

Construction Market Forecast

Q1 25

Tariffs Drive Up Costs for Key Materials

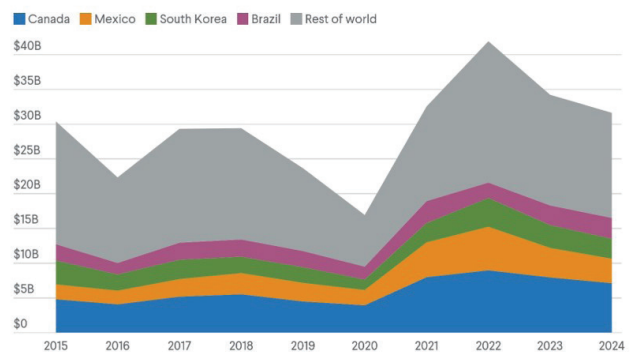
Tariffs are already affecting the price of various construction inputs. "Rising costs for screws are rippling through manufacturing supply chains," following the imposition of 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum that took effect on March 12, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday. "Manufacturing executives said the U.S. doesn't have the plants to churn out the amount of steel wire or screws and other fasteners needed to displace imports....Some construction contractors may delay projects until they get a handle on how to blunt the effects of import duties. About \$178 billion of steel and aluminum products imported by the U.S. last year are now subject to a 25% tariff, according to Jason Miller, a supply-chain management professor at Michigan State University. That is more than three times greater than the import products affected by the original 2018 tariffs...As tariffs make imports more expensive, American steel wire producers are raising their prices at the same time....Annie Mecias-Murphy, president of commercial construction company JA&M Developing in Florida, said costs for steel building materials, including steel cable and concrete reinforcing bars, have increased by 5% to 8% on average in recent months. She said the cost of nails has climbed by 4%." Copper futures hit a record closing price on the Comex exchange of \$5.24 per pound on Wednesday, up 30% from January 2, before closing on Monday at \$5.08. Nucor notified customers on Friday that "Nucor Plate Group will be increasing all plate products (Carbon, Normalized, Quench & Tempered) \$40/ton," effective immediately. Strong Man Safety Products notified customers on March 25 that it "has implemented a 7% tariff surcharge," effective today.

[Source and Hyperlink:](#)

[AGC Data Digest - Vol.25, No. 10: March 24-April 1, 2025](#)

Where Does the U.S. Get Its Steel Mill Products?

U.S. imports of steel mill products by origin country



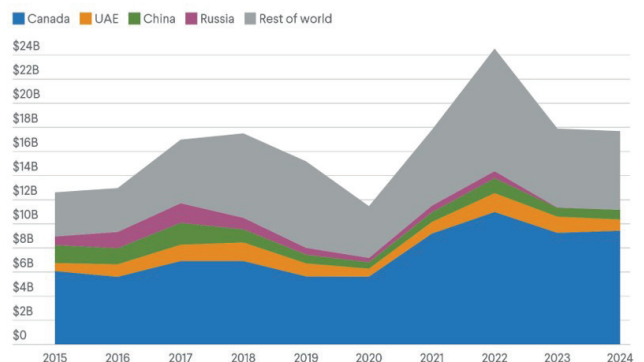
Note: Data is as of December 2024. Highlighted countries are the top suppliers for this time period.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

COUNCIL
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

Where Does the U.S. Get Its Aluminum Products?

U.S. imports of aluminum products by origin country

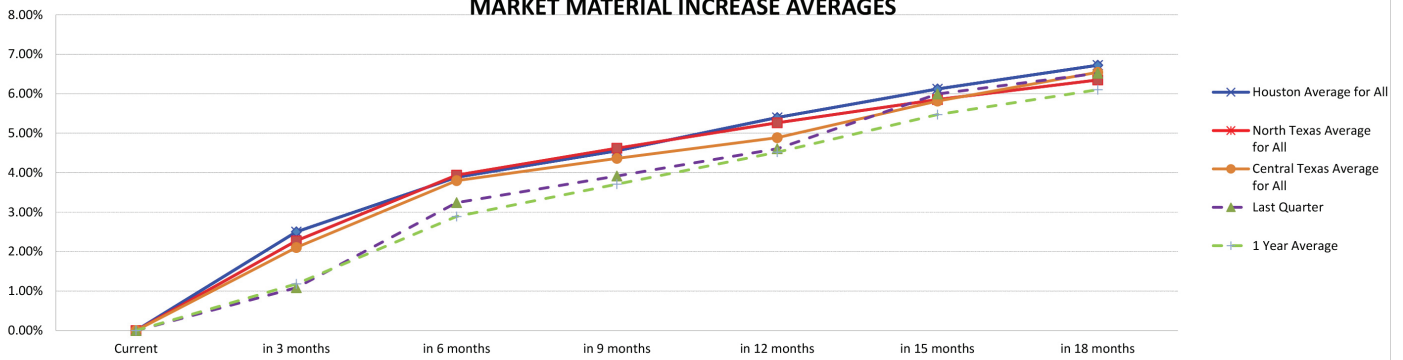


Note: Data is as of December 2024. Highlighted countries are the top suppliers for this time period.

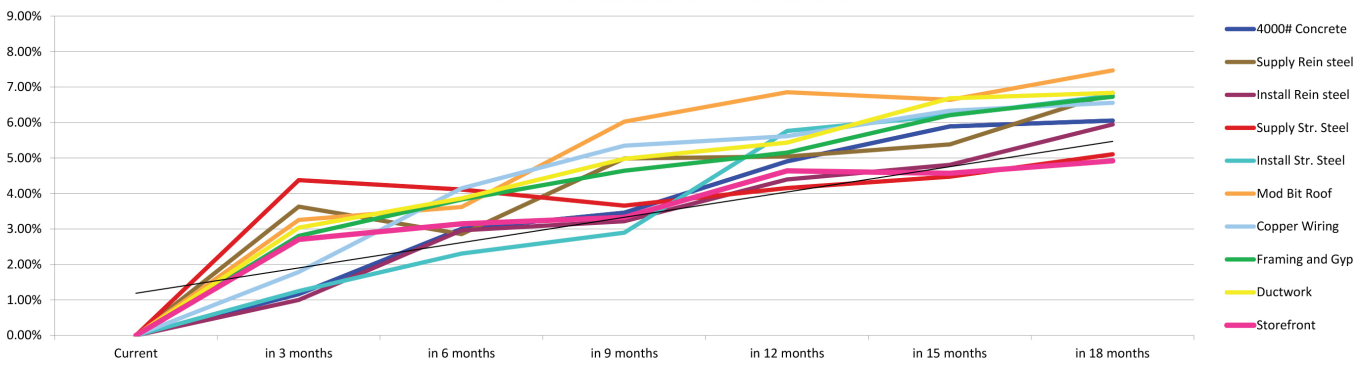
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

COUNCIL
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

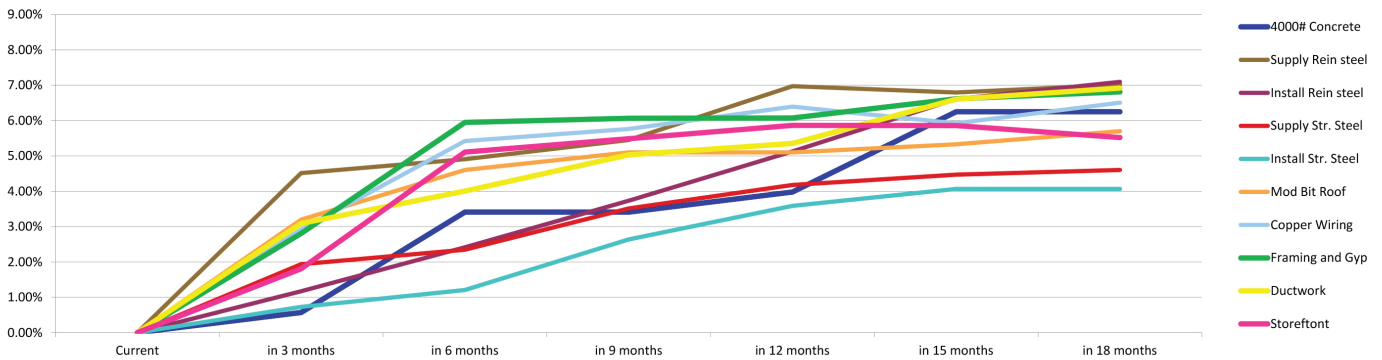
MARKET MATERIAL INCREASE AVERAGES



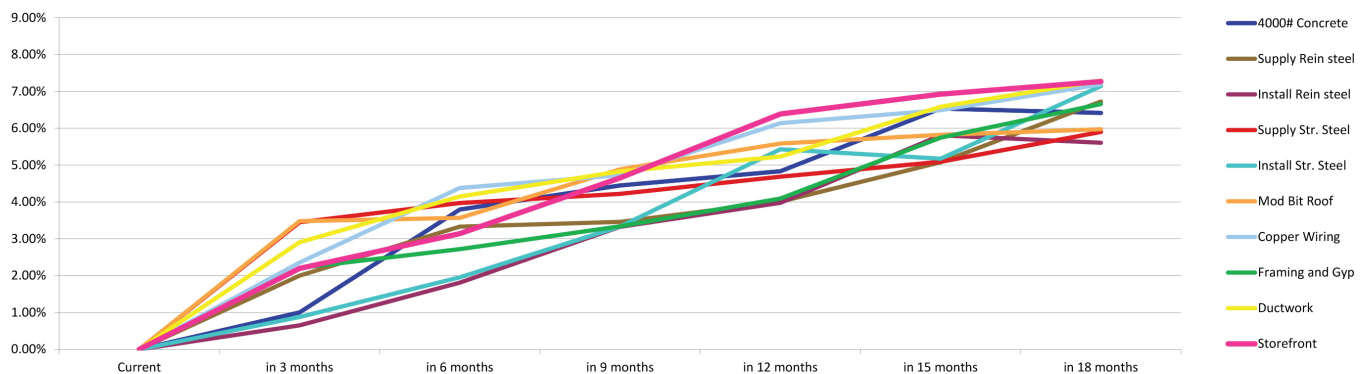
HOUSTON MATERIAL COST INCREASES



NORTH TEXAS MATERIAL COST INCREASES



CENTRAL TEXAS MATERIAL COST INCREASES



ABC: Nonresidential Construction Spending Rises to Highest Level on Record in February

National nonresidential construction spending increased 0.3% in February, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data published today by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled \$1.255 trillion.

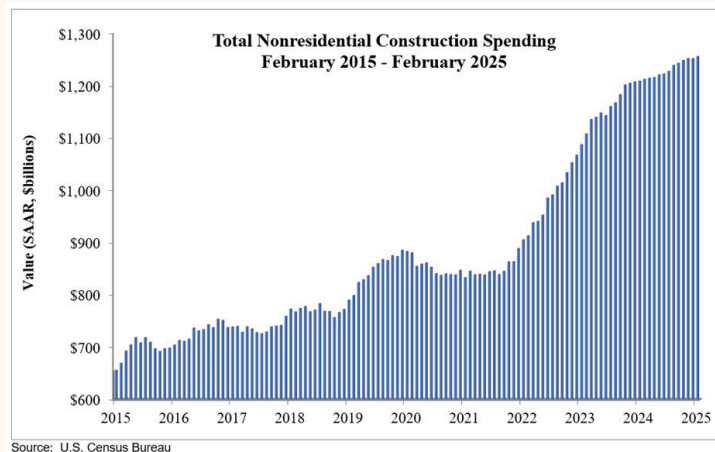
Spending was up on a monthly basis in 9 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending increased 0.4%, while public nonresidential construction spending was up 0.2% in February.

"Nonresidential spending rebounded in February, rising to the highest level on record," said ABC Chief Economist

Anirban Basu. "A surge in highway and street spending accounted for more than 40% of the monthly increase, and public sector nonresidential spending is now up more than 6% on a year-over-year basis. Unfortunately, private sector spending has not kept pace and is up just 2.5% since last February, a rate of increase slower than economywide inflation.

"The mix of high interest rates, tight lending standards and unprecedented

uncertainty regarding trade policy will continue to weigh on private sector construction in the coming months," said Basu. "Despite these ongoing headwinds and the expectation that materials prices will rise as tariffs are implemented, contractors remain optimistic about their prospects over the next six months, according to ABC's Construction Confidence Index."



Source and Hyperlink:
[Associated Builders and Contractors: April 1, 2025
https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/
abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-rises-to-
highest-level-on-record-in-february](https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-rises-to-highest-level-on-record-in-february)

With a Big Boost From Public Work, Construction Spending Rises in February

Construction spending rose in 0.7% in February on a month-to-month basis, according to a report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a yearly basis, overall spending increased 2.9%.

"Construction spending rebounded in February, following widespread severe weather that may have slowed projects in January," Ken Simonson, chief economist of the Associated General Contractors of America, said in a press release. "Investment remains positive compared to a year ago but the growth rate for all major categories has cooled, while contractors have trimmed hiring and slashed job openings."

Residential spending rose 1.3% for the month, and 1.6% for the year, mostly spurred by single-family projects. In the non-residential sector, spending was up 0.3% since January and 3.9% since February 2024. The figure was the highest on record, Anirban Basu, chief economist at Associated Builders and Contractors, said in a press release.

"A surge in highway and street spending accounted for more than 40% of the monthly increase, and public sector nonresidential spending is now up more than 6% on a year-over-year basis," he said. "Unfortunately, private sector spending has not kept pace and is up just 2.5% since last February, a rate of increase slower than economy-wide inflation."

Going forward, Basu expects challenges currently facing the industry to continue. "The mix of high interest rates, tight lending standards and unprecedented uncertainty regarding trade policy will continue to weigh on private sector construction in the coming months."

Source and Hyperlink:
[ENR Engineering New Record
https://www.enr.com/articles/60523-with-a-big-boost-from-public-work-
construction-spending-rises-in-february](https://www.enr.com/articles/60523-with-a-big-boost-from-public-work-construction-spending-rises-in-february)

Supply Reinforcing Steel \$\$/TON						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$1,190	0.00%	\$1,125	0.00%	\$1,192	0.00%
in 3 months	\$1,233	3.63%	\$1,176	4.51%	\$1,216	2.00%
in 6 months	\$1,224	2.85%	\$1,180	4.91%	\$1,232	3.33%
in 9 months	\$1,249	4.99%	\$1,186	5.45%	\$1,233	3.46%
in 12 months	\$1,250	5.04%	\$1,203	6.97%	\$1,240	4.01%
in 15 months	\$1,254	5.38%	\$1,201	6.79%	\$1,253	5.08%
in 18 months	\$1,271	6.84%	\$1,204	7.02%	\$1,272	6.72%

Install Reinforcing Steel \$\$/TON						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$490	0.00%	\$511	0.00%	\$511	0.00%
in 3 months	\$495	3.63%	\$517	1.17%	\$515	0.65%
in 6 months	\$505	2.85%	\$523	2.41%	\$521	1.81%
in 9 months	\$506	4.99%	\$530	3.73%	\$528	3.32%
in 12 months	\$512	5.04%	\$537	5.13%	\$532	3.98%
in 15 months	\$514	5.38%	\$545	6.61%	\$541	5.81%
in 18 months	\$519	6.84%	\$547	7.10%	\$540	5.61%

Supply Structural Steel \$\$/TON						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$3,898	0.00%	\$4,284	0.00%	\$4,288	0.00%
in 3 months	\$4,069	4.38%	\$4,367	1.93%	\$4,436	3.45%
in 6 months	\$4,058	4.11%	\$4,385	2.35%	\$4,459	3.97%
in 9 months	\$4,040	3.66%	\$4,435	3.51%	\$4,469	4.22%
in 12 months	\$4,060	4.15%	\$4,463	4.18%	\$4,489	4.69%
in 15 months	\$4,072	4.47%	\$4,476	4.47%	\$4,507	5.09%
in 18 months	\$4,097	5.11%	\$4,481	4.60%	\$4,541	5.90%

Install of Structural Steel \$\$/TON						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$1,801	0.00%	\$2,105	0.00%	\$1,728	0.00%
in 3 months	\$1,824	1.25%	\$2,120	0.73%	\$1,743	0.88%
in 6 months	\$1,843	2.31%	\$2,130	1.21%	\$1,762	1.95%
in 9 months	\$1,853	2.90%	\$2,160	2.64%	\$1,785	3.33%
in 12 months	\$1,905	5.76%	\$2,180	3.59%	\$1,822	5.43%
in 15 months	\$1,913	6.21%	\$2,190	4.07%	\$1,817	5.17%
in 18 months	\$1,923	6.76%	\$2,190	4.07%	\$1,851	7.14%

Copper Wire \$\$/LB						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$4.99	0.00%	\$5.11	0.00%	\$4.78	0.00%
in 3 months	\$5.08	1.79%	\$5.26	2.91%	\$4.90	2.36%
in 6 months	\$5.20	4.15%	\$5.38	5.42%	\$4.99	4.38%
in 9 months	\$5.26	5.35%	\$5.40	5.76%	\$5.01	4.73%
in 12 months	\$5.27	5.61%	\$5.43	6.39%	\$5.08	6.14%
in 15 months	\$5.31	6.33%	\$5.41	5.92%	\$5.09	6.49%
in 18 months	\$5.32	6.56%	\$5.44	6.51%	\$5.13	7.19%

Frame and Gyp \$\$/SF						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$9.50	0.00%	\$6.95	0.00%	\$7.14	0.00%
in 3 months	\$9.76	2.80%	\$7.15	2.81%	\$7.30	2.21%
in 6 months	\$9.86	3.83%	\$7.36	5.95%	\$7.34	2.72%
in 9 months	\$9.94	4.64%	\$7.37	6.07%	\$7.38	3.34%
in 12 months	\$9.99	5.15%	\$7.37	6.07%	\$7.43	4.09%
in 15 months	\$10.09	6.21%	\$7.41	6.62%	\$7.55	5.74%
in 18 months	\$10.14	6.73%	\$7.42	6.81%	\$7.62	6.66%

Mod Bit Roofing* \$\$/SF						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$21.66	0.00%	\$23.00	0.00%	\$23.66	0.00%
in 3 months	\$22.36	3.25%	\$23.74	3.20%	\$24.48	3.48%
in 6 months	\$22.44	3.62%	\$24.06	4.60%	\$24.50	3.57%
in 9 months	\$22.96	6.02%	\$24.17	5.10%	\$24.82	4.89%
in 12 months	\$23.14	6.85%	\$24.17	5.10%	\$24.98	5.58%
in 15 months	\$23.10	6.64%	\$24.23	5.33%	\$25.04	5.82%
in 18 months	\$23.28	7.47%	\$24.31	5.70%	\$25.07	5.97%

* 20,000 SF Roof with 4-inch ISO

Ductwork \$\$/LB						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$9.92	0.00%	\$9.49	0.00%	\$9.58	0.00%
in 3 months	\$10.22	3.04%	\$9.79	3.09%	\$9.86	2.91%
in 6 months	\$10.30	3.86%	\$9.87	4.01%	\$9.98	4.15%
in 9 months	\$10.41	4.98%	\$9.97	5.03%	\$10.05	4.83%
in 12 months	\$10.46	5.43%	\$10.00	5.35%	\$10.08	5.23%
in 15 months	\$10.58	6.68%	\$10.12	6.60%	\$10.21	6.58%
in 18 months	\$10.60	6.84%	\$10.15	6.92%	\$10.28	7.29%

4000# Concrete \$\$/CY						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$151.75	0.00%	\$176.00	0.00%	\$165.50	0.00%
in 3 months	\$153.52	1.16%	\$177.00	0.57%	\$167.16	1.00%
in 6 months	\$156.31	3.00%	\$182.00	3.41%	\$171.78	3.79%
in 9 months	\$157.00	3.46%	\$182.00	3.41%	\$172.86	4.45%
in 12 months	\$159.20	4.91%	\$183.00	3.98%	\$173.50	4.83%
in 15 months	\$160.69	5.89%	\$187.00	6.25%	\$176.31	6.53%
in 18 months	\$160.94	6.06%	\$187.00	6.25%	\$176.12	6.41%

Storefront \$\$/SF						
	HTX		NTX		CTX	
Timeframe	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta	\$ / LB	Delta
Current	\$97.24	0.00%	\$102.81	0.00%	\$95.95	0.00%
in 3 months	\$99.87	2.70%	\$104.66	1.81%	\$98.06	2.20%
in 6 months	\$100.30	3.14%	\$108.06	5.11%	\$98.96	3.14%
in 9 months	\$100.48	3.33%	\$108.45	5.49%	\$103.57	4.65%
in 12 months	\$101.75	4.64%	\$108.83	5.86%	\$102.08	6.39%
in 15 months	\$101.68	4.57%	\$108.83	5.86%	\$102.59	6.92%
in 18 months	\$102.02	4.92%	\$108.48	5.52%	\$102.92	7.27%



National Medal of Honor Museum Arlington, Texas



The information provided in Linbeck's Quarterly Construction Market Forecast and Subcontractor/Supply Chain Pulse is gathered from numerous local and national suppliers every quarter to provide our clients with up-to-date market news.