



**Aluminum Market** Update   
Industry Trends Survey

*Survey results:*

**Market sentiment and trends analysis**

May 15, 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](mailto:nicholas.bell@crugroup.com) to become a data provider.

**DON'T JUST  
READ**  
*our data*

**See your company's  
experience reflected in it.**

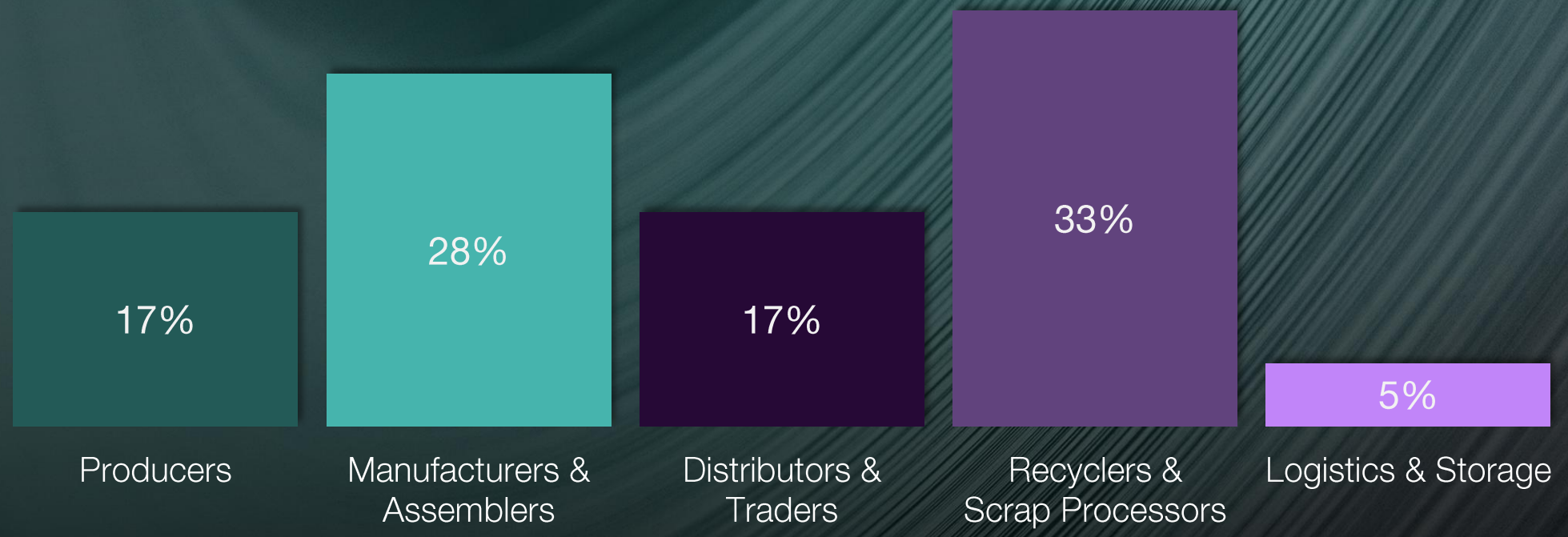
Contact [nicholas.bell@crugroup.com](mailto:nicholas.bell@crugroup.com) for participation information.

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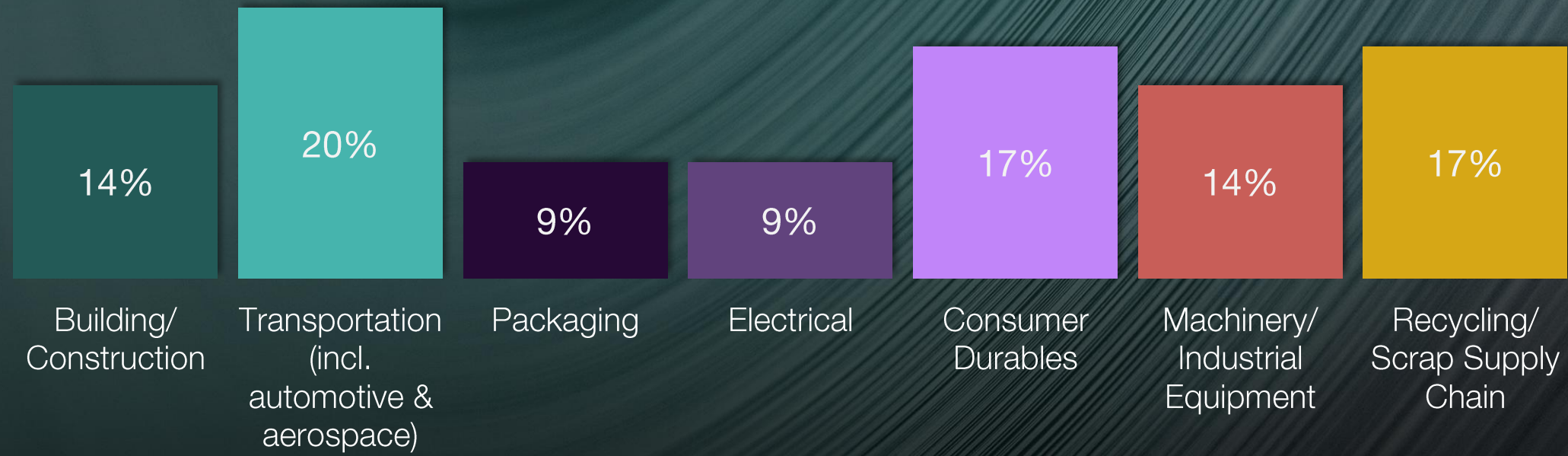
# Survey participants

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



# Survey participants

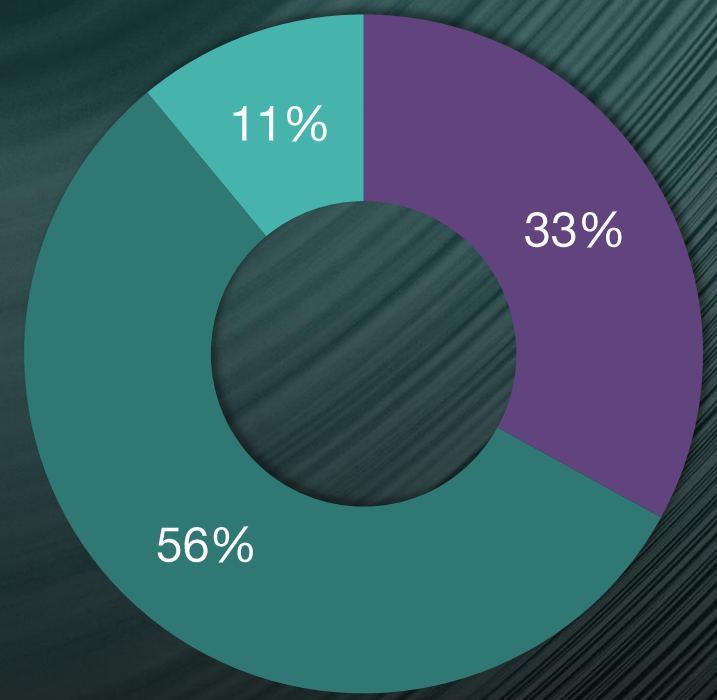
Which end market(s) best represents the majority of your company's aluminum sales or production output? Select up to two.



# Business forecasts

How will your company perform this month vs. forecast?

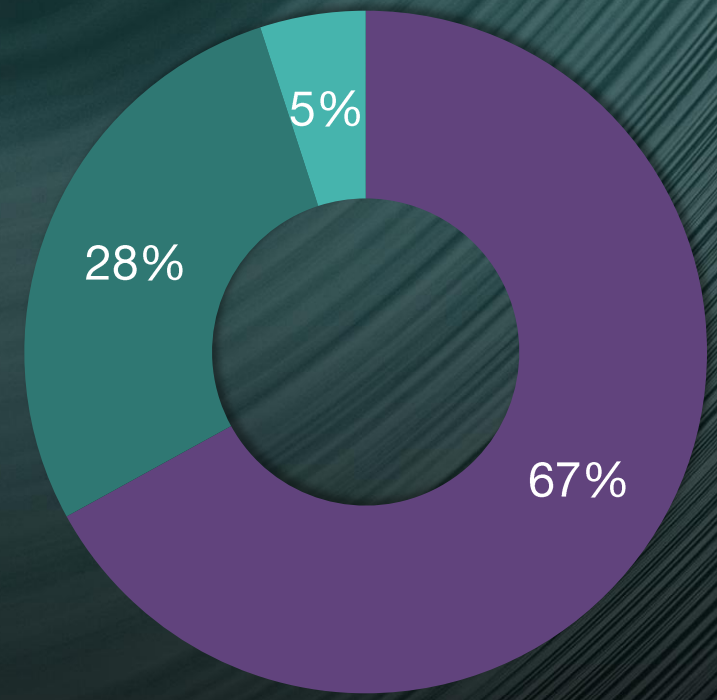
Beat forecast   Meet forecast   Miss forecast



# Overall demand

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

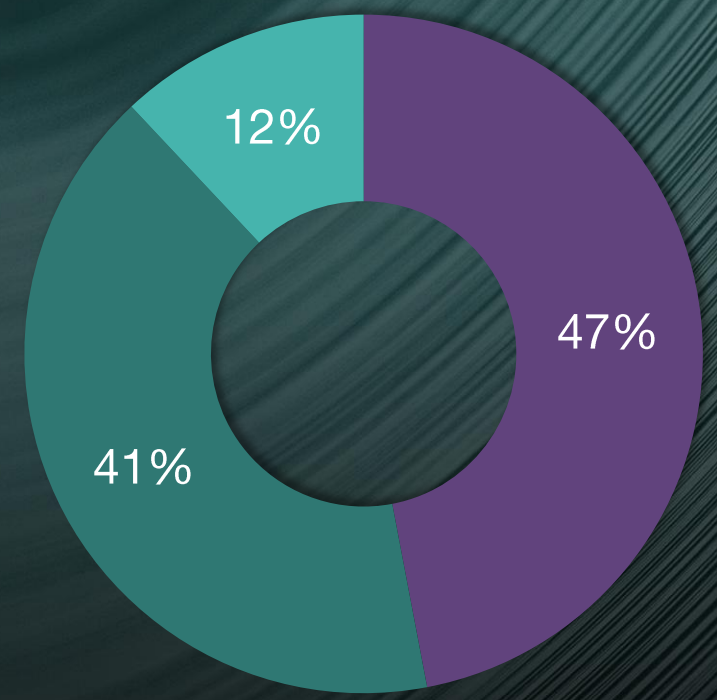
Improving Stable Declining



# Domestic demand

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

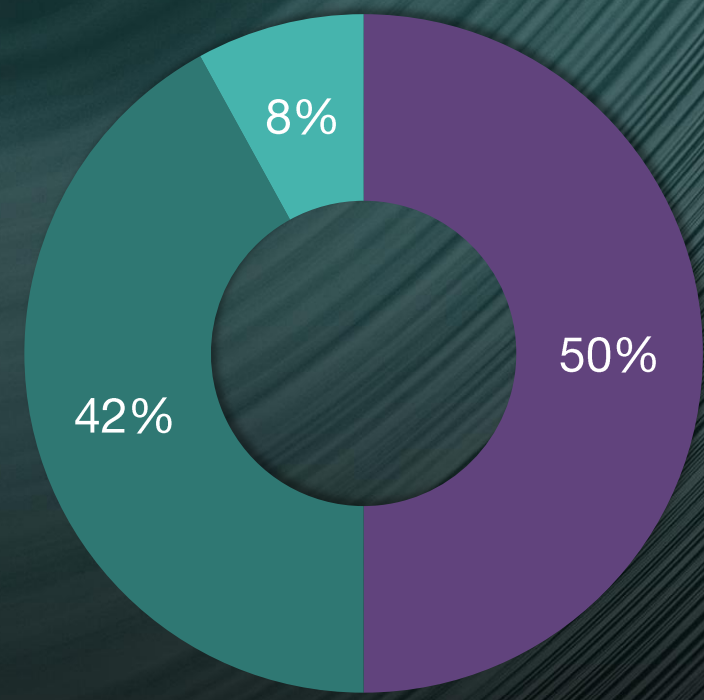
Improving Stable Declining



# Export demand

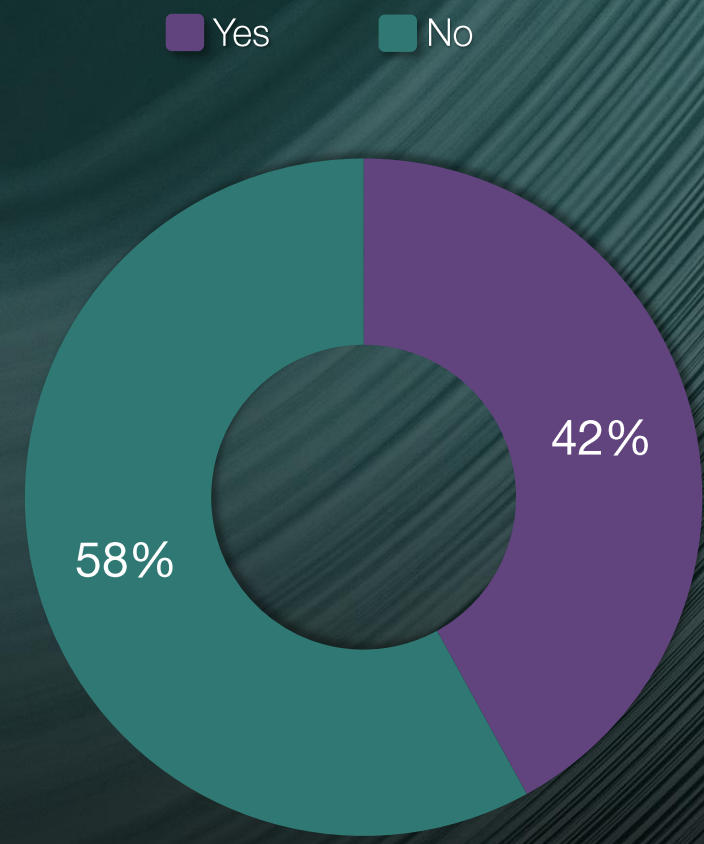
How is demand shaping up in export markets relevant to your business?

Improving Stable Declining



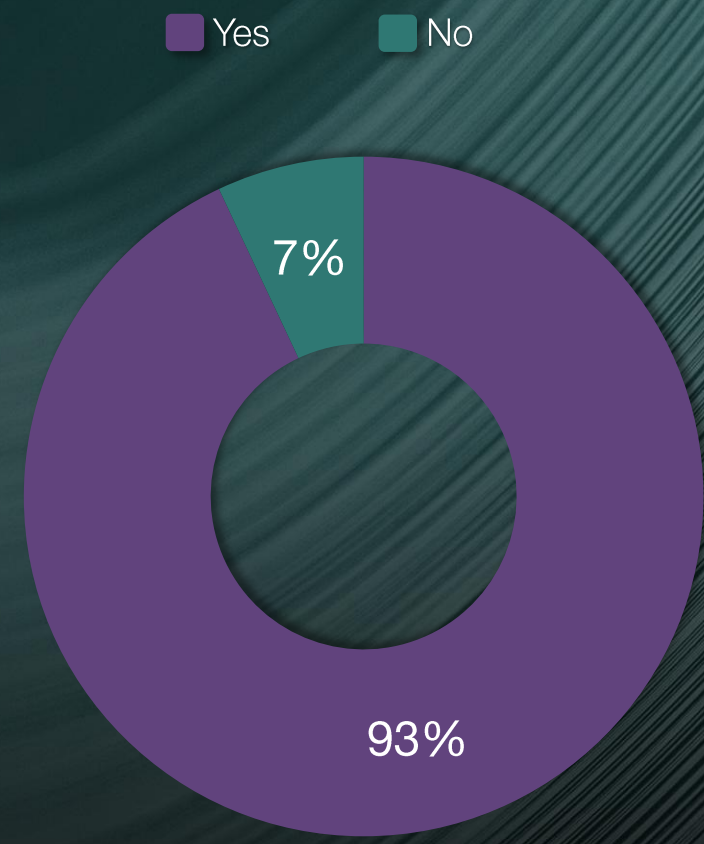
# Aluminum supply vs. demand

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



# Obsolete scrap demand

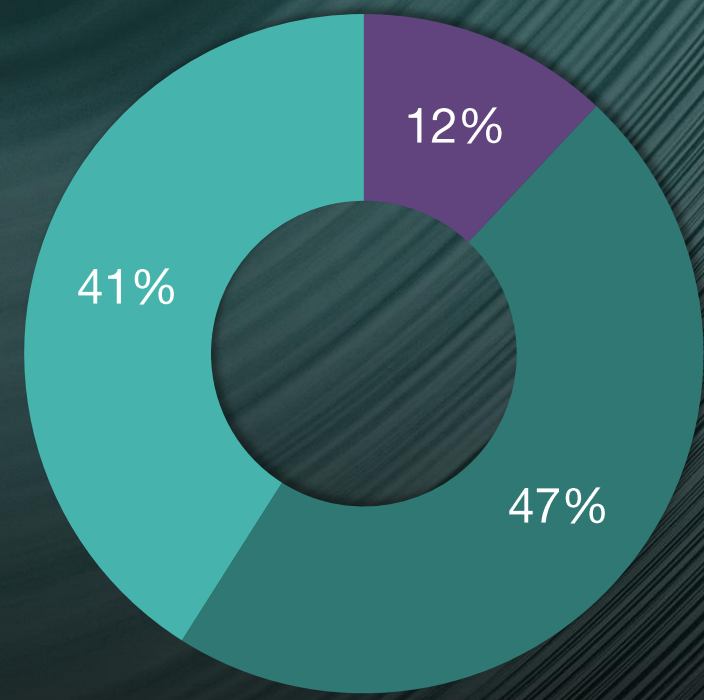
Is there enough obsolete scrap out there to meet demand?



# Future market supply balance

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

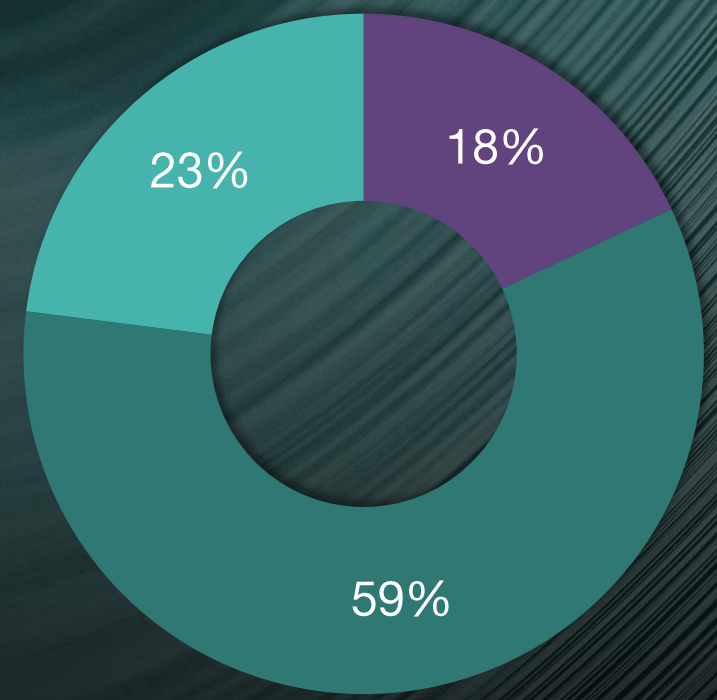
■ Oversupplied   ■ Balanced   ■ Undersupplied



# Inventory

How are you managing your aluminum inventory right now?

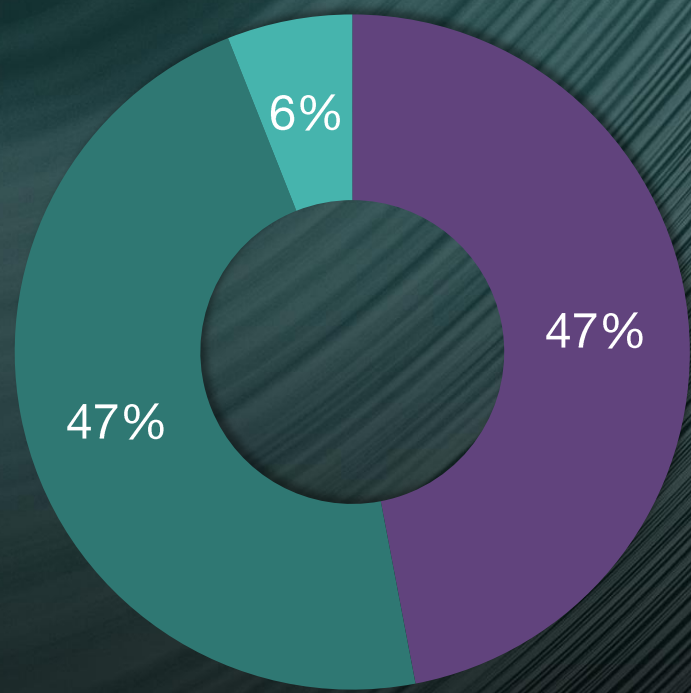
Building      Keeping steady      Drawing down



# Lead times

How would you describe aluminum lead times right now?

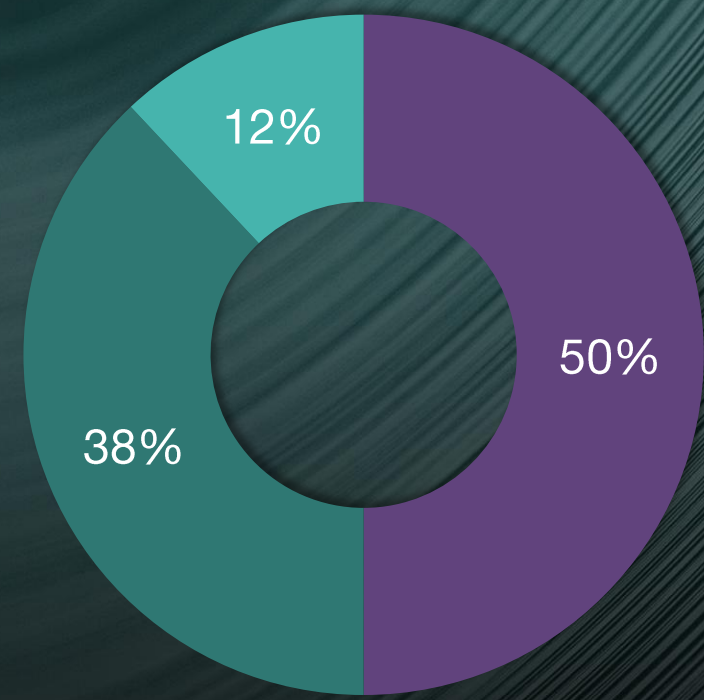
Extending   Stable   Shrinking



# Near-term direction of Midwest Premium

Where do you see the Midwest Premium trending next month?

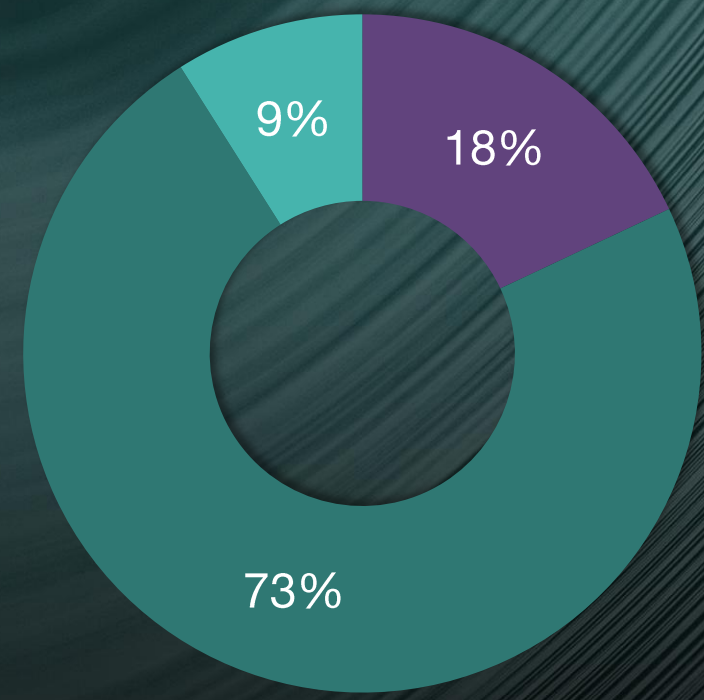
Higher Flat Lower



# Near-term direction of UBC prices

Where do you see the UBC prices trending next month?

Higher Stable Lower



# Logistics trends

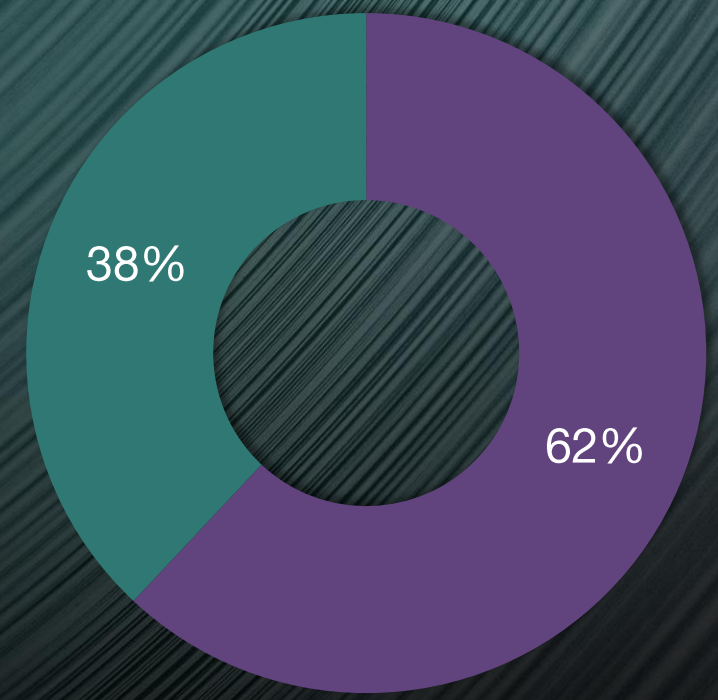
How do you see overall logistics costs?

Increasing Stable Declining

*Freight*

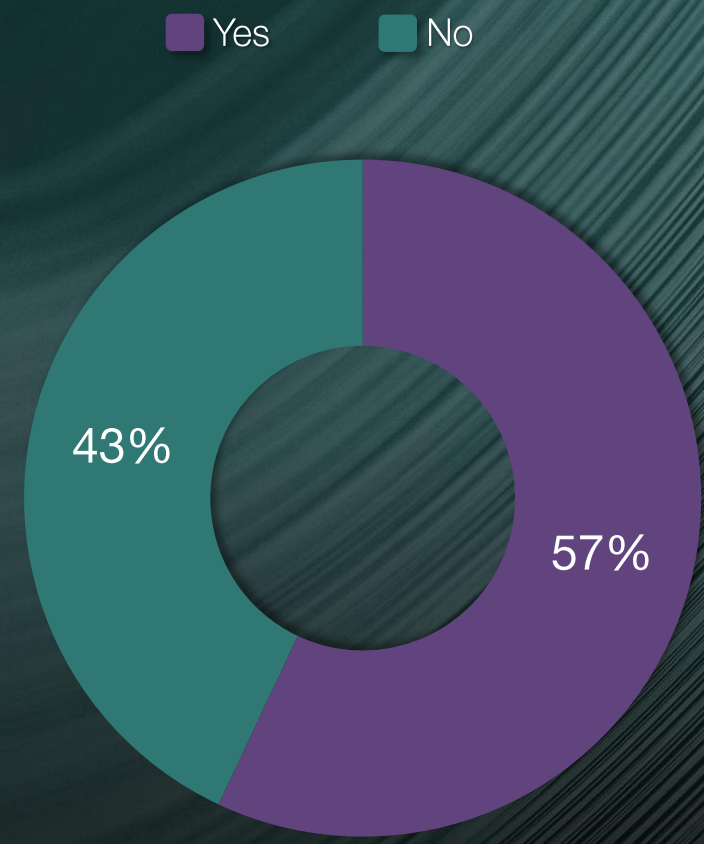


*Container*



# Price pushback

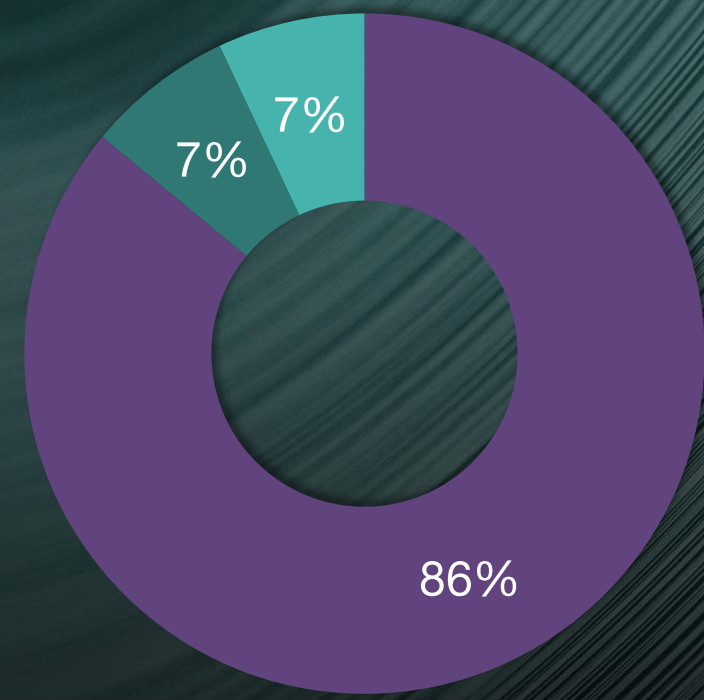
Are OEMs pushing back on higher prices (e.g. canceling orders or seeking substitutes)?



# Tariff impact

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

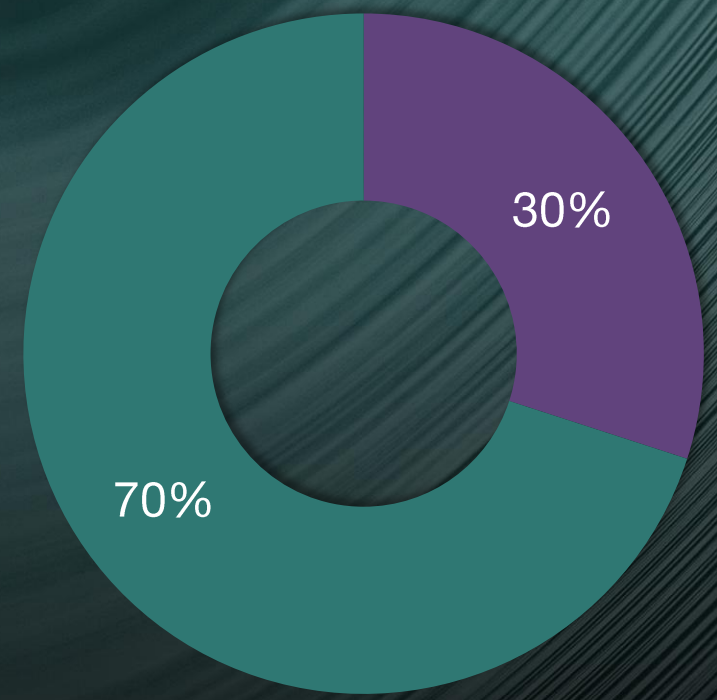
- Fully passed through (100%)
- Partially passed through (around 75%)
- Limited pass-through (50% or less)



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:luis.corona@crugroup.com)

# When you need answers... Aluminum Market Update

Look for our next survey on June 15, 2026

If you would like to participate in our survey, please contact [nicholas.bell@crugroup.com](mailto:nicholas.bell@crugroup.com)