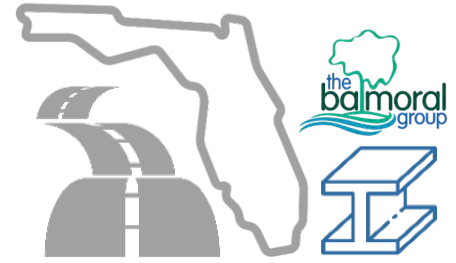
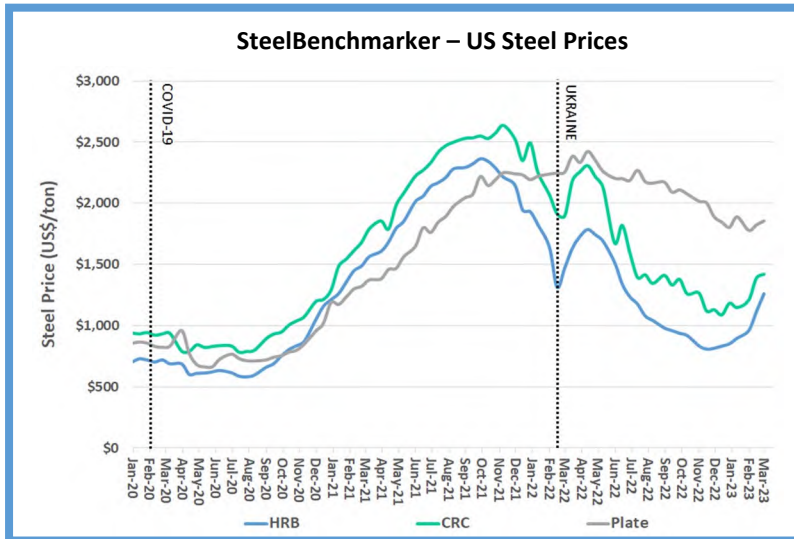


March 2023: Renewed Volatility in Steel Prices



Steel makers report unexpected price increases for some products in February. FDOT suppliers were unable to include unforeseen steel plate cost increases for jobs released within the last couple of months, affecting estimates for standard items. Square tubing costs saw large increases as well, but fabricators were able to increase bids to pass on costs. Fabricators expect similar price increases for plate and tubing in March. U.S. benchmark steel prices also increased in March. Production is expected to continue to rise over the new few months despite price hikes.

March 2023 Survey Results	Structural Steel	Steel Plate	Steel Pipe	Rebar	Round Bar	Square Tubing	Galvanizing
Price Change, February 2023	2.5%	15.5%	5.3%	2.5%	5.3%	8.0%	2.5%
Expected Price Change, Mar. 2023	-2.5%	13.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	8.0%	-2.5%
Expected Price Change by End of Next Quarter (June 2023)	-5.3%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Bid Price Change, February 2023	-2.8%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	8.0%	-2.5%
Production Change, February 2023	12.8%	10.3%	5.3%	2.5%	5.3%	2.5%	11.3%
Expected Production Change, March 2023	5.3%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	8.0%
Expected Production Change by End of Next Quarter (June 2023)	7.8%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	10.5%



- Benchmark steel prices increased through March 2023 by 3% to 22% compared to the previous month.
- U.S. steel costs were 48% (hot-rolled band), 35% (cold-rolled coil), and 125% (steel plate) higher than November 2020 prices.
- U.S. steel prices averaged \$1,512 per ton in March 2023, 23% lower than the same month last year.
- Chinese steel prices rose to \$610 per ton, but are still down 21%, year-over-year.
- Overall, world steel prices were \$816 per ton, 41% lower than March 2022.

Helpful Anecdotes: (1) Infrastructure demand was the primary driver of production changes in February according to FDOT fabricators. (2) Florida’s population growth continues to increase demand for steel products. (3) There was not a consensus between fabricators about whether price changes were worse, about the same, or better than expected over the last month. Market volatility is once again surging.