

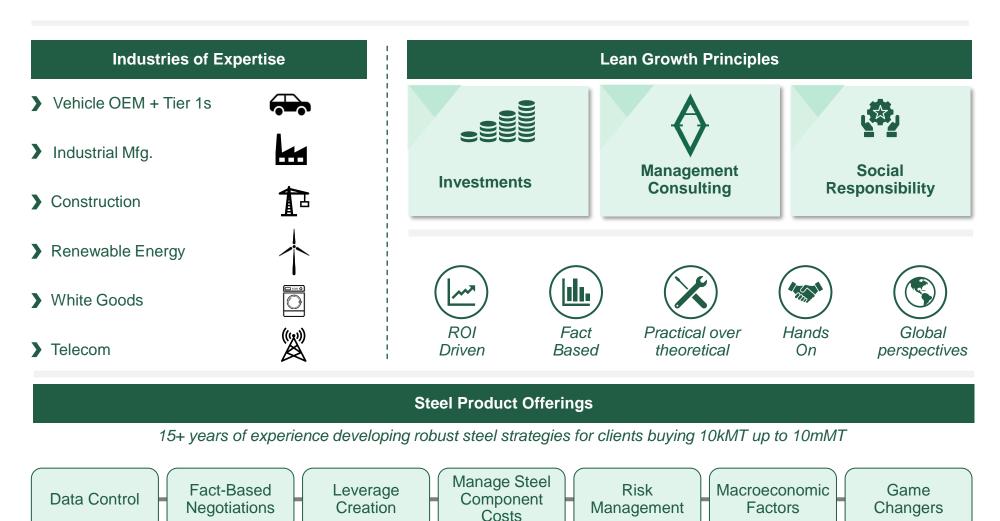


Applied Value

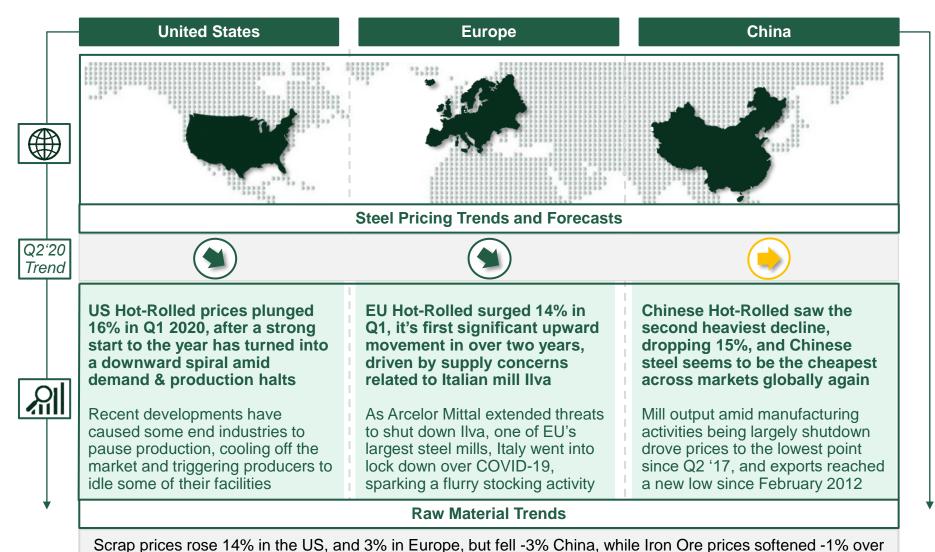
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www.appliedvaluegroup.com

Applied Value is a management consulting & investment firm with deep expertise in supporting clients throughout the steel industry.



Global steel prices saw a final upward push in Jan. before the impact of COVID-19 turned the market downwards.



the same period. Coking Coal prices surged 17% in Q1, due to supply concerns



The reaction to COVID-19 globally has been staggered, with mills implementing production cuts, idling, and push outs of new equipment.

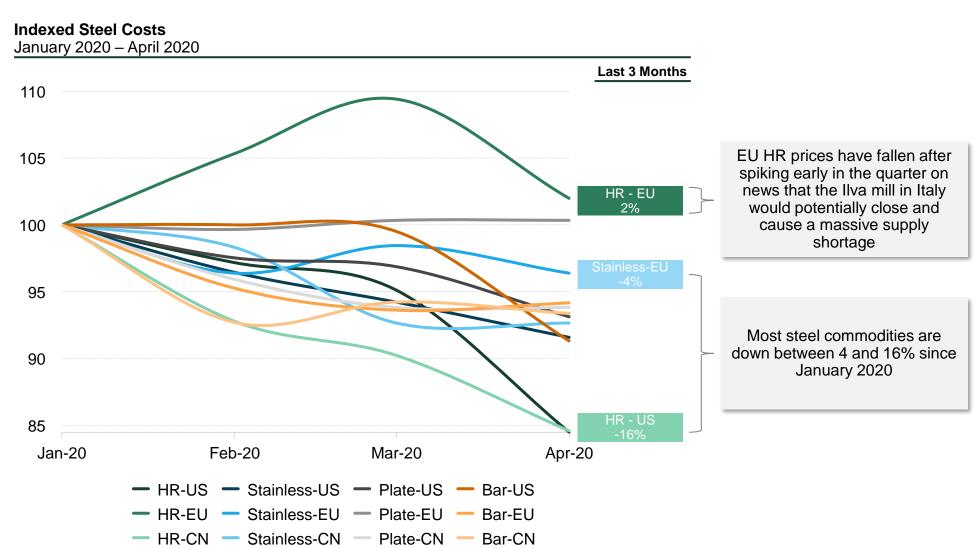
Timeline	General	Demand	Supply
January	China begins reaction to COVID-19, shutting down Wuhan	 Manufacturing activity starts to slow down in China 	 Steel production continues globally
•	China extends Holiday for Lunar New Year	 Feb PMI indicated a ~20% drop comparing to January in China 	 Chinese steel production slows for holiday
February			
•	Italy begins reaction to COVID-19, shutting down 10 major cities	 Manufacturing activity shut down in Italy 	 Steel production shut down in Italy
•	WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic, US then declares nat'l emergency	 Non-essential businesses begin to shut down in Europe/US 	 Many furnaces idled in the EU due to reduced demand
March			
•	Wall Street plunges with S&P 500 and NASDAQ down ~12%	 Auto OEMs begin to shut down plants in Europe and the US 	 US furnaces idled & push outs of new equipment announced
April	China is the first country to begin the recovery process	 ~90% of Chinese factories have reopened 	 US steel capacity utilization at ~57%, down from 81.3% last yr
	O1 2020 Shoot Stool E	Production Cuts % of 2010 Lovols	

Q1 2020 Sheet Steel Production Cuts, % of 2019 Levels

US	EU	CN
-14%	-21%	-20%



Almost all steel commodity prices excluding have decreased in the last three months as COVID-19 has hit the globe.





With COVID-19 driving steel prices downwards, various levers such as contract re-negotiation can be pulled to help mitigate negative impact.

Recent Changes



Global Steel Price Drops

Most steel commodities have seen reductions in pricing so far in 2020



Demand Spikes

Massive spikes in demand both upward & downward, depending on the industry



Fractured Supply Chains

Most steel mills closed, steel shortages & longer lead-times are the new reality



Organizational Changes

Remote work policies have been adopted and furloughs/ layoffs are increasing



Cash Flow

COVID-19 has strained cash flow, with reduced revenues & delayed payments

Recommended Actions and Mitigation Levers

Analyze all payments, painventory & develop strain on-hand	avment terms.
Sin-manu	
3 Address Deep dive global market sources & quickly set up	•

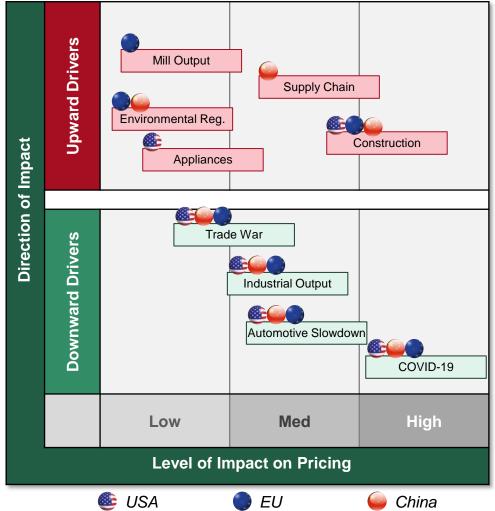
	4	Supplier Viability & Compression	Track suppliers' financial & operational performance and eliminate suppliers as needed
n	5	Re-Evaluate Supply Base	Assess current supplier footprint and identify oppts. to reduce lead-times (ex: nearshoring)
	6	Modify Category Strategies	Deep dive categories, assess current vs. wanted position, and make changes as needed



Global Steel Price & Trend Summary.

Commodity		Latest Approx. Price (Mar)	Last 3 Months	Trend (Forward)	
		US	\$560/MT	-16%	>
	Flat1	EU	€480/MT	2%	>
		CN	\$460/MT	-15%	\Rightarrow
		US	\$2,302/MT	-12%	>
	ss	EU	\$2,120/MT	-4%	>
		CN	\$2,000/MT	-6%	>
		US	\$680/MT	-1%	\Rightarrow
	Plate	EU	\$540/MT	-7%	\Rightarrow
		CN	\$520/MT	-4%	\Rightarrow
		US	\$760/MT	8%	>
Sec.	Bar	EU	\$510/MT	-2%	>
		CN	\$490/MT	-6%	→

Major Market Drivers





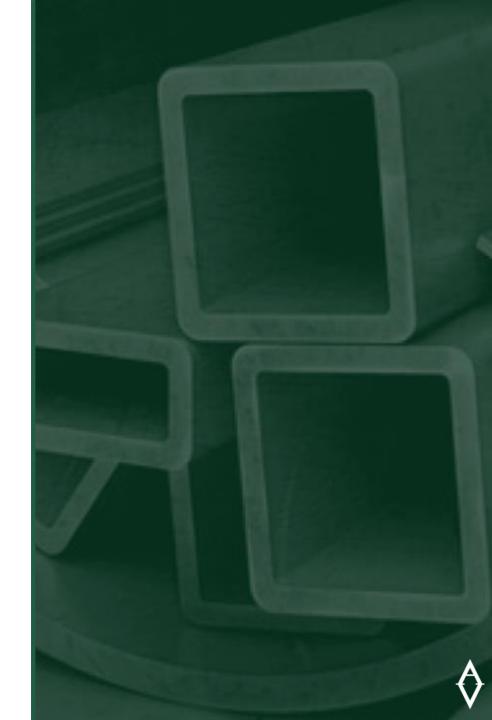
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Q2 2020

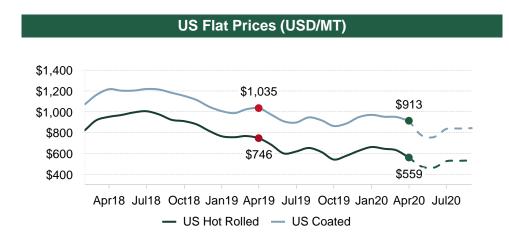
Market Conditions by Region

Steel Production Costs

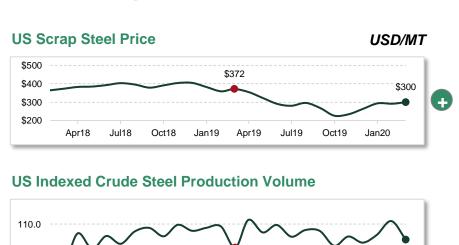
Major Steel Mill Company Performance



The US HR price increases that began in Oct 2019 have nearly been erased in early 2020, as prices dropped 16% in Q1, starting April at ~\$560/MT.

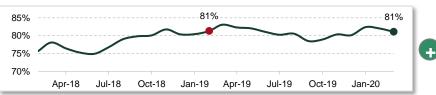


- Hot-Rolled prices began to level off in January after recovering from 24-month low of \$541/MT October 2019. April prices ended the quarter at ~\$560/MT, down 16% on a Q-o-Q comparison. Coated prices were nearly flat over the same period, starting April at ~\$913/MT, representing a decline of 6.0% in Q-o-Q. Late Q1 price movements started to indicate significant impact from COVID-19, as shown by the sharp falls of early April prices
- Scrap prices had a strong start in January, but quickly tapered through the end of the quarter to end at ~\$300/MT, a 14% increase Q-o-Q. The early January momentum and market sentiment was due to a tighter supply market, with lower imports from Asia and Europe
- US Mill Capacity Utilization fell to 81% in March, although early readings from AISI's April utilization figures indicate that utilization could plummet dramatically down to near 57% in the near term.
- The China-US HR spread widened at ~\$150/MT, primarily as a result of plunging HR prices in China on lower output and production activity associated with COVID-19. China's steel market was the first to show symptoms of the virus impact.





Previous Year's Data



100.9

Jan-19

US Crude Production

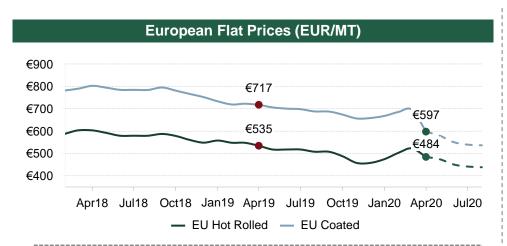


Correlation to Market Price

Latest Data



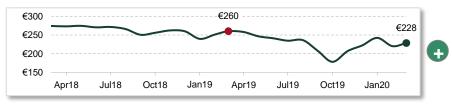
EU HR prices surged 14% in Q1 2020, the first significant upward movement in pricing in over two years as buyers looked to increase their stocks.



- European HR prices increased 14% Q-o-Q, ending the guarter in March at ~530 EUR/MT before tipping back down in early April to ~480 EUR/MT. Escalating threats from Arcelor Mittal's bid to walk away from Italian steel mill IIva, one of Europe's largest, has affected the region's confidence in supply and sparked a flurry of buying activity. These concerns became even further exacerbated as Italy became one of the first European countries significantly affected by COVID-19 and the first to begin a country-wide lock-down.
- EU Scrap prices continued to increase in January but turned downward in February, ending Q1 with a 3% Q-o-Q decrease, mainly driven by falling scrap prices in Turkey.
- EU crude steel production increased 14% between December and February, driven primarily by a ramp up in France to support increased export activity. However, production remains down -9% Y-o-Y.
- The spread between EU and Chinese steel prices increased significantly in Q1 2020, driven equally by a heavy rise in Europe and an intense decline in China – it reached its highest point for the last 24 months in March. With China feeling the early effects of COVID-19, it has at least temporarily overtaken Europe as the weakest market globally.

European Scrap Prices

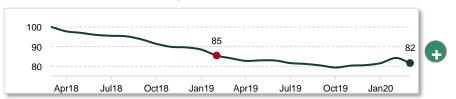




European Union Indexed Crude Steel Production



Euro Zone Manufacturing Indexed PMI



EU vs. China Price

EUR/MT



Previous Year's Data

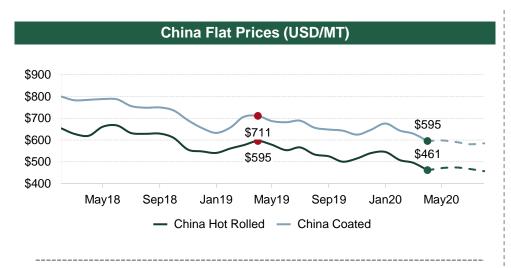
Latest Data

Correlation to Market Price

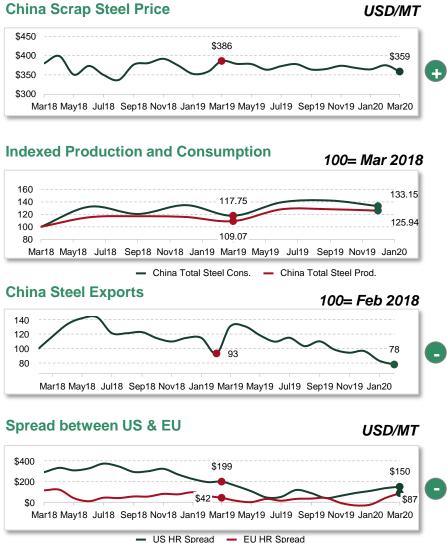


Source: AV Analysis

China's HRC and Coated markets plummeted ~15% and ~3%, respectively Q-o-Q as it became the first country to experience the impact of COVID-19.



- China HRC prices dropped 15% Q-o-Q to ~\$460/MT in April, becoming the first market globally to experience a significant decline due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. Coated prices experienced a more modest 2.7% reduction to end the quarter in March, at ~\$632/MT. China is also expected to be the first country to recover from the outbreak and has already started to unwind some of its strict lockdown requirements.
- > COVID-19 accelerated the downward slope of China's Steel Exports, which saw a 17% reduction in volume Q-o-Q. Despite the volume reduction, China's production remains high, indicating a potential oversupply scenario once most manufacturing activity is resumed
- China now appears to be the weakest market globally, with spreads between US-China and Europe-China steel prices both soaring in Q1 and reaching \$150/MT and \$87/MT, respectively. However, steel prices in China have been affected negatively by COVID-19 outbreak, and the same impact is expected in the US and the EU for the next quarter, as they face the same crisis in late Q1 and the impacts could extend into Q2, raising the possibility of a market rebalance over the next months.



Latest Data

Correlation to Market Price

Previous Year's Data

Traditional upward drivers are weakened by COVID-19, but the additional impact of constrained supply could provide some balance.

Upward Market Drivers



Supply Chain Constraints

CN: Chinese government implemented restrictions on transportation and the movement of people in efforts to control the epidemic; with declined outputs and hindered logistics in China, supply chains have become stagnant world-wide, cutting off supply.



Steel Mills Shutting Down

EU: In Italy, France, and Germany, most of the steel plants have temporarily shut down or are working at their lower historical rates; German flat steel stocks fell 18.4% and long steel stocks dropped 8.4% Y-o-Y, reducing market availability in the short-term.



Environmental standards to limit steel supply

- ON: Higher emission & environmental standards are expected to limit steel production, with some of the steel manufacturers having 50% of capacity limited by the government in H1. Hence, output slowdown is expected in China's total steel production in 2020, after reaching record highs in 2019 at 750 million metric tons.
- EU: The European Commission Green Deal aims to reduce emissions to net-zero by 2050. It is intended to financially support green initiatives such lower-emitting steel technologies (i.e. HYBRIT technology). These initiatives are expected to increase the production of steel but would also increase production costs by 20-30%, probably offsetting higher carbon prices.



Construction

- CN: Increased infrastructure construction is expected to serve as an effective short-term mechanism to combat economic pressure following the nation's recovery from COVID-19. If approved, ~500 BUSD will be injected into new infrastructure projects by local governments in 2020, most of which in the telecom network and transportation sector.
- > EU: In February, one fourth of European construction companies indicated that they have a shortage of staff which indicates high activity. The sector also has limited overcapacity, which might not be able to regain lost time.
- US: Trump wants to push a 2 TUSD infrastructure package, reviving a campaign pledge, and in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, though he faced resistance in the past over a similar agenda.



Appliances

US: Retailers have reported increased appliances sales in March, as people spend more time at home and decide to work on home improvement and upgrade their current household items.



The market could suffer from a possible recession, due to the COVID-19 and the struggle of world leaders to solve a public health and economic issue.

Downward Market Drivers



Economic Slowdown—COVID-19

Global: Unprecedent government action in response to the spread of COVID-19 has impacted several industries across the globe, disrupting supply chains, and causing manufacturing and sales forecasts to be cut drastically. Countries around the globe are seeing some degree of shelter in place orders and a halt on "non-essential" business operations.



Declined Industrial Output

- US: Expected decrease in overall manufacturing output, as indicated by market sentiment and a big drop of 20%+ in the DJIA index. PMI has dropped in March to the lowest level since 2009, at 48.5.
- EU: Industrial output has dropped across the Eurozone. In December, overall production was down 2% M-o-M across EU27 according to Eurostat. The output bounced back with 2% in January but is expected to decline the coming months due to the temporary closures of many factories. This was reflected in the manufacturing PMI in March which came in at 44.8.
- > CN: Ever since the nationwide outbreak of COVID-19, downstream demand in the manufacturing sector has been stalled due to factory closure, only have partially reopened to date. The Chinese PMI recovery in March from 35.7 to 52.0 shows the magnitude of February's drop.



Automotive Slowdown

- CN: automotive production and sales volume witnessed around 45% y-o-y plummets in Q1. With car dealerships and manufacturers slow to restart business even as lockdown restrictions loosen up in China, the trend is expected to continue throughout Q2.
- EU: European car sales first declined in the beginning of 2020 after four consecutive months of growth. The reversed trend was attributable to weakened general economic condition as well as a drop in sales of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles following emission limit restrictions. Many European factories have closed down due to the virus and Germany passenger car production saw y-o-y decline of 8% and 12% in the first two months, respectively.
- US: Large manufactures are idling facilities, with no exception, as sales are expected to drop up to 20% in 2020 and the industry is struggling to connect the dots in a shaken and complex supply chain.

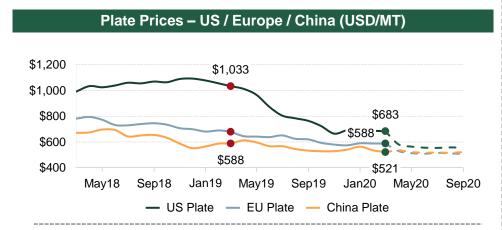


Trade War

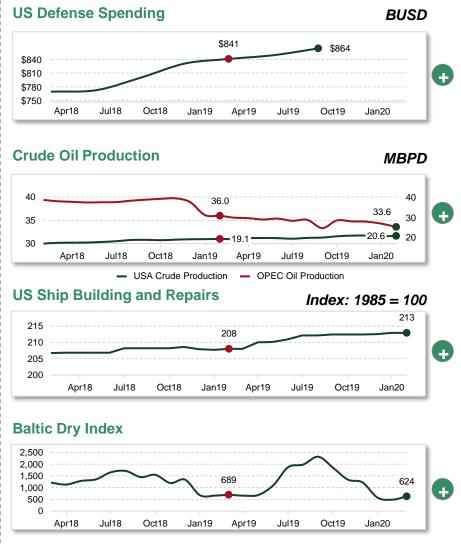
Global: the rush to get medical supplies and related goods to fight the COVID-19 pandemics have raised talks on a new phase of the trade war imposed by the US, though this time it could focus on export restrictions on vital items pertained to the efforts of containing the outbreak. If such a move goes through, it is expected that China and the EU could retaliate, further aggravating manufacturing activity globally.



Plate prices in China declined in Q1 2020 with a 4% drop Q-o-Q, as delays, shelter at home orders, and a sharp oil price decline impacted the market.



- US plate prices increased slightly in January but continued to drop during the rest of the quarter – the decrease Q-o-Q was 1%. The COVID-19 break out has caused construction delays and cancellations, causing the decrease in plate prices. The mills are worried for a recession – prices are expected to stay at low levels.
- Chinese Plate prices fell with 4% Q-o-Q, and the Y-o-Y decline is 12%. In January, factories closed for 2 weeks due to Lunar New Year. The closures continue unexpectedly due to the COVID-19 outbreak, creating a very low demand for steel. Most factories remained closed until end of February, and most are still not operating at full capacity.
- US Crude Oil production slowed its increasing trend and decreased to 20.6MBPD in February. The OPEC Oil Production also declined during the start of 2020. The fall out from COVID-19 has been accompanied by a plummeting crude oil price, which has fallen nearly 70% in Q1, reaching the lowest price in 18 years.
- BDI declined almost 50% Q-o-Q, reaching its lowest point for the last 24 months. The dry bulk shipping market is a result of both the US-China trade war and the global lockdowns due to COVID-19.



Latest Data

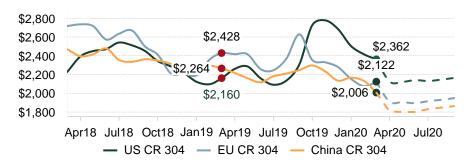
Correlation to Market Price

Previous Year's Data

Source: AV Analysis

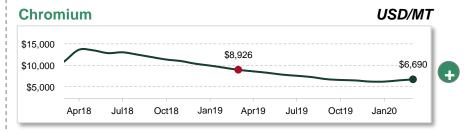
Stainless steel declined 12% Q-o-Q in the US, compared to a 7% and 6% drop in Europe and China, respectively, due to oversupply and low demand.





- The Q1 decline in US stainless prices was more severe than all other regions at 12% QoQ, coming off of it's significant peak at the end of 2019 of \$2,778/MT. March prices currently site at ~\$2,362/MT.
- Despite the strong upward trend in the flat market, EU stainless prices dropped 4% in Q1, as pressure mounted from declining raw material inputs.
- Chinese stainless prices decreased with 6% Q-o-Q. Downstream demand for stainless steel stagnated during the quarter, which caused mills to cut production.
- Nickel prices have been volatile for two quarters, as the Ramu plant in Papua New Guinea was forced shut down by the local government following a toxic spill. Since then, the market went through a correction and has returned to levels close those before the spill.
- After two years of consistent decline, Chromium finally turned upwards with an 8% increase Q-o-Q. However, due to the extent of the decline, prices remain down 25% YoY.
- Natural gas prices are at their lowest in 24 months, resulting from milder than expected temperatures leading to a drop in demand but also a decline in crude oil prices as well.



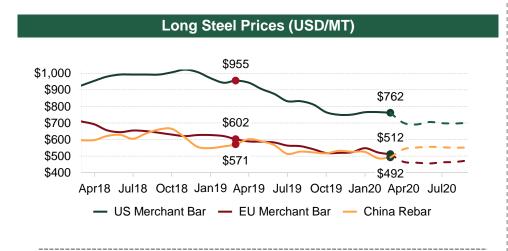




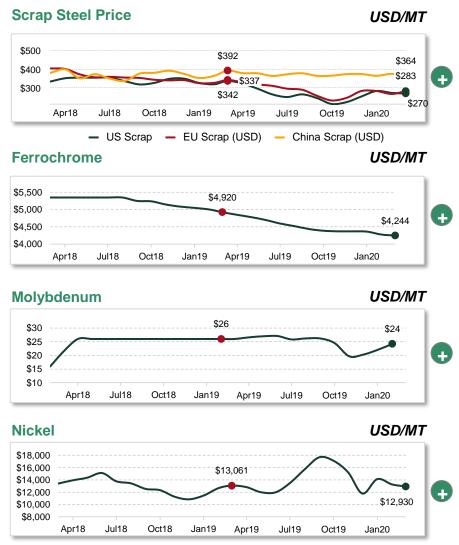




US bar prices improved with 8% Q-o-Q due to acceleration in scrap prices, while China saw decreasing bar prices with 6%.



- US merchant bar prices rose slightly ~2% Q-o-Q, further pushing the rebounding trend seen since October. The US merchant bar market has been one of the most stable in the region amid a period of extreme volatility.
- > EU merchant bar prices have been on a consistent decline for the last two years and despite on overall flat trajectory for the quarter, are down 14% YoY.
- In China, the rebar prices declined 6% Q-o-Q while inventories rose significantly in March, as Chinese mill activity remained high, stocking up on finished goods and betting on the economic recovery on Q2
- Ferrochrome prices decreased 3% throughout Q1 2020, adding to the 14% Y-o-Y drop, due to a saturated market supply, as China has dedicated more capacity towards the production of high carbon content ferrochrome. Prices are expected to rebound in Q2, however, as Samancor Chrome, one of South Africa's largest chrome producer, sent a *Force Majeure* notice to its customers, and has plans to reduce chrome production due to market conditions



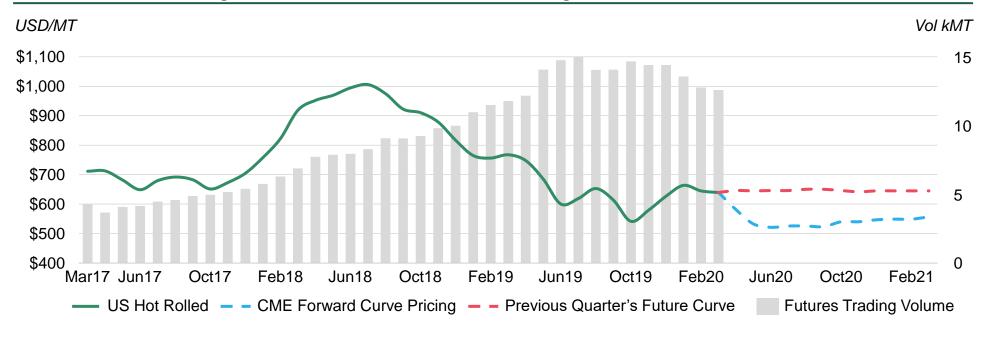
Latest Data

Correlation to Market Price

Previous Year's Data

US HR futures indicate an extremely bearish sentiment for next quarter and the remainder of 2020, with June contracts predicting a floor of \$521/MT.

Hot Rolled Historical Pricing and Contract Volume & Futures CME Pricing



- The CME HRC Futures Curve turned bearish and market players expect a demand slowdown over the next months, due to implications of governmental orders across several states to pause non-essential activities, after the COVID-19 outbreak. Futures for June are the lowest since October 2016.
- Volume of future contracts has decreased for the fifth consecutive month, as buyers are possibly waiting to see where the market bottoms before locking contracts out in advance. However it is interesting to note that volumes are more than double than when prices were at the same level in 2017, perhaps due to large steel consumers adopting risk mitigation strategies.

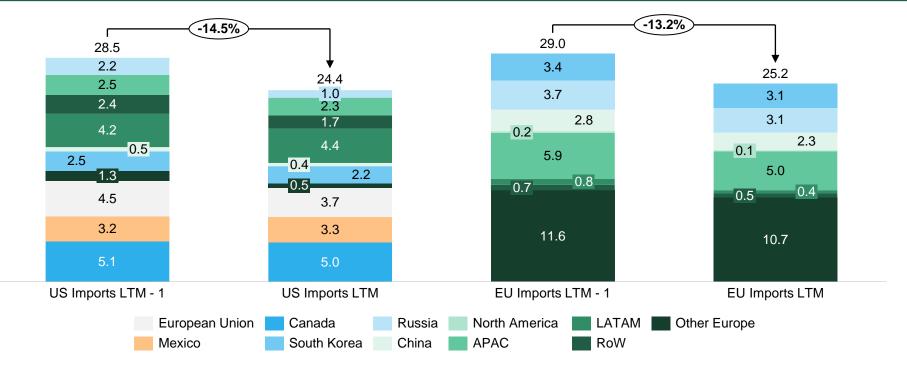
Note: Volumes are traded volumes cleared by CME, i.e. they exclude the "off exchange" OTC (over-the-counter) volumes not cleared by CME Prices pulled for CME futures Jan 8th, 2020



Both the US and EU see continued decreases in imports, as the market feels the effect of steel tariffs implemented on both sides of the Atlantic.

US and EU Imports – All Steel Products MMT

LTM: Feb 19 – Jan 201



- US imports from Russia and the EU dropped 1.2 MMT (57%) and 0.8 MMT (18%), as they further continued with the negative trend, in the Nov 19 to Jan 20 period. The series started 2020 with a 14.5% LTM Y-o-Y drop, as all regions, except for Mexico and other LATAM, experienced a decline in exports. In addition to those already mentioned, other European countries had a big decline at a drop of -0.7 MMT (58%). The movement comes along a 16.7% HR price drop in the US, along with a shrinking gap and a scenario of near price parity between EU and CN flat prices, which shifted markets towards an increased domestic focus, both in US and in the EU.
- Similarly, other European countries and APAC also accounted for a large drop in EU imports, as they each decreased 0.9 MMT (8% and 15% drop, respectively), pushing the EU to keep with the negative trend. On aggregate the total tonnage went from a 7.5% to 13.2% LTM Y-o-Y drop.



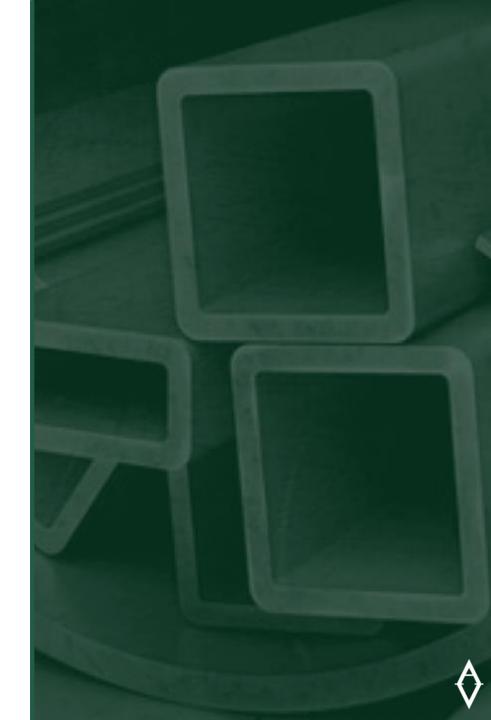
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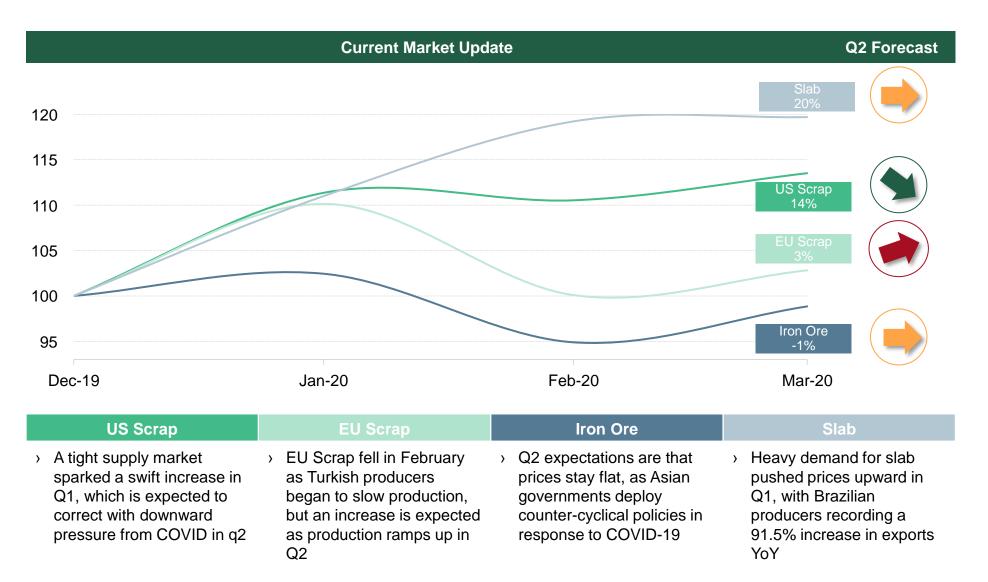
Market Conditions by Region

Steel Production Costs

Major Steel Mill Company Performance



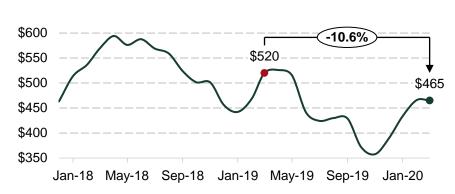
Iron Ore was the only primary commodity to fall in Q1 2020 as other raw materials rode an upward wave driven by Pre-COVID supply factors.



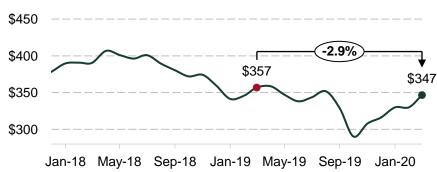


Pig Iron's growth continued through Q1, while Slabs and Scrap prices dropped after recovering in Q4; Y-o-Y drops range between 3% and 20%.

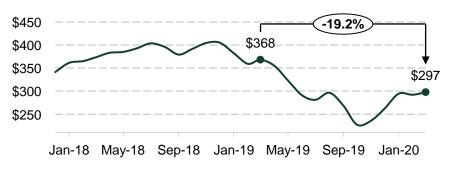




Pig Iron USD/MT

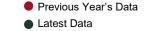


Ferrous Scrap US USD/GT



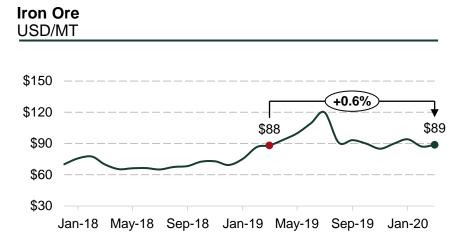
Ferrous Scrap Europe EUR/MT

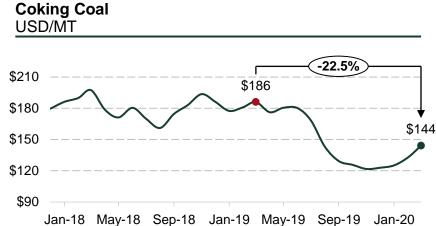




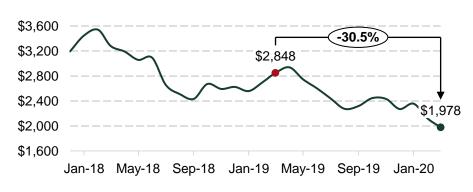


Coking Coal surged 17% in Q1, due to supply issues in China/Australia, while Zinc prices dropped 13% over the same time, and Iron Ore prices stayed flat.

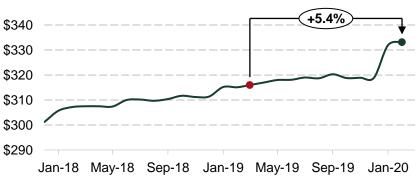


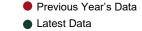


Zinc USD/MT



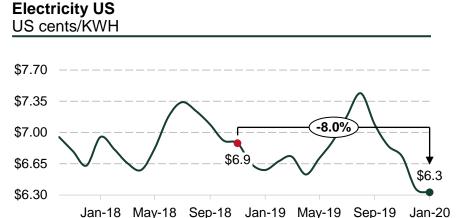
Limestone - Producer Price Index

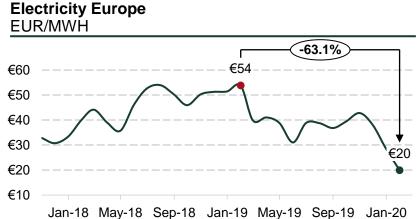




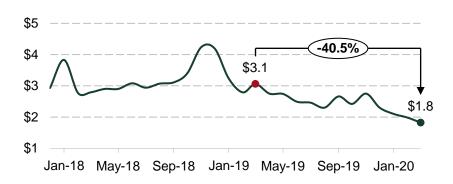


Electricity and Natural Gas prices have plunged in Q1 both in the US and in EU, with drops ranging between 10% and 54% in Q-o-Q.



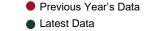


Natural Gas US USD/mmBtu



Natural Gas Germany EUR/MWH







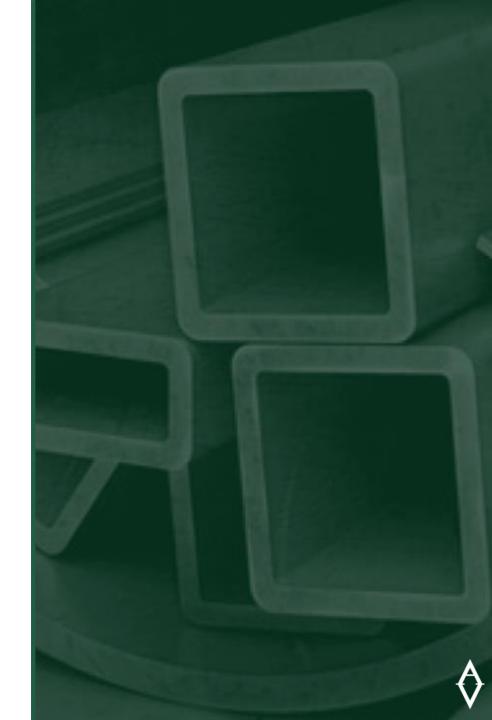
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Steel Production Costs

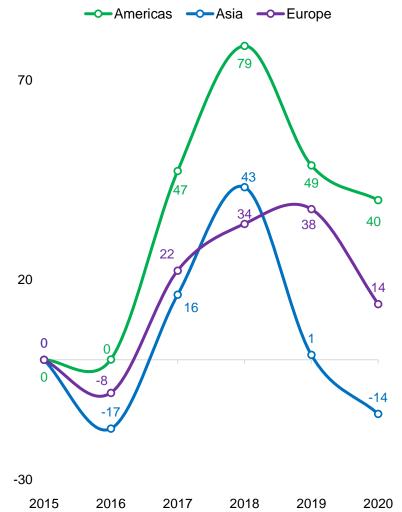
Major Steel Mill Company Performance



Americas and APAC stocks reached the peaks in 2018, whereas European companies performed better in 2019, with big drops followed in all markets.

Regions	Mills	Indexed Stock Movement					
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	CLIFFS	8.3	70.9	98.1	102.8	58.1	
Americas	GE GERDAU	-5.8	42.4	100.0	87.6	144.2	
Americas	NUCOR	8.0	31.4	42.0	22.7	8.4	
	(U _S S)	-10.3	44.3	74.2	-18.5	-50.8	
APAC	♣ ANSTEEL	-25.4	23.4	54.7	-4.5	-25.5	
	BAOSTEEL	-23.0	4.8	23.0	-5.3	-20.5	
	JFE	-36.5	-22.8	-3.9	-37.7	-48.6	
	TATA STEEL	16.0	59.7	99.1	52.4	40.4	
	ArcelorMittal	-31.7	-6.6	7.9	-31.5	-40.1	
Europe	■ EVRAZ	-6.6	60.7	83.1	269.6	168.1	
	Severstal	9.0	27.2	45.4	16.8	28.1	
	ThyssenKrupp	-2.5	5.8	6.6	-42.2	-51.0	
	voestalpine	-9.6	24.5	27.2	-24.1	-35.5	

Regional Stock Movement 2015-2020

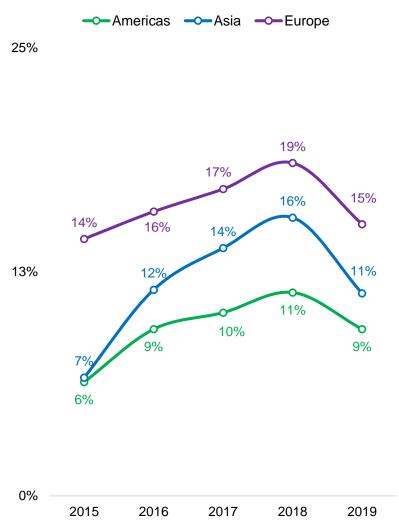




Steel mills have seen slight decline in EBITDA in the last year while European mills maintains relatively higher EBITDA margin.

Regions	Mills	EBITDA %					
Regions	Willia	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
	K AKSteel	7.2	10.2	8.8	7.1	7.2	
Americas	GD GERDAU	9.8	9.9	10.8	13.2	13.0	
Americas	NUCOR	8.2	13.3	13.0	15.1	11.8	
	(U _S S)	0.2	3.8	8.3	10.0	5.3	
	ANSTEEL	1.9	10.2	11.7	15.3	7.8	
APAC	BAOSTEEL	9.1	13.4	15.1	17.0	12.5	
APAC	JFE	7.8	8.4	11.0	11.2	8.9	
	TATA STEEL	7.6	14.0	17.5	18.6	16.0	
Europe	ArcelorMittal	5.3	10.2	11.7	13.4	7.5	
	≡ EVRAZ	15.%	19.2	23.7	27.5	22.1	
	Severstal	32.4	31.8	32.4	35.3	33.7	
	(a) ThyssenKrupp	5.4	5.1	2.7	2.8	2.6	
	voestalpine	12.9	13.0	15.1	13.9	9.9	

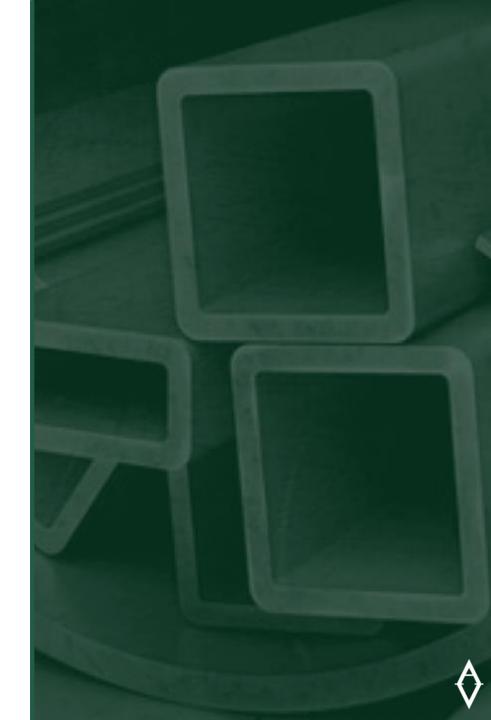
Regional EBITDA Movement 2015-2019





Introduction to Applied Value

Background



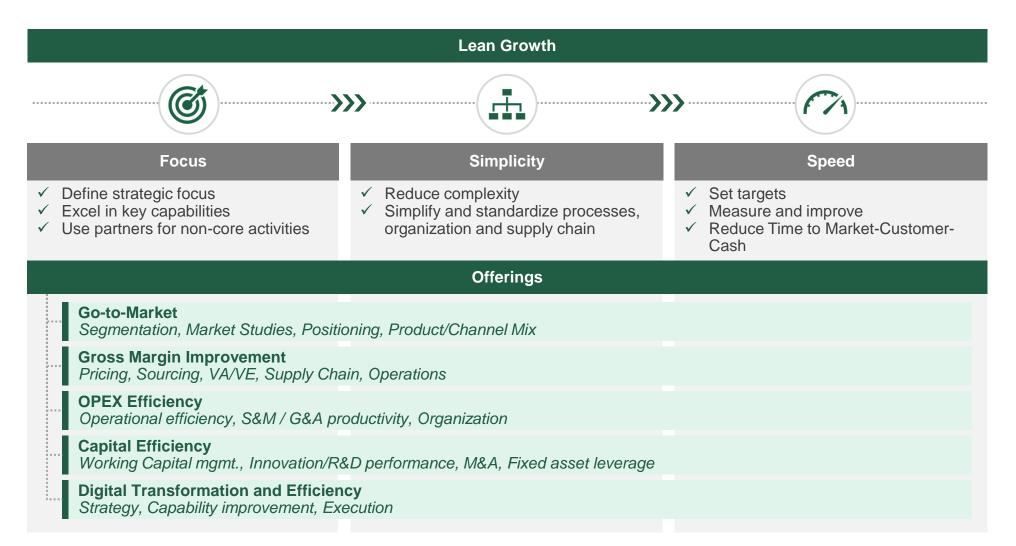
Macroeconomic

Applied Value has 15+ years of experience working with clients in numerous industries involved in various facets of steel purchasing.

Client Annual Consumption, tons		Data Control	Fact-based Negotiations	Leverage Creation	Manage Steel Component Costs	Risk Management	Factors on Global Steel Trade	Game Changers
10M	Automotive OEM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	White Goods OEM	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
	Automotive OEM		✓	✓		✓		
	Global Engineering		✓	✓				
1M	Global Construction	✓				✓		✓
1101	Industrial Products		✓			✓		
	4 Food Producers		✓				✓	√
	Heavy Truck OEM		✓	✓	√			
	Defense/Heavy Truck	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Security Solutions	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Heavy Truck OEM	✓	✓	✓	√	✓		
	Truck Tier 1	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Lifting OEM	✓	✓	✓	√	✓		✓
	Global Engineering	✓	✓	✓		✓		
0.1M	Consumer Goods OEM		✓	✓				✓
	EU Turbine Manufacturer	✓	✓	✓	√	✓		
0.01M	Automotive Tier 1	✓	✓		✓	✓		
3.3	Scand. Engineering	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Scand. Construction	√	✓	✓				

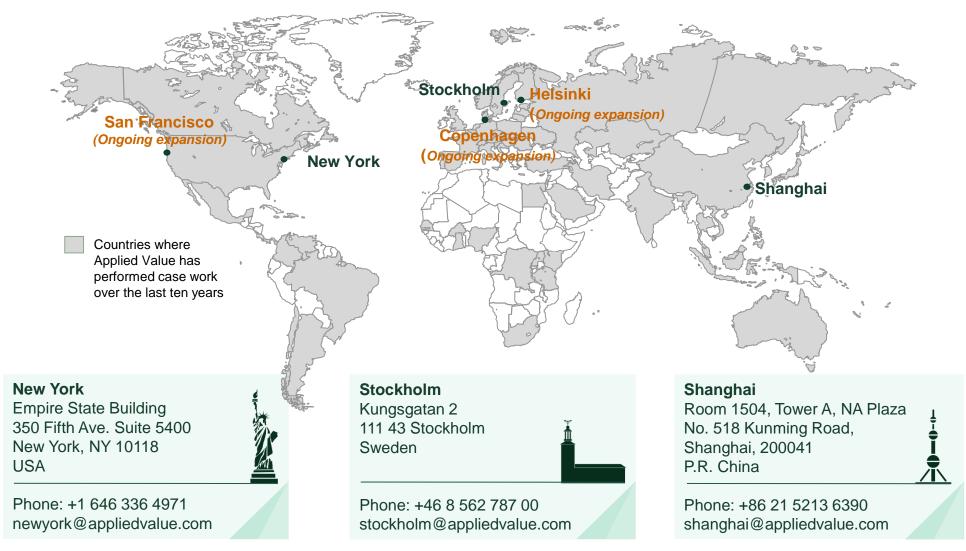


Our Lean Growth framework is based on Focus, Simplicity, Speed – guiding principles to raise client performance.





Applied Value works internationally with global clients







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