 410, 416, 420/420F, 430/430F, 440A, 17-4PH
Sizes	.0625" - 4.2500"
Finishes	Annealed, Strain Hardened, Condition B, Aged, Centerless Ground & Polished

ALUMINUM BAR

	Cold Finished	Extruded
Alloys	2011, 2024, 6042, 6061, 6063, 7075 Other Alloys Available Upon Request	
Sizes	.1875" - 3.0000"	.2500" - 8.0000"
Shapes	Rounds, Hexagons, Squares, Flats, Tubing	