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Trade attorney
and SMU columnist

Aug. 13, 2025 // David Schollaert, Deputy Editor-in-Chief





Steel Summit 2025

Atlanta | Aug. 25-27, 2025

North America's largest gathering of the flat-rolled steel industry at the Georgia International Convention Center

## Steel 101 Workshop

Davenport, Iowa // Oct. 14-15, 2025

An introduction to steelmaking and market fundamentals Includes workbook, Tour of SSAB Iowa, and networking

For more information about our workshops and conferences visit www.steelmarketupdate.com/events-and-training/ or e-mail our team at confe

Steel Market Update
Community Chat



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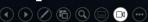


Jill Waldman Steamboat Springs, Colo. Business Dev. Mgr.



Luis Corona Chicago Sr. Account Exec.











Nucor lowers HR coil spot price by \$15/ton

### SMU Price Ranges: Market drifts lower still

# Discontentment brews in plate market with flat, status-quo pricing

US scrap prices land flat in August

US and China delay reciprocal tariffs, Section 232 tariffs stand

USS Clairton Coke Works reports explosion



#### **Survey participants**

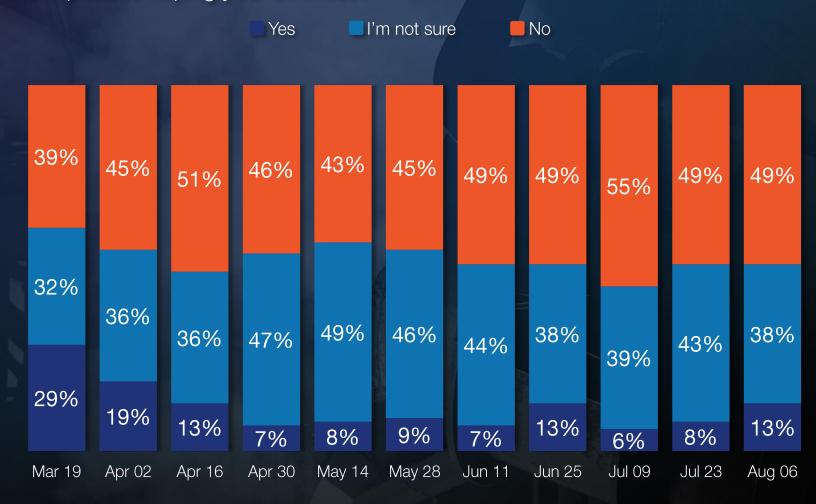
Our survey is by invitation only. Below are the percentages of our most rencent survey by market sector.





#### **Popularity of Trump's tariffs**

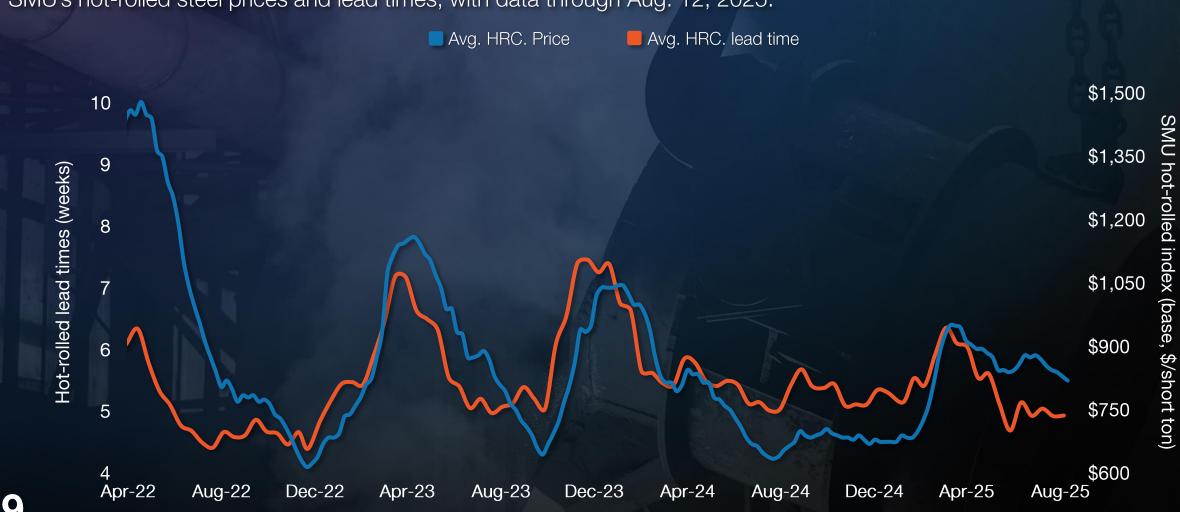
Are President Trump's tariff policies helping your business?





#### Hot-rolled steel prices vs. lead times

SMU's hot-rolled steel prices and lead times, with data through Aug. 12, 2025.





#### Steel mill lead times by product

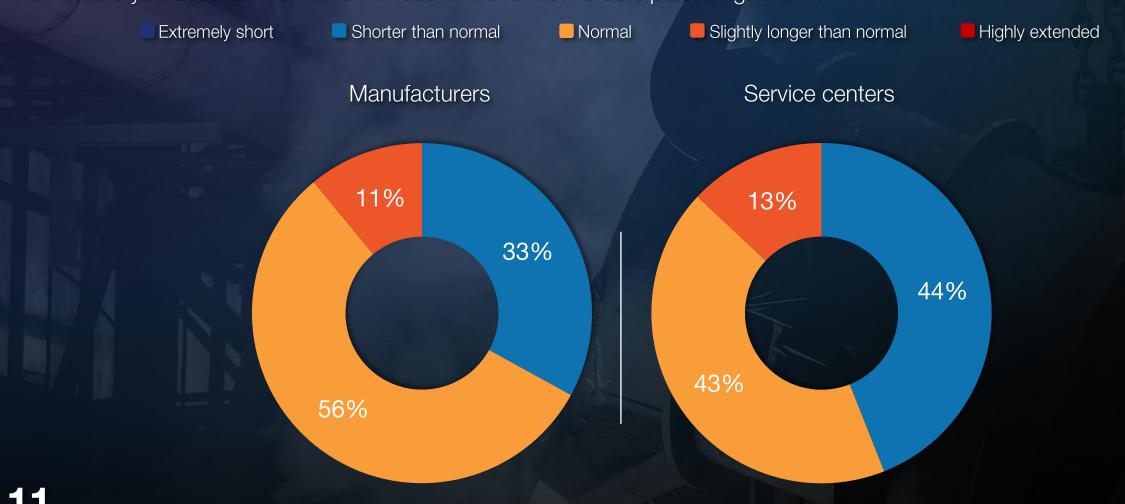
SMU lead times on new steel orders by product through Aug. 6, 2025.





#### **Buyers' view of mill lead times**

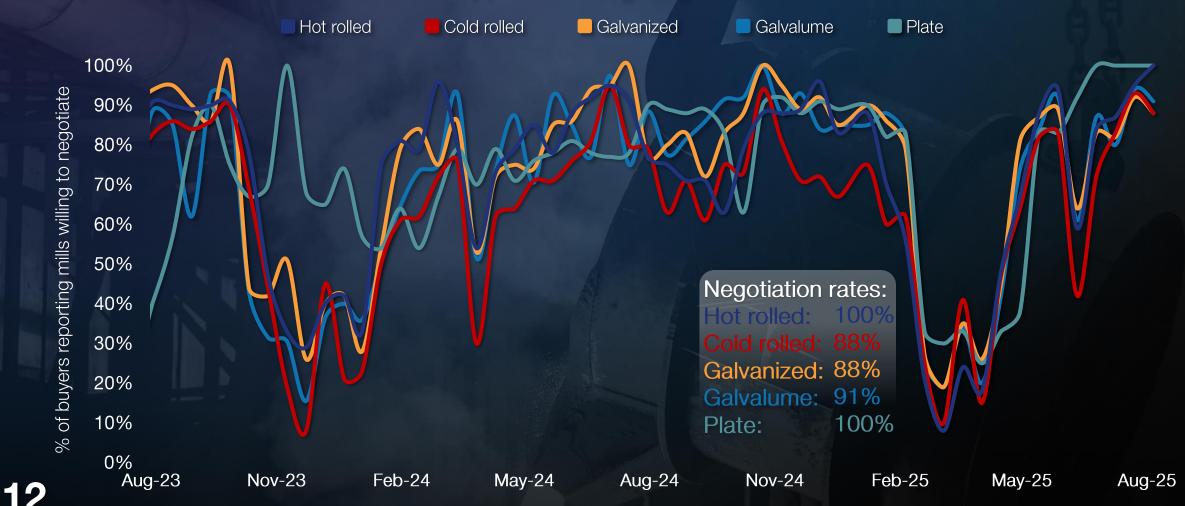
How would you describe domestic mill lead times for new orders placed right now?





#### **Steel mill negotiations**

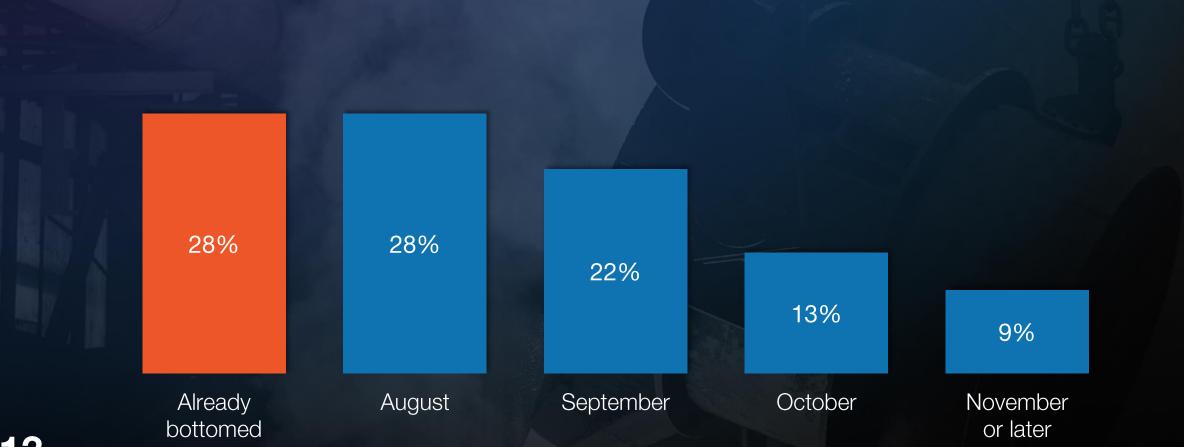
SMU's price negotiations on new steel orders by product through Aug. 6, 2025.





#### **Hot rolled inflection point**

When do you think steel prices will bottom?





#### **Future hot rolled prices**

Where do you think HRC prices will be in two months?

\$950 per ton or higher 1% 12% \$900-949 per ton \$850-899 per ton 28% \$800-849 per ton 12% \$750-799 per ton \$700-749 per ton 1% \$699 per ton or lower 0%

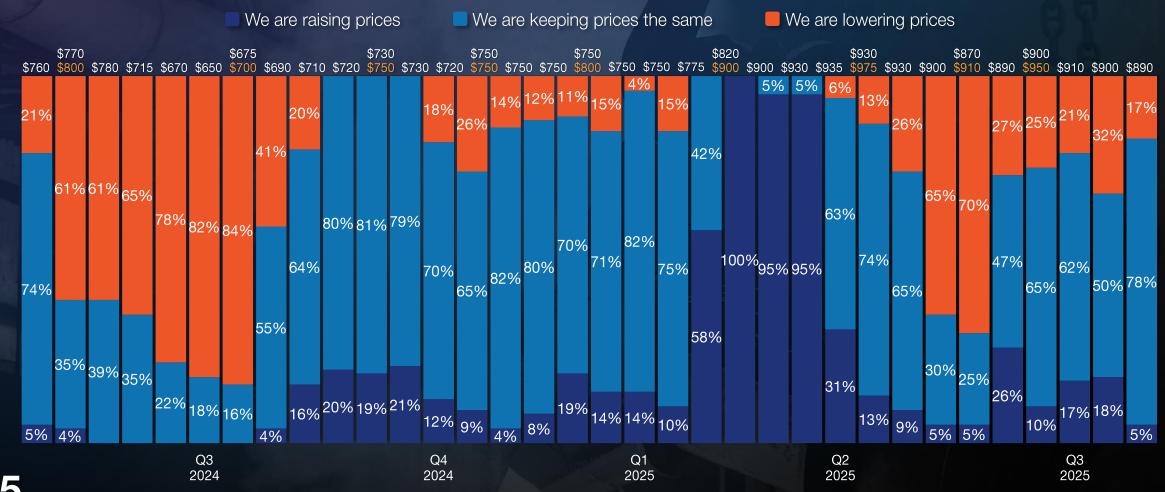
46%



#### Service center view of selling prices history

#### Service centers

Compared to two weeks ago, how is your company handling spot pricing to your customers?

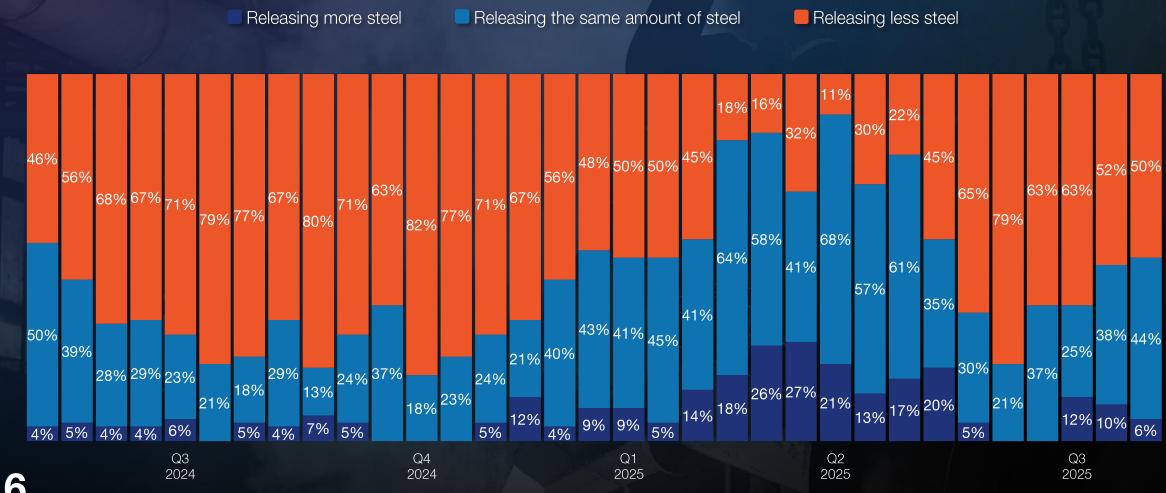




#### **Service center releases history**

Service centers

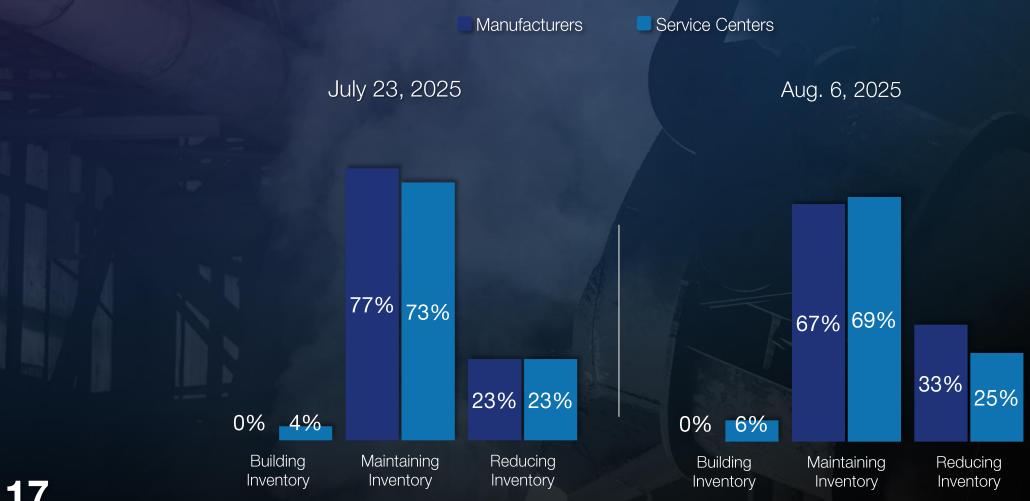
How do you see your customer releases (demand) for your products compared to one year ago?





#### Manufacturer and service center inventory buying patterns

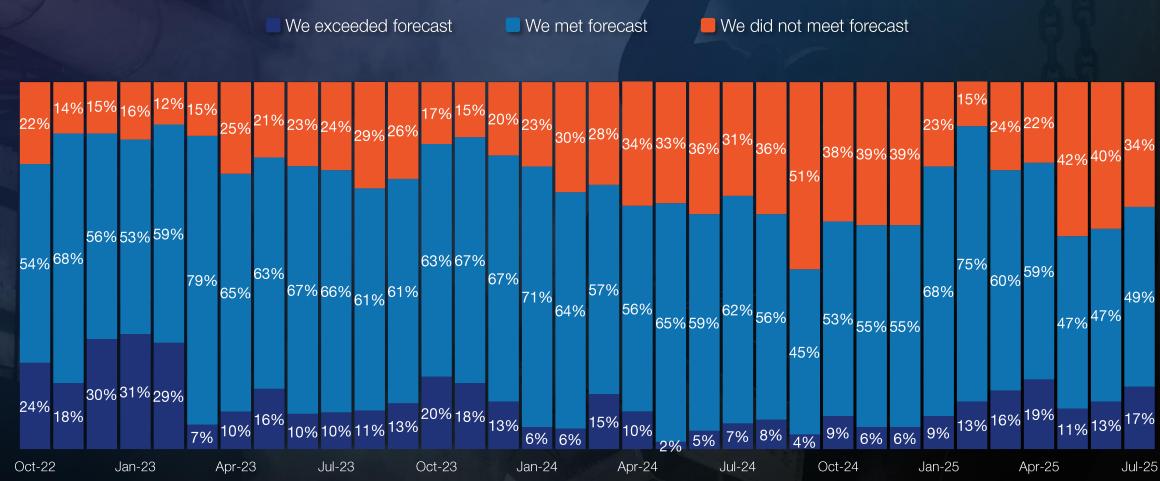
Is your company building, reducing, or maintaining its flat-rolled steel inventory?





#### **Business forecasts history**

How did your company perform last month compared to your forecast?

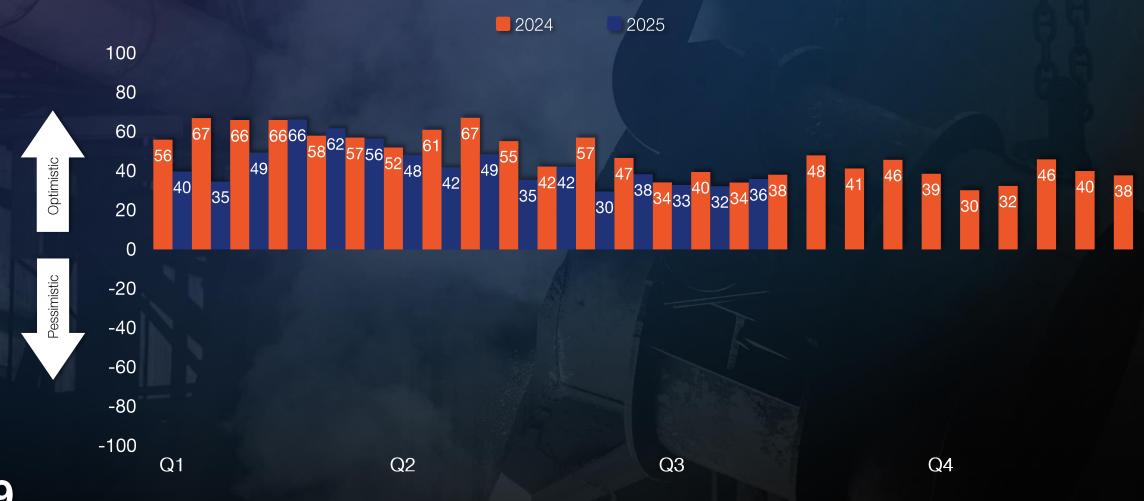




#### Steel buyers' sentiment

Up four points to +36

SMU's current steel buyers' sentiment index, with data through Aug. 6, 2025.





#### Steel buyers' future sentiment

Up one point to +50

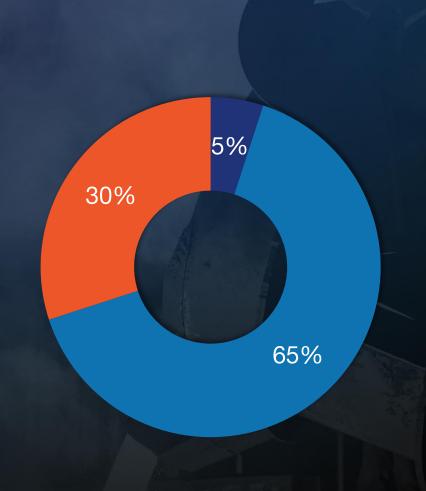
SMU's future steel buyers' sentiment index, with data through Aug. 6, 2025.





#### **Overall demand**

How is demand for your products?



Stable

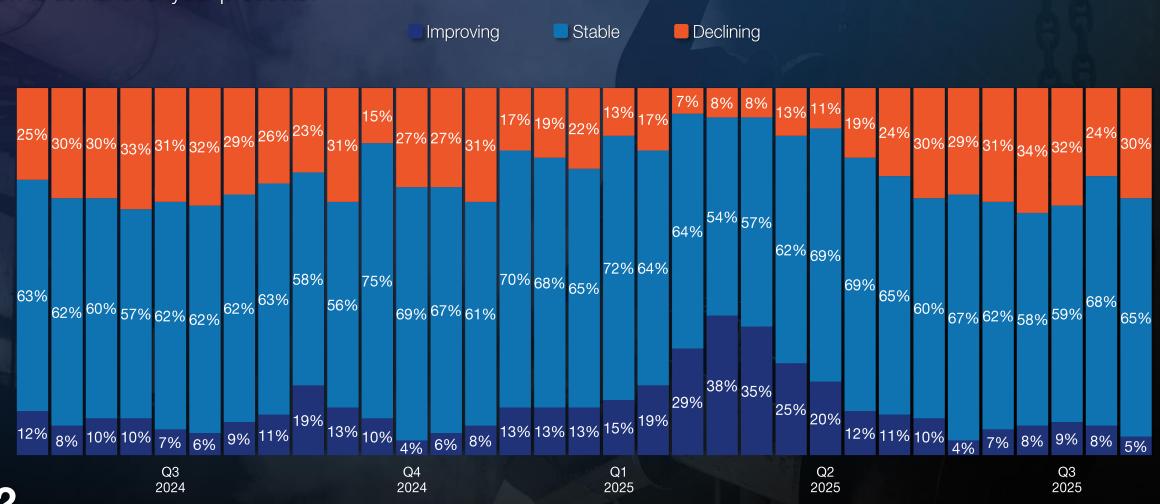
Improving

Declining



#### **Overall demand history**

How is demand for your products?





#### **Service center inventories history**

SMU's flat rolled product shipping days of supply, with data through June 2025.

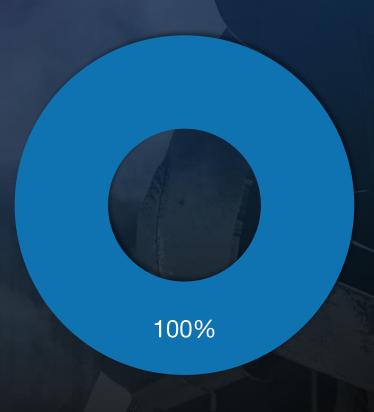




#### **Trading companies**

Are you seeing an increase or decrease in orders from your North American buyers?\*









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Lewis Leibowitz, owner of the Law Office of Lewis E. Leibowitz, practices in the areas of international trade law, customs law, and international commercial transactions. He represents clients before all federal courts and agencies dealing with international trade matters. Leibowitz advises and assists clients in diverse matters including trade remedies, customs, foreign trade zones and free trade agreements, trade negotiations, and related matters. He can be reached at lewis.leibowitz@lellawoffice.com.



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