

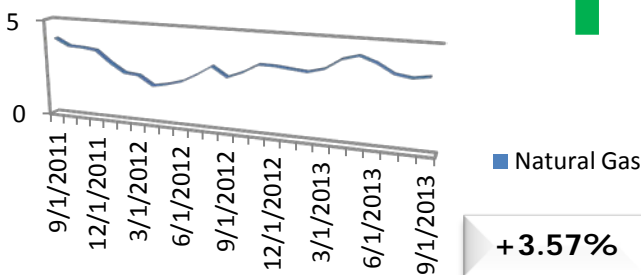
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## Commodity Trends:

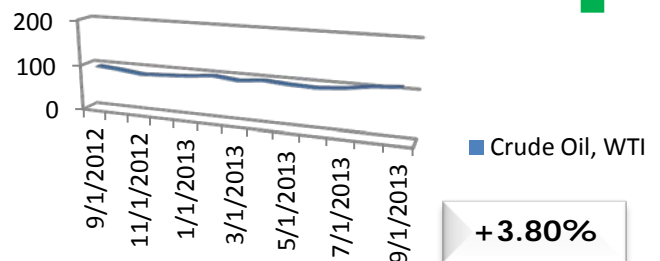
- Hiring continued at a modest pace as businesses added 176,000 jobs in August. That's down slightly from 198,000 jobs added in July, but roughly in line with average job creation over the last year.
- Both the number of unemployed persons (11.3 million) and the unemployment rate (7.3%) changed slightly in August. The jobless rate is down from 8.1% a year ago.
- The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its purchasing managers index for the manufacturing sector climbed to 55.7 in August, from 55.4 percent in July. The July index had jumped from 50.9 in June.
- Manufacturers wrote more orders in August, supporting the idea that the factory sector is back in expansion mode this quarter.
- The U.S. auto industry has shifted into high gear with new car buyers snapping up vehicles last month at a pace not seen since before the financial crisis. Buyers purchased 1.5 million vehicles last month, up 17% from a year ago, with nearly all major auto makers reporting double-digit sales gains.
- Precious metals rose as some investors sought the safety of gold amid rising tensions in the Middle East while others stepped up their silver purchases after brighter economic data.
  - The graphs below represent a one year price trend for comparison only and do not reflect end user delivered prices.
  - Additional 1-month trend percentages have been included on each commodity reported.

## Petroleum Derivatives and Energy

### Natural Gas

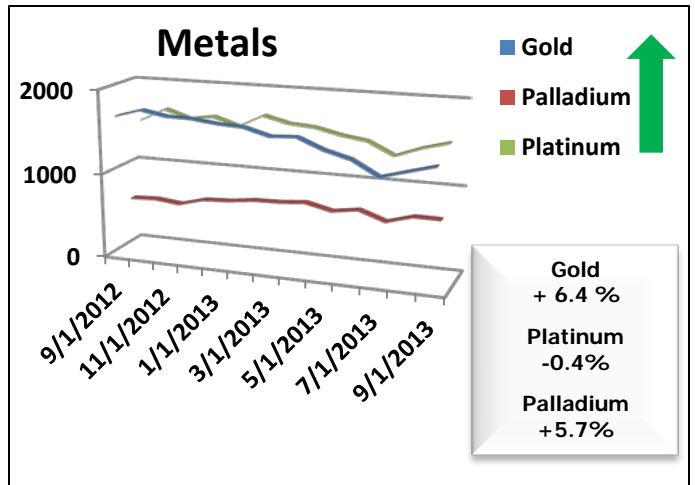
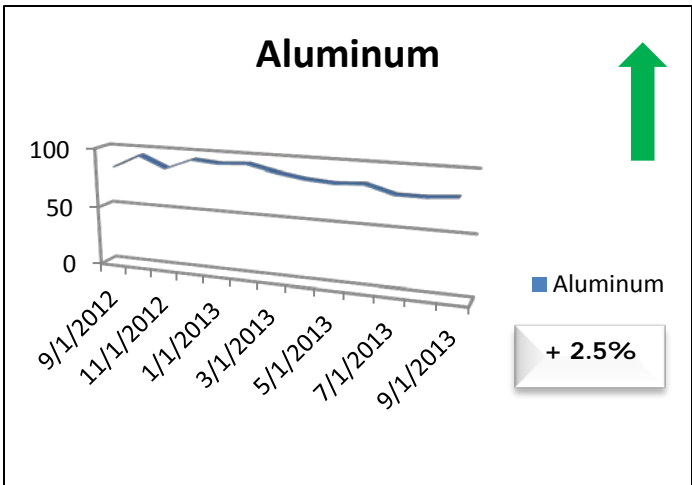
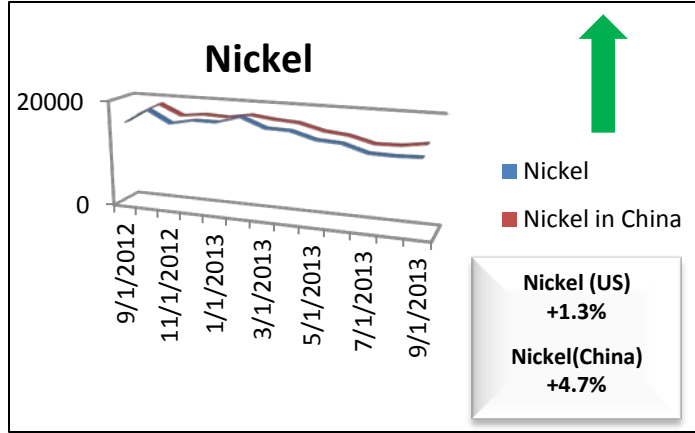
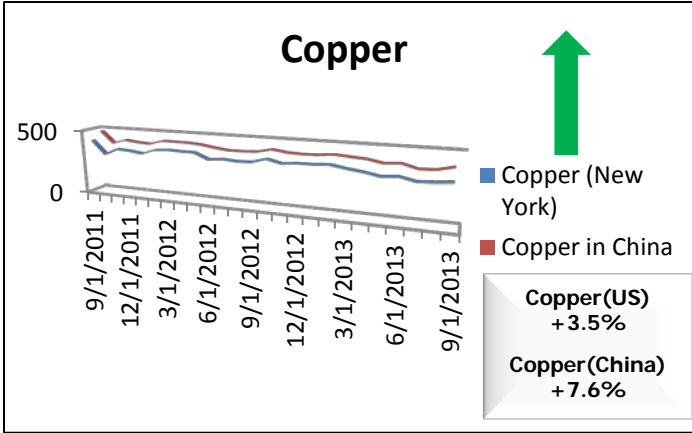


### Crude Oil, WTI

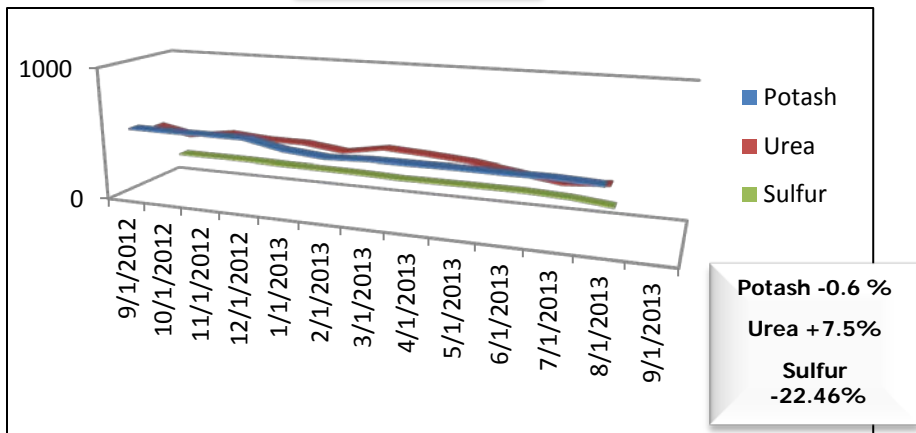


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