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The SMU newsletter was developed for active buyers and sellers of flat-rolled steel.

Prices | Lead times | Sentiment | Trends | Analysis

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Steel Market Update sponsors













Upcoming events



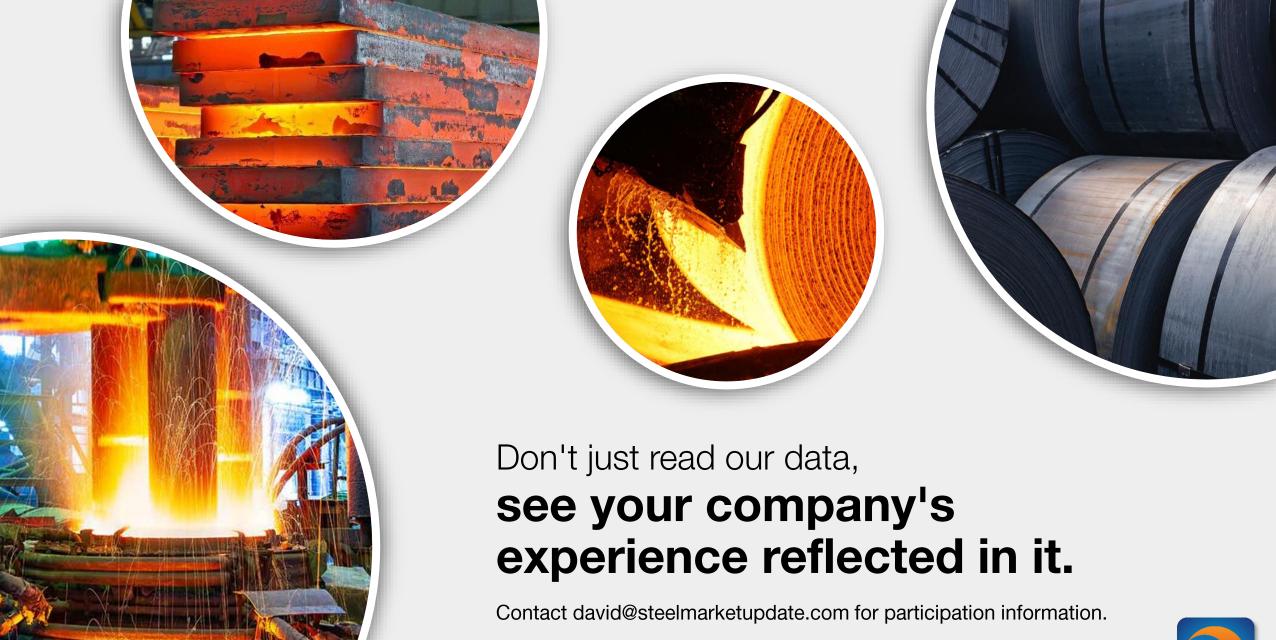
SMU Steel Summit 2024 Aug. 26-28, 2024 | Atlanta *Georgia International Convention Center*



Live Steel Hedging 101 Workshop Sept. 25, 2024 | Chicago Hyatt Centric Mag Mile

For more information about our workshops and conferences visit:

www.steelmarketupdate.com/events-and-training/ or e-mail our team at events@steelmarketupdate.com.







Some recent survey comments

"Demand needs a shot of Red Bull."

"Mills are nearing their cost of production - which does not last long."

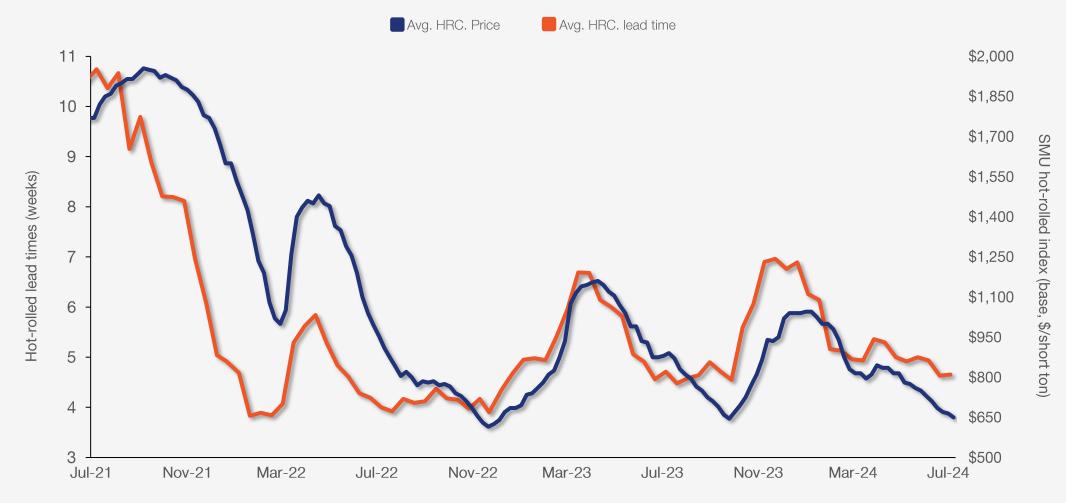
> "Pricing at these levels will trigger outages and idling. Additionally, larger buyers will take advantage of these numbers while they can, placing mill orders and extending lead times."

"Calm before demand picks back up."



Hot-rolled steel prices vs. lead times

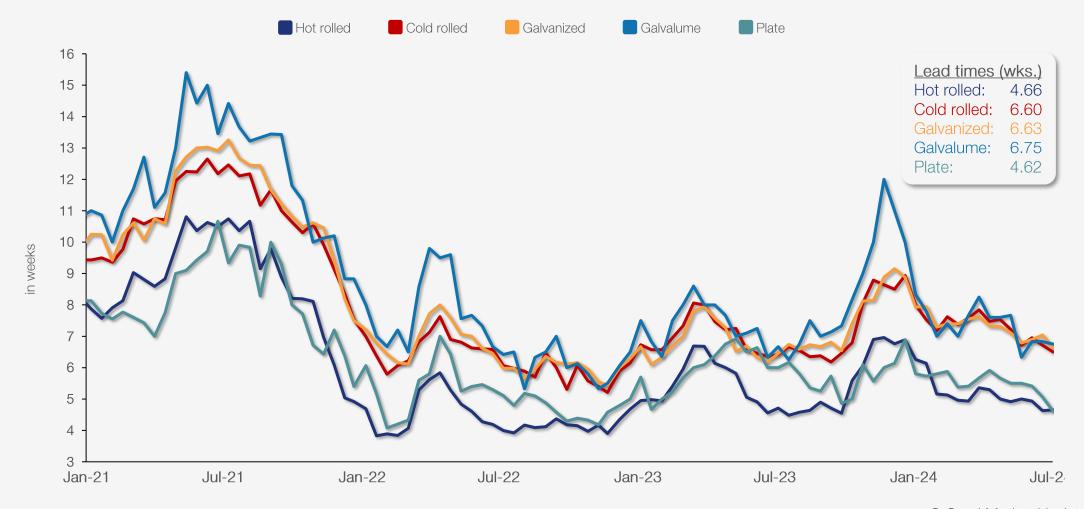
SMU's hot-rolled steel prices and lead times, with data through July 9, 2024.





Steel mill lead times by product

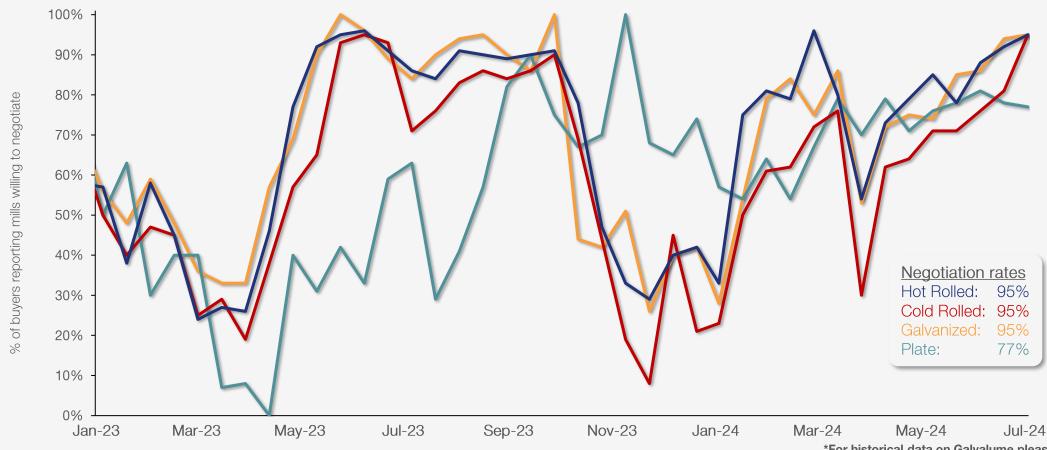
SMU lead times on new steel orders by product through July 3, 2024.





Steel mill negotiations

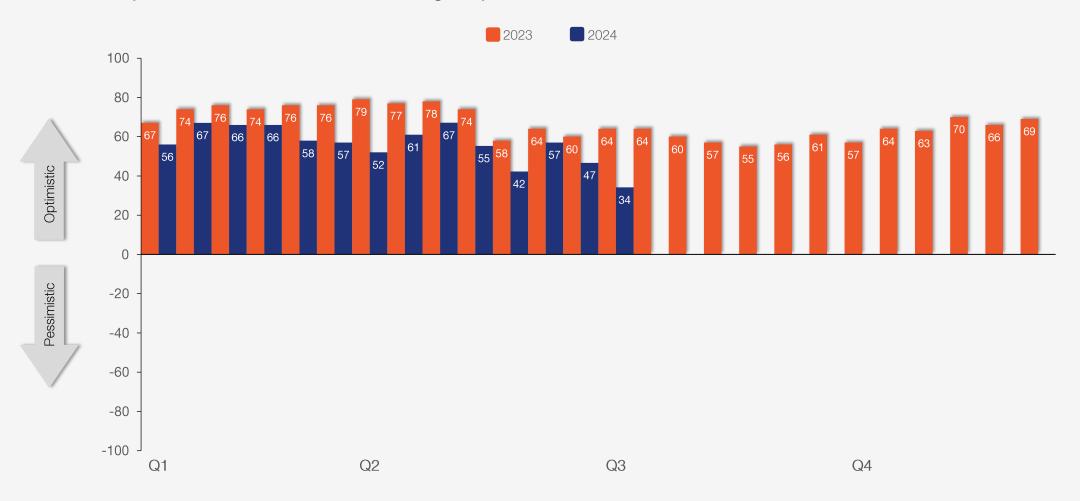
SMU's price negotiations on new steel orders by product through July 3, 2024.





Steel buyers' sentiment Down 13 points to +34

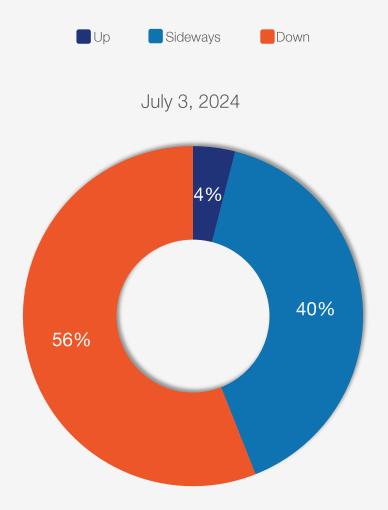
SMU's current steel buyers' sentiment index, with data through July 3, 2024.





July scrap

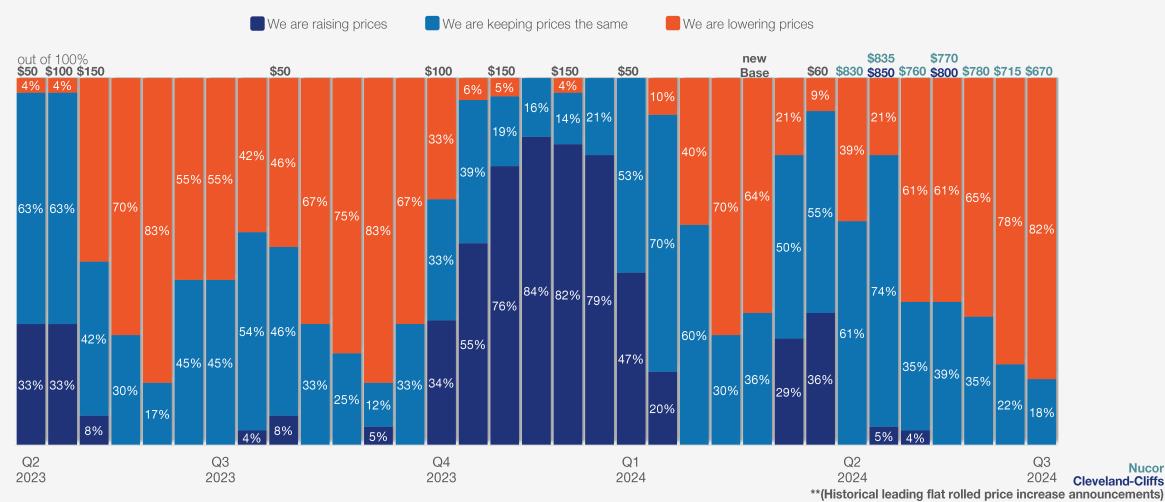
Prime scrap prices in July will be:





Service center view of selling prices history Service centers

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



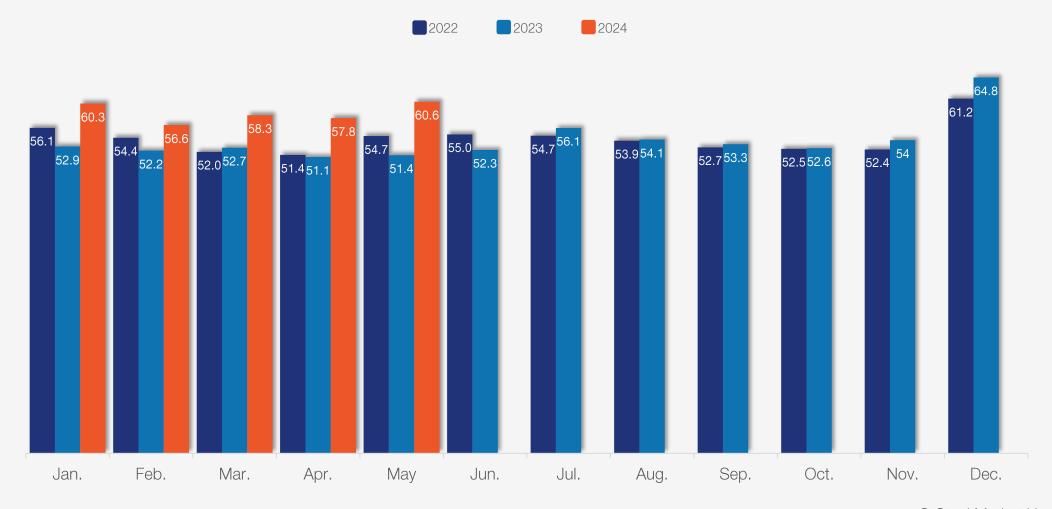
Nucor

Cleveland-Cliffs



Service center inventories history

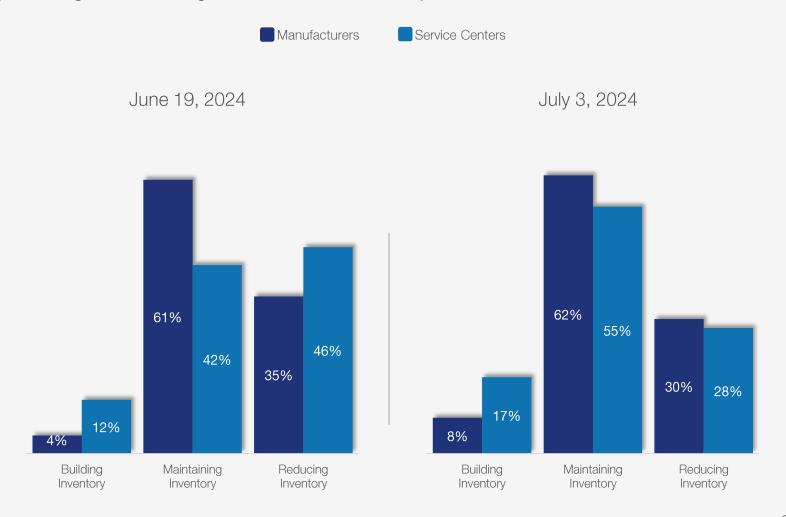
SMU's flat rolled product shipping days of supply, with data through May 2024.





Manufacturer and service center inventory buying patterns

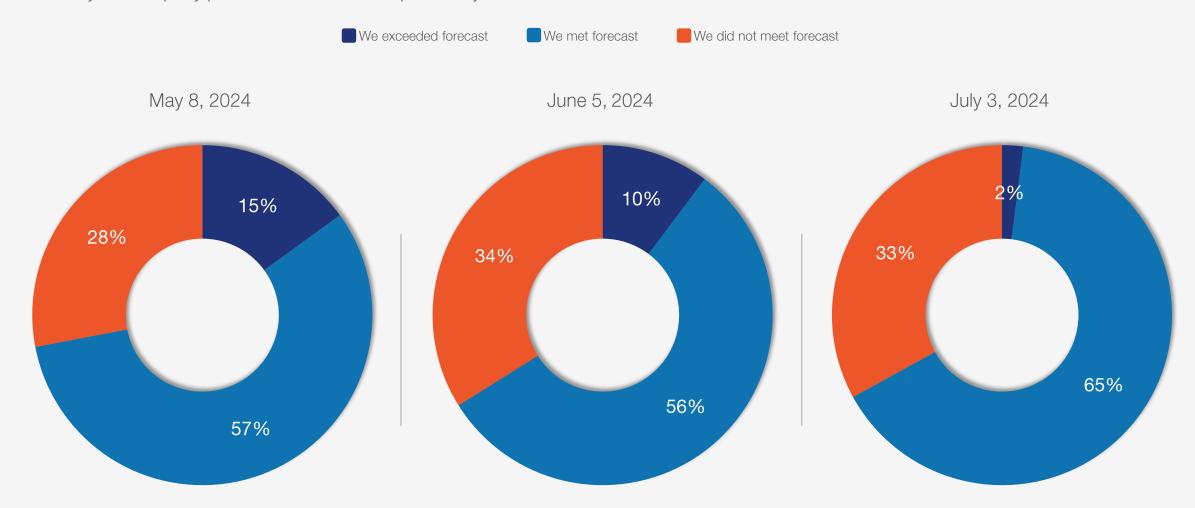
Is your company building, reducing, or maintaining its flat-rolled steel inventory?





Business forecasts

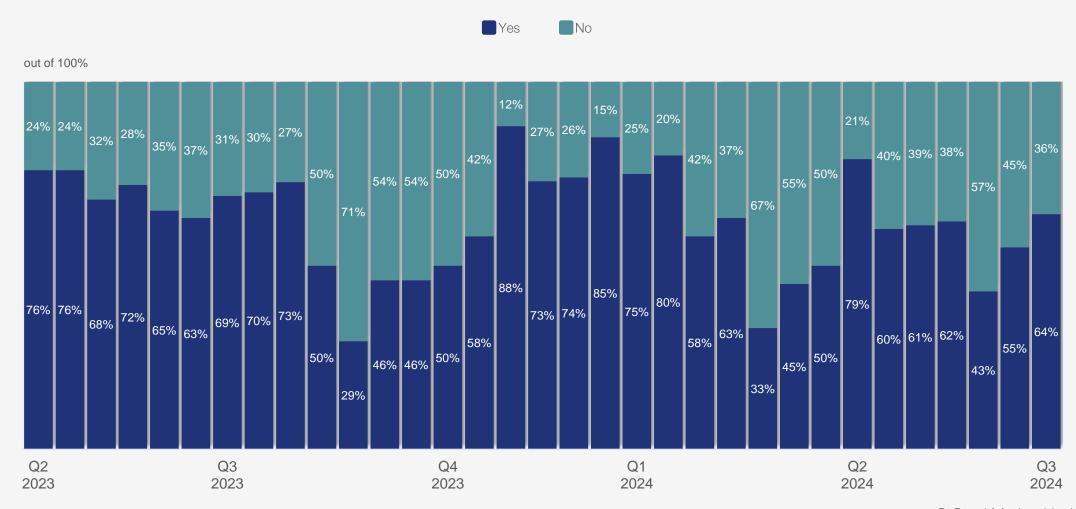
How did your company perform last month compared to your forecast?





Foreign steel competitiveness Service centers

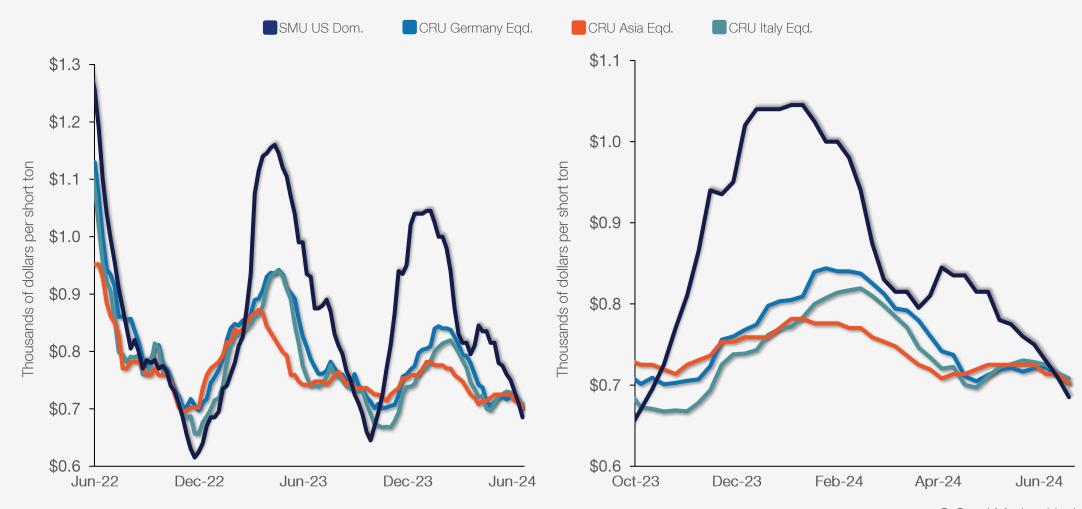
Are your foreign steel suppliers quoting you competitive prices for new orders for future delivery?





Foreign vs domestic HR prices Foreign prices include \$90/st in importing costs, Asian prices include a 25% tariff

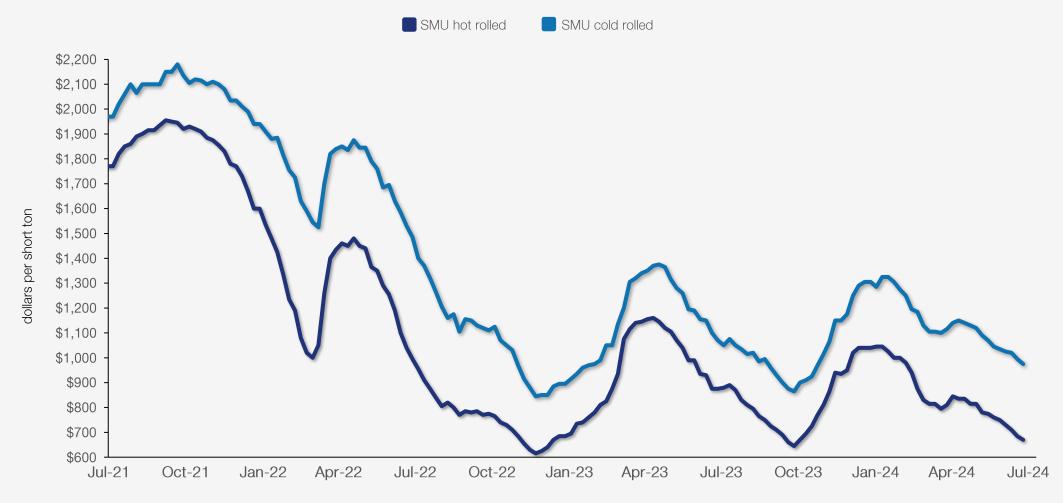
SMU's HR coil price vs. CRU offshore HR coil price





Hot rolled coil vs. cold rolled coil

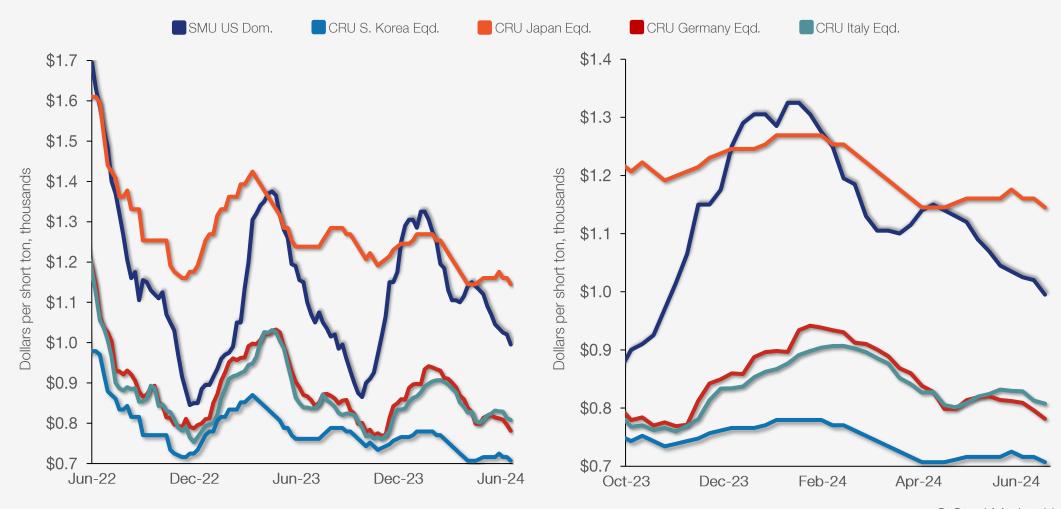
SMU's hot rolled coil price vs. cold rolled coil price, with data through July 9, 2024.





Foreign vs domestic CR prices Foreign prices include \$90 in importing costs, Japanese prices include a 71% tariff

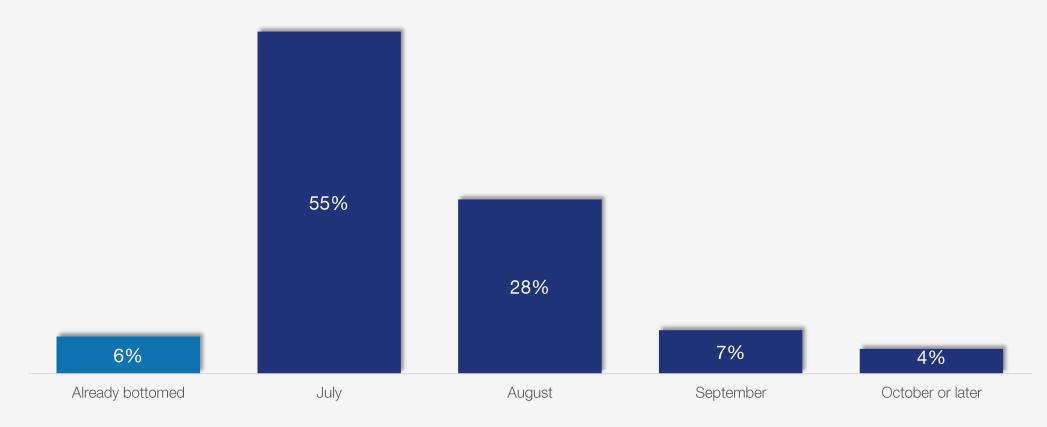
SMU's CR coil price vs. CRU offshore CR coil price





Hot rolled inflection point

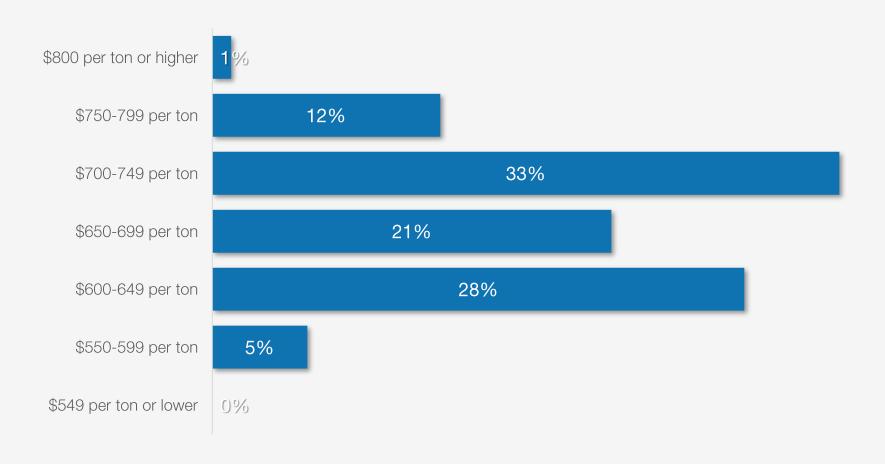
When do you think steel prices will bottom?





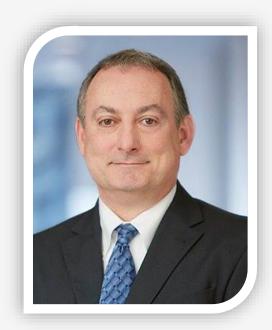
Future hot rolled prices

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





Vince Pappalardo and Andy Pappas



Pappalardo is managing director and principal at Brown Gibbons Lang & Co. He leads the company's metals and advanced metals manufacturing group. He has more than 25 years of investment banking experience and has advised on both domestic and cross-border M&A.



Pappas is a managing director at BMO Financial Group. He heads up the Metals Lending practice within the BMO US asset based lending (ABL) Group. His specialty is finding corporate finance solutions for steel and metals companies across the US.

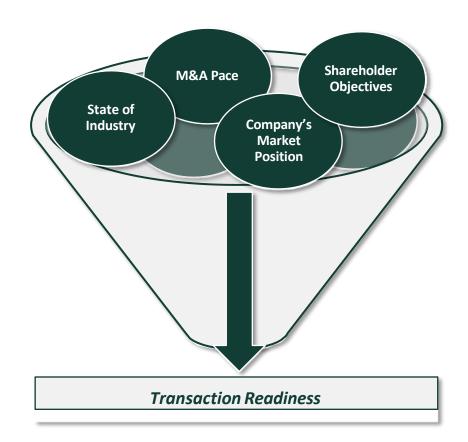








Determining the Right Time to Transact Externally



Transaction Types

- Sale to a strategic (corporate) buyer
- Sale to a financial buyer such as private equity, through leveraged recapitalization
- Sale to a family office

External Factors

- State of the Industry:
 - Medium- to short-term steel outlook
 - Local competition, including any new large competitors entering the market
 - Strength of regional industrial base
 - Local mill expansion
- · State of Domestic and International Economies:
 - Influence of global economies on industry and its participants
- Pace of M&A and Capital Investment Transactions:
 - Public company equity valuations' influence on M&A and PE investments in the private sector
 - Strategic buyer activity
 - PE buyer activity

Internal Factors

- Thorough assessment of the Shareholder(s) objectives
- Thorough assessment of the Company's market position, operational performance, financial strength, and growth potential



Recent M&A Market Activity



Reliance, Inc. (NYSE: RS)















October 2021

December 2021

December 2021

May 2023

February 2024

April 2024

April 2024

RYERSON

Ryerson (NYSE: RYI)











September 2021



May 2022



September 2022













November 2022

March 2023

October 2023

November 2023

December 2023

kloeckner metals

Kloeckner (XTRA: KCO)



August 2023



October 2023





Recent M&A Market Activity (*Cont.***)**



WORTHINGTON

Worthington Steel (NYSE: WS)

U.S. Blanklight Business of:





December 2021

Nagold Automotive Components Division of:

voestalpine

June 2021

December 2023



Russel Metals Russel Metals (TSX: RUS)



Alliance Supply, Ltd.

7 Service Centers in Western Canada and the NE U.S. from:



November 2021

October 2023

Pending



OLYMPIC STEEL Olympic Steel (NAS: ZEUS)







October 2021

January 2023

October 2023



Steel Technologies





December 2021

October 2023



Recent M&A Market Activity (Cont.)



O'Neal Industries







January 2021

December 2021

July 2023



Alro Steel

Metal Stock, Inc.

Ace Steel International









August 2021

December 2021

April 2022

October 2022

July 2023

November 2023



Triple S Steel











January 2021

June 2021

October 2021

September 2022

May 2024



Samuel, Son & Co.







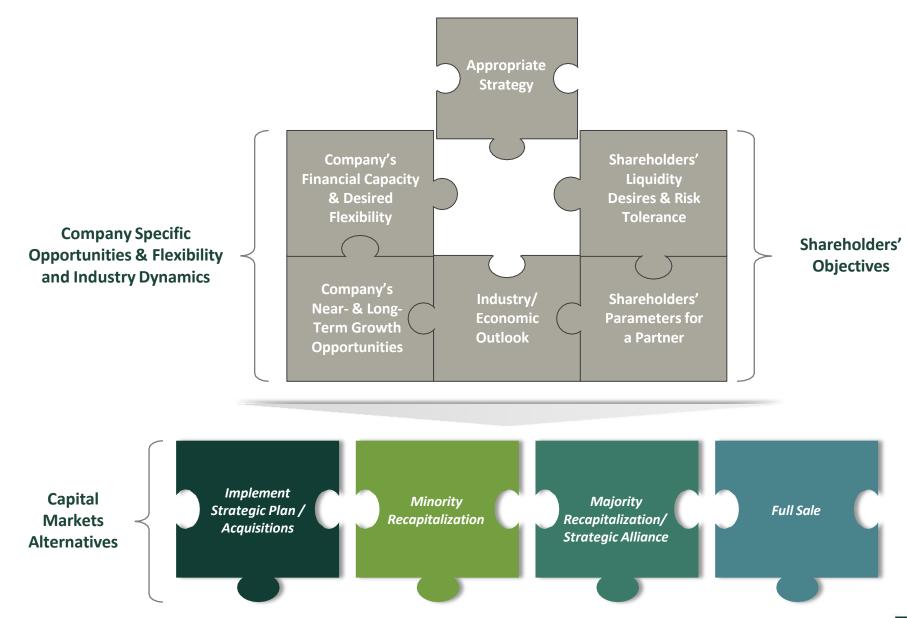
September 2022







Opportunities & Goals Will Ultimately Shape Which Alternative is the Best Fit







Positioning and Company Strategy

- Positioning Goal: A buyer must recognize that the company has a logical, executable strategy that leads to visible future growth opportunities OR fulfills an existing need
- Positioning Strategy:
 - Business strategy should include future growth opportunities that a buyer can execute, with reasonable probability for success
 - Key employee issues should be reduced (can ownership leave after a transaction)
 - Proven history of successful decision-making supported by past growth and profitability
 - Make certain the management team has the necessary resources to execute strategy
 - Highlight the ability of the team to run the company without selling shareholder oversight
 - Align the company's strategy with the high growth opportunities in the market
 - Consider potential acquisition options as a growth driver to make asset attractive as a platform
 - Different strategy for new private owner vs. large corporate buyer

Buyer Questions

- Does the Company have a clear strategy?
- Are key selling stakeholders prepared and aligned?
- How does this asset fit with my strategy?
- How do I reduce risk of transaction failure?







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One Magnificent Mile 980 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 1800 Chicago, IL 60611 p. 312.658.1600

CLEVELAND

One Cleveland Center 1375 East 9th Street Suite 2500 Cleveland, OH 44114 p. 216.920.6613

LOSANGELES

10880 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1101 Los Angeles, CA 90024 p. 310.266.5367

NEWYORK

489 5th Avenue 23rd Floor New York, NY 10017 p. 917.688.2780



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Head of ABL Metals Group
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Premier North American Investment and Corporate Bank

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Year Founded	1817	
Number of Employees	~56,000	
Countries of Operation	46	
Number of Customers Worldwide	13+ million	
Market Capitalization	\$60 billion	
No. American Ranking by Assets	8 th	
Total Assets	\$958 billion	
Revenue	\$23.1 billion	
Net Income	\$8.7 billion	
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	14.1%	
Return on Equity	12.3%	
Long-Term Debt Ratings (M/S/F/D)	Aa2 / A+ / AA / AA	
Short-Term Debt Ratings (M/S/F/D)	P-1 / A-1 / F1+ / R-1 (high)	

8th

The 8th Largest Bank in North America by total assets

\$60 billion

Market Capitalization

\$958 billion

Total Assets

Aa2 / A+ / AA

Long-term ratings from Moody's, S&P, and Fitch, respectively

14.1%

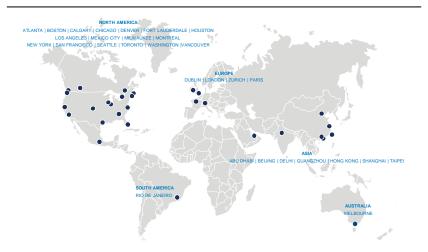
Tier 1 Capital Ratio

13 million

More than 13 million clients served around the globe

46
Countries
of Operation

GLOBAL BANKING OPERATIONS



STRONG, STABLE PARTNER

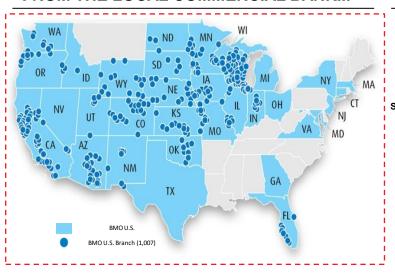
	Ratings		Market
Bank	Moody's	S&P	Сар
	(Rating)	(Rating)	(\$bn)
вмо 🖴	Aa2	A+	\$60
J.P.Morgan	A1	A-	423
BANK OF AMERICA 🥟	A1	A-	228
WELLS FARGO	A1	BBB+	152
Morgan Stanley	A1	A-	142
Deutsche Bank	A1	A-	21
Goldman Sachs	A2	BBB+	107
UBS	А3	A-	92
cîti	А3	BBB+	80
BARCLAYS	Baa1	BBB+	29

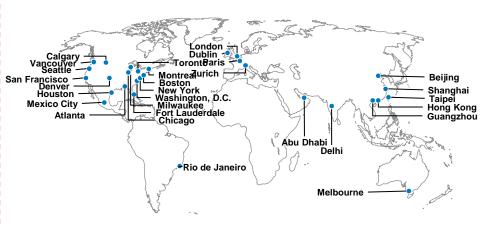


Bringing Global Sector & Product Expertise to Bank Relationship

FROM THE LOCAL COMMERCIAL BANK...(1)

...TO THE GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANK





BMO CAPITAL MARKETS OVERVIEW

- Fully integrated North American investment bank
- Approximately 2,700 professionals in 35 locations around the world, including 23 offices in North America
- Designated Primary Dealer by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- Member of: NYSE; LSE; NASDAQ; TSX; TSX-V
- 60+ equity research, strategy, and quantitative analysts covering over 950 companies across North America and Europe

UNIVERSAL BANKING SERVICES

Advisory Services

- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Valuations & Fairness OpinionsTakeover & Activist Defense
 - Restructuring Advice

Corporate Finance

- Equity Offerings
- Debt Offerings
 Convertible Offerings
- Corporate Lending

Sales & Trading

- Institutional & Retail Distribution
 Equity Research
- Fixed Income Strategy
- Equity & Fixed Income Trading
- Institutional Investor Access

Treasury Services

- Cash Management
- Risk ManagementForeign Exchange
- Trade Finance

INDUSTRY COVERAGE

Metals & Mining

Industrials

Food, Consumer & Retail

Healthcare

Technology

Real Estate

Financial Institutions Group

Power, Utilities & Infrastructure

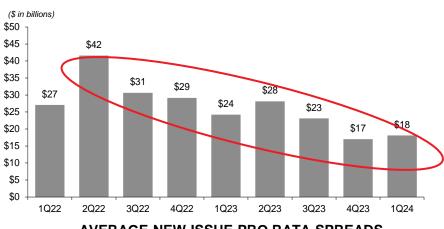


Financing & Lending Markets

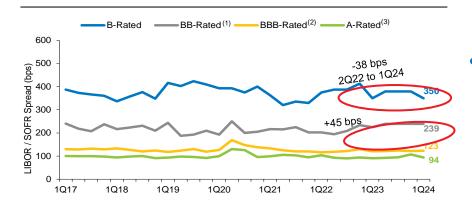
- Bank Loan Market
- Asset Based Lending Market
- Leveraged Loan & High Yield Markets

Bank Loan Market Update – Middle Market

NON-SPONSORED MIDDLE MARKET DEAL VOLUME



AVERAGE NEW-ISSUE PRO RATA SPREADS



COMMENTARY

Greater capital scrutiny by Banks due to:

- Stress tests & Tier One Capital Ratio concerns
- Banks suffered substantial losses underwriting transactions in the Leveraged Finance Markets
- Increasing requests for capital in the bank market given turbulence in other capital markets
- Recessionary fears
- Rapidly increased bank funding costs

As a result:

- Increasing credit discipline, esp. on levered deals, deals with choppier performance, and cyclical co's
- Increasing focus on returns and driving upward pressure on pricing, fees, and the need for ancillary

Though the Bank Loan Market is open, it is characterized by (a) increased return thresholds and requirement for enticing economics, (b) lower capital commitments from individual lenders, and (c) more focus on credit principles – leverage, recession performance, etc.

BB-Rated pricing for 1Q24 rolled over from 2Q23 due to lack of recent data.

BBB-Rated pricing increased by 5 bps from 2Q22 to 1Q24.

A-Rated pricing increased 1 bp from 2Q22 to 1Q24.





Market

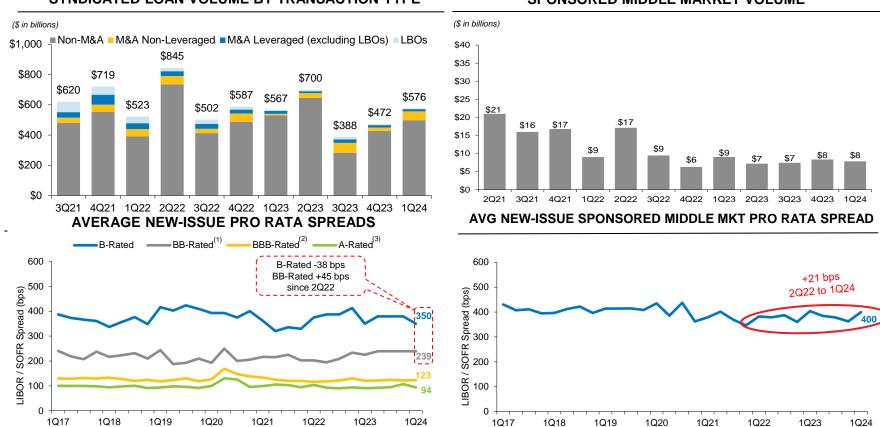
Snapshot

Bank Loan Market Conditions

- √ The U.S. broadly syndicated loan market closed over \$576 billion of new deal volume in the first quarter of 2024, a ~2% increase compared to levels a year ago, and a 22% increase from the fourth quarter of 2023
 - The volume growth realized in Q1 2024 reflects a cautiously optimistic view on the economy and higher capital markets activity
 - Bank Loan Market Volume increases have been driven through a combination of lenders becoming more constructive with deploying capital and borrowers restarting strategic initiatives that may have been paused throughout 2023
- ✓ Total investment grade New Money Issuances increased 35% Quarter-over-Quarter, while total leveraged New Money Issuances decreased 10% Q over Q
- An elevated pricing environment has remained market throughout the first quarter in majority of ratings categories. Lenders are holistically evaluating lending opportunities with a focus on cross-sell potential to supplement their overall returns

SYNDICATED LOAN VOLUME BY TRANSACTION TYPE

SPONSORED MIDDLE MARKET VOLUME



BB-Rated pricing for 1Q24 rolled over from 2Q23 due to lack of recent data.

BBB-Rated pricing increased by 5 bps from 2Q22 to 1Q24

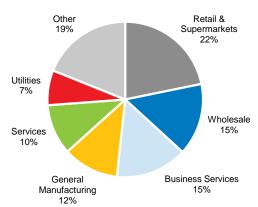


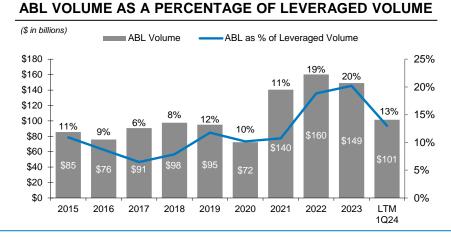
Asset-Based Lending Conditions

Market **Snapshot**

- ✓ LTM 1Q24 ABL transactions by volume and deal count were down ~48% and ~38% year-over-year, respectively
- ✓ Issuers in a broad range of industries continue to access the ABL Market, with Retail & Supermarkets, Wholesale, and Business Services leading the way in 1Q24
- √ ABL drawn spreads were slightly higher quarter-over-quarter by ~1 bp in 1Q24 with drawn pricing ~34 bps higher than. 1Q23 levels. Undrawn spreads decreased from ~37 bps in 4Q23 to ~31 bps in 1Q24

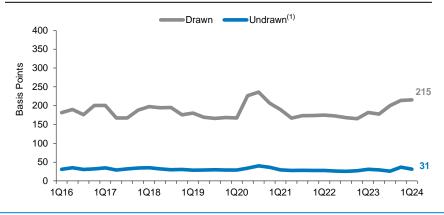
US ABL ISSUANCE BY INDUSTRY (YTD 1Q24)





ABL VOLUME AND DEAL COUNT





Source: Refinitiv Loan Connector

Note: Beginning in 1Q22, drawn pricing is shown on a Term SOFR basis, excluding CSAs.

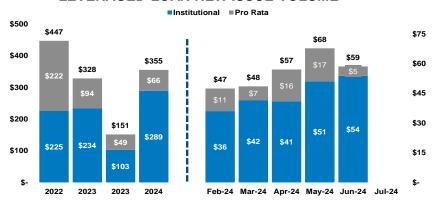
Not spread above a reference rate.

Leveraged Loan and High Yield Market Trends

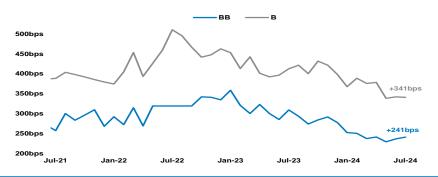
Leveraged Loan Market

- The holiday-shortened week left the primary loan market quiet to start July, as there was only one launch late last week for \$0.8bn and a total of two deals in-market
 - 10 borrowers allocated a combined \$16.5bn last week, eight of which supported opportunistic activity
- June marked another active month in the loan primary with total volume of \$53.9bn, just above May's \$51.0bn, and marking the highest level since January's \$65.6bn
 - This was the busiest June since 2021, when \$59.3bn was issued
- While repricing volume slowed to end Q2'24 and the percentage of loans trading above par has slipped to 40% (vs. 55%+ in late May), over \$400bn of loans have been repriced YTD, representing 30% of the entire \$1.4tn market

LEVERAGED LOAN NEW ISSUE VOLUME⁽¹⁾



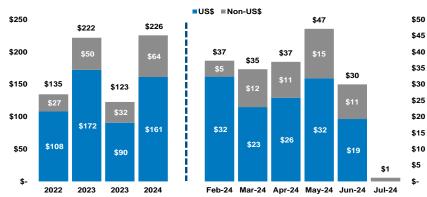
MONTHLY AVERAGE NEW ISSUE SPREADS(2)



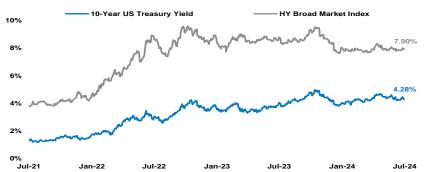
High Yield Market

- The HY primary market was quiet as expected ahead of the Fourth of July holiday, and only Vodafone Spain's cross-border secured bond offering stood in market last week
 - YTD HY volume stands at \$161.2bn, 78% ahead of last year's pace
- High yield issuers printed \$45bn of bonds to retire leveraged loans in the first half of 2024, more than the previous two YTD sums combined, and near 2021's \$47bn high
- The broad high yield index remained stable last week, closing Friday at 7.90%, from 7.86% the week prior
- High yield funds posted outflows of \$208mm last week, which brought the trailing fourweek average into the red for the first time in eight weeks
 - YTD inflows now total to \$5.2bn, compared to \$11.9bn of outflows in YTD 2023

HIGH YIELD BOND NEW ISSUE VOLUME



HY BROAD MARKET INDEX VS 10-YEAR TREASURY



Source: Bloomberg, LCD, LFI.

Note: Volume and funds flow data as of prior Thursday.

- . Excludes existing tranches of add-ons, amendments, and restatements with no new money..
- Spread is over LIBOR prior to 1/1/22 and over SOFR after 1/1/22. Current month is based on a rolling 30-day period. Calculations inclusive of upfront fees.
- Note: Ratings as shown reflect issuer ratings for high yield issuances and are standardized across Rating Agencies



Commercial Bank Market View on Metal Businesses

- Capital available to finance growth, especially with lenders in metals space
- Commercial Banks strong balance sheets; seeking to lend/grow business
- Demand remains stable in Auto, Energy; strong in aerospace. Weak in construction
- Consolidation in Metals Service Centers/Scrap/Fabricators continues, due to:
 - Reasonable and attractive corporate earnings;
 - Market forces determining global pricing
 - No reasonable family succession plans in place
 - Volatility in demand and end market use
 - Fabricators, service centers and scrap companies are in demand by the mills and larger companies seeking to diversify their businesses
- However, best to finance growth with lenders who are active in the Metals space who understand the cyclical nature of metal prices



Lenders' Analysis – What Does a Lender Focus On?

- Quality of Management Can management articulate / execute on vision; act quickly in market downturns; maintain multiple management voices in decision making;
- Ownership and Ownership Support
 - Will owners support their business in tight liquidity situations (more equity; asset sales)
 - Lenders/Financing Sources expect a partnership
- Quality of Financial Performance and Future Outlook
- Quality of Inventory
 - Inventory turns and levels, tracking, systems can they track inventory; perform an LCM analysis; can they move inventory in a downturn
- **Vendor Relationships** Is customer paying bills on time? Any flexibility to extend payables if necessary? L-T vendor relationships??
- Customer Relationships Back-to-back sales; customer contracts; L-T relationships??
- Management of CASH tight controls in place / segregation of duties / can they move inventory quickly in a downturn to generate cash flow?



What Do Lenders Care About Most?

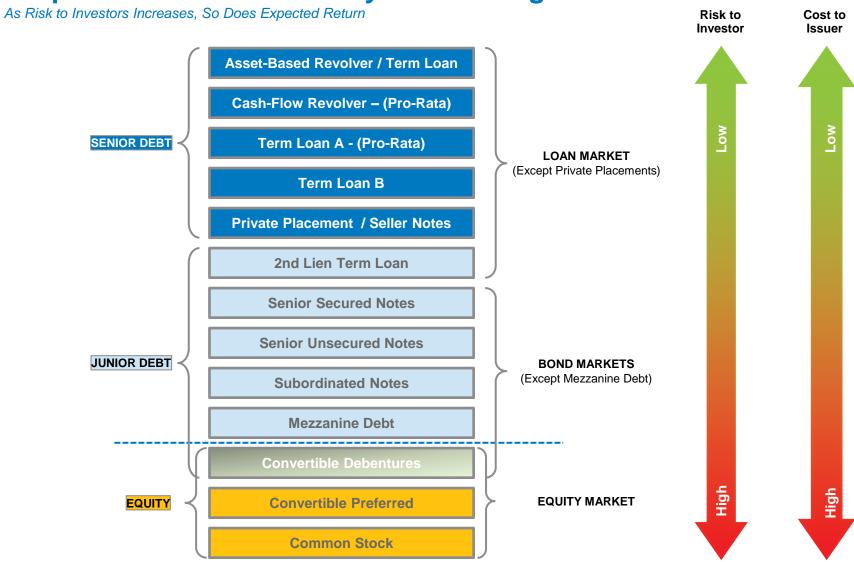
- Revolver Availability Can the company maintain sufficient excess availability under Revolver to operate its business – pay bills, finance inventory purchases?
- Fixed Charge & Profitability Test Can the company service its fixed charges/debt and/or generate positive EBITDA on a TTM basis?
- Senior / Total Leverage Can the company maintain reasonable and consistent leverage levels?
- Reliable Financial Reporting Company needs to report financial performance information and borrowing base on a timely/reliable basis.



Financing Options for Middle Market / Family Businesses



Capital Structure Hierarchy – Financing Structures





Financing Options for Middle Market / Family Businesses:

FIVE WAYS TO FINANCE - BUYOUTS or REFINANCINGS

- 1. Finance with Asset-Based Loan ("ABL") Revolver + Term by same Bank. Can include Seller Note / Earnout with levels TBD
- 2. Finance with ABL Revolver with Bank + External Term Loan Lender. Can include Seller Note with levels TBD
- 3. Finance with Cash Flow Revolver/Term Loan with same Bank. Can include Mezzanine Lender, Seller Debt, Other Loans.
- 4. Finance with Non-Regulated Financial Institution (private credit shops)
- 5. Specific Financing Options:
 - i.e. <u>Trading Companies</u> higher leverage acceptable for companies that trade inventory/follow "pre-sold" inventory model



Two Valuation Methods in Metals

- 1. Lending on Assets (A/R, Inventory, PP&E) + Premium
 - Sale price based on asset values plus a premium TBD
- 2. Lending on Cash Flows of Business:
 - Sales price based on 4.5x-7.5x Adjusted EBITDA (can include

Seller or Other Debt, like Mezzanine Debt)



A Lender's Financing Analysis and Conclusion

Best Financing Option depends on the Business and Consistency of Earnings

higher leverage and volatility in earnings can be a major determinant

My View: Lending on Assets (ABL Structure with Seller Note/Earnout) is the best structure (exceptions made for trading companies):

- Asset values in metals are strong; banks can lend more on asset values
- Seller Notes / External Term Loans can help bridge financing gaps
- Metals Industry is cyclical EBITDA can significantly fluctuate over periods
- Fluctuations in EBITDA result in higher total leverage
- One Financial Covenant and focus is on Revolver Availability (ABL structure)



Biography / Contact Information



Andrew Pappas Managing Director & Head of ABL Metals BMO Bank N.A.

Mr. Pappas is a Managing Director/Team Leader and Heads up the ABL Metals vertical within BMO Bank N.A. ("BMO"). Mr. Pappas is responsible for leading a team of twenty-two (22) individuals focused on sourcing, structuring, closing and managing senior credit facilities as part of a corporate finance solution, primarily for metals companies. Mr. Pappas is responsible for ~115 accounts and ~\$8 billion in commitments.

Prior to BMO, Mr. Pappas spent 5 years and 14 years with MFC Capital as a Managing Director with Fleet Capital/Bank of America primarily focused within the metals/industrials sector. Mr. Pappas graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a B.A. in Accounting, and from New York University with an M.B.A. in Finance.

Mr. Pappas has spoken as a metals industry expert for Steel Success Strategies and American Metal Market (AMM), Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), and S&P Global Platts Steel North American Steel Conference and has been a sponsor for the Metal Service Center Institute (MSCI), Steel Summit and other metal conferences throughout the USA.

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THANK YOU!





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Thanks for listening!

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