

FREE MONTHLY BRIEF · INDICATIVE PRICES · DELIVERED 1ST OF EACH MONTH

Methodology. Canadian flat-rolled and plate prices use the Fastmarkets fob-mill-Canada index basis (ASTM A1011 commercial, 0.09–0.38" × 48–72", min 50 short tons, raw material surcharges included). Indicative — not firm quotes.

MONTHLY MARKET SNAPSHOT

Tariff Floor Holds Canadian Flat-Rolled in a Tight Range; Algoma's EAF Transition Resets the Plate Picture

Canadian flat-rolled prices held a narrow range through May, supported by mill supply discipline (Dofasco and Stelco at roughly 50% capacity utilization per MEPS) and the 50% US Section 232 tariff that has effectively closed the cross-border arbitrage release valve. The April 2026 derivative rule change, which now applies the tariff to full product value rather than steel content alone, added further pressure on Canadian fabricators selling into the US; flat steel exports to the US are down roughly 70% year over year. US Midwest HRC futures traced an \$1,080–1,135/short ton band, peaking May 4 before easing to about \$1,121 by month-end. Algoma's Q1 results (May 12) confirmed its completed transition to electric-arc steelmaking and a plate-focused order book. **Directional read:** range-bound through June, with the July 1 USMCA review the next major catalyst.

TOP 2 PRICES THIS MONTH — CAD/CWT, FOB PRODUCING MILL

PRODUCT	PRICE (CAD/CWT)	CHANGE M/M
Hot Rolled Coil (HRC)	\$56.00	+\$0.50
Cold Rolled Coil (CRC)	\$67.00	+\$0.50

Prices are indicative, FOB producing mill, not a firm quote. Pro subscribers receive all 5 tracked products (HRC, CRC, HDG, HRPO, plate) with full mill-by-mill analysis, procurement calls, and bi-weekly Market Trends briefs on tariffs and industry news.

MARKET CONTEXT

Supply: Canadian integrated mills (AM Dofasco, Stelco) operating at roughly 50% capacity utilization per MEPS. Mill discipline, not demand strength, is the floor under prices.

Tariff/Trade: The 50% Section 232 rate (in force since mid-2025) was reinforced in April 2026 by derivative rules taxing full product value. Canadian flat steel exports to the US down roughly 70% year over year.

Macro: Iron ore eased to about \$110/MT, a modest input-cost tailwind, while WTI near \$94/bbl on the Iran-Hormuz conflict lifts freight and energy costs. The two largely offset.

WHAT TO WATCH — JUNE 2026

- Jun 10** Bank of Canada rate decision. A cut would support construction demand.
- Jun 24** Canada CPI for May. Watch tariff pass-through into consumer goods.
- Jul 1** **USMCA mandatory review deadline.** Single biggest event of the quarter for Canadian steel.

KEY INDICATORS

USD/CAD exchange rate	1.3809
U.S. Midwest HRC (CME)	\$1,121/ST
Iron ore (62% Fe, CFR China)	\$110/MT
WTI crude (CME)	\$94/bbl
Section 232 rate	50%

PROCUREMENT NOTE

Range-bound through June on supply discipline. Buyers with Q3 requirements should ladder orders rather than load them. HDG is the standout actionable opportunity this month — its premium over HRC has widened above the historical range.

UPGRADE TO PRO — \$79/MONTH

5-product Canadian flat-rolled & plate index · Mill-by-mill analysis · Procurement calls · Plus 2 bi-weekly Market Trends briefs

steelpulsecanada.com/pricing