

# MATERIALS MARKET UPDATE

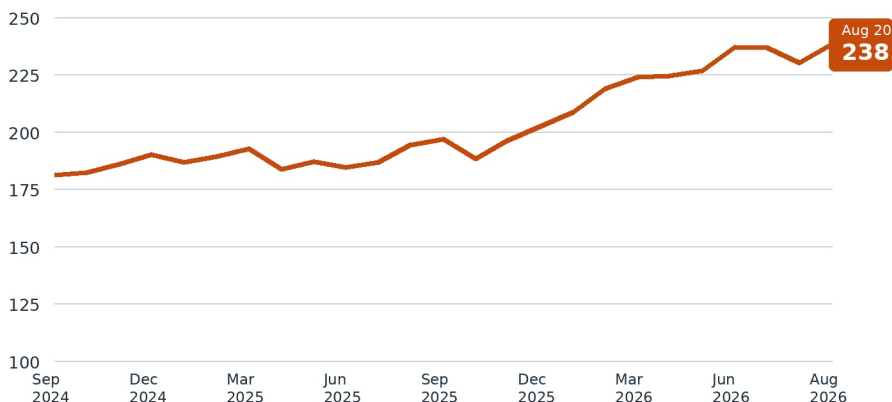
OCTOBER 6, 2026  
COPPER | PVC PIPE | COLD-ROLLED STEEL

MARKET TRENDS / INDUSTRY NEWS / SUPPLY CHAIN / DEMAND / WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

## COPPER

FRED: Producer Price Index – Copper & Copper Products

2 YEAR TREND (SEP 2024 - AUG 2026)



CURRENT  
DIRECTION

**RISING**

30-90 DAY VIEW

**ELEVATED  
(UPSIDE RISK)**

PURCHASING CALL

**PROTECT BUY  
ON PULLBACKS**

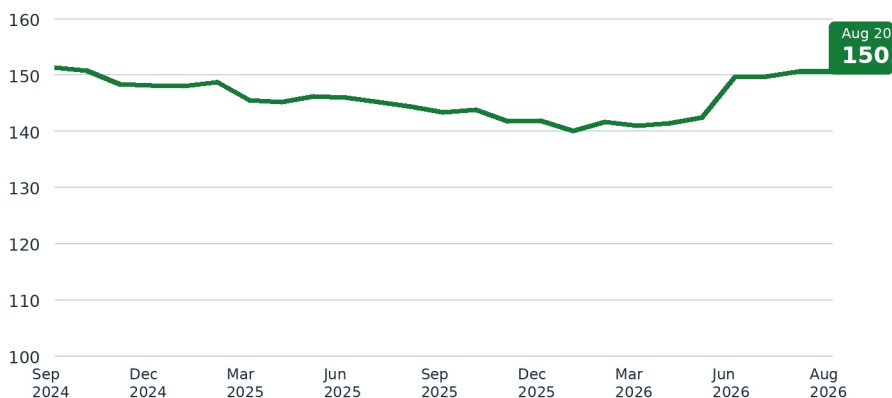
- China is seeking copper-concentrate supply commitments in its review of the Anglo-Teck merger.
- Chinese smelters face their worst feedstock shortage in decades as competition for raw material intensifies.
- Tariff uncertainty, stockpiling and strong grid and data-center demand keep volatility elevated.

**WHAT IT MEANS** Keep copper tube and fitting quotes short. Cover awarded work and real needs; buy meaningful pullbacks.

## PVC PIPE

FRED: Producer Price Index – Plastics Pipe & Pipe Fittings

2 YEAR TREND (SEP 2024 - AUG 2026)



CURRENT  
DIRECTION

**STABLE**

30-90 DAY VIEW

**FLAT TO  
MODESTLY FIRM**

PURCHASING CALL

**NEGOTIATE  
BUY NORMAL**

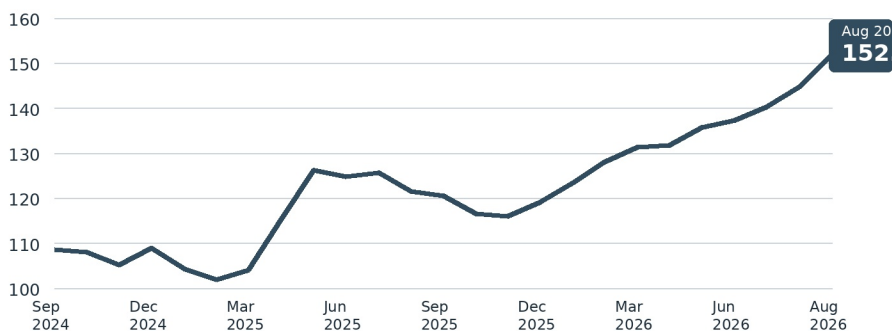
- August pipe-and-fitting PPI remained essentially flat, preserving buyer leverage.
- U.S. construction spending rose 0.9% in August; residential and private nonresidential both gained 1.1%.
- Q3 North American pipe-grade PVC resin averaged about 2.9% above Q2, adding modest cost pressure.

**WHAT IT MEANS** Negotiate job pricing, freight and rebates. Buy normal needs; avoid excessive speculative inventory.

## COLD-ROLLED STEEL

FRED: Producer Price Index – Cold-Rolled Steel Sheet & Strip

2 YEAR TREND (SEP 2024 - AUG 2026)



CURRENT  
DIRECTION

**RISING**

30-90 DAY VIEW

**FIRM TO  
HIGHER**

PURCHASING CALL

**COVER  
COMMITTED  
WORK**

- August cold-rolled PPI rose 5.1% and remains roughly 26% above a year ago.
- Nucor raised sheet pricing another \$10/ton; U.S. flat-rolled spot supply remains limited.
- Cold-rolled lead times remain near nine weeks, supporting a firm Q4 outlook.

**WHAT IT MEANS** Cover awarded needs for strut, hangers, clamps and supports. Avoid heavy speculative buying.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### COPPER

Largest quote risk. Feedstock shortages and tariff uncertainty support short quotes.

#### PVC PIPE

Best negotiating opportunity. Buy normal while monitoring resin and construction demand.

#### STEEL

Firm and moving higher. Cover committed work and manage inventory carefully.