



Aluminum Market Update 
Industry Trends Survey

Survey results:

Market sentiment and trends analysis

Feb. 20, 2026

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Aluminum Market Update

Where the *aluminum* community
comes together.



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ALUMINUM

market trends

At Aluminum Market Update, we aim to deliver valuable, data-driven insights for the aluminum industry. Our exclusive survey gathers input from key players in **manufacturing, distribution and related sectors**, providing a real-time snapshot of market trends.

Participation is invitation only, ensuring high-quality responses from industry professionals.

All data is **kept confidential**, individual responses are never disclosed by name or associated with any specific person or company name.

Contact nicholas.bell@crugroup.com to become a data provider.

**DON'T JUST
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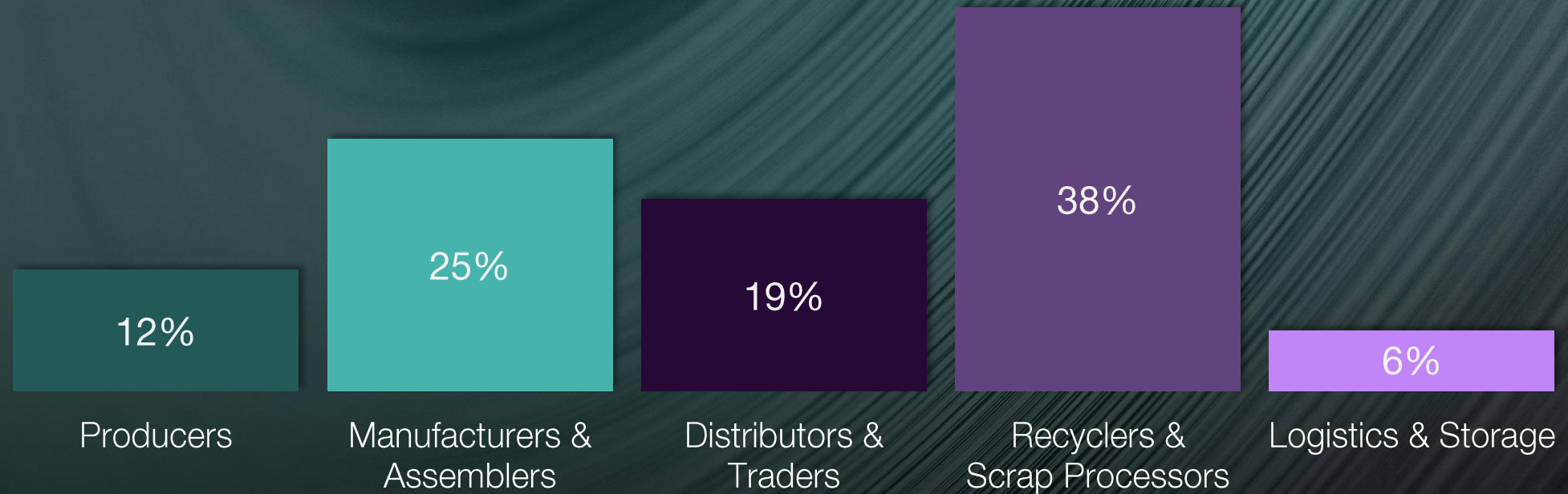
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Survey participants

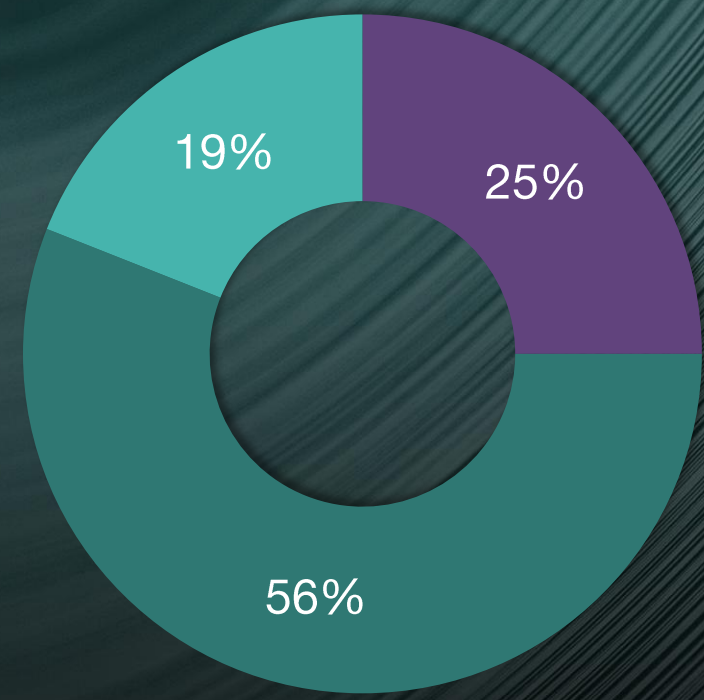
Our survey is by invitation only. Over 1,000 companies are asked to contribute. Here are participation rates by market sector:



Business forecasts

How will your company perform this month vs. forecast?

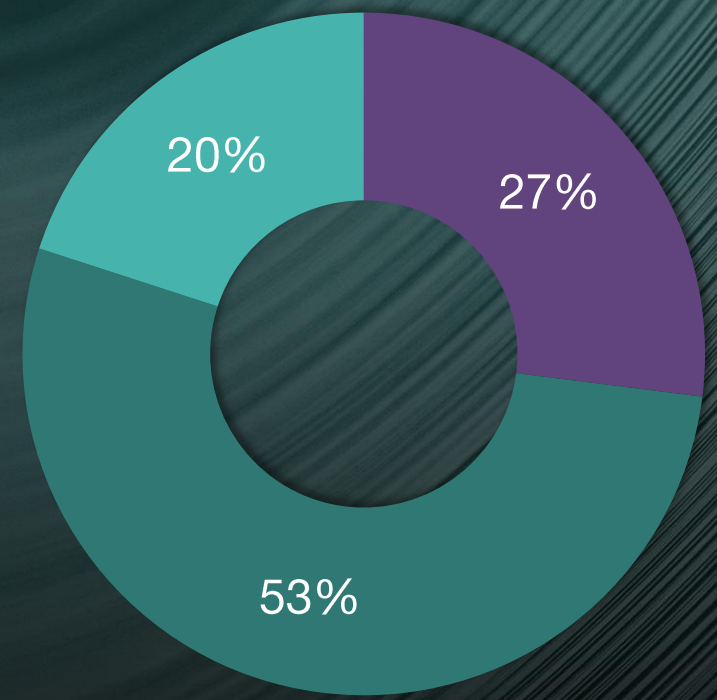
Beat forecast Meet forecast Miss forecast



Overall demand

How would you describe current demand for your products or services?

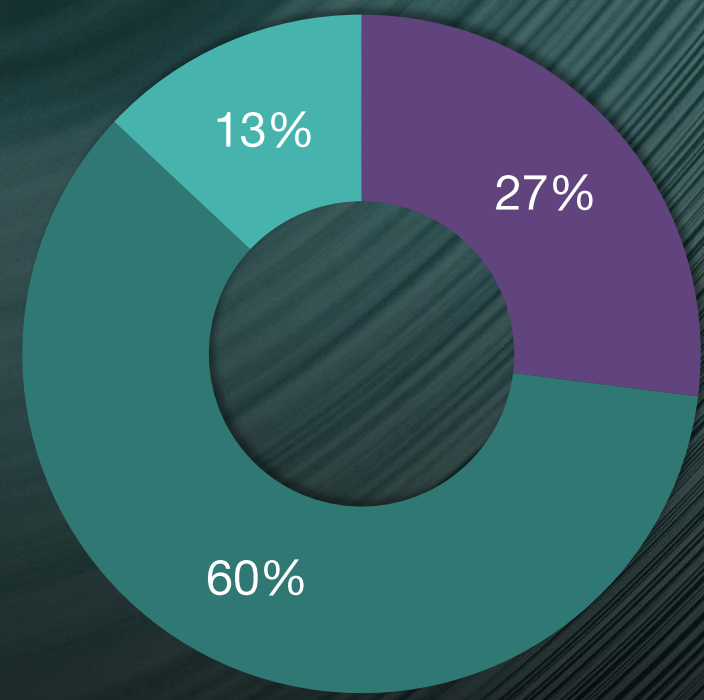
Improving Stable Declining



Domestic demand

What is your outlook for US demand in your part of the aluminum market over the next month?

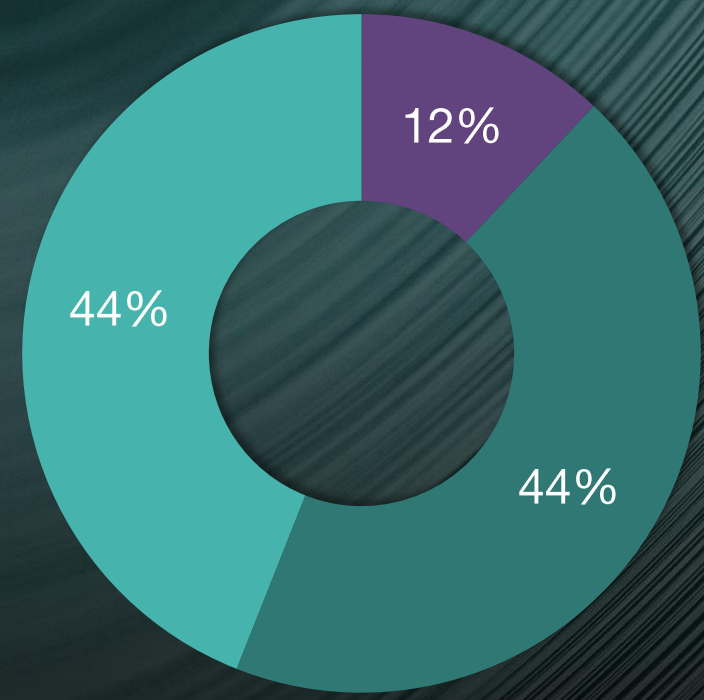
Improving Stable Declining



Export demand

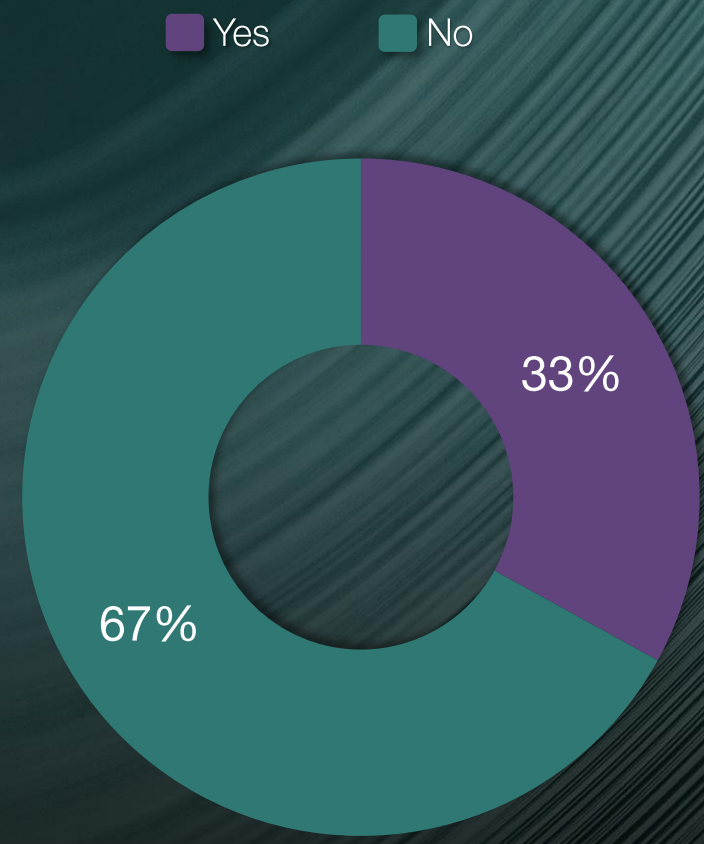
How is demand shaping up in export markets relevant to your business?

Improving Stable Declining



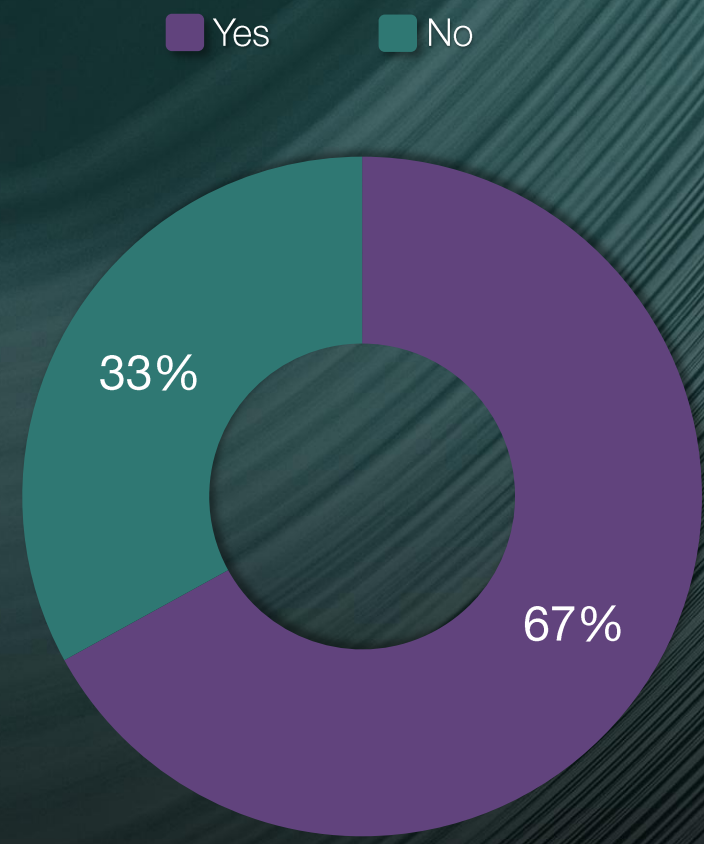
Aluminum supply vs. demand

Is new US supply (primary/semi) keeping up with demand?



Obsolete scrap demand

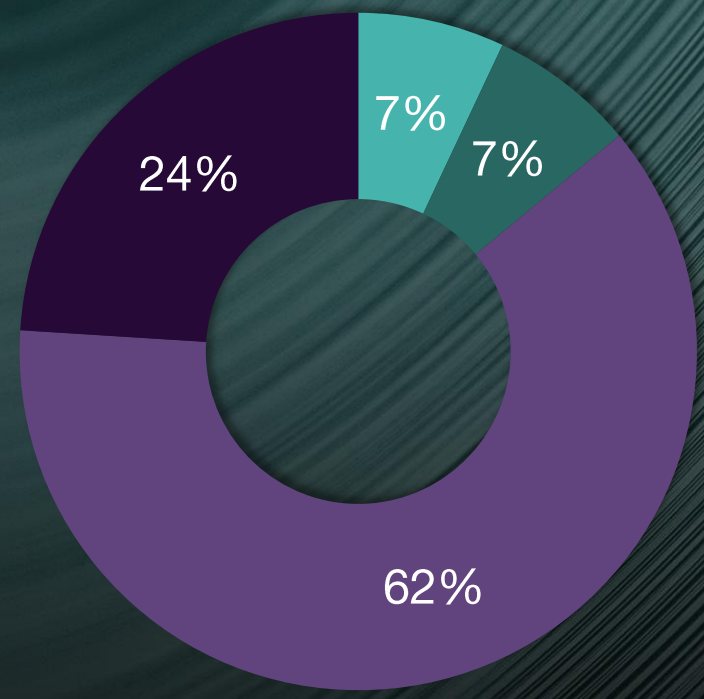
Is there enough obsolete scrap out there to meet demand?



Export ban

Should the US implement a scrap export ban?

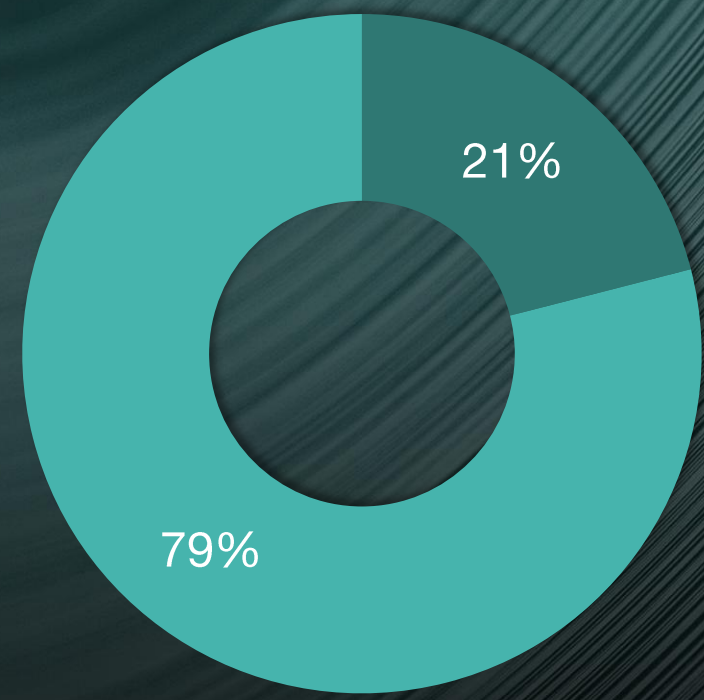
- Yes, a total ban is needed
- Yes, but only partial restrictions
- No, exports should remain unrestricted
- No opinion/not sure



Future market supply balance

Three months from now, how do you see the balance of the market?

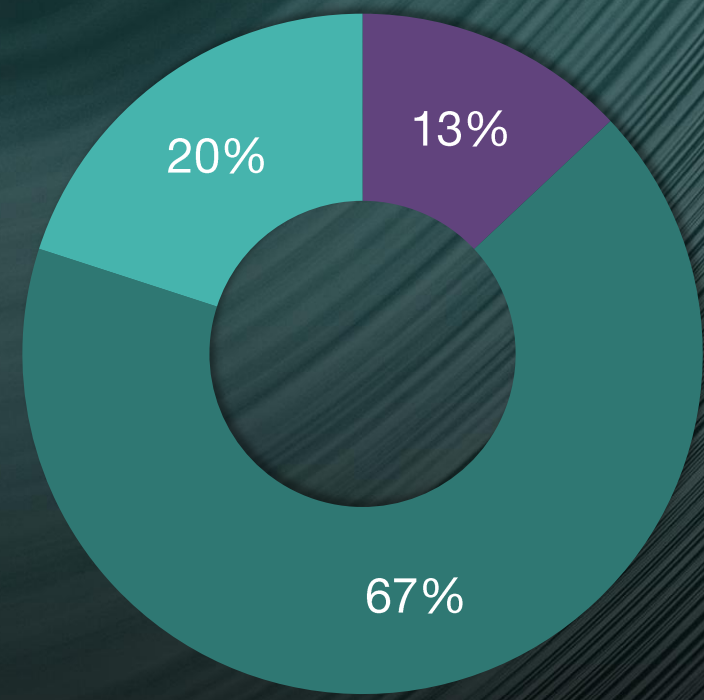
■ Oversupplied ■ Balanced ■ Undersupplied



Inventory

How are you managing your aluminum inventory right now?

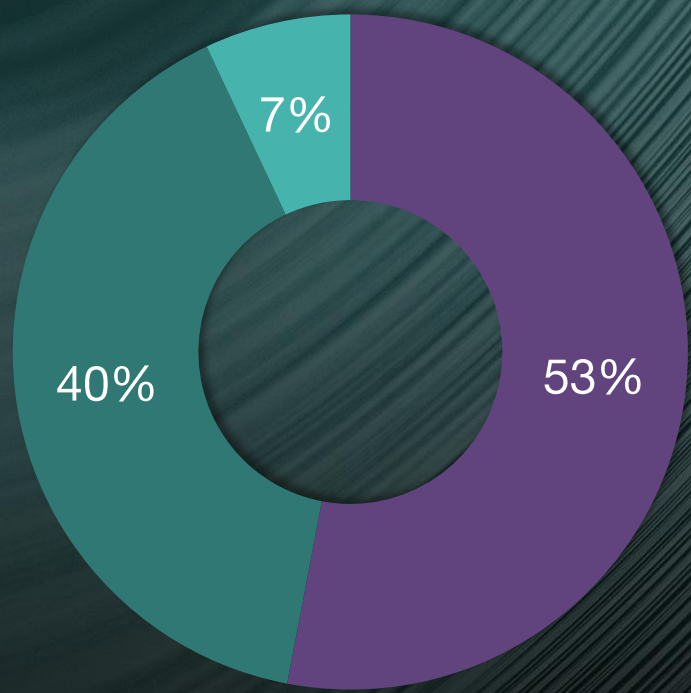
■ Building ■ Keeping steady ■ Drawing down



Lead times

How would you describe aluminum lead times right now?

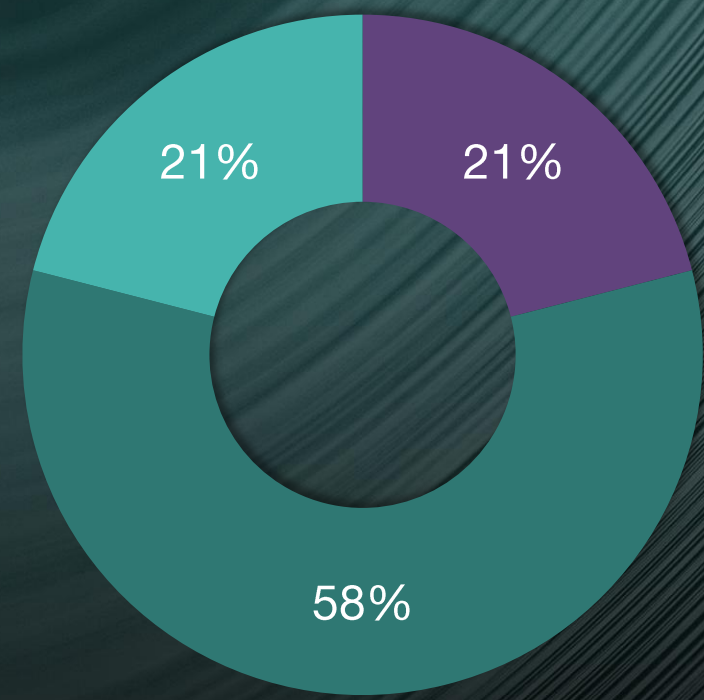
■ Extending ■ Stable ■ Shrinking



Near-term direction of Midwest Premium

Where do you see the Midwest Premium trending next month?

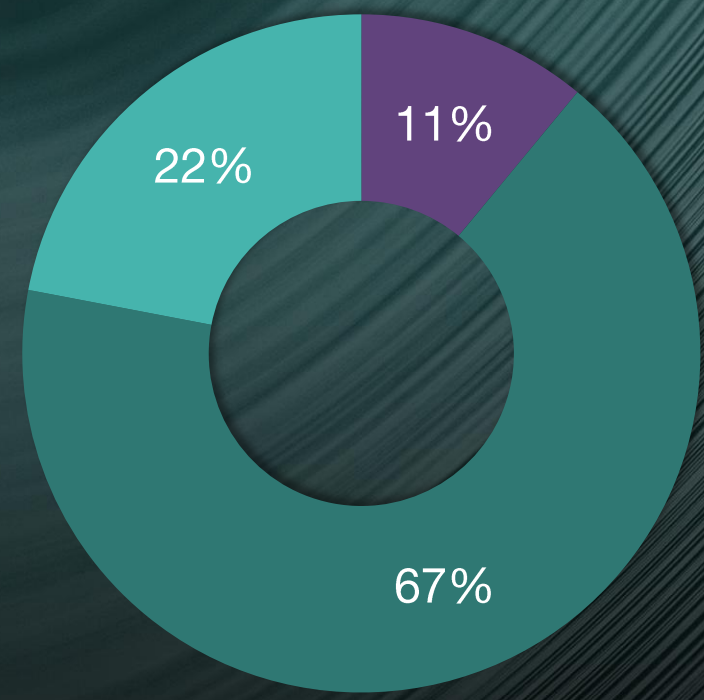
Higher Flat Lower



Near-term direction of UBC prices

Where do you see the UBC prices trending next month?

Higher Stable Lower

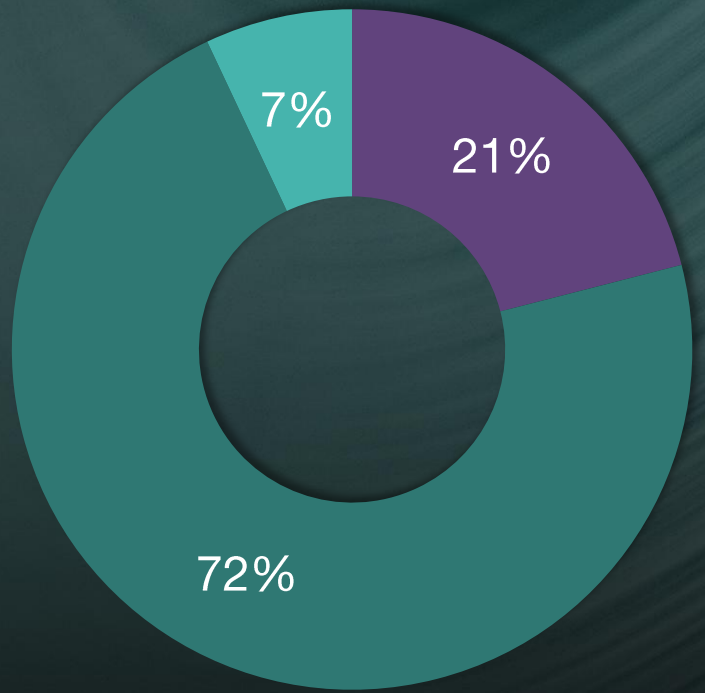


Logistics trends

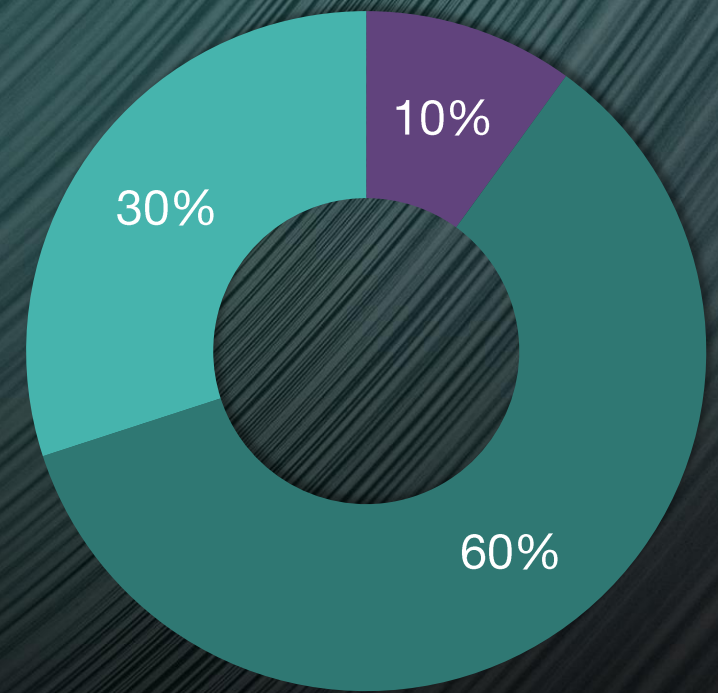
How do you see overall logistics costs?

Improving Stable Declining

Freight

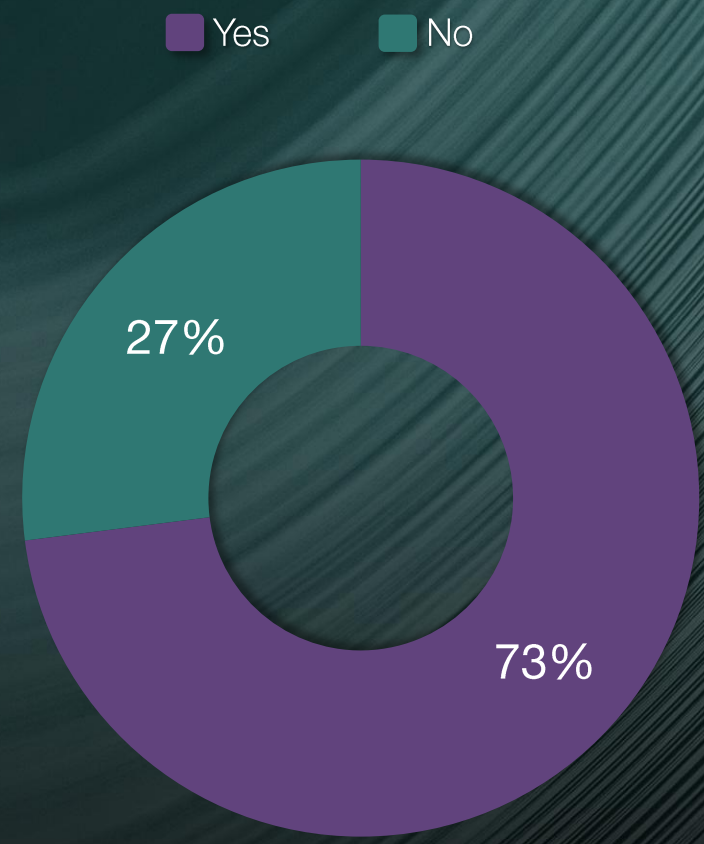


Container



Price pushback

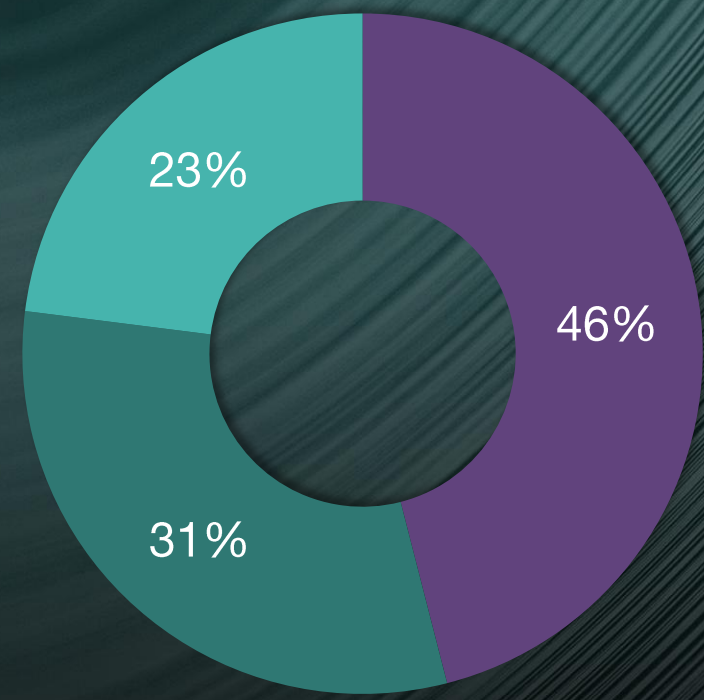
Are OEMs pushing back on higher prices (e.g. canceling orders or seeking substitutes)?



Tariff impact

How are Section 232 aluminum tariffs being passed through in your market?

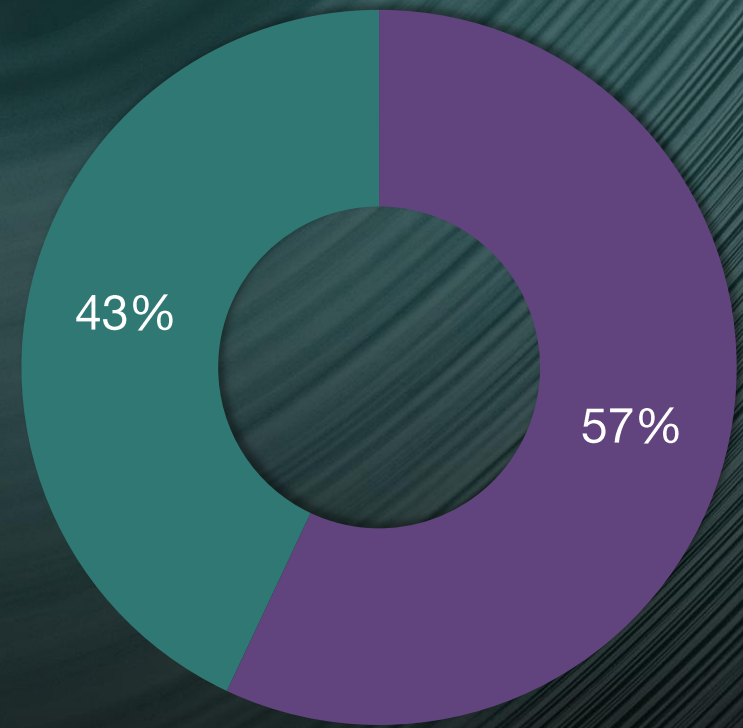
- Fully passed through (100%)
- Partially passed through (around 75%)
- Limited pass-through (50% or less)



Import competitiveness

Are imported semis or primary products becoming more competitive?

More competitive No change Less competitive



QUERIES?

let us know

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here, please get in touch with us at nicholas.bell@crugroup.com.

We always appreciate referrals. Tell your friends, suppliers, and customers to sign up for a free trial. Contact luis.corona@crugroup.com

When you need answers... Aluminum Market Update

Look for our next survey on Mar. 16, 2026

If you would like to participate in our survey, please contact nicholas.bell@crugroup.com