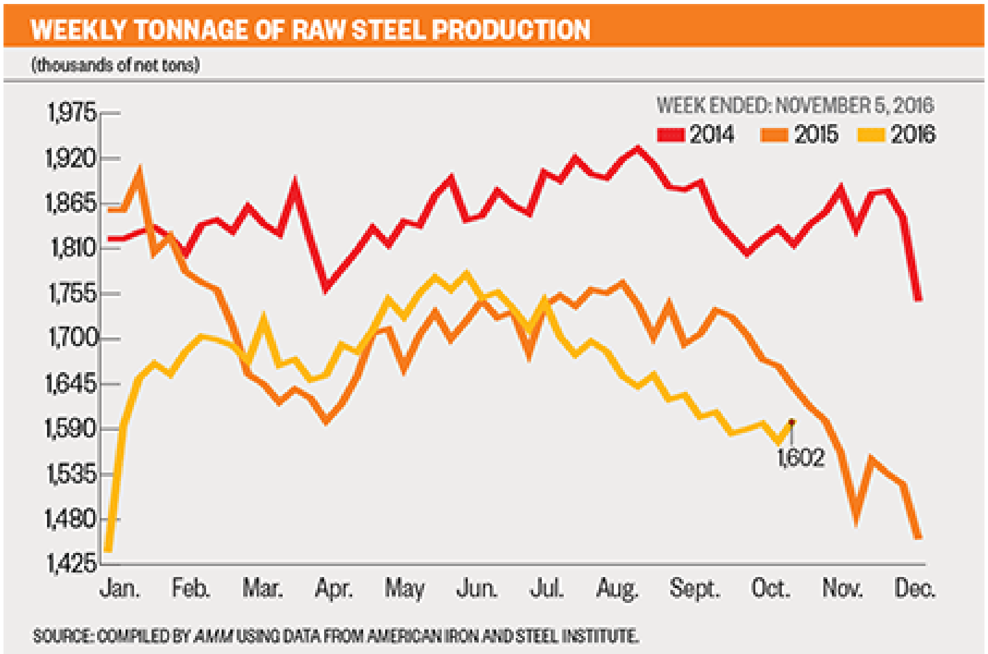
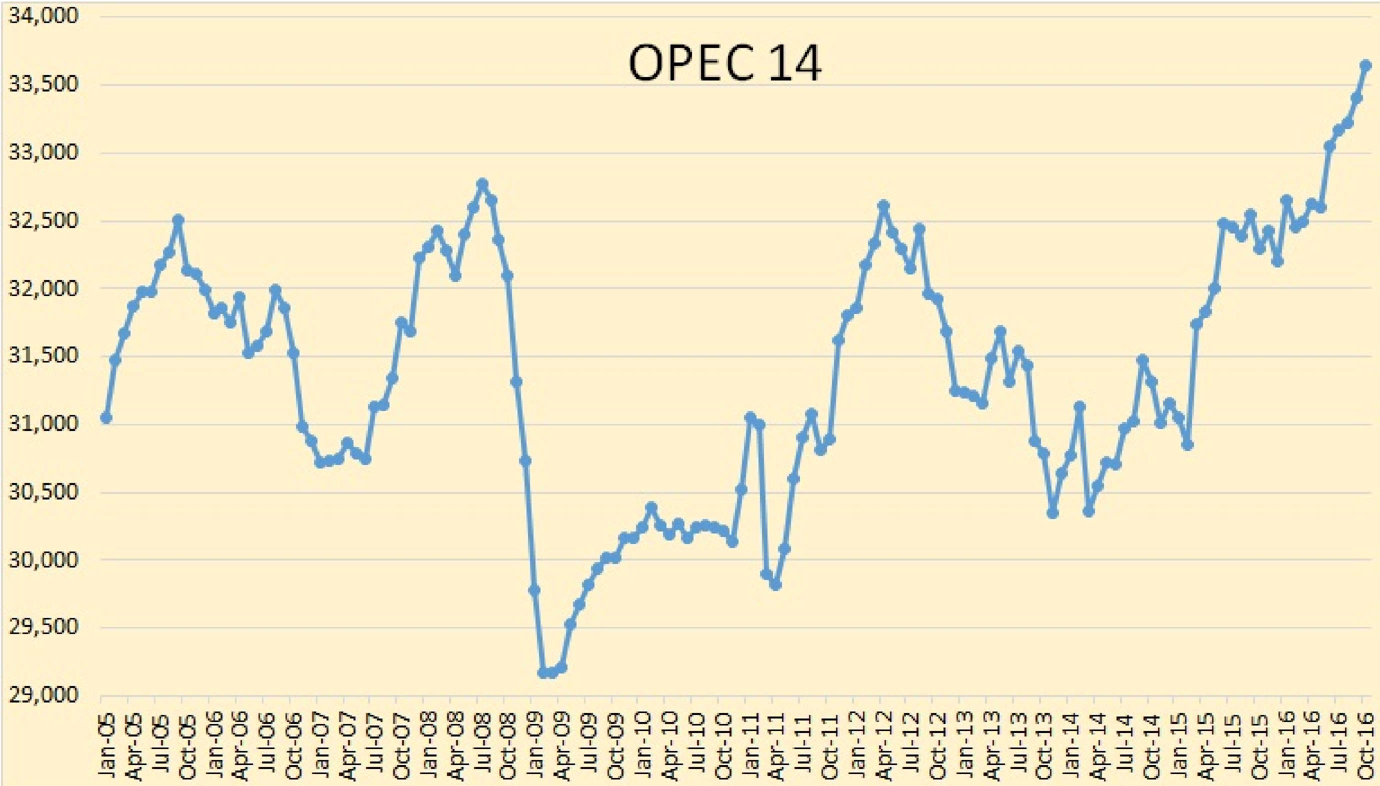
This is the Scrap Metal & Commodities Recycling Report, by BENLEE and Raleigh and Goldsboro Recycling, November 14th, 2016.

Last week commodity prices rose and Wall Street hit record highs as plans began to invest hundreds of billions in U.S. infrastructure-bridges, roads and water systems.

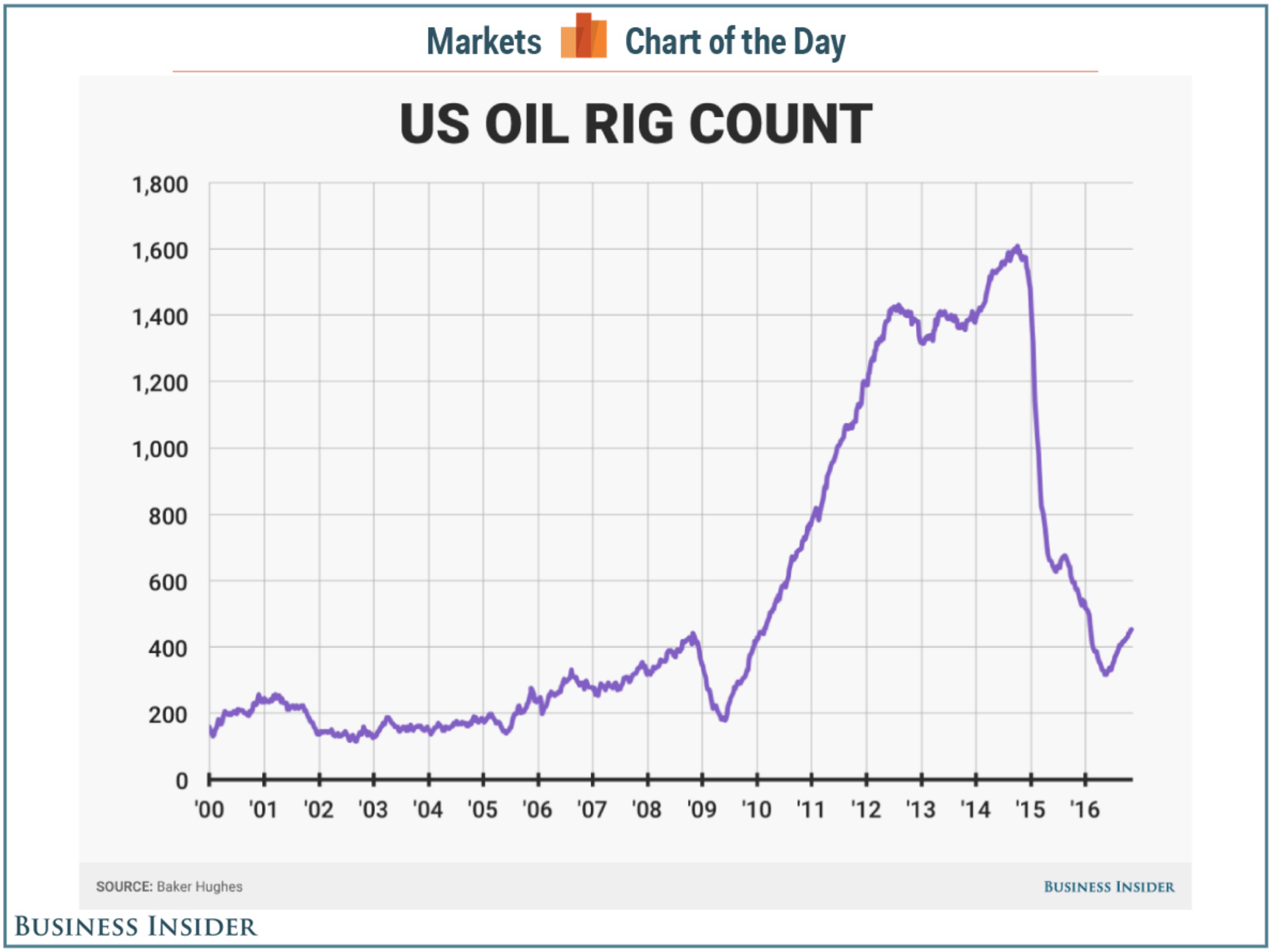


U.S. steel production rose slightly to the highest level in a few weeks on limited increase in demand.



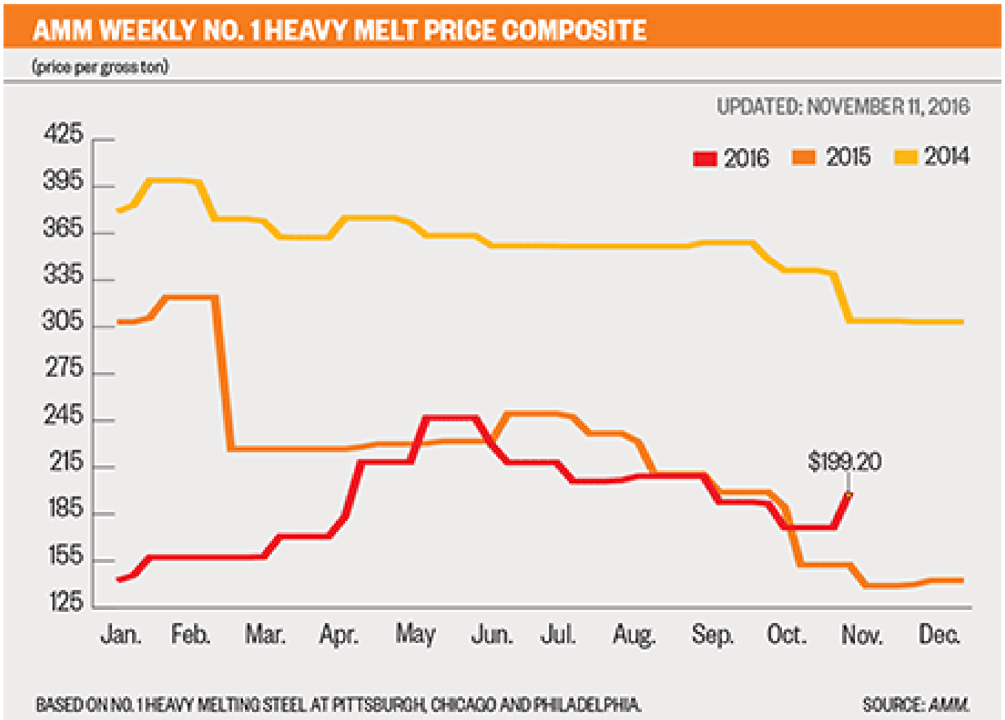
OPEC oil production hit a new high last month as they use their low production cost to gain market share, against the U.S., Canada and Russia.

This caused oil to fall to $43/barrel, down 2.2% for the week and down a big 14% for the month. Lower prices continue to help consumers and businesses, but keep a limit on the increase in U.S. jobs as it relates to oil drilling including steel and scrap metal.



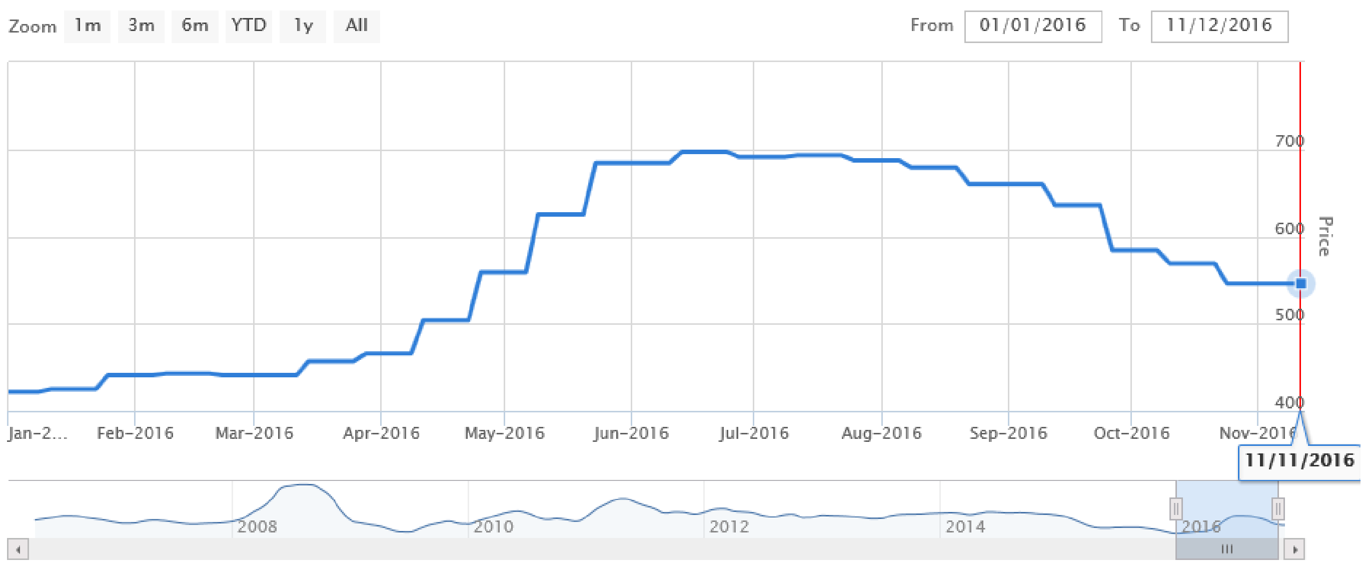
The oil rig count rose 2, to 452, as oil remains above $40/barrel. Rigs are up a huge 43% from January's 316 low, but still down an enormous 72% from two years ago.

Iron ore rose a huge 24% for the week to $80/MT. It is now up a staggering 41% for the month and 53% for the year which should bring higher finished goods and scrap prices. It will also hurt the profitability of scrap metal substitutes, again helping scrap metal prices.



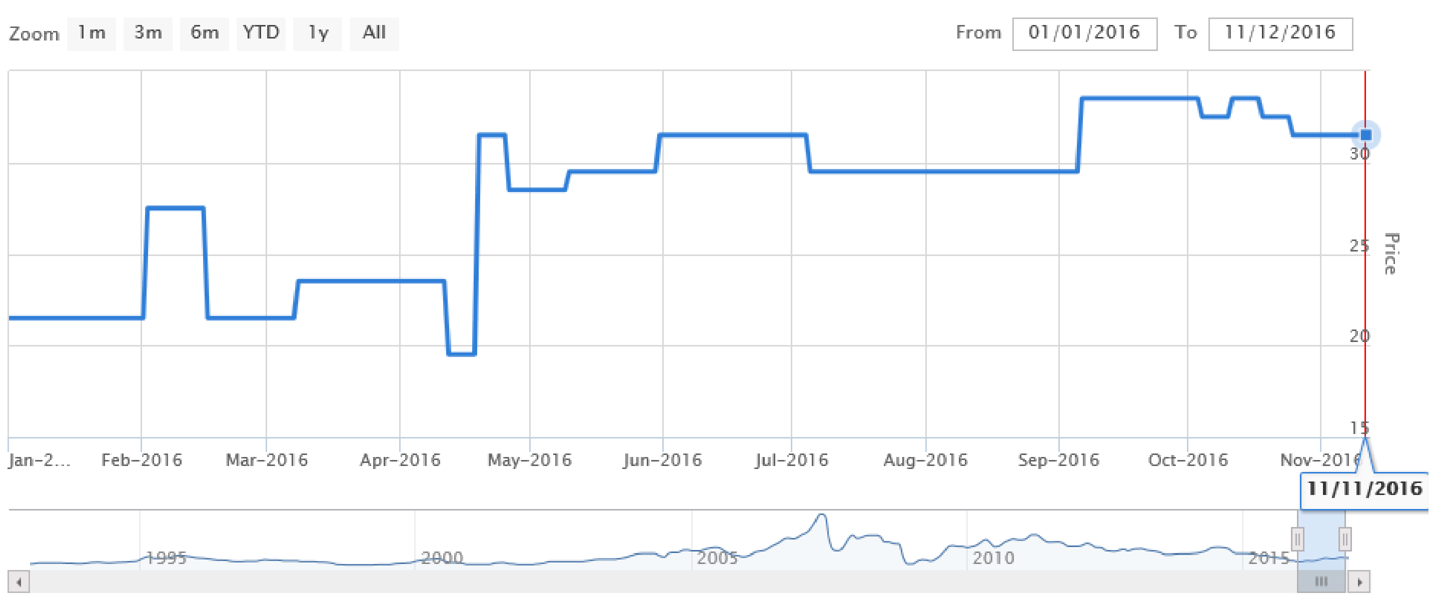
Scrap ferrous prices held steady after their recent rise as U.S. demand remains fair, and export demand remains good. Higher iron ore prices will support higher scrap prices, but short term there is little increased demand to cause higher scrap prices.

Hot Rolled Coil Steel

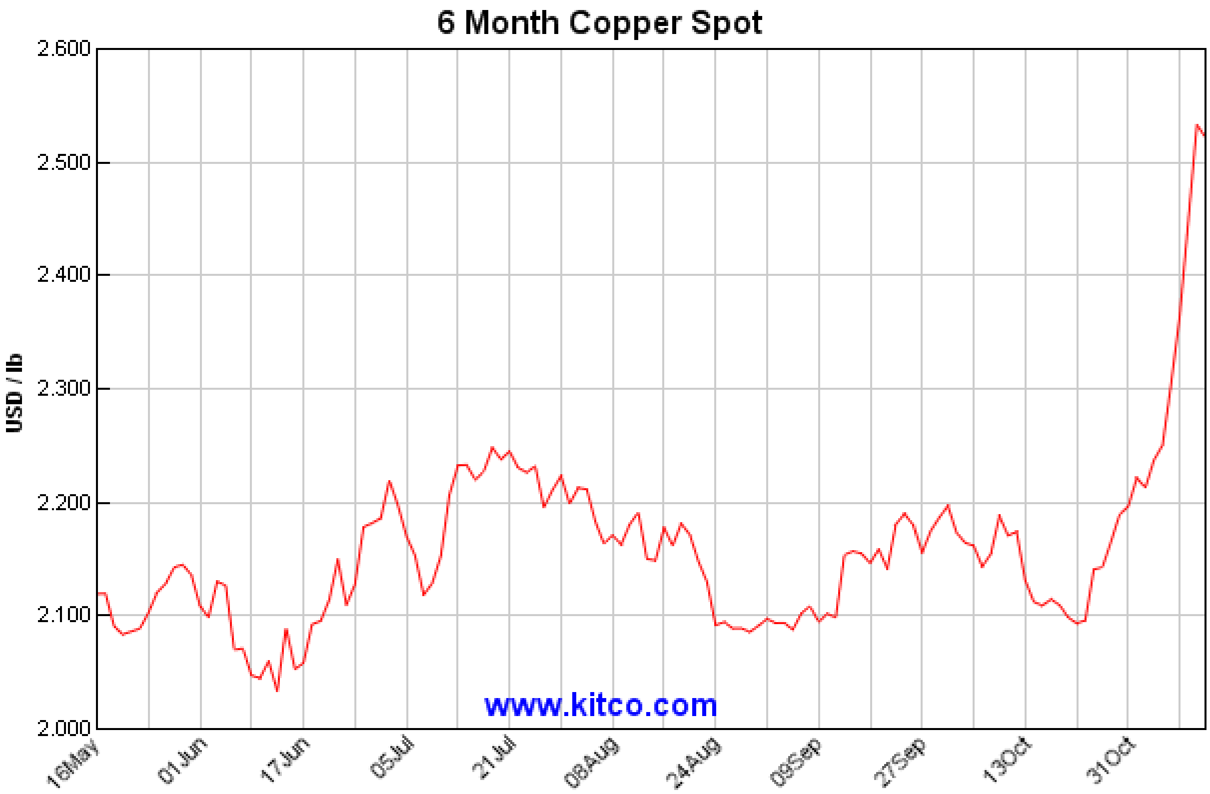


Hot roll coil steel is steady at $546/MT in this graph, but with a new round of increases last week, we will see prices up about $50/ton next week on this graph partly caused by the major increases in iron ore and scrap metal.

304 Stainless Scrap

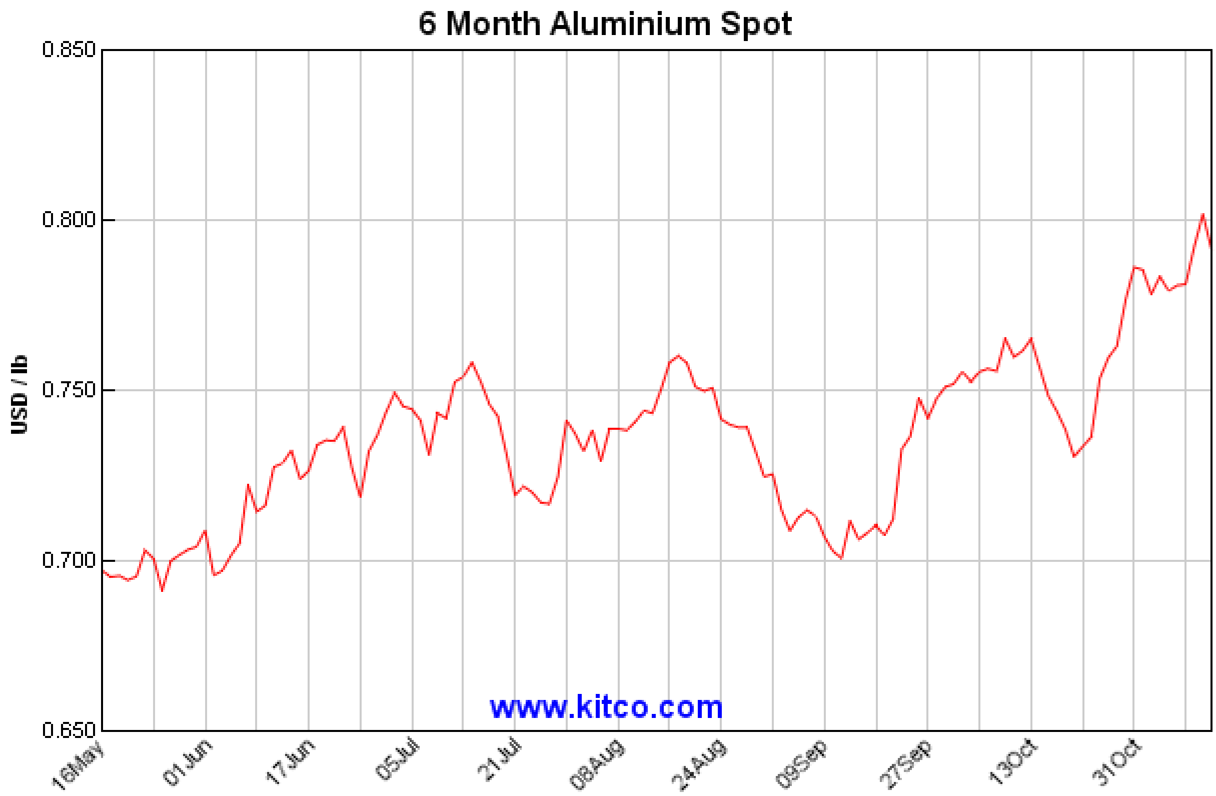


Stainless scrap 304 remained steady, but we are we are seeing increases of more than a penny that should be reflected next week on this chart.

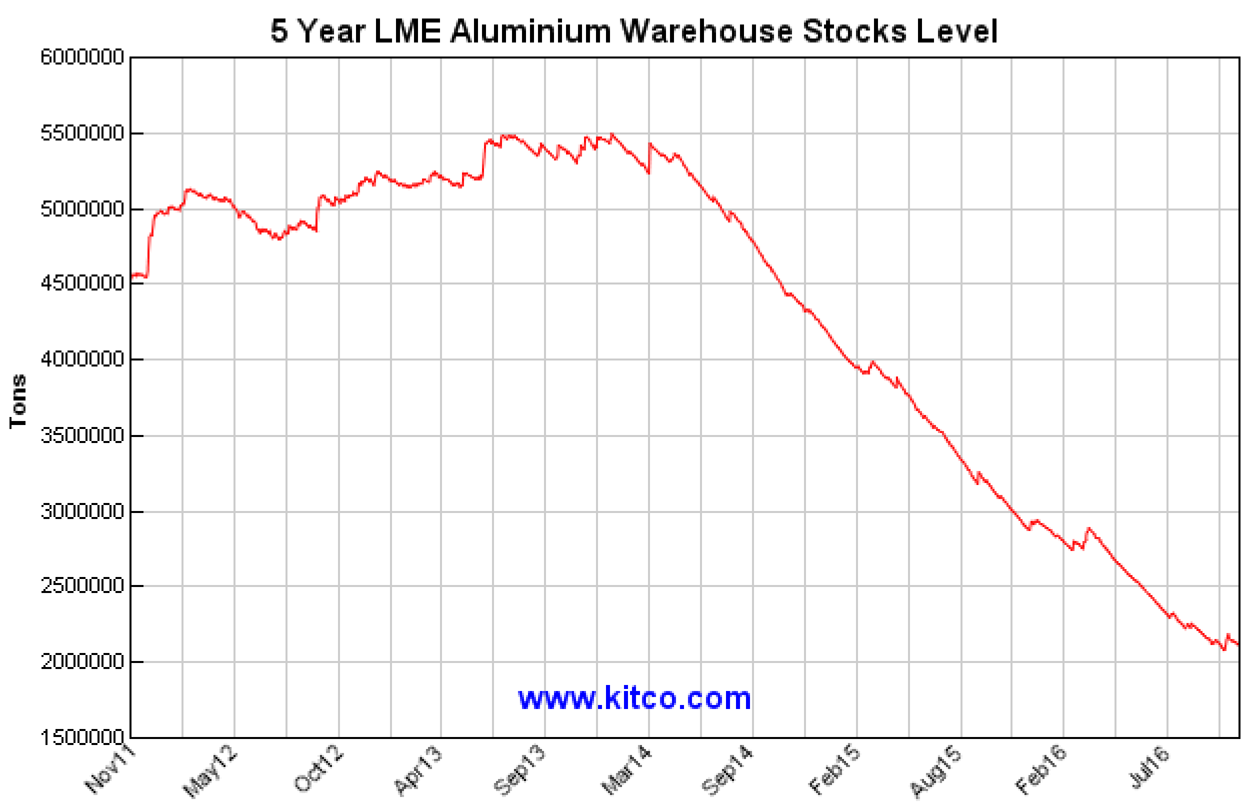


Copper rose an enormous 27 cents ending at 2.52 and early Friday was over $2.70.   27 cents is the largest weekly gain in 5 years and to be clear this was NOT based on increased demand or reduced supply. It is speculation based the planning that has begun for enormous spending on U.S. infrastructure in the months to come.

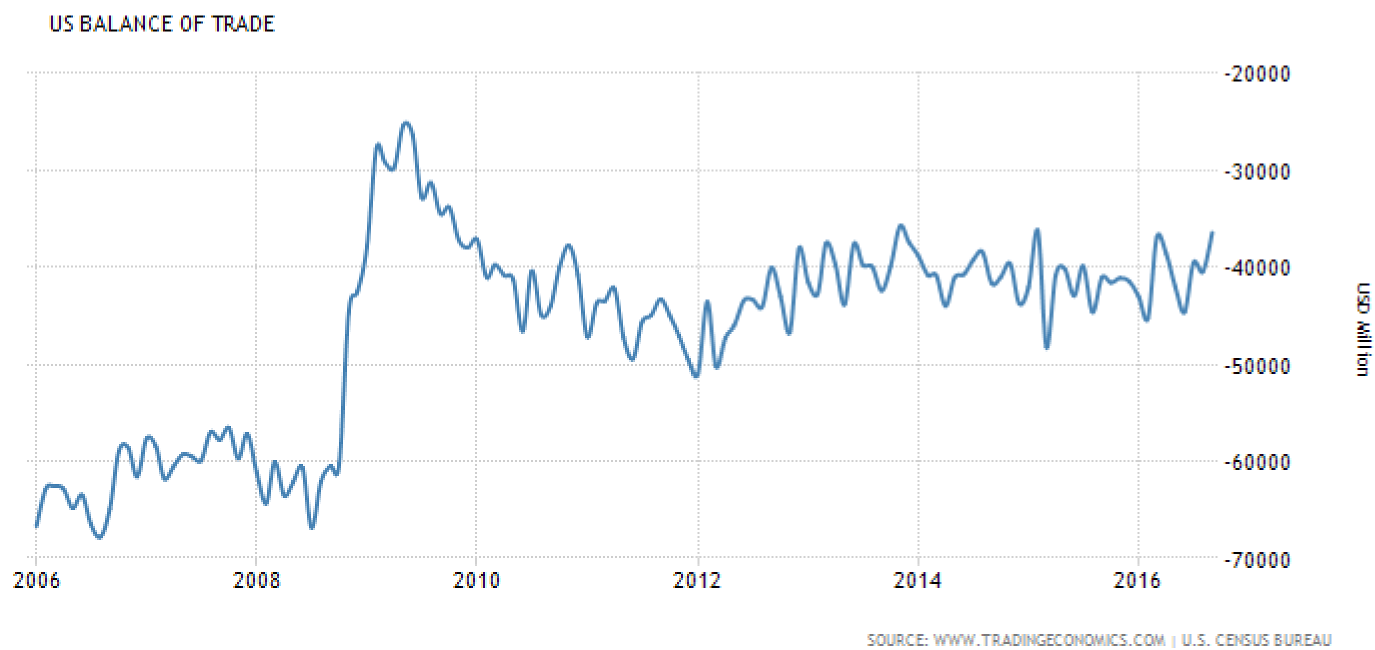
The 5 year copper chart shows that we are now at the highest price in about 15 months.



Aluminum rose a penny to 79.1 cents, up about 21% in 11 months. Unlike copper which rose on speculation, aluminum has been rising on demand increases and increased production costs



And we see that Aluminum inventories remain near about 7 year lows, which means continued upward pressure on prices. Low scrap metal volumes and margin pressure has led to the announcement of closing two more large shredders in the Southeast. This remains part of the needed industry consolidation due to overinvestment in the past 8 years.



The US trade deficit came down in September to the lowest gap in over a year and a half. Looking at the middle of this chart, you see it is almost the best number since the crash of 2008, when money slowed leaving the country, due to our economy went into free fall and we dramatically reduced buying foreign oil, which also dropped in price. The higher the line on this graph means the less money flowing out of country.

Americans filing for jobless claims fell to 254,000 the lowest level in 4 weeks. More importantly though, claims have been below 300,000 for 88 weeks in a row. That is the longest streak since 1970, 46 years ago. A great direction for the jobs markets.

With that we hope all have a Safe and Profitable week.