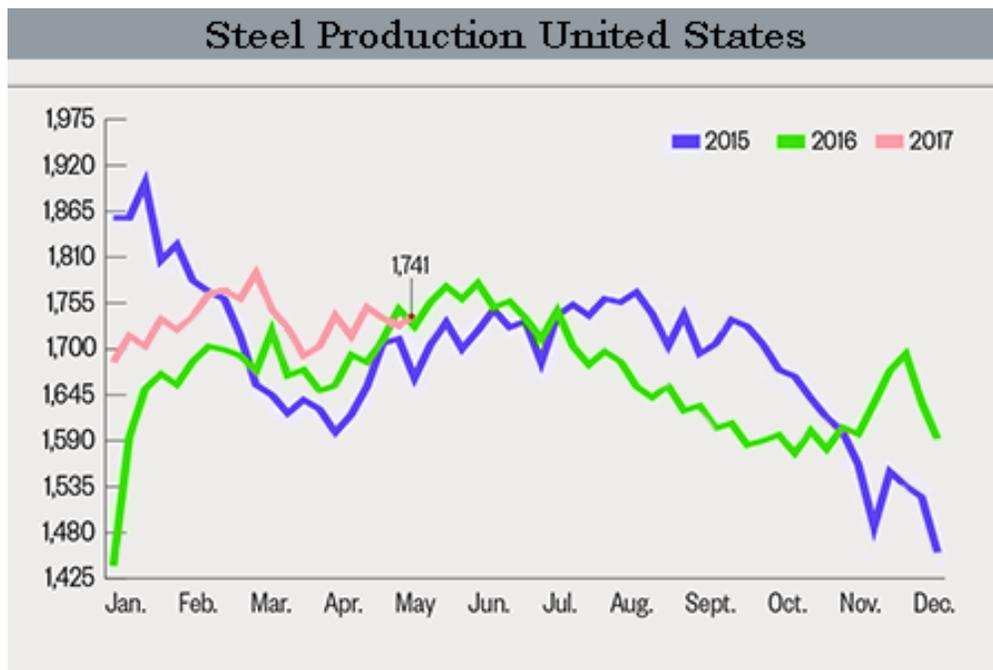
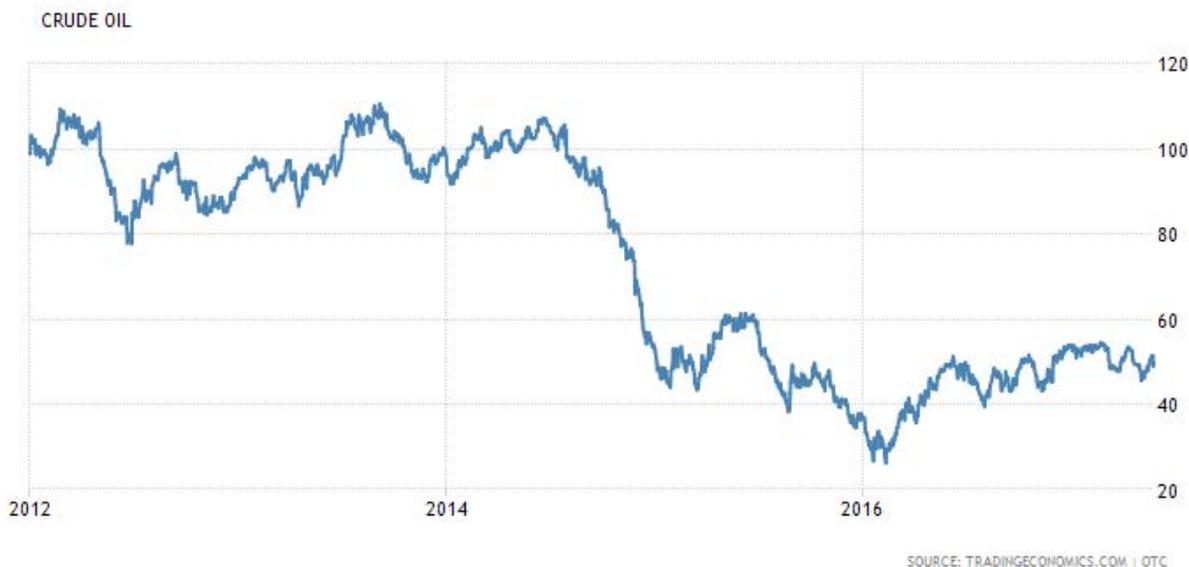


This is the Scrap Metal, Commodities, Recycling and Economic Report, by BENLEE and Raleigh and Goldsboro Recycling, May 30th, 2017.

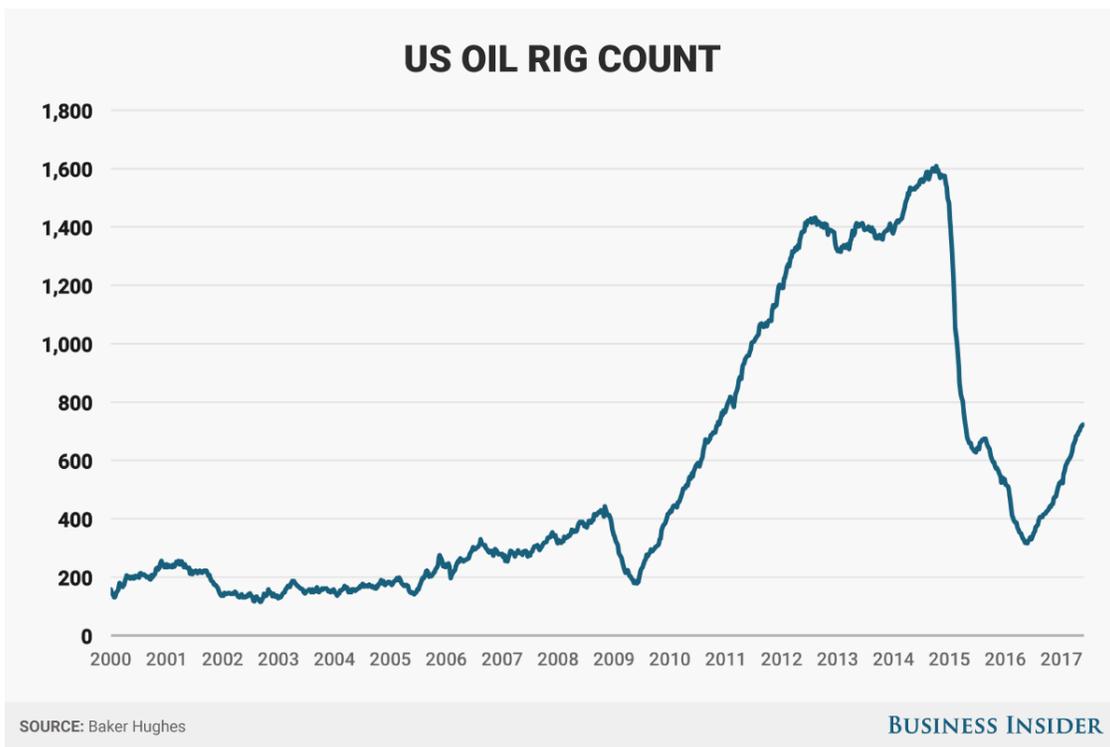
Last week commodity prices and economic reports were little changed.



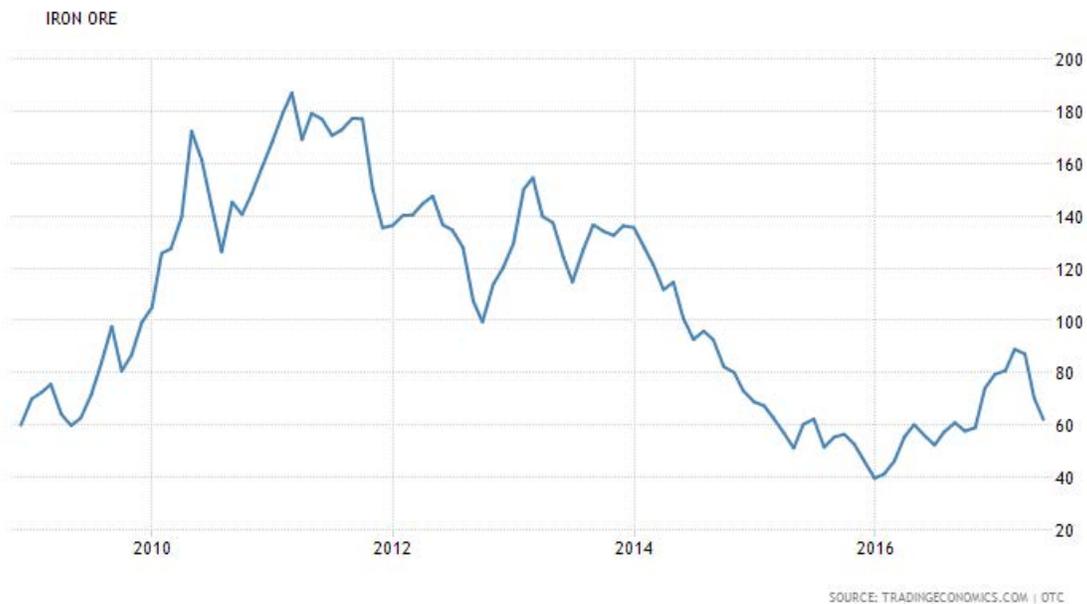
U.S steel production rose slightly and has been trending up slightly for the past two months. It also remains slightly ahead of the past two years at this point in the year.



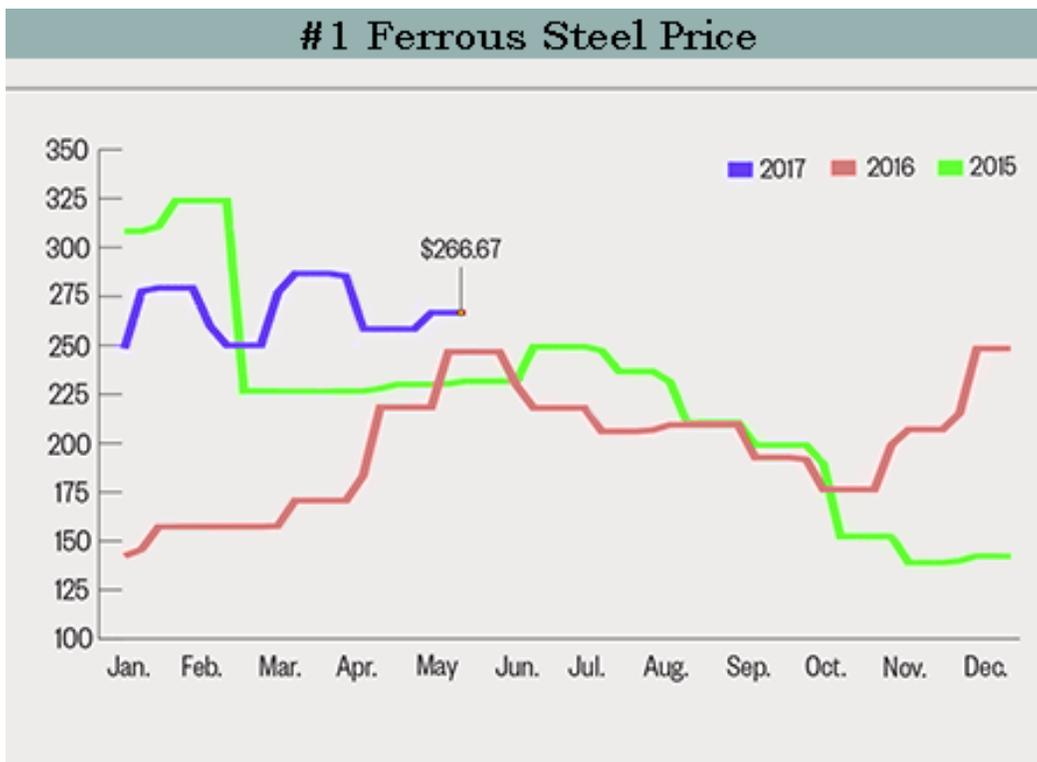
Oil rose about \$1.50/barrel, to \$52.15, showing signs of stabilization in this \$50 area, a major positive for U.S. oil production. As OPEC makes cuts, the U.S. has been increasing production. There is a report that U.S. oil production could hit a new all-time high in 2018, which will help keep global oil prices in the \$50/barrel range.



The oil rig count rose to 722, well more than double the 316 low of last year. As for upside, 722 is still down 55% from the 1609 of about three years ago.



Iron ore also fell \$1/MT to about \$60.50/MT; still about double a year ago, but off its recent high of a month ago.



Scrap Ferrous prices were steady as are volumes coming into scrap yards. While some have said there could be a downside to prices this week, there does seem to be a balance in supply and demand as slow global growth continues, so if down, it could be limited.

Hot Dipped Galvanized Coil

January 1, 2016 to May 27, 2017



Hot dipped galvanized steel remained steady yet again at \$900/MT. Automotive is a bit weak, but appliance and other markets are strong keeping prices somewhat steady.

304 Stainless Scrap

January 1, 2016 to May 27, 2017



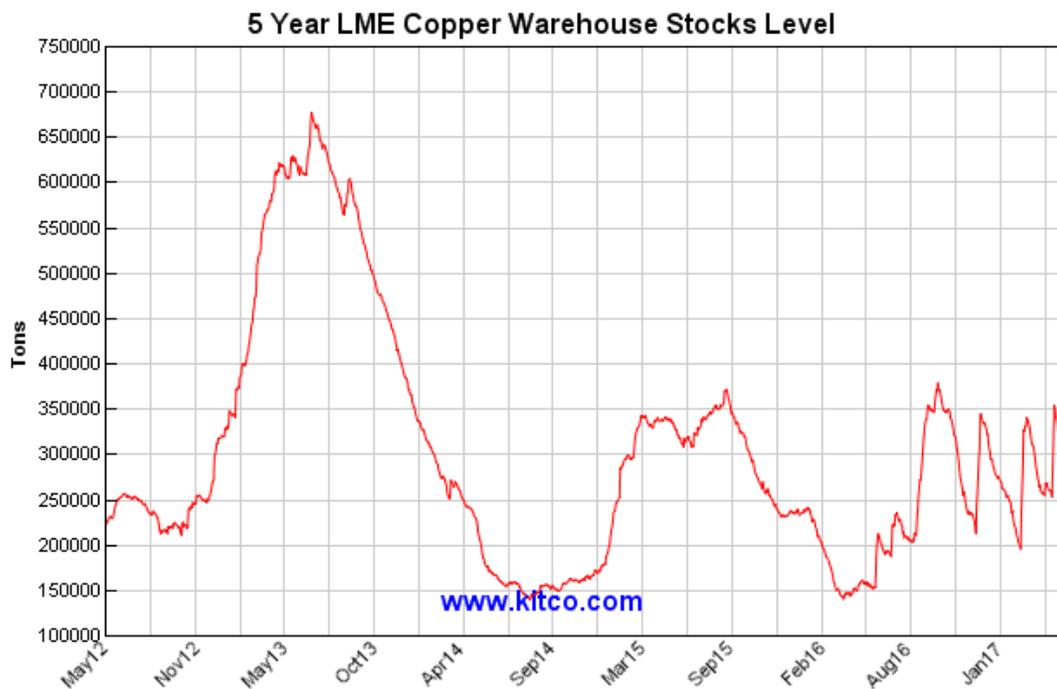
Stainless 304 scrap stayed at 36 cents showing significant equilibrium.



Copper fluctuated during the week, but ended flat at \$2.57/lb. on little global economic news. Prices are down a penny this morning to 2.56/lb.



The 5 year chart shows stabilization at the somewhat lower price of a few months ago, yet prices remain above where they were 18 months ago.



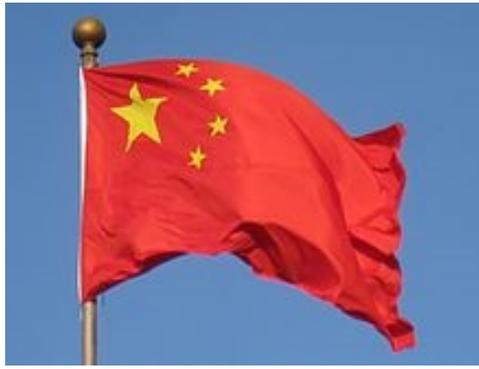
and copper inventories remain near the 12 month high, keeping downward pressure on prices.



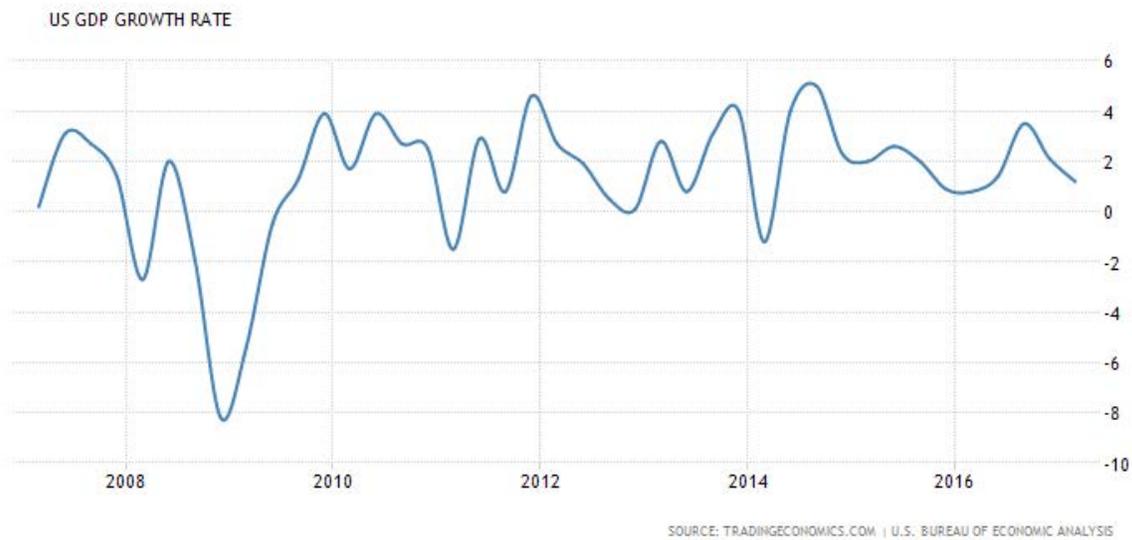
Aluminum prices also remained unchanged at 88 cents; near almost 2.5 year highs, based on solid demand and steady production.



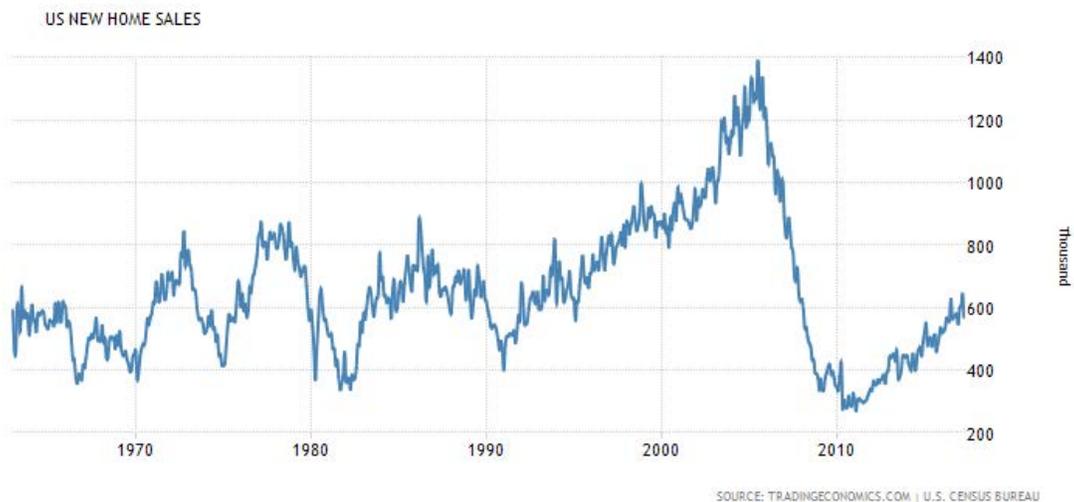
Aluminum inventories had one of their first rises in months, but remain near about 9 year lows, keeping upward pressure on prices.



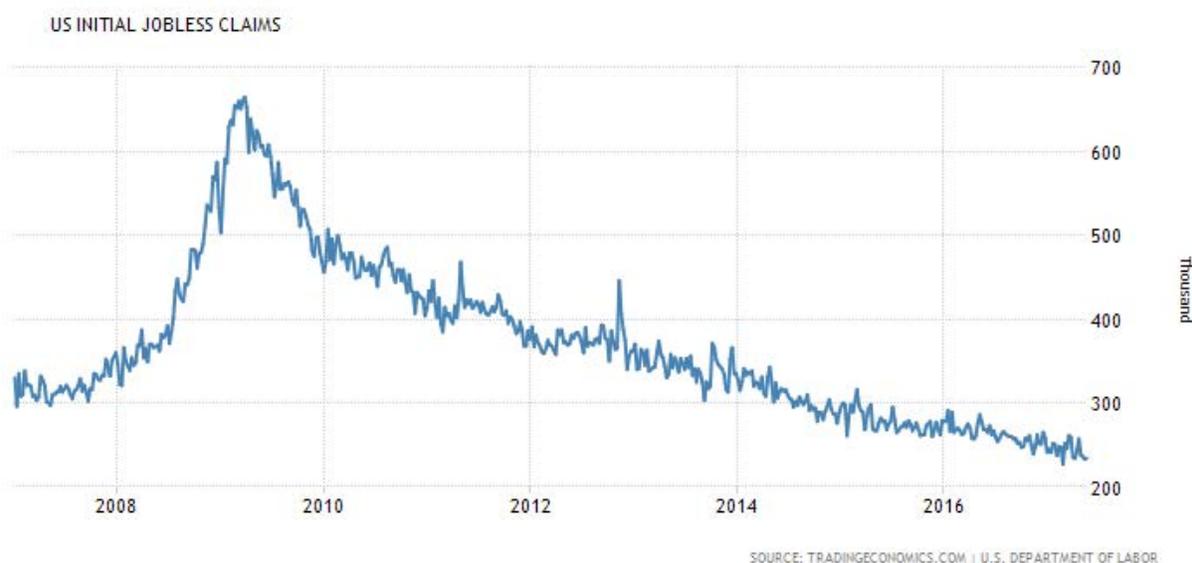
Moody's, one of the big credit rating agencies lowered China's credit rating, citing concerns over a slowing economy and growing debt, putting downward pressure on prices.



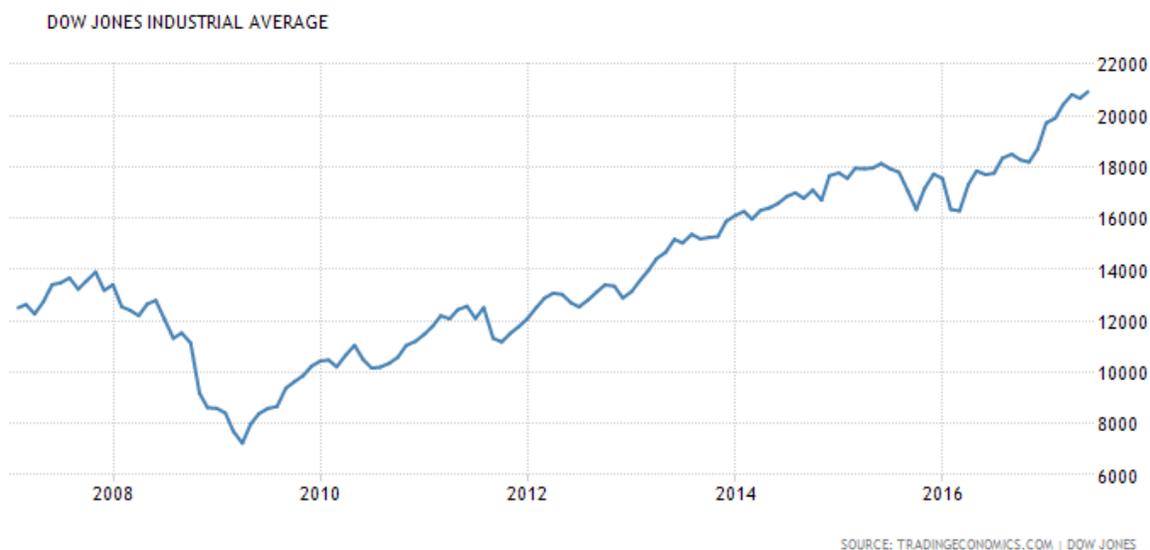
1st Quarter U.S. GDP growth rate had originally been said to up a very low .7%, but was revised up to 1.2 per cent. A question is, can growth get to 3% which is what the Trump administration is saying can happen.



Sales of new family homes were near a 9.5 year high in March, slumped 11.4 percent in April to an annual rate of 569,000. As for positives, this is more than double the 2011 low and it is the rate that the U.S. had in the mid-1960s, when there were about 194 million people living in the U.S. Today we have about 325 Million, almost 67% more, so there is major upside.



U.S. initial jobless claims rose slightly to 234,000, but remain well below the key 300,000 which indicates job growth. The 4 week average which removes weekly volatility was 235,000 the lowest number in 44 years. Great data like this leads to supporting steady to higher commodity prices.



Wall Street's Dow Jones average ended near an all-time high, while the other major indexes, the NASDAQ and S&P 500 did hit new highs. This remains very positive for the economy as people feel the wealth effect of having more assets, so they spend more, which supports stable commodity prices.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions and we hope all have a Safe and Profitable week.