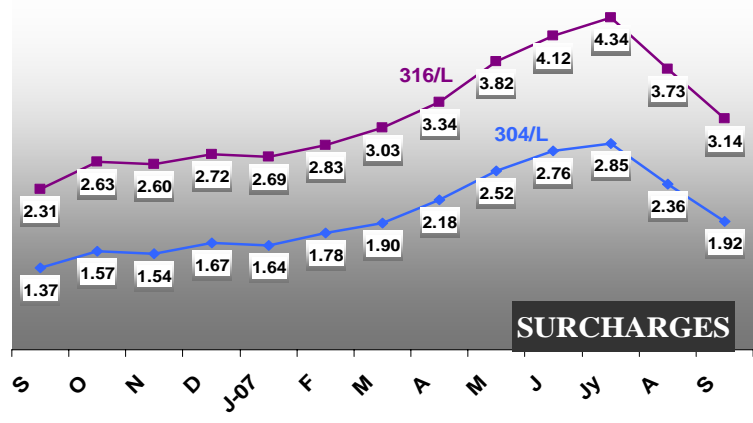


Carbon Prices Seeking Higher Ground

The prices of import **carbon steel weld fittings and flanges** rose 10 – 12% at the beginning of August. Additionally, carbon steel **ERW pipe** pricing is unsettled and will likely be quite volatile in the weeks to come. The reason for this uncertainty is the Chinese markets for carbon ERW pipe have basically closed down. Until penalties and duties are assessed and the percentages are determined, the **Chinese** are not making any offers for 4th quarter deliveries. The resulting narrowing of the price gap between domestic and import ERW will cause the domestic mills to operate at near full capacity. Supplies of 8” thru 24” ERW could actually become threatened by the end of the 4th quarter and into the next year. If so, look for prices on these products to escalate noticeably.



Meanwhile, **stainless steel surcharges** have been correcting of late after a long run-up (see chart). We anticipate the lower prices to be short-lived as demand for commodities continues to be strong.

Mittal Chief Executive Ladshmi Mittal said he expects exports from China to the rest of the world to slow, and for demand in Europe and the U.S. to pick up in the rest of this year.
Metalprices.com News



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