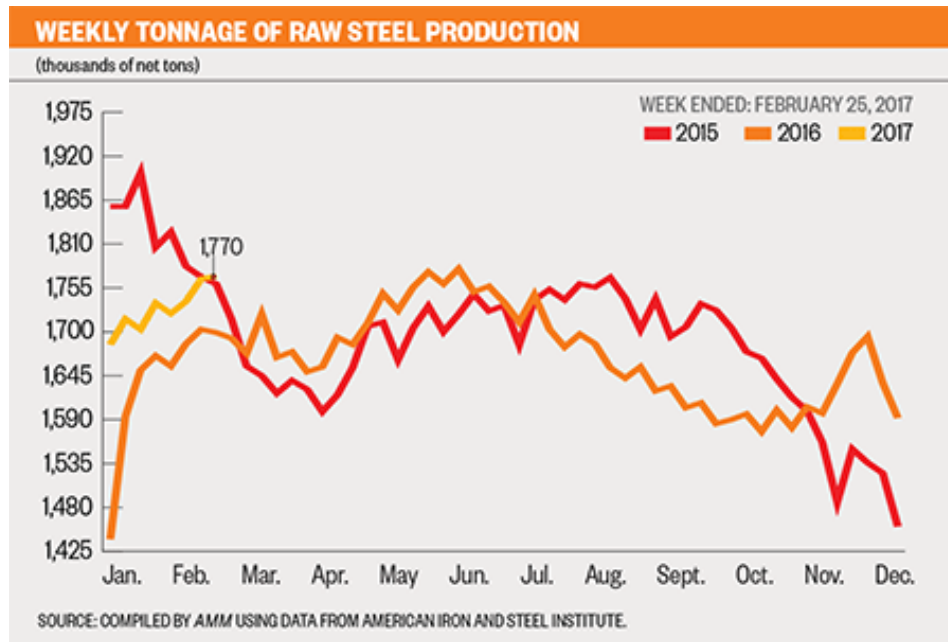
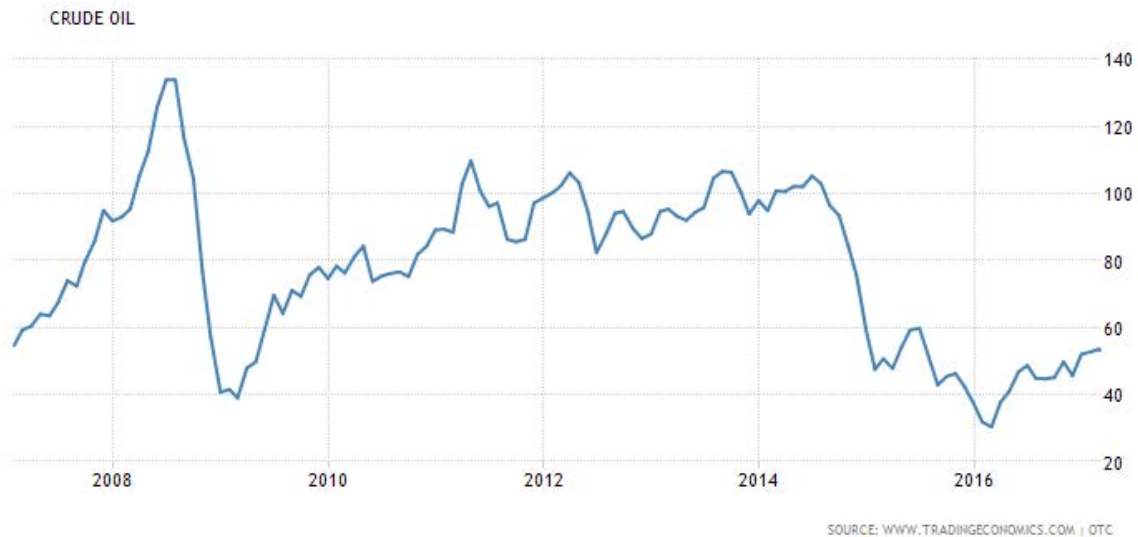


This is the Scrap Metal & Commodities Recycling Report, by BENLEE and Raleigh and Goldsboro Recycling, March 6th, 2017.

Last week commodity prices were mixed and economic reports remained positive.

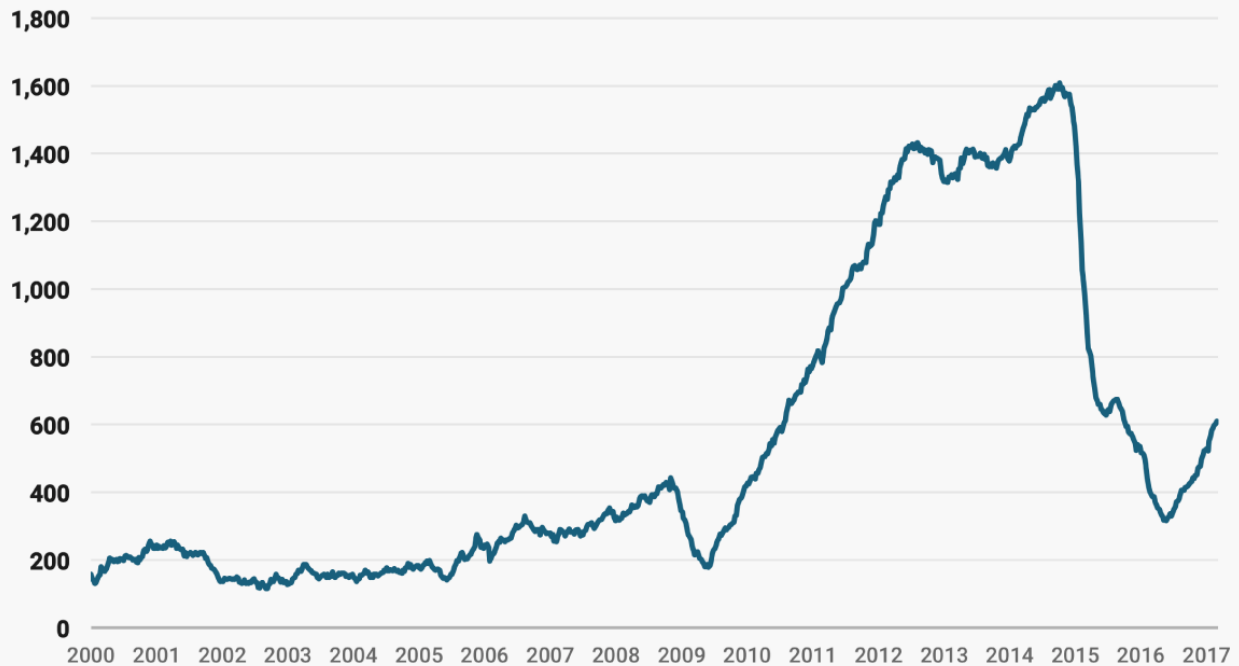


On the left we see U.S. steel production rose to near a two year high and importantly, production is about 25% higher since the start of the year.



Oil fell \$1 ending at \$53/barrel, about double a year ago. Importantly oil is staying above \$40/barrel which is helping drive increased U.S. drilling and pumping.

## US OIL RIG COUNT



SOURCE: Baker Hughes

BUSINESS INSIDER

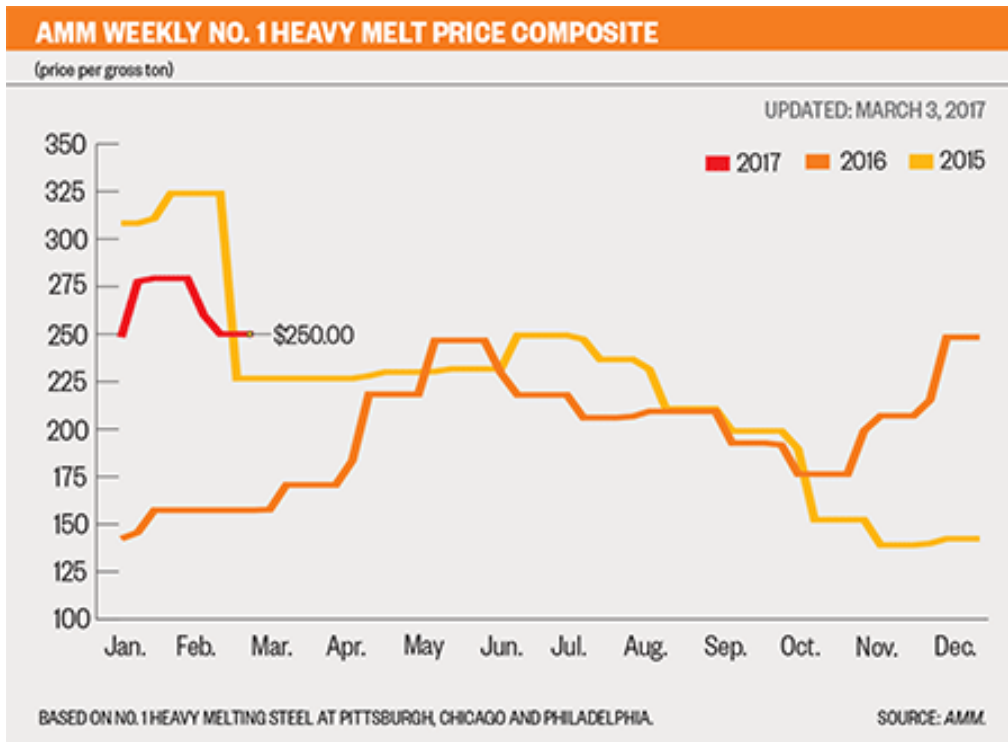
The oil rig count rose again. At 609, it's about 93% ahead of the 316 low of about a year ago, a terrific increase, but let's not forget it remains about a third, of what it was about two years ago

## IRON ORE



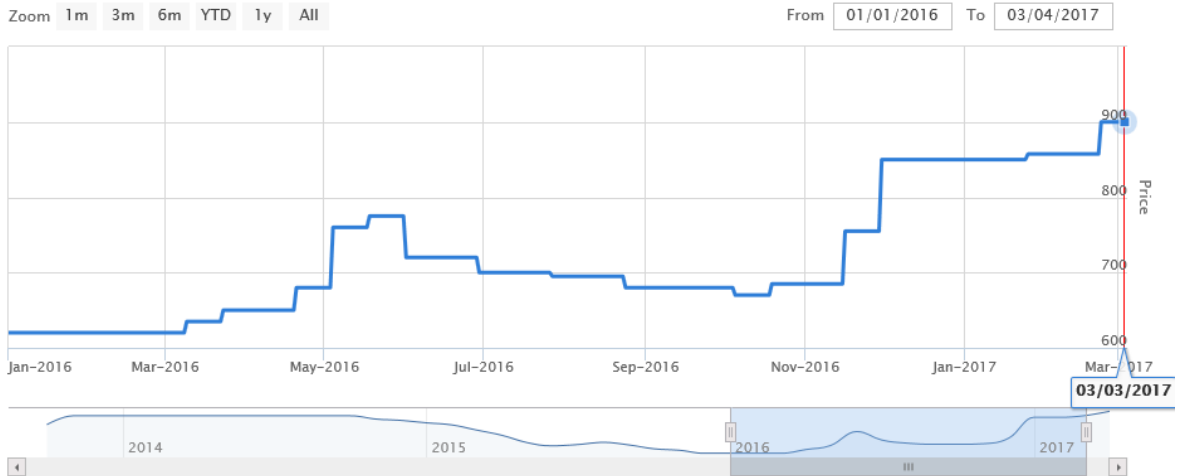
SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | OTC

Iron rose to \$92/MT staying near its almost 2.5 year high and is about 2.5 times what it was a year ago.



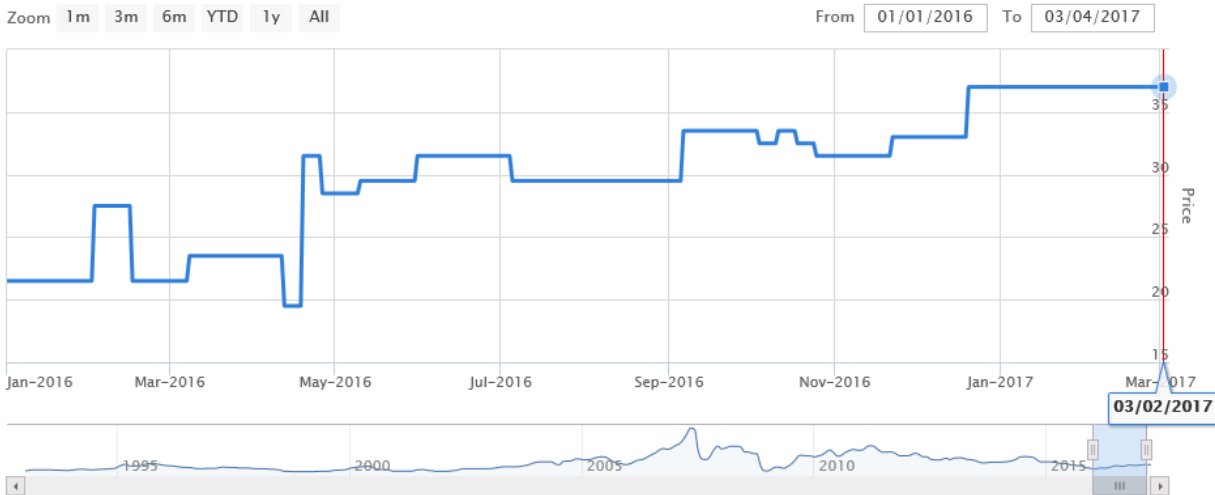
Scrap ferrous prices show steady here, but as the week ended, prices were up \$30/GT and more. Scrap demand remains good, but demand will be hurt a bit as Nucor’s DRI plant that makes scrap metal substitutes, comes back on line in the coming weeks.

## Hot Dipped Galvanized Coil

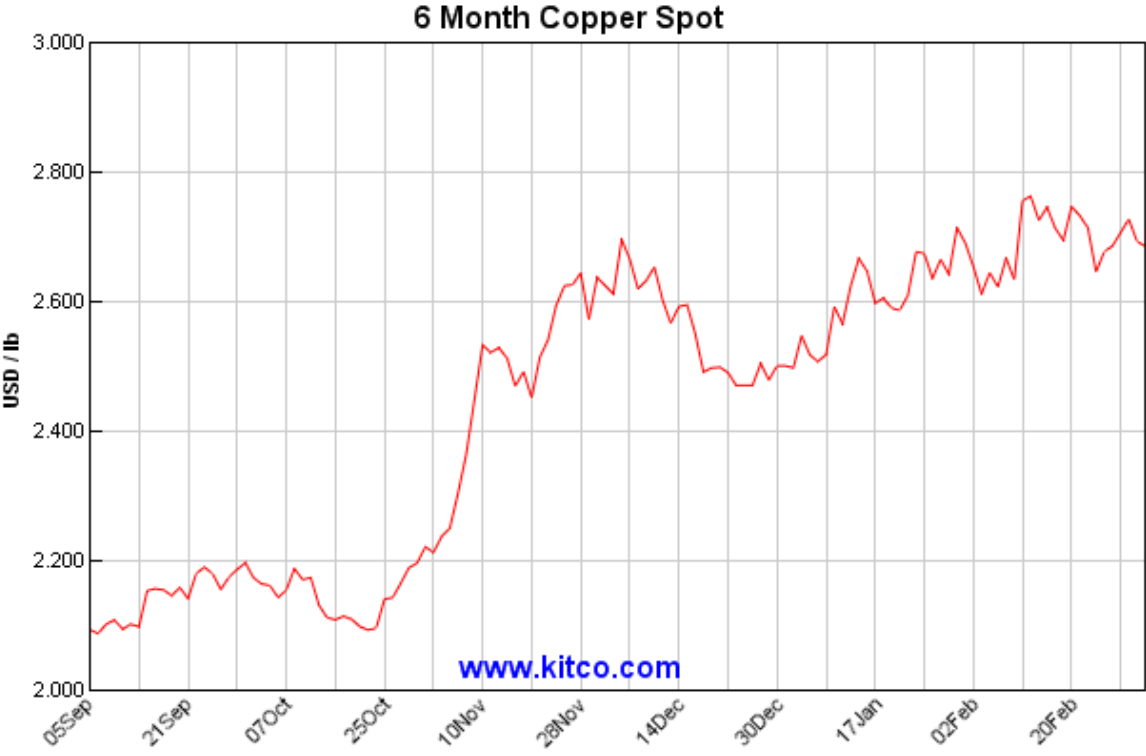


Hot dipped galvanized steel held at \$900/MT after its recent rise.

# 304 Stainless Scrap



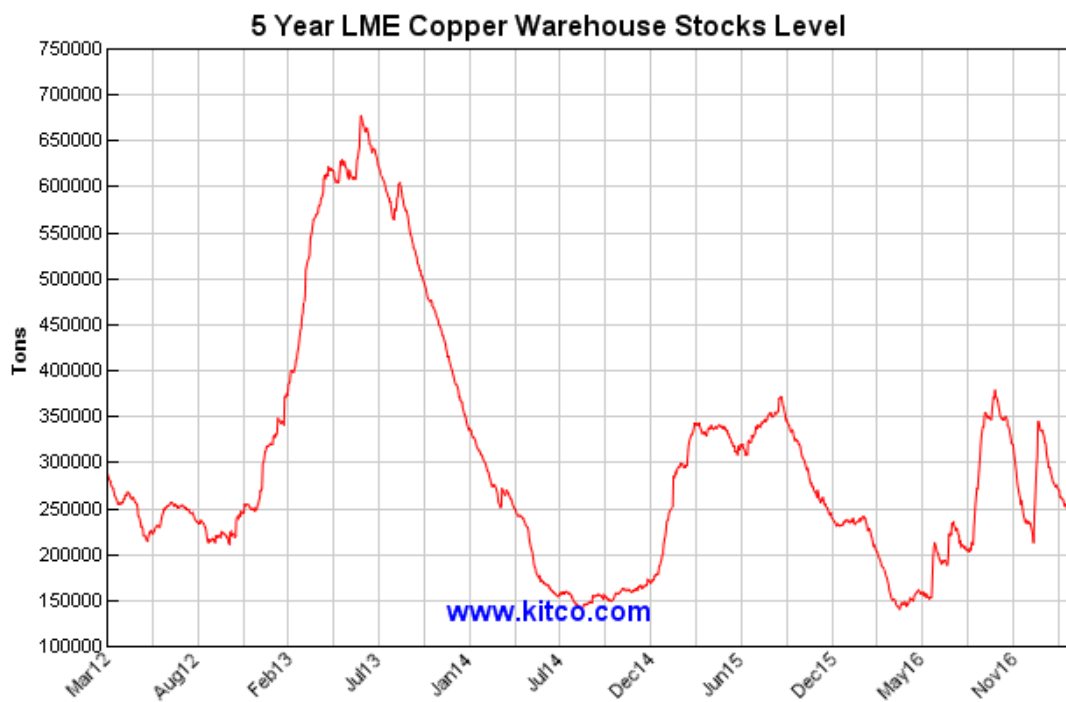
Stainless 304 scrap remains remarkable steady at 37 cents, as demand and supply hold steady.



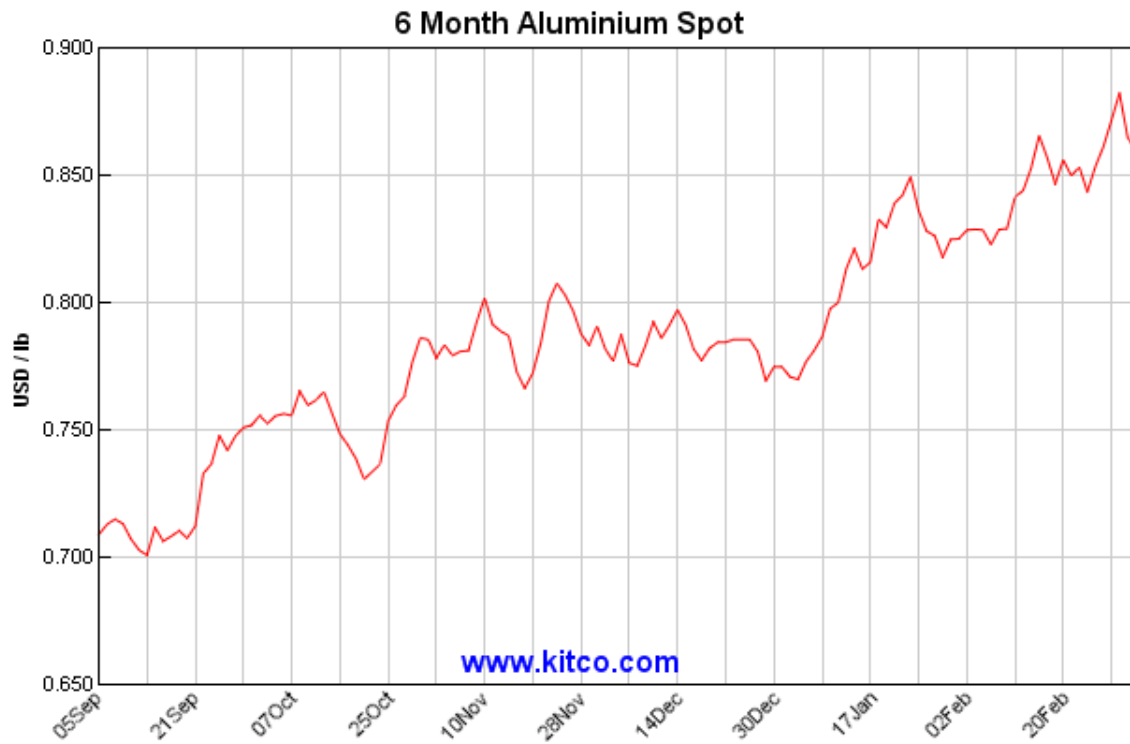
Copper rose to \$2.69 after a week of ups and downs, but it remains about 40% higher than about 14 months ago.



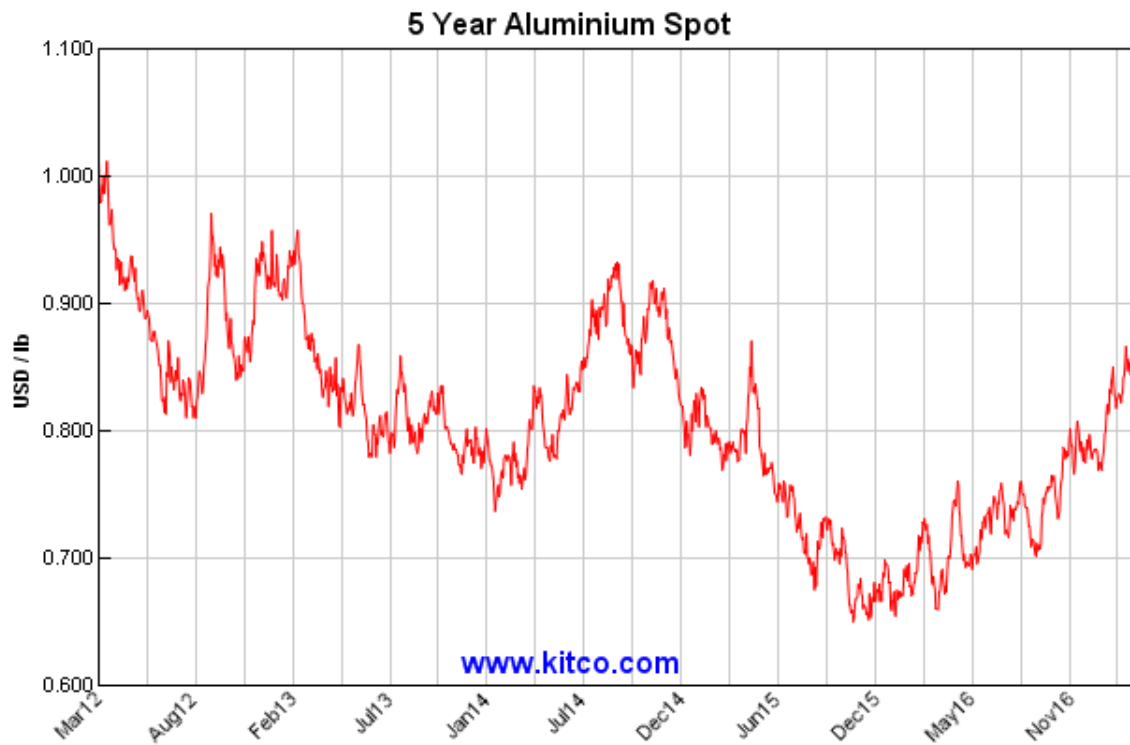
and we see the 5 year copper chart shows we remain near two year highs.



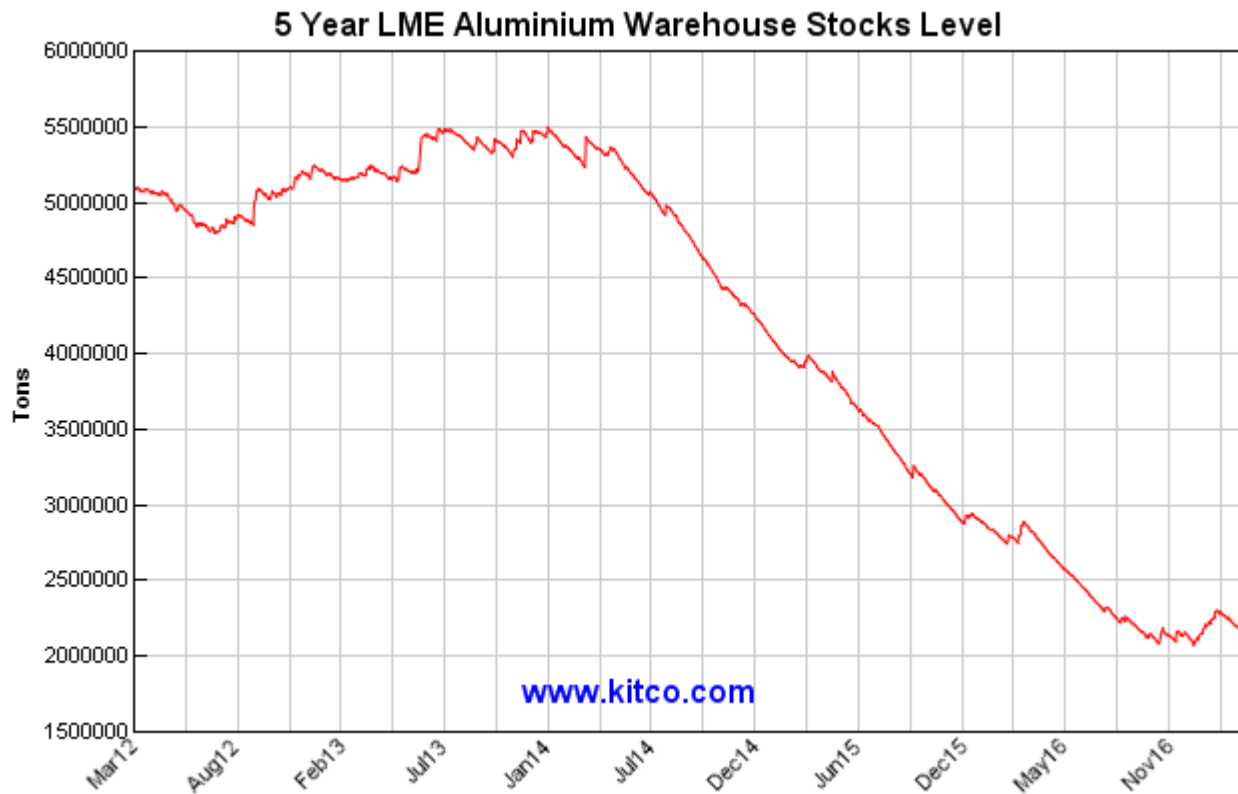
Importantly copper inventories continue to fall to about 7 year lows, which could support stable prices and as importantly bring more mining jobs online.



Aluminum rose a penny to 86 cents after a midweek spike, as demand remains solid. We hear of more cars and trucks moving to Aluminum, which should bring stable to higher prices in the months to come.



The 5 year aluminum price chart shows prices remain near 18 month highs



and Aluminum inventories remain near 9 year lows.



China's GDP, Gross Domestic Product a key measure of the economy, grew at 6.7 percent last year, the weakest growth since 1990. Yesterday, China announced targeting 6.5% growth for 2017. Slower yet again, but still huge.

US GDP GROWTH RATE



SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Final U.S. 2016 GDP data is in and we grew at 1.9%, another year near 2% growth, which while lower than historical growth, has led to record levels of employment and profits in most industries. While 3% or more is ideal, the economy remains very positive, which is bringing stable to higher commodity prices.

US ISM PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX (PMI)



SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

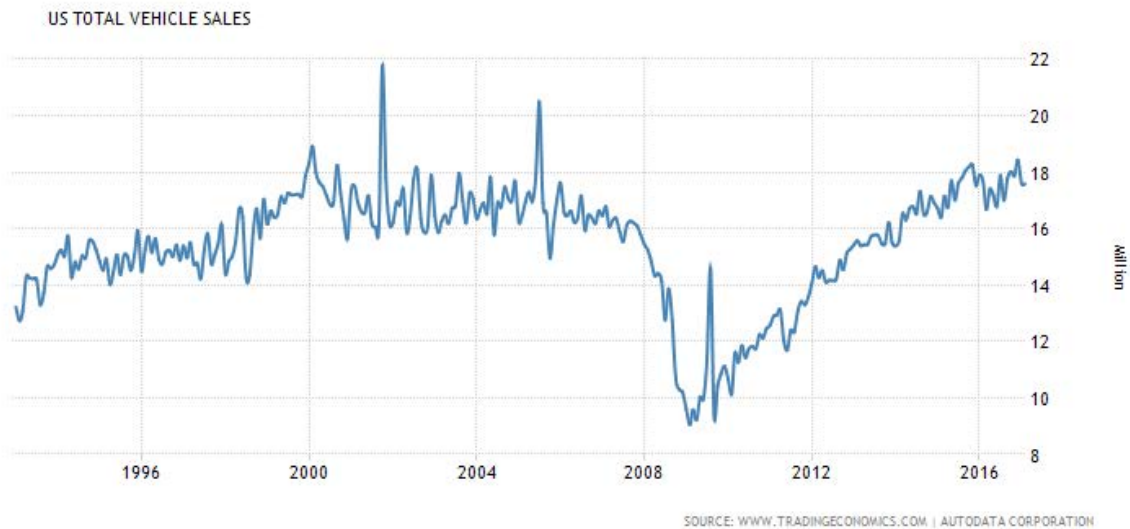
The institute of Supplier Management's Manufacturing PMI, Purchasing Managers Index rose to 57.7 in February, an almost 2.5 year high, based on rising new orders and increased demand which has led to increased and production, yet reduced employment.



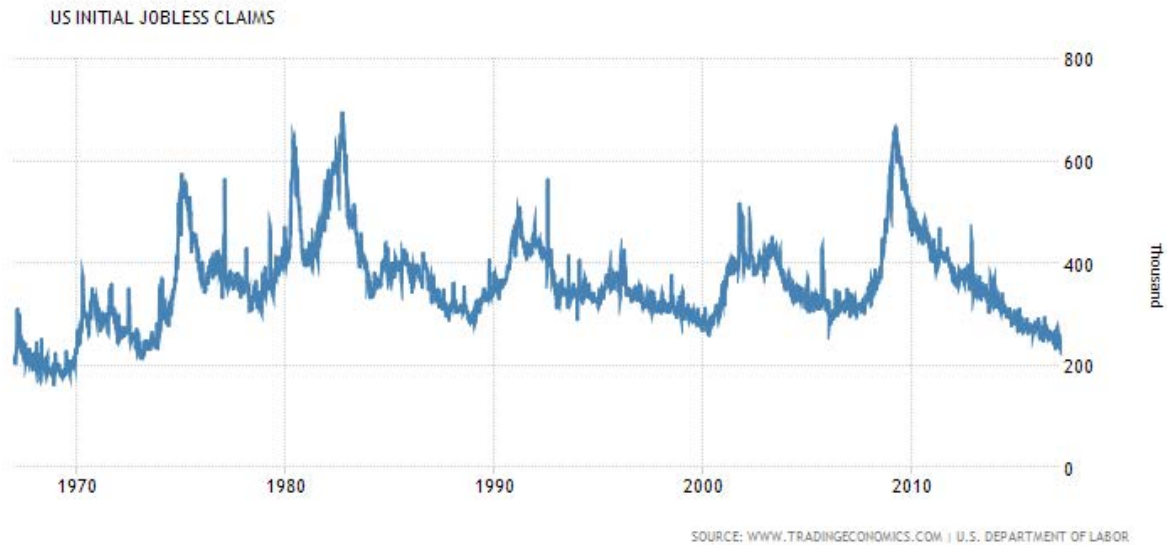
# US PMI Non-Manufacturing



The PMI index for non-manufacturing also rose in February to 57.6 the highest level in 16 months, due to a surge in activity, rising new orders and increased employment.



February automotive sales, dropped a bit yet at a 17.6M annual rate, we may have a third year in a row of record sales. Car companies are offering huge rebates which is a sign that a third of record sales will be tough.



Initial U.S. unemployment claims fell to 223,000 last week, the lowest level in 44 years and is below the key level of 300,000 for an incredible 104 weeks. The U.S. economy clearly continues its growth.



Wall Street had a few bumps, but it hit new highs again during the week which continues to bring value to investors, which will support more growth.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions and we hope all have a Safe and Profitable week.