

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several aluminum extrusion profiles. These profiles are arranged in a row, showing their complex, multi-faceted shapes. The lighting is soft, highlighting the metallic texture and the various angles of the extrusions. The overall color palette is a mix of metallic grays and muted blues, which is partially covered by a semi-transparent teal overlay.

Aluminum Market Update

Industry Trends Survey

Survey results:

Market sentiment and trends analysis

Sept. 18, 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.

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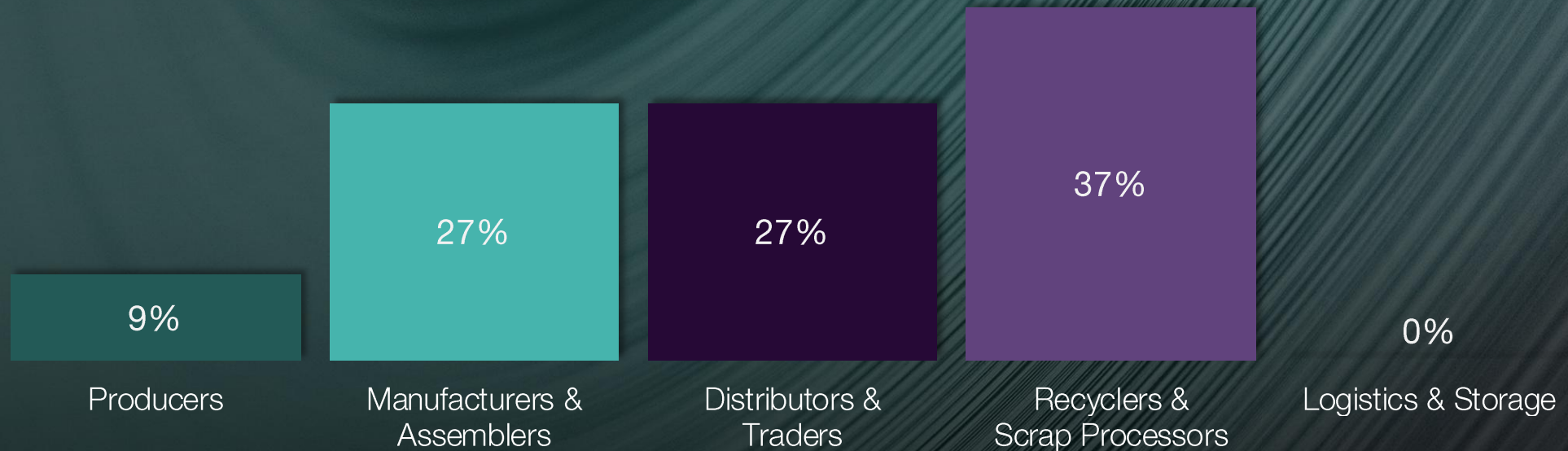
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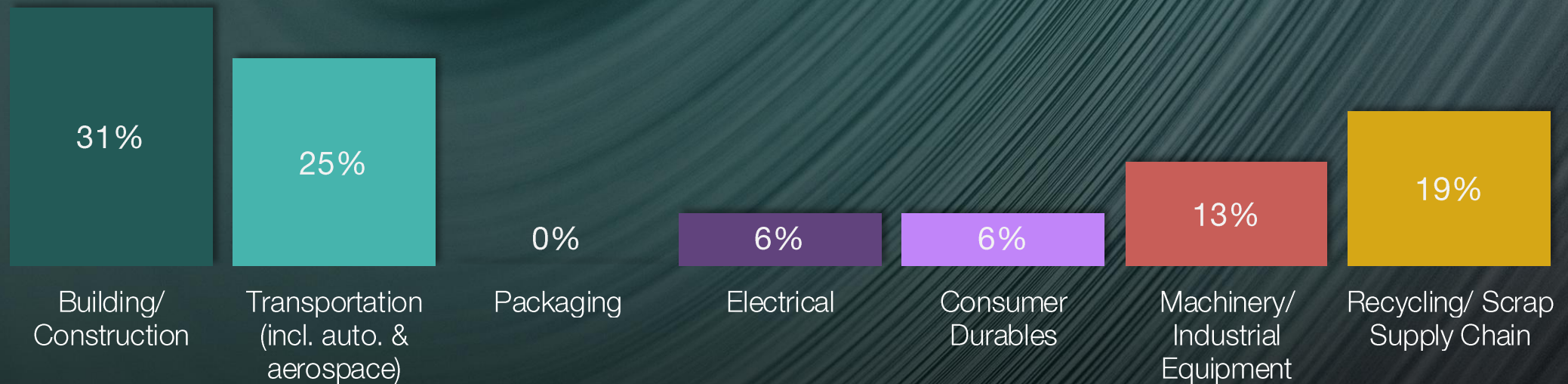
Survey participants

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



End markets served

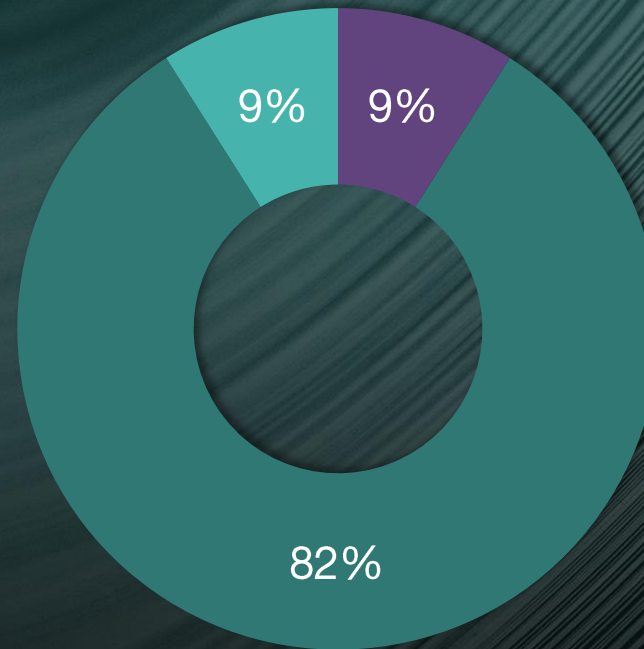
Which end market(s) best represents the majority of your company's aluminum sales or production output?



Business forecasts

How will your company perform this month vs. forecast?

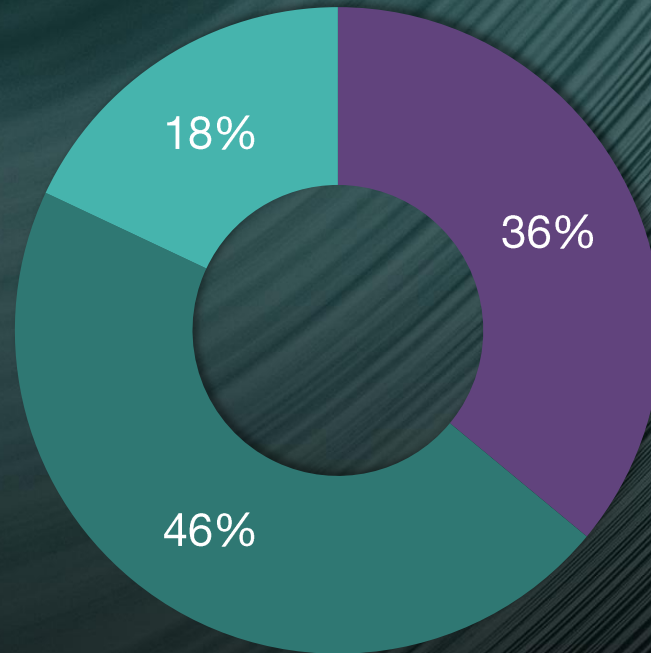
Beat forecast Meet forecast Miss forecast



Overall demand

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

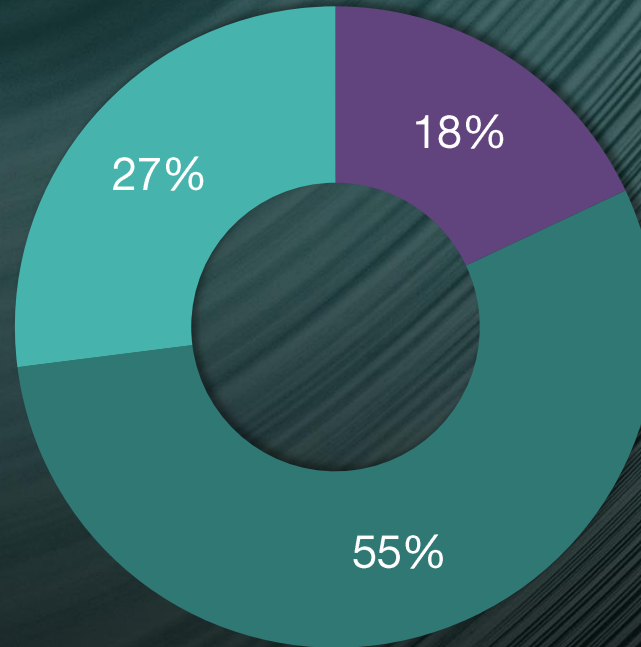
Improving Stable Declining



Domestic demand

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

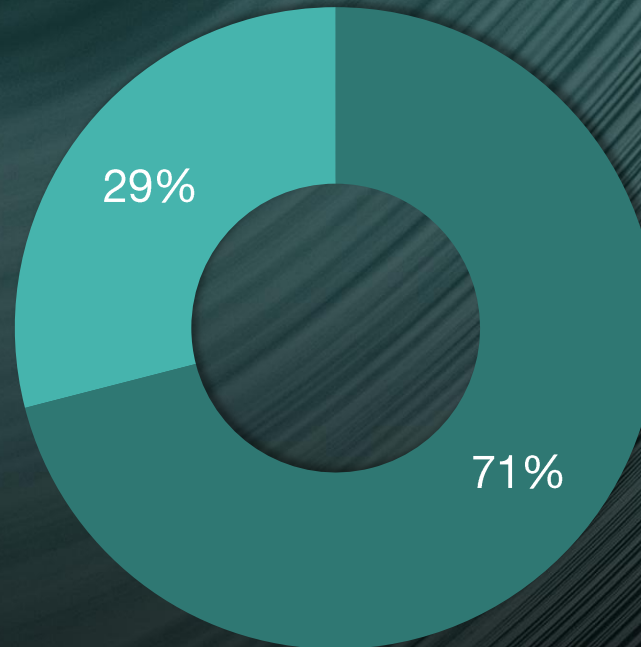
Improving Stable Declining



Export demand

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

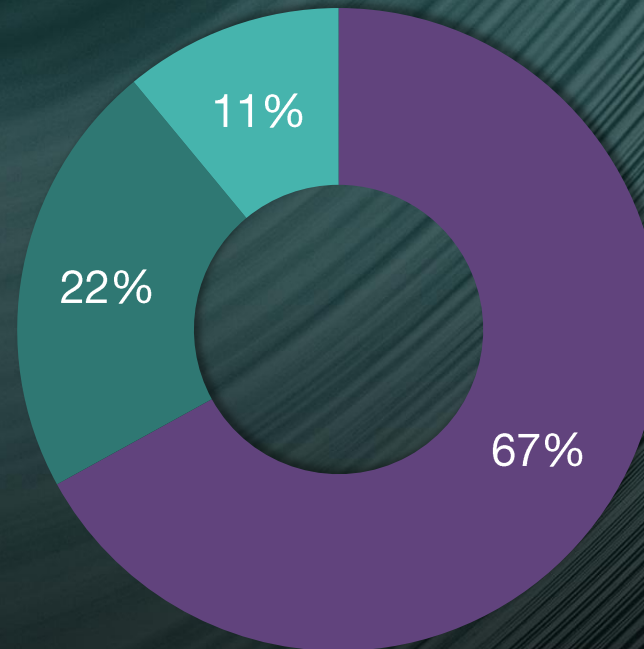
Improving Stable Declining



War impact

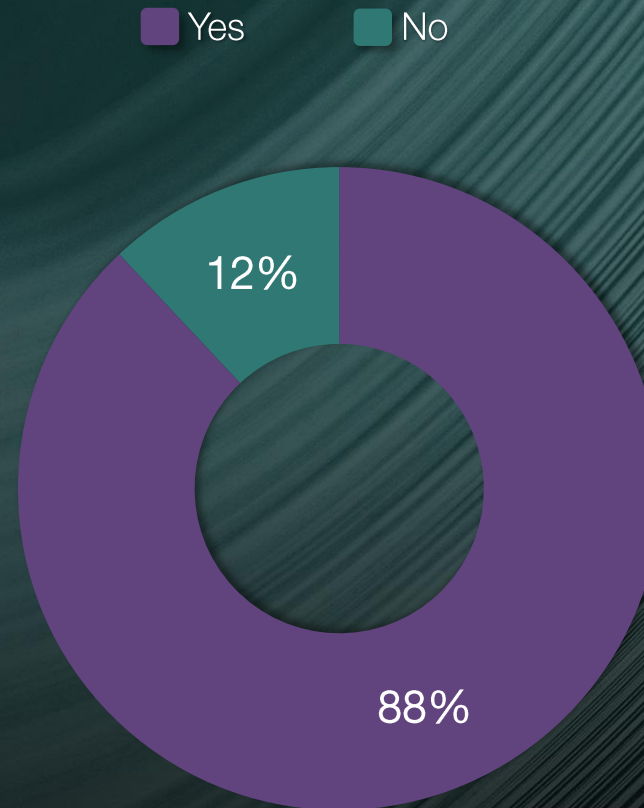
Is the Iran war having an impact on your business? Why or why not?

■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know



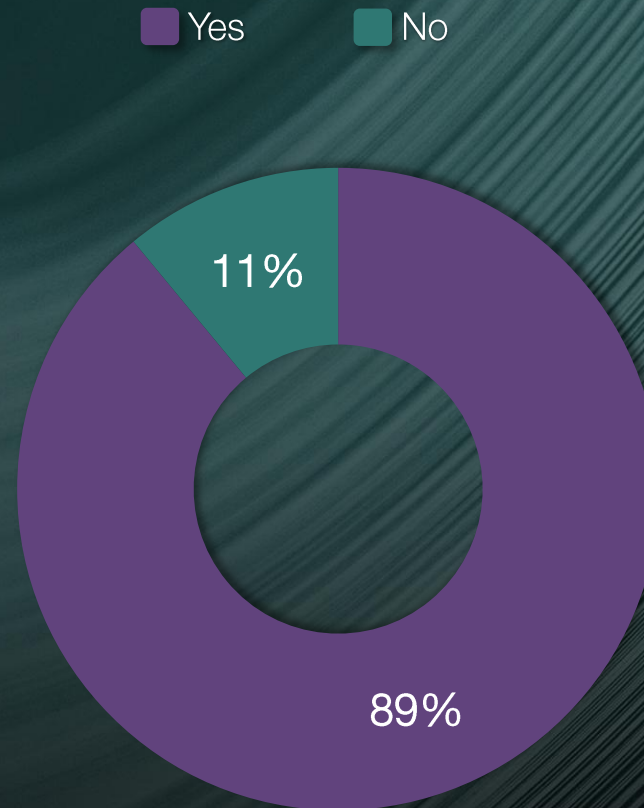
Aluminum supply vs. demand

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



Obsolete scrap demand

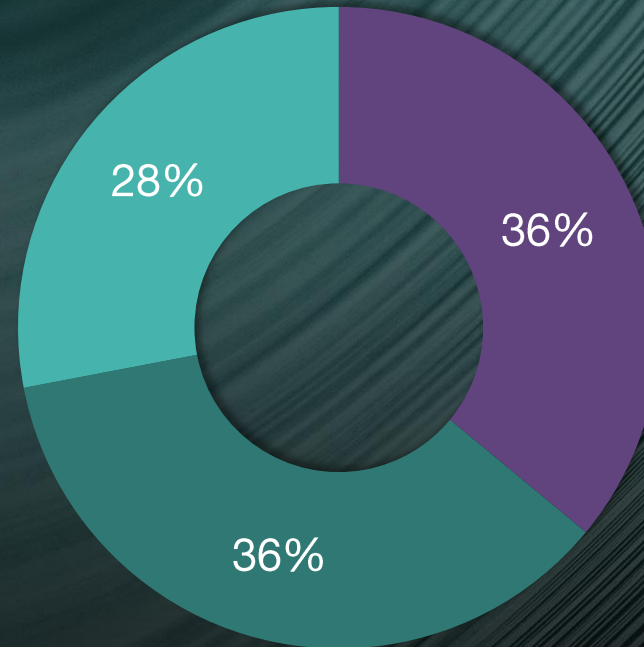
Is there enough obsolete scrap out there to meet demand?



Future market supply balance

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

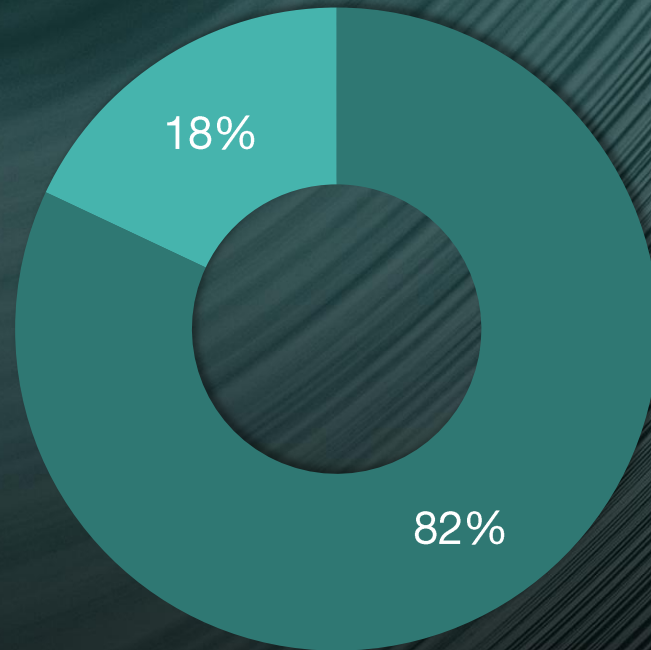
■ Oversupplied ■ Balanced ■ Undersupplied



Inventory

How are you managing your aluminum inventory right now?

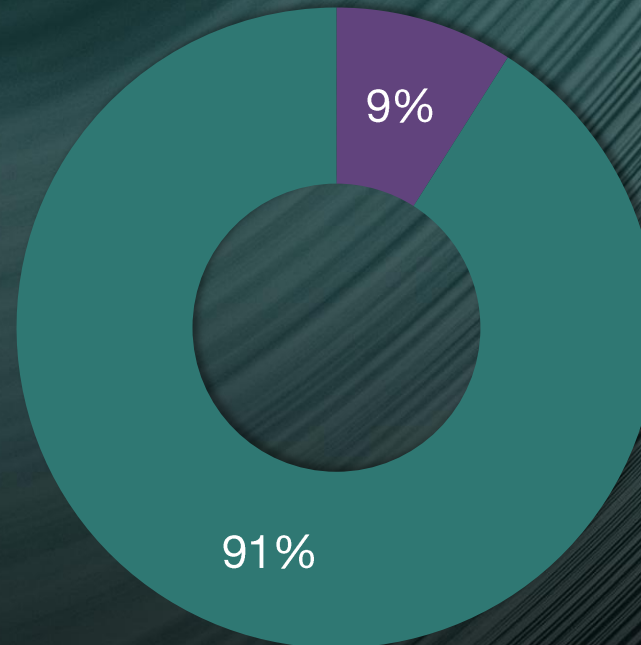
■ Building ■ Keeping steady ■ Drawing down



Lead times

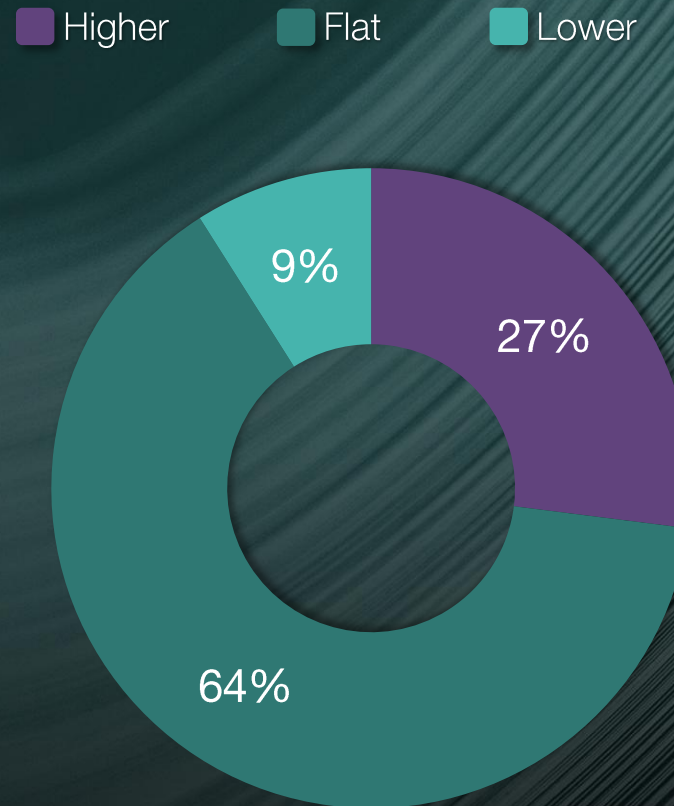
How would you describe aluminum lead times right now?

Extending Stable Shrinking



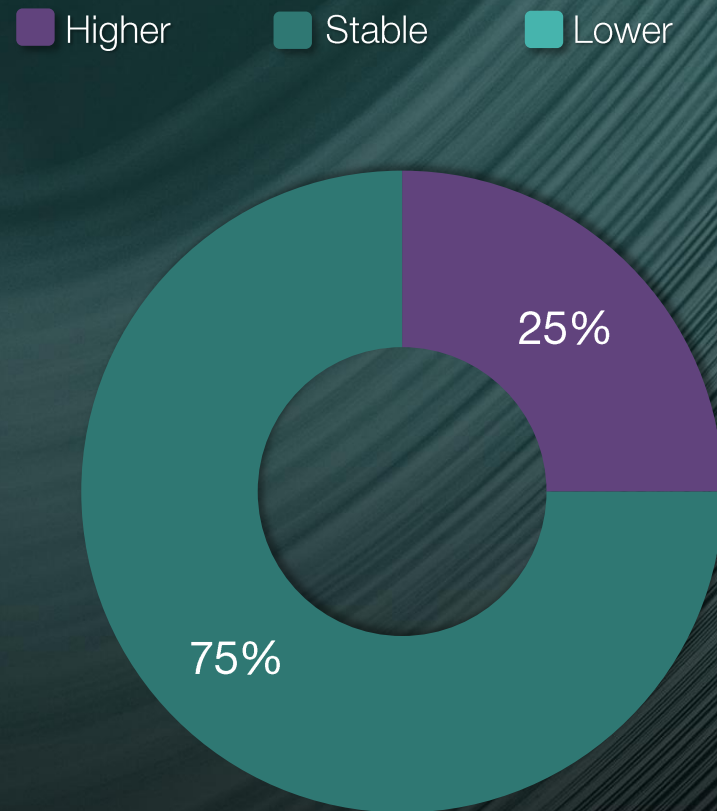
Near-term direction of Midwest Premium

Where do you see the Midwest Premium trending next month?



Near-term direction of UBC prices

Where do you see the UBC prices trending next month?

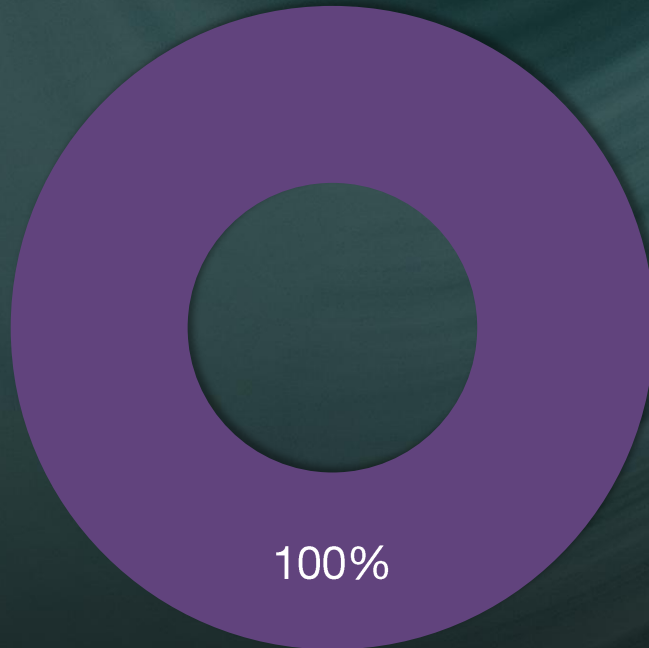


Logistics trends

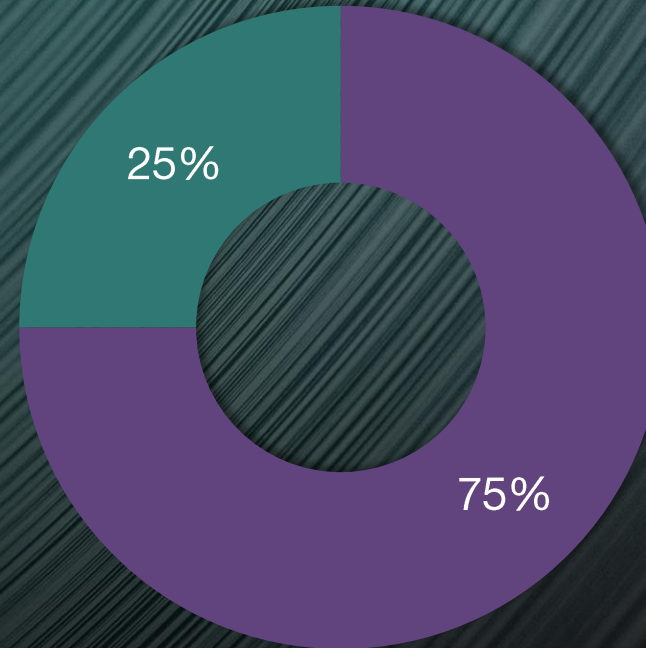
How do you see overall logistics costs?

Increasing Stable Declining

Freight

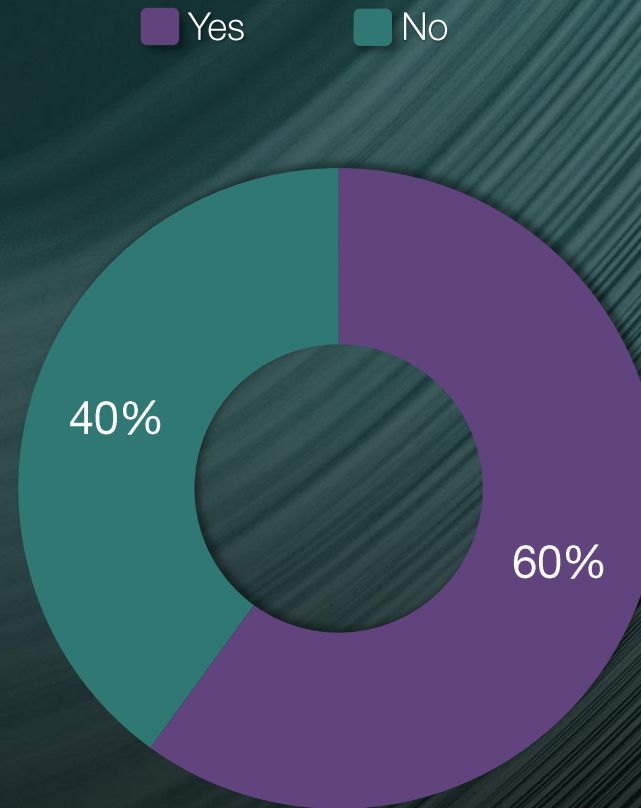


Container



Price pushback

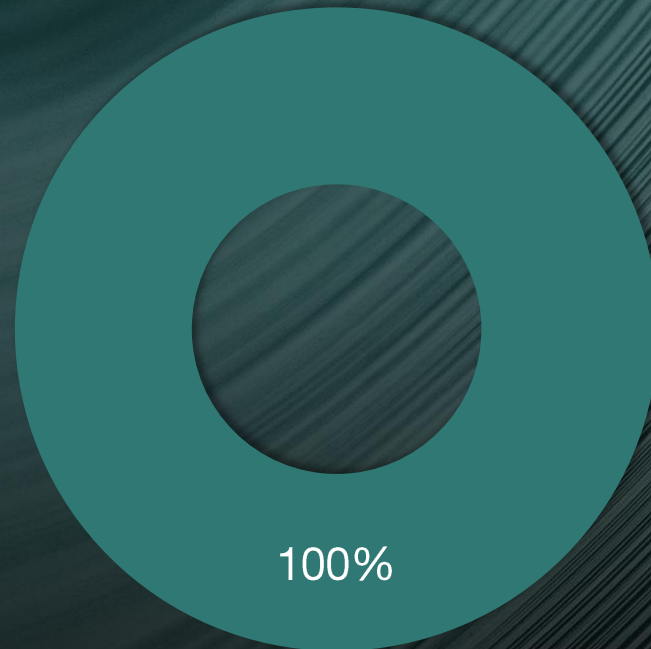
Are OEMs pushing back on higher prices (e.g. canceling orders or seeking substitutes)?



Import competitiveness

Are imported semis or primary products becoming more competitive?

More competitive No change Less competitive



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 Oct. 12, 2026

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