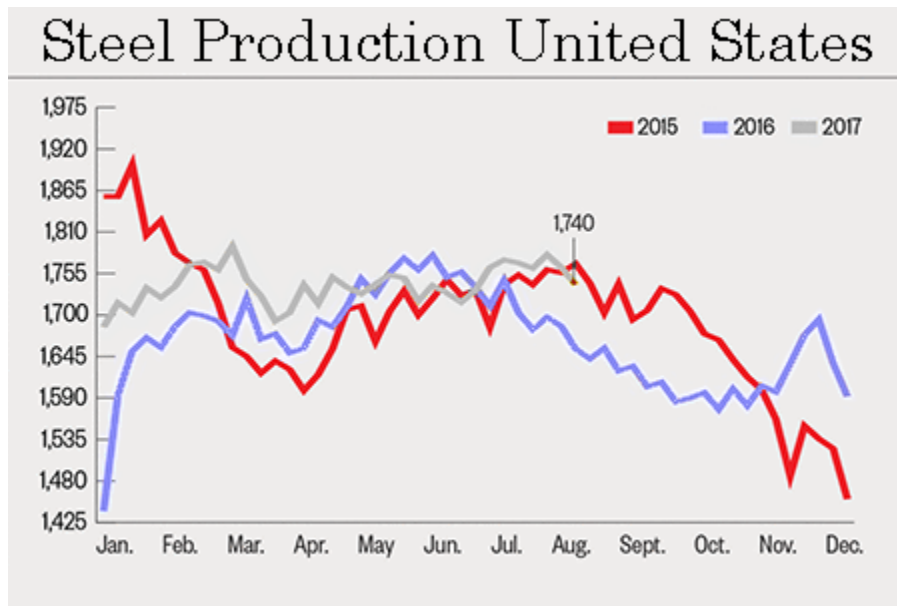


This is the Scrap Metal, Commodities, Recycling and Economic Report, by BENLEE and Raleigh and Goldsboro Recycling, September 5, 2017.

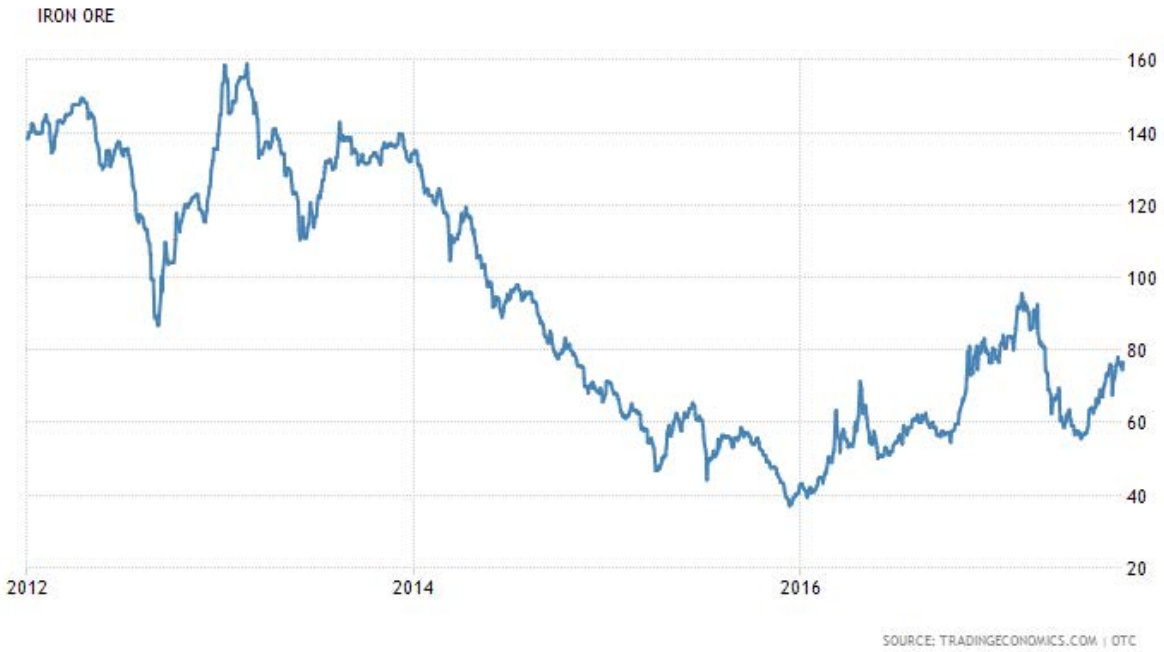
Last week commodity prices and economic reports were mixed.



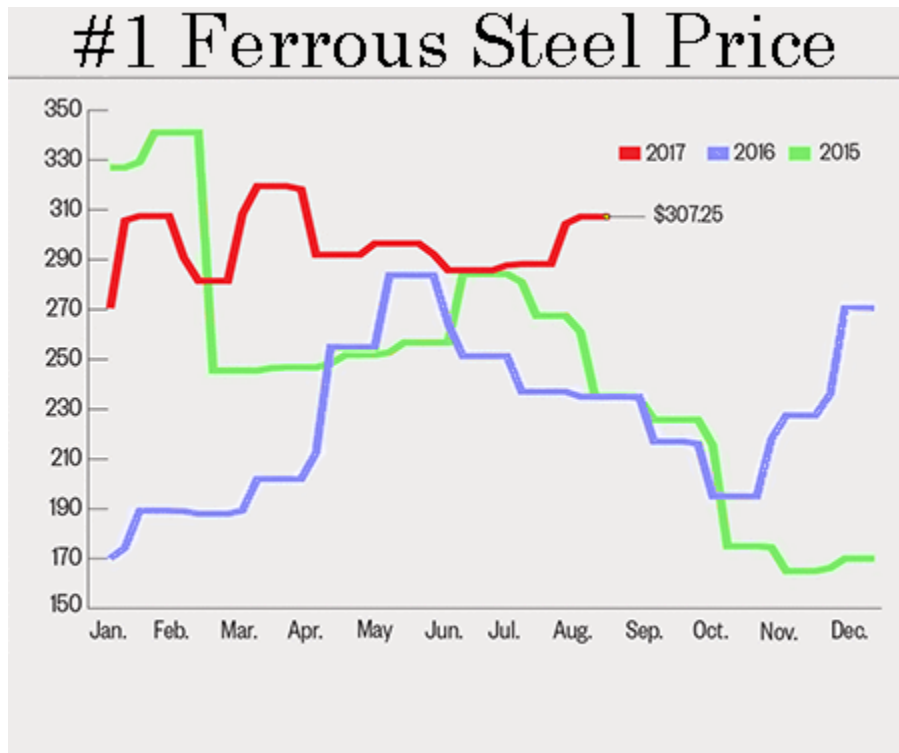
U.S steel production fell slightly, remaining ahead of last year, but slightly below two years ago.



Oil fell about 50 cents to \$47.35. Low prices are slowing energy related job growth as the oil rig count stayed steady at 759, but low prices remain a positive for other parts of the economy.

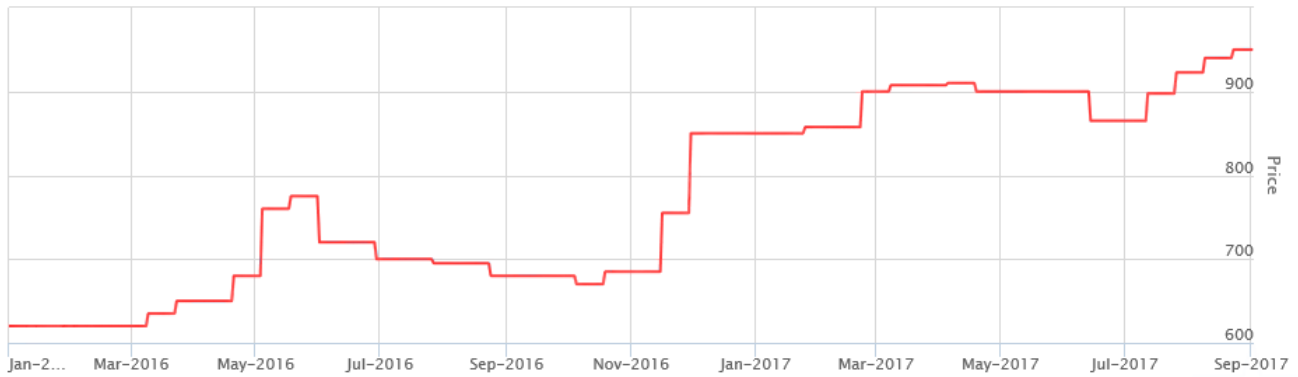


Iron ore was flat at \$76.50/MT. Recent increases have taken scrap and steel prices up with it in recent months.



Scrap ferrous prices remained level, but all indications are prices will be higher in September as slow global growth continues.

Hot Dipped Galvanized Coil

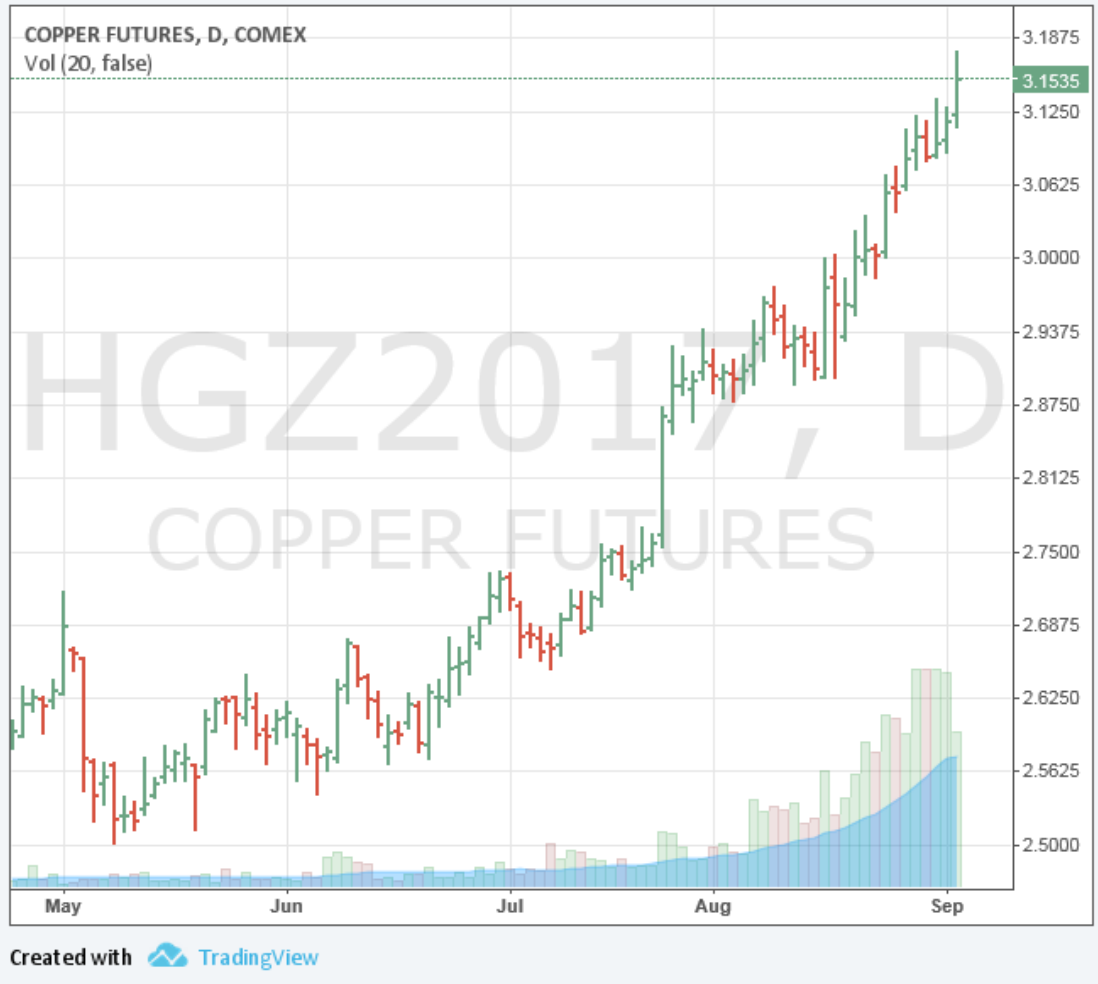


Hot dipped galvanized steel remained higher at \$950/ton, up more than 50% in the past 18 months on good demand and higher raw material prices.

304 Stainless Scrap



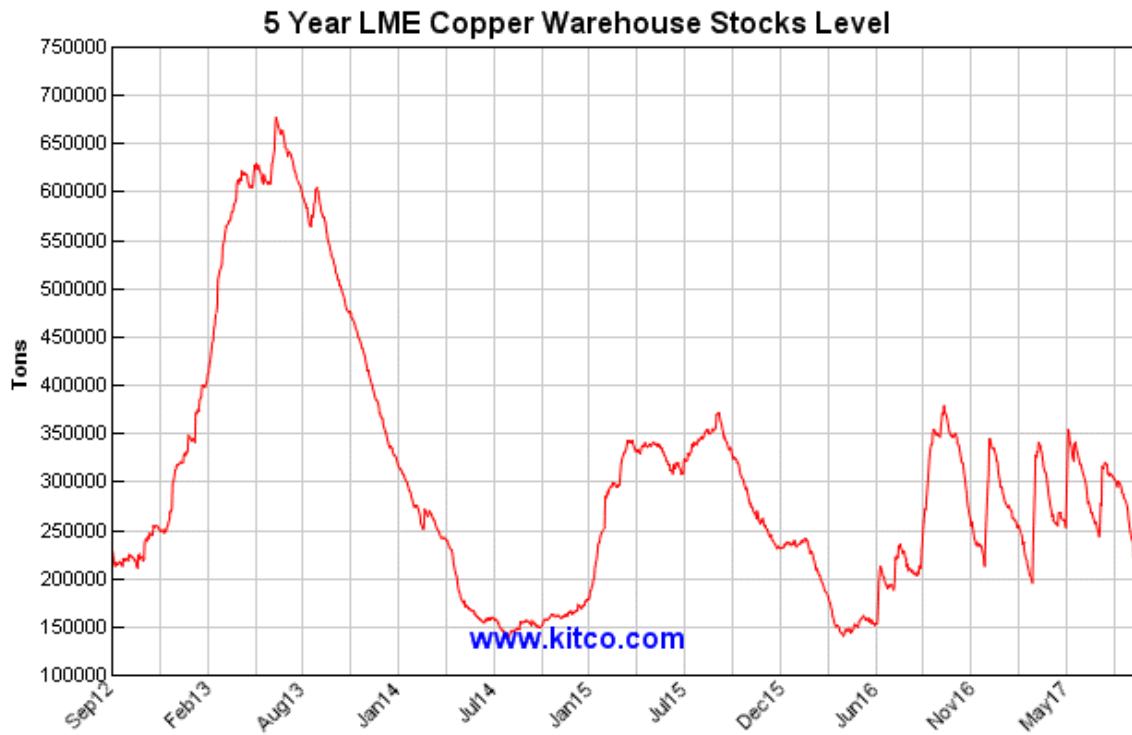
Stainless 304 scrap prices remained steady at \$.295/lb. on this graph, but true transaction prices have climbed about 3 cents.



Copper rose 6 cents to \$3.12 on good demand and a weaker dollar, as transaction spreads rose again. Copper was up 3 cents Monday to \$3.15.



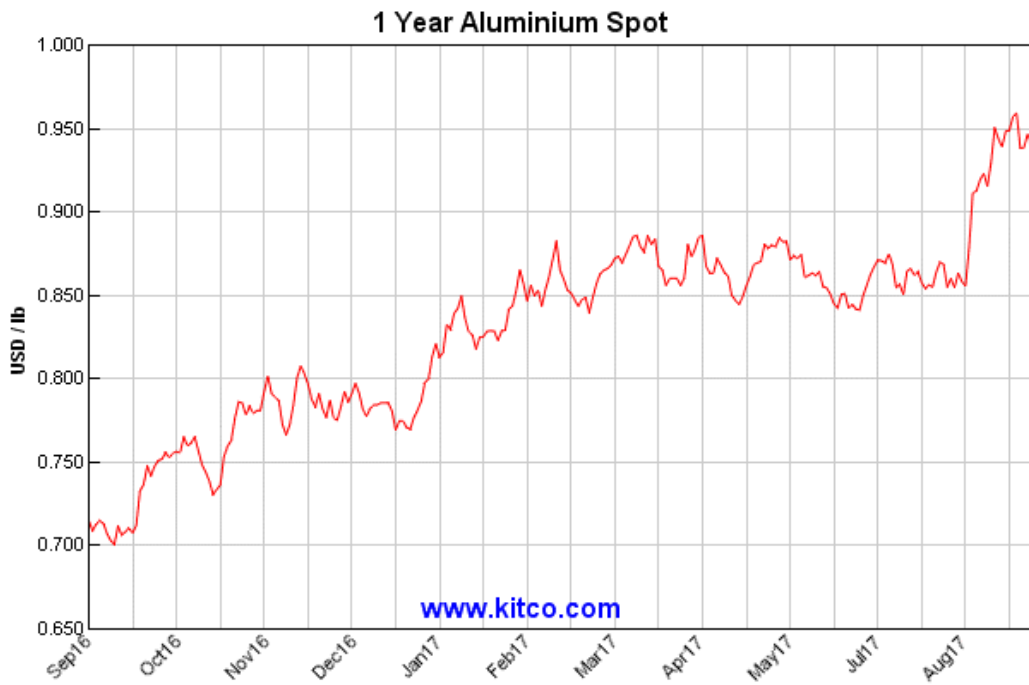
The 5 year chart shows we are at near three year highs.



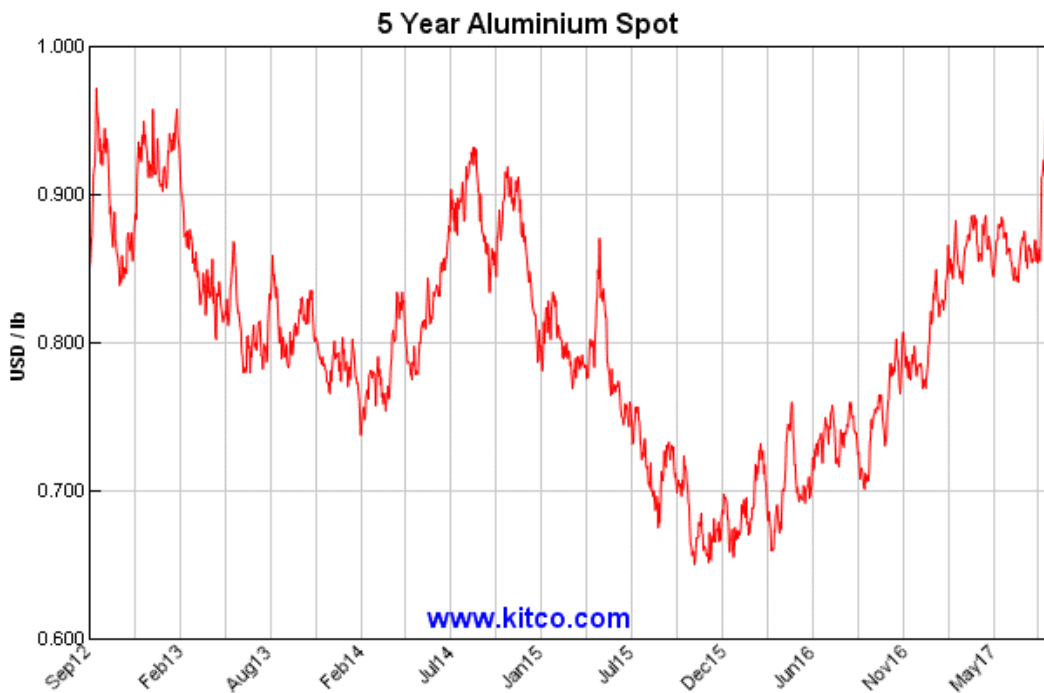
Copper inventories fell slightly, putting upward pressure on prices.



In recent weeks, China has implemented significant import restrictions on items like scrap insulated wire and electric motors. This is a major issue that will affect recyclers and prices unless it is resolved quickly.



Aluminum rose 2 cents ending at a new multi-year high of 96 cents.



This 4.5 year high may not hold because some of this price increase is being driven by speculation, not demand.

Aluminum inventories rose a bit remaining near 10 year lows on solid demand in transportation and construction.

China Caixin Manufacturing

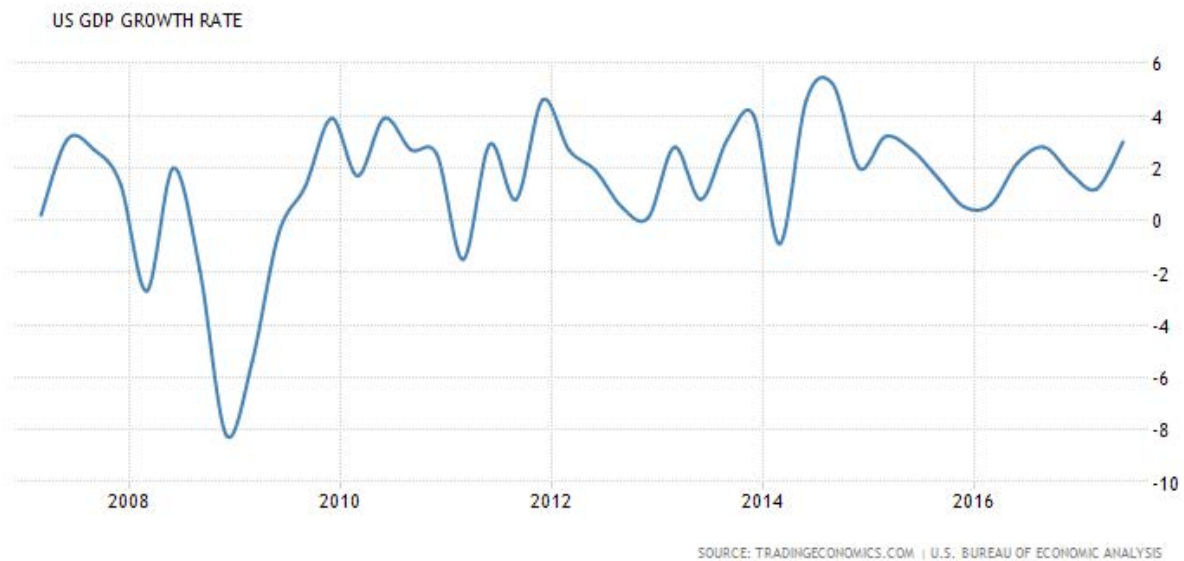


China's Caixin Manufacturing index rose to 51.6, the third straight month of expansion, as new orders surged to an over 3 year high and new orders for exports increased the most since early 2010.

Institute of Supplier Management- Manufacturing Purchasing Managers

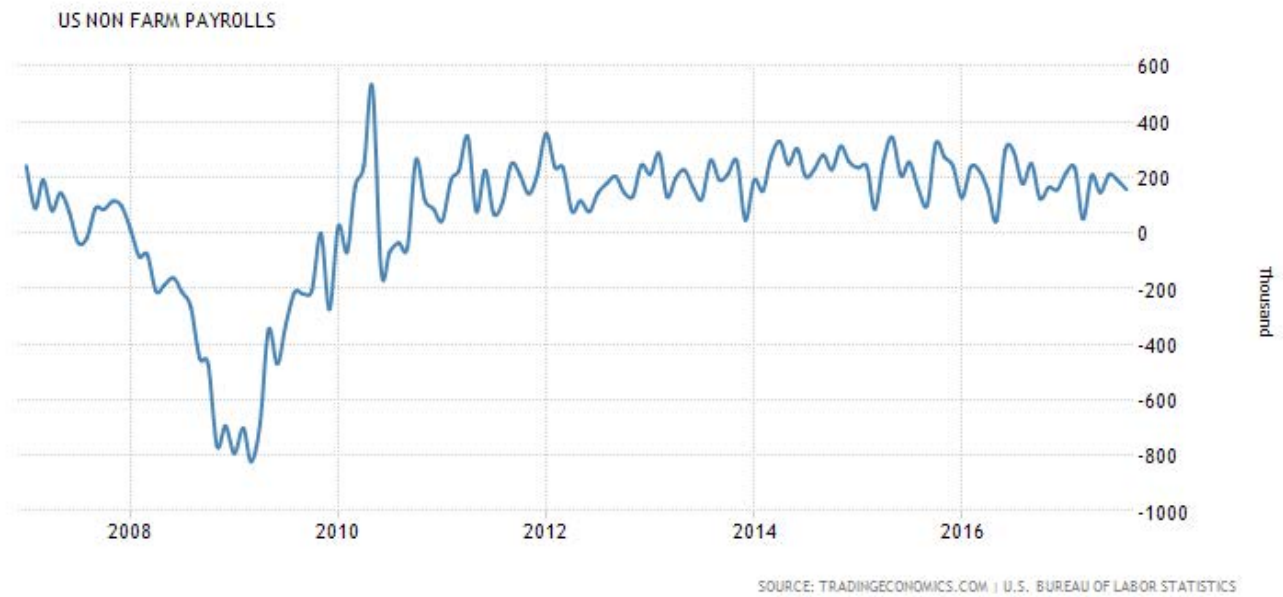


The U.S. Manufacturing index also rose to 58.8, which was the highest reading since April 2011, boosted by a rise in production, employment and inventories, with the Plastics and rubber industries, followed by electrical equipment and appliances, showing the most growth.

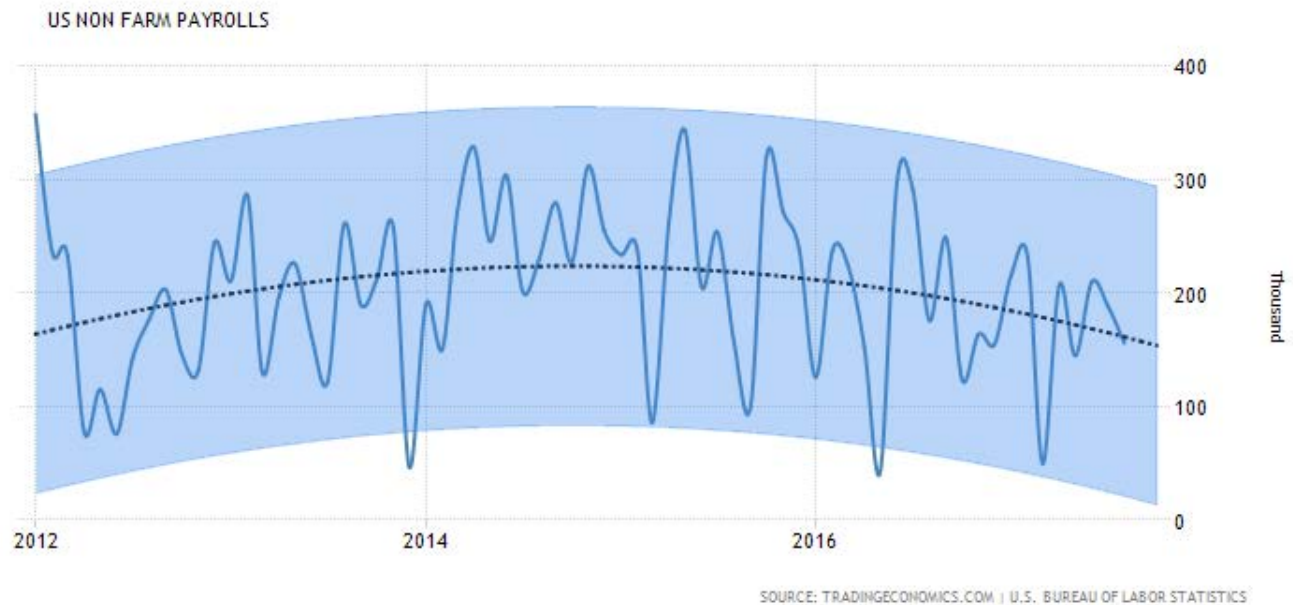


SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

U.S. GDP increased at 3% in the second quarter, the highest growth since early 2015. Personal consumption and non-residential fixed investment were larger than previously estimated.



Non-farm payrolls increased by a good, but lower than expected 156,000. Manufacturing rose a strong 36,000 now up 156,000 since the recent low of November 2016. Construction jobs grew as well, keeping upward pressure on commodity prices.



The good news, bad news is, that while job growth is good, when looking at a 5 year trend, we see the growth rate of new jobs is slowing.



The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.4 percent, remaining near the about 16 year low of 4.3 percent. The low rate means it is tough to find workers, due to many have jobs.



This chart looks the same, yet is very different. Look to the left at the numbers. This is people that want really want to work, but have stopped looking and people that have part time jobs, but want full time jobs. Their rate has dropped from over 17% in 2009 to now 8.6%. So 8.6% is higher than 4.4%



August sales of U.S. vehicles fell to an annual rate of 16.14 million with vehicle manufacturing in the U.S. down, while vehicle manufacturing in Mexico is up significantly.



This is a last reminder that September 14th, next Thursday is BENLEE's third annual Roll off and Luger Truck Free Safety and Operations Training Forum, with hands on operational tips and updates. There are still a handful of spots available. Call Tiffany and BENLEE to reserve a spot.

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