

The [American Supply Association \(ASA\)](#) and its [Industrial Piping Division \(IPD\)](#) is the national organization serving wholesaler-distributors and their suppliers in the industrial and mechanical pipe-valve-fitting industry. As a powerful alliance of channel partners, we provide a forum for your upstream trading partners to exchange critical information and address key issues.

In particular, ASA's IPD members constantly check the pulse of the materials and commodities they proudly supply to you. ASA's IPD members are knowledgeable industry leaders, and those who volunteer their service on the IPD Executive Council compile and prepare the *IPD Commodity Reports*. The *Reports* contain some of the most current and qualified market data and information available from the industry's leading manufacturers and distributors about emerging trends and other price-influencing actions and events.

This information is an example of how ASA's IPD manufacturer and distributor [members](#) are constantly looking ahead to ensure you have information and resources you need to be successful. Learn more at www.asa.net.

Oil and Fuel Outlook

Oil and fuel markets were stable in May, if not trending mildly with a downward bias. Geopolitical talks were being conducted with Iran and Ukraine/Russia at the time of writing. Two basic outcomes are possible, each with different impacts on the oil market. If talks fail, sanctions will tighten on Russia/Iran (assuming both fail) and oil prices will increase. If talks are successful with one or both of those countries, global oil supply would theoretically increase (as sanctions are lifted), and oil prices will adjust accordingly.

On the demand front, with the U.S. reducing tariffs on Chinese exports to 30%, a surge in new orders has followed, which has the potential to push near-term global demand and freight activity higher. With these opposing conditions, uncertainty was still high in the global oil markets in May and prices are somewhat stalled (analysts are uncertain which way to speculate).

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was slightly lower month-over-month at the time of writing, and prices continued to be volatile. Oil was trading at \$61.25 (\$63.36 a barrel in last month's report), which was down by 9.87% year-to-date. It was 15.4% lower vs. this time last year (15.6% lower than last month). Brent North Sea Crude was also lower at \$64.48 (down from \$67.21 a barrel last month). This was 12.2% lower YTD and was 17.5% lower over the past 12 months.

Fuel prices were still stable at M/M at the time of writing and were still lower than last year. Diesel prices were essentially unchanged at \$3.55 a gallon at the time of writing (\$3.57 a gallon in the last briefing) (Source: AAA) and were still \$.35 per gallon lower than last year. Gasoline was also essentially unchanged at \$3.19 a gallon (\$3.17 per gallon in last month's briefing), which is 41 cents per gallon lower than last year.

Crude oil prices were adjusted downward again in the latest short-term forecast issued by the EIA. Prices are expected to average \$61.81 in 2025 (\$63.88 in the last update). For 2026, the EIA has oil prices down sharply to \$55.24 a barrel. Prices are expected to average \$60.85 a barrel in Q2, \$58.00 in Q3, and \$57.00 in Q4. Prices will go through significant volatility until trade wars and geopolitical tensions stabilize.

Gasoline prices were unchanged in the latest forecast and are forecast to average \$3.09 in 2025 (versus \$3.31 average in 2024). They are expected to stay low at \$3.07 in 2026. Prices are expected to average \$3.16 in Q2, \$3.12 in Q3, and \$2.99 in Q4. Diesel prices as reported by the EIA currently show diesel prices at \$3.49 (\$3.44 in the last update) through 2025 (after averaging \$3.76 in 2024). Prices are expected to average \$3.50 in Q2, \$3.40 in Q3, and \$3.44 in Q4.

The EIA expects daily crude oil production to approach 13.42 million barrels per day in 2025 (13.51 in the last update) and 13.49 mbpd in 2026 (13.56 in the last update). Total commercial inventories (all types of crude oil and fuels) are expected to remain on average at 1.229 billion barrels in 2025 (1.240 billion in 2024).

They will fall further (largely due to higher export volumes and refilling the Strategic Oil Reserves) to an average of 1.224 billion barrels in 2026.

What ASA PVF Distributors Are Saying

Each month ASA asks members of its Industrial Piping Division for their thoughts on current market conditions and trends, giving the reader boots-on-the-ground insights.

“After a slower than anticipated start to 2025, business conditions have significantly picked up as we are now in the middle of construction season. We are seeing solid activity across all areas of our business and most contractors remain optimistic about the work they have lined up in 2025. Higher than planned interest rates and the threat or uncertainty around tariffs remain a hurdle we all must deal with, however, that has not slowed down the work that will carry us well into the second half of the year. All systems go right now!”

“Our sales are up vs. prior year.”

“Our open orders are at record levels for us.”

“Driven by the data center influx.”

“We are also seeing activity at college and university campuses that are working to make their district energy systems more efficient/green and in some cases retiring aged steam systems with low temperature hot water systems.”

“Tariffs have slowed the pace a bit because of the uncertainty about just what it is or what it will finally be.”

“Tremendous amount of uncertainty within our economy has put pressure on institutions to put on hold any non-essential projects.”

“The Data Center industry is currently faced with a shortage of power, and they are having to move projects to areas of the country where power is more readily available, causing projects to be delayed and they are diverting funds to investing in creating infrastructure to create more power. We generally do not participate in the power sector due to the nature of the systems in power plants not being applicable for our products.”

“K-12 schools are active for us, especially in the Southeast with primarily new schools being built. Otherwise, the typical summer upgrade/retrofit work is generally the same throughout the rest of the country.”
“Sales are actually UP 16% over the last 3 months in comparison to a very strong, same 3-month period last year.”

“This significant sales growth is being driven by our surging “power & energy” division, but business is solid in every area.”

Copper

The price of copper has remained relatively stable over the past month. May marks the first month this year without a new list price change. Copper futures are trading at \$4.75/lb., down just 1% since last month’s report.

Stainless Steel

The current market is reacting to some of the guidance shown with the few trade indications that are seen with this administration. Projects continue to be strong in the data centers and power generation. Other sectors have been in a pause because of the recent lower oil prices. Expect the import stainless fittings to have increases. Domestic prices remained steady.

Cast-Iron

There have been no price or market change announcements from McWane (Tyler Pipe) and/or Charlotte Pipe and Foundry for cast-iron pipe and fittings for the month of May 2025.

Carbon Steel

Over the last 30 days, carbon steel pricing has fallen a bit, before climbing recently as May draws to a close. Hot-rolled coil (HRC) is trading near \$830 vs \$810 at the close of April. Globally, Indian producers have seen increased activity while Chinese producers have struggled a bit lately.

Landed cost for carbon steel pipes has remained flat over the last month.