



Metal Roofing Manufacturer. No Installation Services Available.

# WESTERN STATES METAL ROOFING

*Finishes You've Never Seen Before®*



## MARKET UPDATE

**Q1-2025**

As we move through Q1-2025, the steel market remains in flux due to economic changes, global events, and natural disasters. The trends from late 2024—including shifts in trade policies, hurricanes, and supply chain issues—are still impacting the industry. Here are the key updates and practical steps to help you navigate this period.

### Supply Chain & Port Operations

After the 90-day suspension of strike actions, The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) announced January 8, 2025 that they have reached a tentative agreement on a new six-year master contract, successfully avoiding a potential strike. This agreement comes at a critical time, just one week before the current contract extension was set to expire on January 15.

Until the final contract is officially ratified, both parties have confirmed that port operations will continue under the terms of the existing agreement. **This development brings much-needed stability to the industry, ensuring the uninterrupted movement of goods while providing a framework for long-term labor relations.**

[Learn More](#)

### Anti-Dumping & Countervailance Investigation

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is nearing a decision on investigations into corrosion-resistant steel (CORE) imports from 10 countries. As the proceeding continue through fall 2025, the decision could result in tariffs, increasing costs, and affecting supply chains. **To stay prepared, review contracts and plan ahead for potential market shifts.**

[Learn More](#)



## Hurricane Rebuilding Efforts

Hurricane recovery in Florida and nearby regions is boosting steel demand for construction. However, transport delays and labor shortages are causing higher costs and project slowdowns. **Plan for potential delays and factor these into your timelines.**



## Wildfire Rebuilding Efforts

The recent California wildfires have significantly impacted the steel market and construction industry, driving up demand for building materials and straining supply chains. Rebuilding efforts are expected to take years, leading to potential shortages and price increases for steel and other materials. Infrastructure damage and regulatory delays, such as extended debris removal periods, may further slow reconstruction.

**Builders and buyers should consider fire-resistant materials like cold-formed steel and prepare for longer project timelines.** Additionally, trade policies and tariffs could influence material costs, making it crucial to stay informed and plan ahead.

## U.S. Steel Acquisition Blocked

On January 3rd, 2024, the Biden administration blocked Nippon Steel's \$14.1 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel, citing national security concerns and the need for domestic ownership, a stance strongly backed by the United Steelworkers union. Nippon Steel and U.S. Steel have since sued the administration, alleging political interference, and also filed lawsuits against Cleveland-Cliffs and the union for allegedly sabotaging the deal. The move has created uncertainty in the U.S. steel market, affecting potential investments, pricing dynamics, and foreign acquisitions. Though the Trump administration has also expressed opposition to the deal, Nippon Steel has indicated the willingness to work with the current Trump administration to potentially revive the deal.

The blocked Nippon Steel-U.S. Steel deal adds uncertainty to the U.S. steel market in several ways: potential supply chain disruptions, steel pricing competition, trade & foreign investment concerns, and labor union & policy influence

**Overall, the market remains volatile, with legal battles ahead and uncertainty about U.S. Steel's next steps. It's a key moment for industry players to review supply agreements and monitor potential shifts in trade and pricing. [Source 1](#) | [Source 2](#)**

# Impact of Q4-2024 on Q1-2025

At the end of 2024, the U.S. steel market and supply chain experienced shifts due to changing demand, supply chain disruptions, natural events, and global trade uncertainties. Factors like increased steel imports, potential tariffs, and geopolitical tensions played a role in shaping market conditions. Additionally, seasonal slowdowns in construction and manufacturing, and mill outages influenced buying patterns.

Looking into early 2025, these trends are continuing to impact the market. **Contractors and architects should stay informed on supply chain developments, plan ahead for potential lead times, and work closely with suppliers to secure pricing and materials for upcoming projects.**

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU...

### 1. Lock in Pricing Now

Review your contracts and secure pricing early to avoid increases due to tariffs or supply constraints.

### 2. Plan for Delays

Stock up on materials and explore alternative shipping solutions to minimize supply chain disruptions.

### 3. Stay Informed

Follow updates on the current events of the steel industry and other industry changes to make informed decisions.

### 4. Work with Your Sales Rep

Partner with your sales representative to align your purchasing plans with current market conditions and ensure timely deliveries.

**At Western States Metal Roofing, we're committed to keeping you informed and prepared. With our fast turnaround times, we give our clients a competitive edge. To stay ahead, be sure to plan accordingly and connect with your sales representative for pricing and timelines on customized solutions for your project. We're here to support you with full transparency as we navigate this evolving market together.**



*This market update is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, financial, or professional advice. Readers should consult their own legal, financial, and industry experts before making any business decisions.*