



The Scrap Reporter

Up, down, sideways??

Pricing for scrap metals has been gyrating over the past quarter. Starting from January 1, 2009, copper is up over 20%, aluminum is down approximately 10%, and, generally, steel is down almost 25%. This is a result of several factors all involving global production, inventory levels, and also in part to China and the buying spree they have been on to shore up their 'strategic reserves'. Copper has seen an increase in pricing due to falling stocks on the LME (London Metal Exchange). Increased cancelled warrants from buyers signaled withdraws over the past month and thereby increased prices.

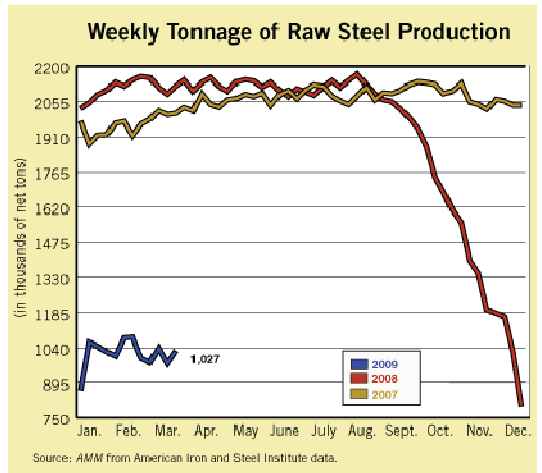
On the other side of the equation, we have seen an increase in inventory stocks into LME warehouses. These were from mills who were looking to increase their cash positions and find homes for their materials. Aluminum stocks in LME warehouses now total over 3.4 million Metric tonnes, over 3 times as much as the beginning of 2008.

Steel is the wild card when it comes to price levels since they do not follow a market nor an index. Pricing for steel is solely based on demand levels of steel mills, i.e. how much they are willing to pay for metal depending upon how much they are looking to produce. This is based on market conditions. Right now the mills are not looking to make much material due to the economic climate in which we are entrenched. In fact US Domestic Steel capacity is below 50%, and as seen from the graph, one can see the dramatic difference in steel production.

Although this graph points to a dismal level of production, it also points to the amazing ability of the American Steel industry to turn off the faucet. In just a little over 3 months, over 1 million tonnes per week were

taken out of production and off the market. This adjustment to production is fundamentally a result of the restructuring of the steel industry which took place in the late 90's and early 00's which consolidated and integrated the industry into it's more efficient form today.

The ability to adjust production levels this quickly not



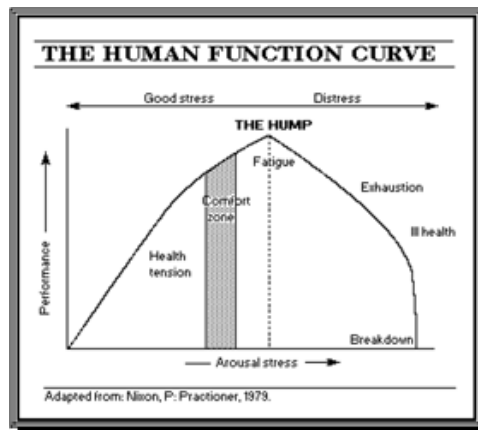
only is important as demonstrated over the past 6 months, but more importantly will be valuable to the economy as we begin our ride back up...which appears to be happening, albeit gradually. Maybe this transformation of the steel industry is a lesson which could be useful to the Automotive sector and it's current bleak situation. Bankruptcy, restructuring, and consolidation might prove just as useful to them as it was to the Steel sector...

Breathe Deep.....

Stress...we've all heard about it, felt it, dealt with it, but do we understand it? In fact if you asked 20 people to define it, you would get 20 different answers in addition to 20 different sources of it for each individual. Managing stress cannot be stressed enough, no pun intended, since the further one allows stress to go unabated, the further tired, exhausted, miserable, or sick a person can get. See the graph below from The American Stress Institute which visually shows our ability to perform as we are induced to stress levels. One can see the degradation the further one allows stress to build. The key is to take preventive measures to manage your stress level. The same method does

not work for everybody, but the same necessity is to recognize your own stress. You can learn more on The American Stress Institute's website, www.stress.org, but some standard methods for stress relief are:

- Exercise. Biking, running, or even walking for a determined amount each day.
- Meditation, prayer, or yoga.
- Herbs, teas, aromatherapy, acupuncture, or massage.
- Sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, basketball, etc.



Remember that any anti-stress method simply means feeling relaxed and refreshed from the release of our body's endorphins or "natural pain relievers". Possibly the best remedy is to remember the little things in life such as being around your kids, family, or friends and hearing the sounds of laughter!!!

If you are distressed by something external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it, and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

- Marcus Aurelius

The time to relax is when you don't have time for it.

- Author Unknown



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Chowin' down @ the Copper Kettle



Spring has sprung and with it the desire to spark up the charcoal and fire up the grill. This rib recipe is 'bone sucking' good and the meat will fall off the bone. My preferred method is to use a smoker, but you can also use a gas grill if you get some wood chips and soak them in H2O. Just throw them in a smoker box or right on top of your lava rocks. Also, put a shallow pan of H2O, wine, or beer underneath your ribs on top of the lava rocks or next to your set of charcoal. The key to doing this right is to cook 'low and slow'.....maintain 220-250 degrees F for the entire cooking time.

Westmoreland St Ribs

- 2 slabs Baby Back Ribs Fresh not Frozen (Usually one cryovac package)
- 2 Tbs Yellow Mustard
- 2 tsp Garlic Powder
- 2 tsp Onion Powder
- 2 tsp Chili Powder
- 2 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1 tsp Black Pepper
- 1/2 Cup Light Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup Apple Juice
- 1 Cup favorite BBQ sauce
- 1 - 6 pack of your favorite ice cold beer (For the chef...not the ribs)

Mix together dry rub ingredients in a bowl or plastic bag and put aside.

Rinse off Ribs and pat dry. Place on a cutting board and remove membrane on the back of ribs with a sharp peeling knife and by pulling the membrane off of the ribs. Discard membrane.

Coat both sides of the ribs with the yellow mustard and then sprinkle and press dry rub onto the ribs. Wrap in plastic wrap and place in refrigerator for minimum of 4 hours or preferably overnight.

Get your 6 pack and preferred BBQ method ready with specified water/liquid pan and wood chips. Place ribs bone side down on top grate and slow cook at target temp pf 225 F for appx. 2 hours. At this time use apple juice in a spray bottle to moisten the ribs. Wrap the ribs in foil and continue cooking between 220-250 F for another 2 hours. Remove ribs from foil and spray again with apple juice. Cook for another hour and coat again with apple juice and then sop with your favorite BBQ sauce and cook for another hour for a total cook time of appx. 6 hours.

Serve with some fresh cole slaw and any remaining beer for a delicious down home BBQ taste.

Buen Provecho !!!

