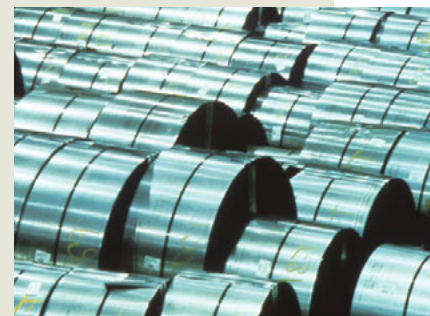




Related Market Programs

Commercial Research

The AISI Committee on Commercial Research examines various economic indicators and provides short-term, mid-range and long-term economic and steel industry outlooks for use by the market programs for strategic planning and to evaluate annual market growth. The economic forecasts examine Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumer spending, unemployment rates and exchange rates. Market variables such as vehicle production, housing starts and infrastructure development are routinely reviewed to better understand factors influencing market trends.



Economic Activity: United States

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007F
Gross Domestic Product (% change)	2.2	2.5	3.9	3.2	3.3	2.5
Consumer Spending Durables (% change)	6.5	5.8	6.4	5.5	3.3	3.0
Civilian Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.8
Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers (% change)	2.4	1.9	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.2
30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate (%)	6.54	5.82	5.84	5.86	6.41	6.3
Total Light Vehicle Sales (millions)	16.8	16.6	16.8	16.9	16.5	16.3
Total Light Vehicle Production (millions)	12.0	11.8	11.6	11.9	10.8	10.6
Housing Starts (millions)	1.70	1.85	1.95	2.07	1.80	1.60
Value Put in Place Priv. Nonresidential Buildings (% change)	-14.0	-6.9	4.2	5.0	16.0	8.1
Construction Spending (%)	+2	+5	+11	+12	+1	-1

F = Forecast

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve Board, Ward's AutoInfoBank, McGraw Hill Construction Outlook 2007

Economic Activity: Canada

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006E	2007F
Real Gross Domestic Product	2.9%	1.8%	3.3%	2.9%	2.8%	2.5%
Change in Consumer Price Index	2.2%	2.8%	1.8%	2.2%	2.0%	1.2%
Unemployment Rate	7.6%	7.6%	7.2%	6.8%	6.4%	6.6%
Consumer Spending	3.6%	3.0%	3.3%	3.9%	3.8%	3.3%
Automotive Sales	8.4%	-6.2%	-3.8%	2.9%	2.2%	-1.1%
Automotive Production	3.8%	-3.0%	5.7%	-1.6%	-5.0%	-1.2%
Housing Starts	26.0%	6.5%	6.9%	-3.4%	0.9%	-10.9%
Real Nonres. Investment Spending	-5.9%	5.5%	7.4%	7.9%	7.5%	4.0%
Construction Spending	4.3%	5.8%	7.6%	5.3%	4.7%	1.5%

E = Estimate

F = Forecast

Sources: Statistics Canada, Conference Board of Canada, Ward's Automotive Reports, CSM Worldwide