

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For The Transition Period From _____ To _____

Commission File Number 0-23320

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

34-1245650
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

22901 Millcreek Boulevard, Suite 650, Highland Hills, OH
(Address of principal executive offices)

44122
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (216) 292-3800

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, without par value	ZEUS	The NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC.

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer
Small reporting company
Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report. X

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant include in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No X

As of June 30, 2023, the aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant based on the closing price at which such stock was sold on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on such date approximated \$478,445,784.

Indicate the number of shares of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date:

Class	Outstanding as of February 23, 2024
Common stock, without par value	11,132,542

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The registrant intends to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a definitive Proxy Statement pursuant to Regulation 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 within 120 days of the close of its fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, portions of which document shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K from the date such document is filed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
Part I		
Item 1.	Business	4
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	16
Item 1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	25
Item 1C.	Cybersecurity	25
Item 2.	Properties	26
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	27
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	28
	Information About Our Executive Officers	29
Part II		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	30
Item 6.	[Reserved]	31
Item 7.	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	32
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	44
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	45
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	77
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	77
Item 9B.	Other Information	77
Item 9C.	Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections	77
Part III		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	78
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	78
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	78
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	78
Item 14.	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	78
Part IV		
Item 15.	Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	79
	Index to Exhibits	79
Item 16.	Form 10-K Summary	83
	Signatures	84

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

The Company

We are a leading metals service center focused on the direct sale and value-added processing of carbon and coated sheet, plate and coil products; stainless steel sheet, plate, bar and coil; aluminum sheet, plate and coil; pipe, tube bar, valves and fittings, tin plate and metal-intensive end-use products. We provide metals processing and distribution services for a wide range of customers. We operate in three reportable segments: specialty metals flat products, carbon flat products, and tubular and pipe products. Our specialty metals flat products segment's focus is on the direct sale and distribution of processed aluminum and stainless flat-rolled sheet and coil products, flat bar products, prime tin mill products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our specialty metals flat products segment has expanded its geographical footprint and enhanced its product offerings in stainless steel and aluminum plate, sheet, angles, rounds, flat bar, tube and pipe and the manufacturing and distribution of stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. Our carbon flat products segment's focus is on the direct sale and distribution of large volumes of processed carbon and coated flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our carbon flat products segment has expanded its product offerings to include self-dumping metal hoppers and steel and stainless-steel dump inserts for pickup truck and service truck beds. Through the acquisition of Metal-Fab, Inc., or Metal-Fab, on January 3, 2023, the carbon flat products segment further expanded its product offerings to include venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications. Our tubular and pipe products segment's focus is on the distribution of metal tubing, pipe, bar, valves and fittings and the fabrication of parts supplied to various industrial markets. Through the acquisition of Central Tube and Bar, or CTB, on October 2, 2023, the tubular and pipe products segment further expanded its geographic footprint and extended its value-added contract manufacturing capabilities. We also perform toll processing of customer-owned metals. We sell certain products internationally, primarily in Canada and Mexico. International sales are immaterial to our consolidated financial results and to the individual segments' results.

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. Our executive offices are located at 22901 Millcreek Boulevard, Suite 650, Highland Hills, Ohio 44122. Our telephone number is (216) 292-3800, and our website address is www.olysteel.com. We are not including the information on our website as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Industry Overview

The metals industry is comprised of three types of entities: metals producers, intermediate metals processors and metals service centers. Metals producers have historically emphasized the sale of metals to volume purchasers and have generally viewed intermediate metals processors and metals service centers as part of their customer base. However, all three types of entities can compete for certain customers who purchase large quantities of metals. Intermediate metals processors tend to serve as processors in large quantities for metals producers and major industrial consumers of processed metals.

Services provided by metals service centers can range from storage and distribution of unprocessed metal products to complex, precision value-added metals processing. Metals service centers respond directly to customer needs and emphasize value-added processing of metals pursuant to specific customer demands, such as cutting-to-length, slitting, shearing, roll forming, shape correction and surface improvement, blanking, tempering, plate burning, stamping, bending and welding. These processes produce metals to specified lengths, widths, shapes and surface characteristics through the use of specialized equipment. Metals service centers typically have lower cost structures than and provide services and value-added processing not otherwise available from metals producers.

End product manufacturers and other metals users seek to purchase metals on shorter lead times and with more frequent and reliable deliveries than can normally be provided by metals producers. Metals service centers generally have lower labor costs than metals producers and consequently process metals on a more cost-effective basis. In addition, due to this lower cost structure, metals service centers are able to handle orders in quantities smaller than would be economical for metals producers. The benefits to customers purchasing products from metals service centers include lower inventory levels, lower overall cost of raw materials, more timely response and decreased manufacturing investment, time and expense. Customers also benefit from a lower investment in production labor, buildings and equipment, which allows them to focus on the engineering, assembly and marketing of their products. We believe that customers' demands for just-in-time delivery have made the value-added inventory, processing and delivery functions performed by metals service centers increasingly important.

Corporate History

Our company was founded in 1954 as a general steel service center. In the late 1980s, our business strategy changed from a focus on warehousing and distributing steel from a single facility with no major processing equipment to a focus on geographic and product growth, customer diversity and value-added processing. An integral part of our growth has been the acquisition and start-up of processing and sales operations, and the investment in processing equipment. In 1994, we completed an initial public offering and, in 1996, we completed a follow-on offering of our common stock.

Over the years, our company has expanded into new product offerings through multiple acquisitions. Our specialty metals flat products segment was established in 2015 and has expanded since its creation, with the acquisitions of Shaw Stainless & Alloy, Inc., or Shaw, in 2021, Action Stainless & Alloys, Inc., or Action Stainless, in 2020 and, Berlin Metals, LLC in 2018. Our carbon flat products segment expanded into manufacturing metal intensive branded products with the acquisitions of Metal-Fab in 2023 McCullough Industries, or McCullough, and certain assets related to the manufacturing of the EZ Dumper® hydraulic dump inserts, or EZ Dumper, in 2019. Our tubular and pipe products segment was established in 2011 and has expanded since its creation, most recently with the acquisition of CTB in 2023.

Michael D. Siegal began his career with us in the early 1970s and serves as our Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Siegal served as our Chief Executive Officer from 1984 through 2018. Richard T. Marabito has served as our Chief Executive Officer since January 2019. Mr. Marabito joined us in 1994 and served as our Chief Financial Officer from 2000 through 2018. Richard A. Manson has served as our Chief Financial Officer since January 2019. Mr. Manson has served in various capacities at our company since 1996, and previously served as our Vice President and Treasurer. Andrew S. Greiff has served as our President and Chief Operating Officer since January 2020. Mr. Greiff joined us in 2009 to lead our specialty metals business and has previously served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Business Strategy and Objectives

We believe that the metals service center and processing industry is driven by the following primary trends: (i) shift by customers to fewer suppliers that are larger and financially strong; (ii) increased customer demand for more frequent deliveries, higher quality products and services; and (iii) localization of metals industry participants.

In recognition of these industry trends, our focus has been on achieving profitable geographic and product growth through the start-up and acquisition of service centers, processors, fabricators and related businesses, increased diversification in higher-return opportunities to reduce the cyclical nature inherent in our industry and investments in people, information systems, higher value-added processing equipment and services, while continuing our commitment to expanding and improving our operating efficiencies, sales and servicing efforts.

We are focused on specific operating objectives including: (i) improving safety performance; (ii) managing inventory turnover; (iii) managing operating expenses; (iv) providing on-time delivery and quality performance for our customers; (v) diversifying product offerings; (vi) profitably growing our market share; (vii) increasing and providing more consistent returns; (viii) maintaining targeted cash turnover rates and (ix) investing in technology and business information systems.

These operating objectives are supported by:

- A set of core values, which are communicated, practiced, measured and rewarded throughout the Company.
- Our commitment to providing a safe work environment and promoting employee health and well-being through continuous improvement activities, education and communication.
- An internal communications program designed to engage and motivate employees to support our strategy, values and culture.
- Our "flawless execution" program, or Fe program, an internal continuous improvement program that rewards employees who achieve profitable growth by delivering superior customer service and exceeding customer expectations.
- Operational initiatives designed to improve efficiencies and reduce costs by improving and automating processes and creating an environment to facilitate change and improve the way we work and create value.
- Information systems and key metric reporting to focus managers on achieving specific operating objectives.
- Alignment of compensation with the financial objectives and performance of the Company and the achievement of specific financial and operating objectives.

We believe our depth of management experiences, facilities, locations, processing capabilities, inventory, focus on safety, quality and customer service, extensive and experienced sales force, and the strength of our customer and supplier relationships provide a strong foundation for implementation of our strategy and achievement of our objectives. Certain elements of our strategy are set forth in more detail below.

Investments and Acquisitions. During the past three years, we have accelerated our growth through acquisitions and capital investments in facilities and processing equipment.

On October 2, 2023, we acquired all membership interest of CTB, headquartered in Conway, Arkansas with operations also located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. CTB offers a range of value-added fabrication services, including tube laser cutting, tube bending, robotic welding, flat laser burning and brake press forming. The acquisition expanded our tubular and pipe products segment's fabrication capabilities for the transportation, agricultural, commercial furniture and data center construction industries.

On January 3, 2023, we purchased all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Metal-Fab, headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. Metal-Fab is a manufacturer of venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications. The acquisition expanded our portfolio of metal-intensive end-use products and widened our product offerings, manufacturing capabilities and geographic reach.

On June 1, 2022, we began leasing an 81,400 square-foot metal fabrication facility, located in Bartlett, Illinois. This new facility is fabrication focused with an emphasis on specialty metals flat-rolled products and downstream value-added services. The transfer of the fabrication business to Bartlett, Illinois also supports our growth plans for the cut-to-length business out of the Schaumburg, Illinois facility. To support the growth of our fabrication services, the new Bartlett facility initially houses two lasers and three press brakes.

On October 1, 2021, we acquired substantially all of the net assets of Shaw, based outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Shaw is a full-line distributor of stainless steel sheet, pipe, tube, bar and angles. Shaw also manufactures and distributes stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. The acquisition expanded our stainless-steel distribution and fabrication capabilities, as well as our entry into architectural and barrier defense bollards.

In addition to the acquisitions noted above, our capital investments during the past three years have primarily consisted of additional processing and automation equipment for all three of our segments.

When the results of sales and marketing efforts and our financial justifications indicate that there is sufficient customer demand for a particular product, process or service, we may purchase equipment to satisfy that demand. We also evaluate our existing equipment to ensure that it remains productive, and we upgrade, replace, redeploy or dispose of equipment when necessary. We invest in processing equipment to support customer demand and to respond to the growing trend among OEMs (our customers) to outsource non-core production processes, such as plate processing, machining, welding and fabrication, in order to concentrate on engineering, design and assembly.

Disposition of Assets: On September 17, 2021, we sold substantially all of the assets related to our Detroit, Michigan operation to Venture Steel (U.S.), Inc. The proceeds of the sale were used for working capital needs as well as the acquisitions and investments in the subsequent organic growth opportunities noted above. The Detroit operation was primarily focused on the distribution of carbon flat-rolled steel to domestic automotive manufacturers and their suppliers.

Sales and Marketing. We believe that our commitments to quality, service, just-in-time delivery and field sales personnel have enabled us to build and maintain strong customer relationships. We continuously analyze our customer base to ensure that strategic customers are properly targeted and serviced, while focusing our efforts to supply and successfully service multi-location customers from multiple Olympic Steel facilities. We service certain customers with carbon and specialty metals flat products and tubular and pipe products through cross-stocking of products in certain facilities.

We offer business solutions to our customers through value-added and value-engineered services. We also provide inventory stocking programs and in-plant Olympic Steel employees located at certain customer facilities to help reduce customers' costs. Our owned truck fleet and dedicated carrier fleet further enhance our just-in-time deliveries based on our customers' requirements.

Our Fe program is a commitment to provide superior customer service while striving to exceed customer expectations. This program includes tracking on-time delivery and quality performance against objectives, and recognition of employee initiatives to improve efficiencies, streamline processes or reduce operating expenses at each operation.

We believe our large and experienced sales force provides strategic advantages. Our sales force makes direct daily sales calls to customers throughout the continental United States, and parts of Canada and Mexico. The continuous interaction between our sales force and active and prospective customers provides us with valuable market information and sales opportunities, including opportunities for outsourcing, improving customer service and increasing sales.

Our sales efforts are further supported by metallurgists, engineers, technical and quality service personnel and product specialists who have specific expertise in carbon and stainless steel, aluminum, alloy plate and steel fabrication as well as tubular and pipe products. Our services for certain customers also include integration into our internal business systems to provide cost efficiencies for both us and our customers.

Management. We believe one of our strengths is the depth, knowledge and experience of our management team. In addition to our executive officers, members of our senior management team have a diversity of backgrounds within the metals industry, including management positions at metals producers and other metals service centers. They average 29 years of experience in the metals industry and 21 years with our company. We have a succession planning and leadership development process in place, which allows us to further enhance our management team by the promotions of employees to executive management positions within the organization.

Products, Processing Services and Quality Standards

We carry a wide selection of metals products and grades, ranging from commercial quality to ultra-high strength steel and specialty metals including;

- Stainless steel and aluminum coil and sheet products, angles, rounds and flat bar;
- Alloy, heat treated and abrasion resistant coil, sheet and plate;
- Tin mill products including electrolytic tinplate, electrolytic chromium coated steel and black plate;
- Coated metals including galvanized, galvanized, electro galvanized, advanced high strength steels, aluminized, and automotive grades of steel;
- Cold rolled carbon including commercial quality, advanced high strength steel, drawing steel and automotive grades, cold rolled steel coil and sheet products;
- Hot rolled carbon including hot rolled coil, sheet and plate steel products including pickled and oiled, automotive grades, advanced high strength steels, and high strength low alloys; and
- Tube, pipe & bar products including round, square, and rectangular mechanical and structural tubing; hydraulic and stainless tubing; boiler tubing; carbon, stainless, and aluminum pipe; and valves and fittings.

With the acquisitions of EZ Dumper and McCullough, we manufacture hydraulic dump inserts and self-dumping hoppers. With the acquisition of Shaw, we manufacture and distribute stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. With the acquisition of Metal-Fab, we manufacture venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications.

Customer orders are entered or electronically transmitted into computerized order entry systems, and appropriate inventory is selected and scheduled for processing in accordance with the customer's specified delivery date. We attempt to maximize yield and equipment efficiency through the use of computer software and by combining customer orders for processing each coil, plate, tube or pipe to the fullest extent practicable.

Our traditional service center and higher value-added processes include;

- Cut-to-length - cutting metal along the width of the coil, or to desired lengths;
- Slitting - cutting metal to specified widths along the length of the coil;
- Shearing - the process of cutting sheet metal;
- Blanking - cutting metal into specific shapes with close tolerances;
- Tempering - cold rolling process that improves the uniformity of the thickness and flatness of the metals;
- Stretcher-leveling - stretching process that improves the uniformity of the thickness and flatness of the metals;
- Plate and laser processing - cutting metal into specific shapes and sizes via laser, plasma and flame cutting;
- Forming and machining - bending, drilling, milling, tapping, boring and sawing metal;
- Tube processing - tube bending and end finishing;
- Finishing - shot blasting, grinding, edging, threading and grooving, beveling and polishing;
- Fabrication - machining, welding, assembly, painting and kitting of component parts; and
- Value added services, including saw cutting, laser cutting, beveling, threading and grooving.

The flat products segment is separated into two reportable segments; specialty metals flat products and carbon flat products. The flat products segments' assets and resources are shared by the specialty metals and carbon flat products segments and both segments' products are, in some instances, stored in shared facilities and processed on shared equipment.

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2023, the major pieces of processing equipment in operation by segment:

Processing Equipment	Consolidated Flat Products	Tubular and Pipe Products	Total
Cut-to-length	22	15	37
Slitting	12	-	12
Shearing	10	-	10
Blanking	3	-	3
Tempering	3	-	3
Stretcher-leveling	2	-	2
Plate processing	29	-	29
Laser processing	31	20	51
Forming	31	-	31
Machining	36	67	103
Tube processing	-	40	40
Finishing	38	5	43
Painting	3	1	4
Total	220	148	368

Our quality assurance system, led by certified specialists and engineers, establishes controls and procedures covering all aspects of our products from the time the material is ordered through receipt, processing and shipment to the customer. These controls and procedures encompass periodic supplier and customer audits, workshops with customers, inspection equipment and criteria, preventative actions, material traceability and certification. We have quality labs for tensile testing at several of our facilities, including at our facilities in Cleveland, Ohio, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Buford, Georgia and Bettendorf, Iowa and an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) for electrical products testing at our facility in Wichita, Kansas.

In addition, 31 of our facilities have earned International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 certifications. Our Romeoville, Illinois and Locust, North Carolina facilities have earned the American Society of Mechanical Engineers S Certification and our Locust, North Carolina facility has earned the National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors R and U Certifications.

Our office building in Winder, Georgia has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Customers and Distribution

We have a diverse customer and geographic base, which helps to reduce the inherent risk and cyclical nature of our business. Net sales to our top three customers, in the aggregate, approximated 8%, 7% and 6% of our consolidated net sales in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. We serve customers in metals consuming industries, including manufacturers and fabricators of transportation and material handling lift equipment, construction, mining and farm equipment, storage tanks, environmental and energy generation equipment, automobiles, food service and electrical equipment, as well as general and plate fabricators and metals service centers.

The table below shows the percentage of our consolidated net sales to the largest industries for the past three years.

Industry	2023	2022	2021
Industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators	48%	52%	47%
Metals service centers	9%	9%	11%
Transportation equipment manufacturers	8%	8%	6%
Residential and commercial construction	6%	7%	8%
Agricultural and farm equipment	6%	5%	4%
End use products	6%	1%	1%
All others <5%	17%	18%	23%

While we ship products throughout the United States, most of our customers are located in the midwestern, eastern and southern regions of the United States. Most customers are located within a 250-mile radius of one of our processing facilities, thus enabling an efficient delivery system capable of handling a high frequency of short lead time orders. We transport our products directly to customers via our owned truck fleet and dedicated carrier fleet, which further supports the just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers, and third-party trucking firms.

We process our metals to specific customer orders as well as for stocking programs. Many of our larger customers commit to purchase on a regular basis at agreed upon or indexed prices for periods ranging from three to twelve months. To help mitigate price volatility risks, these price commitments are generally matched with corresponding supply arrangements, or to a lesser degree by commodities hedging. Customers notify us of specific release dates as processed products are required. Customers typically notify us of release dates anywhere from a just-in-time basis to one month before the release date. Therefore, we are required to carry sufficient inventory to meet the short lead time and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers.

Raw Materials

Our principal raw materials are carbon, coated, and stainless steel and aluminum, in the forms of pipe, tube, flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate that we typically purchase from multiple primary metals producers. The metals industry as a whole is cyclical and at times pricing and availability of material can be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control, including general domestic and global economic conditions; domestic and global supply and demand imbalance; competition; quickly changing lead times and late deliveries from metals producers; fluctuations in the costs of raw materials necessary to produce metals; import duties; tariffs and quotas; and currency exchange rates. This volatility can significantly affect the availability and cost of raw materials to us.

Inventory management is a key profitability driver in the metals service center industry. Similar to many other metals service centers, we maintain substantial inventories of metals to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon historic buying practices, purchase forecasts and commitments with customers, supplier lead times and market conditions.

Our commitments to purchase metals are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. We enter into pass through nickel swaps at the request of our customers in order to mitigate our customers' risk of volatility in the price of metals. The swaps are settled with the brokers at maturity and the economic benefit or loss arising from the changes in fair value of the swaps is contractually passed through to the customer.

We have some fixed-priced purchase agreements that support fixed-priced sales agreements; however, in general we have no long-term, fixed-price metals purchase contracts, except for commodity hedges. When metals prices decline, customer demands for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower gross profits and earnings as we use existing metals inventory. When metals prices increase, competitive conditions will influence how much of the price increase we can pass on to our customers.

Suppliers

We concentrate on developing supply relationships with reliable high-quality domestic and international metals producers, using a coordinated effort to be the customer of choice for business critical suppliers. We employ sourcing strategies that maximize the quality, production lead times and transportation economies of a global supply base. We are an important customer of flat-rolled coil and plate, pipe and tube for many of our principal suppliers, but we are not dependent on any one supplier. We purchase in bulk from metals producers in quantities that are efficient for such producers. This enables us to maintain a continued source of supply that we believe is competitively priced. We believe the access to our facilities and equipment, and our high quality customer services and solutions, combined with our long-standing prompt pay practices, will continue to be important factors in maintaining strong relationships with metals suppliers.

The metals producing supply base has experienced significant consolidation, with a few suppliers accounting for a majority of the domestic carbon flat-rolled steel market. We purchased approximately 40% and 39% of our total metals requirements from our three largest suppliers in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Although we have no long-term supply commitments, we believe we have good relationships with our metals suppliers. If, in the future, we are unable to obtain sufficient amounts of metals on a timely basis, we may not be able to obtain metals from alternate sources at competitive prices. In addition, interruptions or reductions in our supply of metals could make it difficult to satisfy our customers' just-in-time delivery requirements, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Competition

Our principal markets are highly competitive. We compete with other public and private regional and national metals service centers, single location service centers and, to a certain degree, metals producers and intermediate metals processors on a regional basis. We have different competitors for each of our products and within each region. We compete on the basis of price, product selection and availability, customer service, value-added capabilities, quality, financial strength and geographic proximity. Certain of our competitors have greater financial and operating resources than we have.

With the exception of certain Canadian or Mexican operations, foreign-located metals service centers are generally not a material competitive factor in our principal domestic markets.

Management Information Systems

Information systems and technology are important components of our strategy. We have invested in technologies and related personnel as a foundation for growth. We depend on our Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP, systems for financial reporting, management decision-making, inventory management, order tracking and fulfillment and production optimization. We continue to upgrade and consolidate our systems for optimal use of resources and to assure we are taking advantage of appropriate technology offerings.

Our information systems focus on the following core application areas:

Inventory Management. Our information systems track the status, quantity and cost of inventories by product, location and process in real time. This information is essential to optimize inventory management.

Differentiated Services To Customers. Our information systems support value-added services to customers, including quality control and on-time delivery monitoring and reporting, just-in-time inventory management and shipping services.

E-Commerce and Advanced Customer Interaction. We are actively participating in electronic commerce initiatives to reduce processing cost and time. In addition to full electronic data interchange, or EDI, capabilities with our customers and vendors, we also have implemented extranet sites for specific customers.

System and Process Enhancements. We continue to implement ERP systems to provide standardized business processes, enhanced inventory management, production cost, sales administrative controls and reduced technical support requirements. Our business analysts work with our quality team to identify opportunities for efficiency and improved customer service. We collaborate across the metal supply chain, working with metals producers, service providers, customers, and industry-sponsored organizations to develop industry processing standards to drive cost out of the supply chain.

Information security and continuous availability of information processing are of highest priority. Our information professionals employ security and monitoring practices, controls, education and tools to mitigate cybersecurity risks and threats. In case of physical emergency or threat, our ERP systems, accounting systems, internet and communications systems are duplicated at an off-site computing facility or through , multi-site cloud providers.

Automation Initiatives

We believe that investing in processing automation solutions is an important component in realizing our profitable growth strategy. We have made investments in automated packaging, material handling and welding, among other solutions, to gain production efficiencies, decrease production costs, improve safety conditions for our employees and to ease labor shortage risks.

Human Capital Management

Our employees are our most valued resource. The unique insights and experiences of our diverse team are what fuel our safe, profitable growth. We want our teams to reflect the diverse communities where we live and work. We have a focus on inclusion committed to building a culture that strives to acknowledge and overcome bias and cultivates leaders who value, support and celebrate diversity of thought and perspective. We work to attract a diverse, qualified workforce through an inclusive and accessible recruiting process that utilizes online recruiting, campus outreach, internships and job fairs.

Olympic Steel's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, or DEI, work started as a women's development initiative several years ago and the scope has since broadened to build a sustainable program, working with industry peers and other outside partners to gather insights and best practices that will help shape the future of our organization. We seek to retain and develop employees by offering competitive wages, benefits and training opportunities, as well as promoting a safe and healthy workplace culture.

Our safety motto is, "Safety first. Always. And, it starts with me!". We are relentlessly focused on safety. Through best practice sharing and an emphasis on leading indicators, we are strengthening our safety culture of learning and building a safer work environment. We believe that engagement from every employee is critical. Our Safety Committees at each division help us increase engagement, while emphasizing our proactive commitment to safety. Near-miss reports, risk assessments, job safety analyses and weekly safety audits/walks are some of the ways we contribute to our safety culture of learning and growth. While we diligently manage safety policies, programs, and training on an ongoing basis, we believe our employee-driven safety culture has the biggest impact.

We strive to comply with all applicable state, local and international laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which we operate. All applicants and employees are treated with the same high level of respect regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran or other protected status. Our core values (Accountability, Corporate Citizenship, Customer Satisfaction, Employee Development, Financial Stability, Integrity, Respect, Safety and Teamwork) guide our decisions and behavior and set a standard of excellence that rewards our employees.

At December 31, 2023, we employed approximately 2,168 people. Approximately 244 of the hourly plant personnel are represented by seven separate collective bargaining units. The table below shows the expiration dates of the collective bargaining agreements.

Facility	Expiration date
Hammond, Indiana	November 30, 2024
Locust, North Carolina	March 4, 2025
St. Paul, Minnesota	May 25, 2025
Romeoville, Illinois	May 31, 2025
Minneapolis (coil), Minnesota	September 30, 2025
Indianapolis, Indiana	January 29, 2026
Minneapolis (plate), Minnesota	March 31, 2027

We have never experienced a work stoppage and we believe that our relationship with employees is strong. However, any prolonged work stoppages by our personnel represented by collective bargaining units could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Environmental

Olympic Steel is a metals service center. We warehouse, process, and distribute metal products; however, we are not a metals producer (steel mill). As such, we do not have the same potential to introduce pollutants into the water or the air that occur during some other metals manufacturing processes. Instead, we're part of the supply chain that makes products out of metal. We buy metal products in bulk from metal producers. Then, our role as a metals service center is to break that bulk supply into smaller quantities to sell to our customers. We also support OEMs and other customers by cutting, shaping, and otherwise processing carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminum.

While we do not make metals, we do recycle scrap material that mills re-use in their process to make raw materials. The work we do to process metals for our customers does not distribute pollutants into the water supply, nor do we do any mining or extract materials from the ground. While we believe our carbon footprint is small, we are still taking steps to further reduce our overall environmental impact.

We are committed to responsible environmental management practices and attempt to prevent pollution by identifying opportunities and improving environmental performance in all aspects of our business. Our facilities are subject to certain federal, state and local requirements relating to the protection of the environment. We believe that we are in material compliance with all environmental laws, do not anticipate any material expenditure to meet environmental requirements and do not believe that compliance with such laws and regulations will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Service Marks, Trade Names and Patents

We conduct our business under the name "Olympic Steel." A provision of federal law grants exclusive rights to the word "Olympic" to the U.S. Olympic Committee. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized, however, that certain users may continue to use the word based on long-term and continuous use. We have used the name Olympic Steel since 1954, but are prevented from registering the name "Olympic" and from being qualified to do business as a foreign corporation under that name in certain states. In such states, we have registered under different names, including "Oly Steel" and "Olympia Steel." Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., does business in certain states under the name "Oly Steel Iowa, Inc." Our wholly owned subsidiary, IS Acquisition, Inc., does business under the name "Integrity Stainless." Our CTI operation conducts business under the name "CTI Power." Our operation in Monterrey, Mexico operates under the name "Metales de Olympic S. de R.L. de C.V." Our wholly owned subsidiary, B Metals, Inc., does business under the name "Berlin Metals." Our wholly owned subsidiary, MCI, Inc., does business under the name "McCullough Industries" and we conduct business under the name "EZ Dumper" for certain of our products. Our wholly owned subsidiary, ACT Acquisition, Inc., does business under the name "Action Stainless & Alloys." Our wholly-owned subsidiary, SHAQ, Inc., does business under the name "Shaw Stainless & Alloys".

The registered trademarks "DYNAGUARD", "DG", "MF", "METAL-FAB", "METAL-FAB INC.", "TEMP/GUARD", "MICRO AIR", "CORR/GUARD", "SURELOCK", "ROTO-PULSE", "MISTMAX" and "FORCE" were acquired in conjunction with the acquisition of Metal-Fab.

We hold a trademark for our stainless steel sheet and plate product "OLY-FLATBRITE", which has a unique combination of surface finish and flatness and for our "WRIGHT" self-dumping metal hoppers produced by McCullough. The registered trademark "ACTION STAINLESS" was acquired in conjunction with the asset acquisition of Action Stainless.

The "EZ DUMPER®" tradename was acquired by us in conjunction with the acquisition of certain assets related to the manufacturing of the EZ Dumper hydraulic dump inserts.

The registered tradenames "SHAW STAINLESS" and "SHAW STAINLESS & ALLOY" were acquired by us in conjunction with the asset acquisition of Shaw Stainless.

We hold a patent for a certain welding fume collector, the apparatus and associated methodology, used during the process of welding which was acquired in conjunction with the acquisition of Metal-Fab. We also hold patents for certain bollard coverings and methods of manufacturing and use thereof which were acquired in conjunction with the asset acquisition of Shaw Stainless.

Government Regulation

Our operations are governed by many laws and regulations, including those relating to workplace safety and worker health, principally the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations thereunder. We believe that we are in material compliance with these laws and regulations and do not believe that future compliance with such laws and regulations will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Seasonality

Seasonal factors may cause demand fluctuations within the year, which could impact our results of operations. Typically, demand in the first half of the year is stronger than the second half of the year, as it contains more ship days and is not impacted by the seasonal customer shut-downs in July, November and December due to holidays.

Effects of Inflation

Inflation generally affects us by increasing the cost of employee wages and benefits, transportation services, energy, borrowings under our credit facility, processing equipment, and purchased metals. Although general inflation, excluding increases in the price of metals and increased labor expense, has increased during 2023, it has not had a material effect on our financial results during the past three years, but may have a significant impact in future years.

Available Information

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements, and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that are filed by the Company at <http://www.sec.gov>.

In addition, our annual reports on Form 10-K, as well as our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to all of the foregoing reports, are made available free of charge on or through the "Investor Relations" section of our website at www.olysteel.com as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC.

Information relating to our corporate governance at Olympic Steel, including our environmental, social and governance, or ESG, commitments to operating responsibly, our Business Ethics Policy, information concerning our executive officers, directors and Board committees (including committee charters), and transactions in our securities by directors and officers, is available free of charge on or through the "Investor Relations" section of our website at www.olysteel.com. We are not including the information on our website as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Forward-Looking Information

This Annual Report on Form 10-K and other documents we file with the SEC contain various forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about our future performance, business, our beliefs and our management's assumptions. In addition, we, or others on our behalf, may make forward-looking statements in press releases or written statements, or in our communications and discussions with investors and analysts in the normal course of business through meetings, conferences, webcasts, phone calls and conference calls. Words such as "may," "will," "anticipate," "should," "intend," "expect," "believe," "estimate," "project," "plan," "potential," and "continue," as well as the negative of these terms or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those implied by such statements including, but not limited to, those set forth in Item 1A (Risk Factors) below and the following:

- risks of falling metals prices and inventory devaluation;
- supply disruptions and inflationary pressures, including the availability and rising costs of labor and energy;
- risks associated with shortages of skilled labor, increased labor costs and our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;
- rising interest rates and their impacts on our variable interest rate debt;
- supplier consolidation or addition of new capacity;
- risks associated with the invasion of Ukraine, including economic sanctions, and the conflicts in the Middle East, or additional war, military conflict, or hostilities could adversely affect global metals supply and pricing;
- general and global business, economic, financial and political conditions, including, but not limited to, recessionary conditions and legislation passed under the current administration;
- reduced production schedules, layoffs or work stoppages by our own, our suppliers' or customers' personnel;
- risks associated with supply chain disruption resulting from the imbalance of metal supply and end-user demands, including additional shutdowns as a result of infectious disease outbreaks in large markets, such as China and other factors;
- our ability to successfully integrate recent acquisitions, including CTB and Metal-Fab, into our business and risks inherent with the acquisitions in the achievement of expected results, including whether the acquisition will be accretive and within the expected timeframe;
- the adequacy of our existing information technology and business system software, including duplication and security processes;
- the levels of imported steel in the United States and the tariffs initiated by the U.S. government in 2018 under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and imposed tariffs and duties on exported steel or other products, U.S. trade policy and its impact on the U.S. manufacturing industry;
- the inflation or deflation existing within the metals industry, as well as product mix and inventory levels on hand, which can impact our cost of materials sold as a result of the fluctuations in the last-in, first-out, or LIFO, inventory valuation;
- risks associated with the infectious disease outbreaks, including, but not limited to customer closures, reduced sales and profit levels, slower payment of accounts receivable and potential increases in uncollectible accounts receivable, falling metals prices that could lead to lower of cost or net realizable value inventory adjustments and the impairment of intangible and long-lived assets, negative impacts on our liquidity position, inability to access our traditional financing sources and increased costs associated with and less ability to access funds under our asset-based credit facility, or ABL Credit Facility, and the capital markets;
- increased customer demand without corresponding increase in metal supply could lead to an inability to meet customer demand and result in lower sales and profits;
- competitive factors such as the availability, and global pricing of metals and production levels, industry shipping and inventory levels and rapid fluctuations in customer demand and metals pricing;
- customer, supplier and competitor consolidation, bankruptcy or insolvency;
- the timing and outcomes of inventory lower of cost or net realizable value adjustments and LIFO income or expense;
- cyclicality and volatility within the metals industry;
- reduced availability and productivity of our employees, increased operational risks as a result of remote work arrangements, including the potential effects on internal controls, as well as cybersecurity risks and increased vulnerability to security breaches, information technology disruptions and other similar events;
- fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar and the related impact on foreign steel pricing, U.S. exports, and foreign imports to the United States;
- the successes of our efforts and initiatives to improve working capital turnover and cash flows, and achieve cost savings;

- risks and uncertainties associated with intangible assets, including impairment charges related to indefinite lived intangible assets;
- our ability to generate free cash flow through operations and repay debt;
- the amounts, successes and our ability to continue our capital investments and strategic growth initiatives, including acquisitions and our business information system implementations;
- events or circumstances that could adversely impact the successful operation of our processing equipment and operations;
- the impacts of union organizing activities and the success of union contract renewals;
- changes in laws or regulations or the manner of their interpretation or enforcement could impact our financial performance and restrict our ability to operate our business or execute our strategies;
- events or circumstances that could impair or adversely impact the carrying value of any of our assets;
- our ability to pay regular quarterly cash dividends and the amounts and timing of any future dividends;
- our ability to repurchase shares of our common stock and the amounts and timing of repurchases, if any;
- our ability to sell shares of our common stock under the at-the-market equity program; and
- unanticipated developments that could occur with respect to contingencies such as litigation, arbitration and environmental matters, including any developments that would require any increase in our costs for such contingencies.

Should one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, intended, expected, believed, estimated, projected or planned. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to republish revised forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events or circumstances after the date hereof, except as otherwise required by law.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and our other filings with the SEC, the following risk factors should be carefully considered in evaluating us and our business before investing in our common stock. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties, not presently known to us or otherwise, may also impair our business. Although the risks are organized by headings, and each risk is discussed separately, many are interrelated. You should not interpret the disclosure of any risk factor to imply that the risk has not already materialized. If any of the risks actually occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and investors may lose all or part of their investment.

Risks Related to our Business

Volatile metals prices can cause significant fluctuations in our operating results. Our sales and operating income could decrease if we are unable to pass producer price increases on to our customers or if metals prices decline.

Our principal raw materials are carbon and stainless steel and aluminum flat-rolled coil, sheet, plate, prime tin mill, pipe and tube that we typically purchase from multiple primary metals producers. The metals industry as a whole is cyclical and, at times, pricing and availability of metals can be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control, including general domestic and international economic conditions, sales levels, competition, levels of inventory held by other metals service centers, producer lead times, higher raw material costs for the producers of metals, imports, import duties and tariffs and currency exchange rates. This volatility can significantly affect the availability and cost of raw materials to us. During 2022, metals prices decreased 57% throughout the year, whereas during 2023, metals prices decreased 45% from April to September and increased 66% from October to December.

Similar to many other metals service centers, we maintain substantial inventories of metals to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon historic buying practices, supply agreements with customers and market conditions. Our commitments to purchase metals are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. We have no long-term, fixed-price metals purchase contracts. When metals prices increase, competitive conditions will influence how much of the price increase we can pass on to our customers. To the extent we are unable to pass on future price increases in our raw materials to our customers, the net sales and profitability of our business could be adversely affected. Declining metals prices, customer demand for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower gross profits as we use existing inventory. Significant or rapid declines in metals prices or reductions in sales volumes could adversely impact our ability to remain in compliance with certain financial covenants in our credit facility, as well as result in us incurring inventory or asset impairment charges. Changing metals prices therefore could significantly impact our net sales, gross profit, operating income and net income, and could impair or adversely impact the carrying value of any of our assets.

An interruption in the sources of our metals supply could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

We purchased approximately 40% and 39% of our total metals requirements from our three largest suppliers in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Over the past years, supplier consolidation, decreased mill production due to the pandemic and import tariffs decreased steel availability and increased mill lead times and steel prices. Fewer available suppliers increases the risk of supply disruption through both scheduled and unscheduled supplier outages. Conversely, the addition of new mill production and decreased domestic demand could lead to domestic over capacity, which could lead to a decrease in steel prices, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We have no long-term supply commitments with our metals suppliers. If, in the future, we are unable to obtain sufficient amounts of metals on a timely basis, we may not be able to obtain metals from alternate sources at competitive prices. In addition, late deliveries, interruptions or reductions in our supply of metals could make it difficult to satisfy our customers' just-in-time delivery requirements, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We service industries that are highly cyclical, and any fluctuation in our customers' demand could impact our sales, gross profits and profitability.

We sell our products in a variety of industries, including capital equipment manufacturers for industrial, agricultural and construction use, the automotive industry, the utilities industry, and manufacturers of fabricated metals products. Numerous factors, such as general economic conditions, fluctuations in the U.S. dollar, government stimulus or regulation, availability of adequate credit and financing, interest rates, consumer confidence, significant business interruptions, labor shortages or work stoppages, energy prices, seasonality, customer inventory levels and other factors beyond our control, may cause significant demand fluctuations from one or more of these industries. Any fluctuation in demand within one or more of these industries may be significant and may last for a lengthy period of time. In periods of economic slowdown or recession in the United States, excess customer or service center inventory or a decrease in the prices that we can realize from sales of our products to customers in any of these industries could result in lower sales, gross profits and profitability.

Approximately 48% and 52% of our 2023 and 2022 consolidated net sales, respectively, were to industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators. Due to the concentration of customers in the industrial machinery and equipment industry, a decline in production levels in that industry could result in lower sales, gross profits and profitability.

Our business is dependent on transportation and labor. Increases in the cost or availability of transportation or labor could adversely affect our business and operations, as we may be unable to pass cost increases on to our customers.

We ship products throughout the United States via our truck fleet, our dedicated carrier fleet or by third-party trucking firms. Our business depends on the daily transportation of a large number of products. We depend to a certain extent on third parties for transportation of our products to customers as well as inbound delivery of our raw materials.

If any of these providers were to fail to deliver materials to us in a timely manner, we may be unable to process and deliver our products in response to customer demand. If any of these third parties were to cease operations or cease doing business with us, we may be unable to replace them at a reasonable cost. Failure of a third-party transportation provider to provide transportation services, or our inability to hire drivers for our in-house truck fleet, could harm our reputation, negatively affect our customer relationships and have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

The continued demand for skilled labor has resulted in the need to increase pay rates in certain markets. In addition, we have seen a decline in the skilled labor applicant pool since the start of the pandemic and increased competition for skilled labor. Our operations are dependent on the labor used to operate our equipment and deliver products to our customers. Decreased availability of labor could harm our reputation, negatively affect our customer relationships and have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

The availability of drivers and labor is integral to our operations, and increases in our cost of transportation or labor may have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

Labor disruptions at any of our facilities or those of major customers could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

At December 31, 2023, we employed approximately 2,168 people. Approximately 244 of the hourly plant personnel are represented by seven separate collective bargaining units. Any prolonged work stoppages by our personnel represented by collective bargaining units could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In addition, many of our larger customers have unionized workforces and some have experienced significant labor disruptions in the past such as work stoppages, slow-downs and strikes. A labor disruption at one or more of our major customers could interrupt production or sales by that customer and cause that customer to halt or limit orders for our products. Any such reduction in the demand for our products could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our success is dependent upon our relationships with certain key customers.

We have derived and expect to continue to derive a significant portion of our revenues from a relatively limited number of customers. Collectively, our top three customers accounted for approximately 8% and 7% of our consolidated net sales in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Approximately 48% and 52% of our consolidated net sales during 2023 and 2022, respectively, were directly related to industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators. Due to the large concentration of customers in few segments, changes to demand of product by customers in the industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators could have a material adverse effect on our business, our results of operations and our cash flows. Many of our larger customers commit to purchase on a regular basis at agreed upon prices over periods from three to twelve months. We generally do not have long-term contracts with our customers. As a result, the relationship, as well as particular orders, can generally be terminated with relatively little advance notice. The loss of any one of our major customers or decrease in demand by those customers or credit constraints placed on them could have a material adverse effect on our business, our results of operations and our cash flows.

Our information technology systems and those of our third party providers, as well as our data, could be negatively affected by cybersecurity threats.

Increased global information technology security requirements, vulnerabilities, threats and a rise in sophisticated and targeted cybercrime pose a risk to the security of our systems, networks and the confidentiality, availability and integrity of our data and systems. The risk has been further enhanced with an increased remote workforce. Despite our efforts to protect sensitive information, our facilities and systems and those of our third-party service providers may be vulnerable to cybersecurity threats. This could lead to disclosure, modification or destruction of proprietary and other key information, ransompayments, production downtimes, lost cash or other assets and operational disruptions, regulatory investigations, fines, and lawsuits, which in turn could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The failure of our key computer-based systems could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We maintain ERP and legacy computer-based systems in the operation of our business and we depend on these systems to a significant degree, particularly for inventory management. These systems are vulnerable to, among other things, damage or interruption from fire, flood, tornado and other natural disasters, power loss, computer system and network failures, operator negligence, physical and electronic loss of data or security breaches and computer viruses. Although we have secure back-up systems off-site, the destruction or failure of any one of our computer-based systems for any significant period of time could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures, caused by the pandemic, increases in energy prices, and other factors, has had, and could continue to have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and liquidity.

We are dependent on our suppliers to provide us with metal. During 2021 and 2022, we experienced increased supply chain disruptions resulting from the imbalance of metal supply and end-user demands as customer demand increased without a corresponding increase in metal supply, as businesses reopened after the pandemic. Our inability to meet customer demand as a result of supply disruptions and inflationary pressures could result in lower sales and profits.

Although it is not possible to predict the ultimate impact of the pandemic or future worldwide health emergencies, including on our business, financial position or liquidity, such impacts that may be material include, but are not limited to: (i) reduced sales and profit levels, (ii) the slower payment of accounts receivable and potential increases in uncollectible accounts receivable, (iii) falling metals prices that could lead to lower of cost or market inventory adjustments and the impairment of intangible and long-lived assets, (v) reduced availability and productivity of our employees, (vi) increased operational risks as a result of remote work arrangements, including the potential effects on internal controls, as well as cybersecurity risks and increased vulnerability to security breaches, information technology disruptions and other similar events, (vii) negative impacts on our liquidity position, (viii) inability to access our traditional financing sources on the same or reasonably similar terms as were available before the a pandemic, and (ix) increased costs and less ability to access funds under our ABL Credit Facility and the capital markets. To the extent the duration of any of these conditions extends for a longer period of time, the impact will generally be a more severe adverse impact.

If our energy costs increase disproportionately to our revenues, our earnings could be reduced. We use energy to process and transport our products. Our operating costs increase if energy costs, including electricity, diesel fuel and natural gas, rise. During periods of higher energy costs, we may not be able to recover our operating cost increases through price increases without reducing demand for our products. In addition, we generally do not hedge our exposure to higher prices via energy futures contracts. Increases in energy and fuel prices will increase our operating costs and may reduce our profitability if we are unable to pass all of the increases on to our customers.

We cannot predict the impact that the pandemic or future worldwide health emergencies ultimately will have on our customers, suppliers, vendors, and other business partners, and each of their financial conditions; however, any material effect on these parties could adversely impact us. The situation is changing rapidly and additional impacts may arise that we are not aware of currently.

Impairment in the carrying value of intangible assets could result in the incurrence of impairment charges and negatively impact our results of operations.

The net carrying value of intangibles represents non-amortizable goodwill and trade names, covenant not to compete, technology and know-how and customer relationships, net of accumulated amortization, related to recent acquisitions. Indefinitely lived assets are evaluated for impairment annually or whenever events or changes in circumstance indicate that the carrying amounts of these assets may not be recoverable. Amortizable intangible assets are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstance indicate that the carrying amounts of these assets may not be recoverable. Impairments to intangible assets may be caused by factors outside our control, such as increased competitive pricing pressures, lower than expected revenue and profit growth rates, changes in discount rates based on changes in the cost of capital (interest rates, etc.), or the loss of a significant customer and could result in the incurrence of impairment charges and negatively impact our results of operations.

Capital deployed for acquisitions and capital investments at our existing locations may be unable to achieve expected results, or sustain our growth and events or circumstances that could adversely impact operations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

We have grown through acquisitions and by increasing sales and services to our existing customers, aggressively pursuing new customers and services, building or purchasing new facilities, acquiring and upgrading processing equipment and expanding our product mix in order to expand the range of customer services and products that we offer. We intend to actively pursue our growth strategy in the future.

Future expansion or construction projects, could have adverse effects on our results of operations due to the impact of the associated start-up costs and the potential for underutilization in the start-up phase of a facility. We continue to pursue potential acquisition targets; however, we are unable to predict whether or when any prospective acquisition candidate will become available, the likelihood that any acquisition will be completed or the ability to successfully integrate acquisitions into our business. Moreover, in pursuing acquisition opportunities, we may compete for acquisition targets with other companies with similar growth strategies that may be larger and have greater financial and other resources than we have. Competition among potential acquirers could result in increased prices for acquisition targets. As a result, we may not be able to consummate acquisitions on terms satisfactory to us, or at all.

The pursuit of acquisitions and other growth initiatives may divert management's time and attention away from day-to-day operations. In order to achieve growth through acquisitions, expansion of current facilities, greenfield construction or otherwise, additional funding sources may be needed and we may not be able to obtain the additional capital necessary to pursue our growth strategy on terms that are satisfactory to us, or at all.

We continue to invest in processing equipment to support customer demand. Although we have successfully installed new and used processing equipment in the past, we can provide no assurance that future installations will be successful, or achieve expected results. Risks associated with the installations include, but are not limited to:

- a significant use of management and employee time;
- the possibility that the performance of the equipment does not meet expectations; and
- the possibility that delays from the installations may make it difficult for us to maintain relationships with our customers, employees or suppliers.

Difficulties and delays associated with the installation of new processing equipment could adversely affect our business, our customer service, our results of operations and our cash flows.

Customer and third-party credit constraints and credit losses could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Some of our customers may experience difficulty obtaining and/or maintaining credit availability. In particular, certain customers that are highly leveraged represent an increased credit risk. Interest rate volatility may further amplify this credit risk. Some customers have reduced their purchases because of these credit constraints. Moreover, our disciplined credit policies have, in some instances, resulted in lost sales. If we have misjudged our credit estimations and they result in future credit losses, lost sales or lost customers, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and our allowance for credit losses.

Our implementation of information systems and software as service could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows.

As we implement information systems and cloud-based software as a service agreements, the objective is to standardize and streamline business processes and improve support, reporting capabilities and functionality for our employees and sales and administrative management teams. Risks associated with the phased implementation include, but are not limited to:

- a significant deployment of capital and a significant use of management and employee time;
- the possibility that the timelines, costs or complexities related to the new system implementation will be greater than expected;
- limitations on the availability and adequacy of proprietary software or consulting, training and project management services, as well as our ability to retain key personnel;
- the possibility that the software, once fully implemented, does not function as planned;
- the possibility that software and implementation vendors may not be able to support the project as planned;
- the possibility that benefits from the systems may be less or take longer to realize than expected; and
- the possibility that disruptions from the implementation may make it difficult for us to maintain relationships with our customers, employees or suppliers.

Although we have successfully initiated use of the systems at most of our locations, we can provide no assurance that the rollout to the remaining locations will be successful or will occur as planned and without disruption to operations. Difficulties associated with the design and implementation of new information systems could adversely affect our business, our customer service, our results of operations and our cash flows.

We depend on our senior management team and the loss of any member could prevent us from implementing our business strategy.

Our success is dependent upon the management and leadership skills of our senior management team. Michael D. Siegal has served as our Executive Chairman of the Board since January 1, 2019, after serving as our Chief Executive Officer since 1984. Richard T. Marabito has served as our Chief Executive Officer since January 1, 2019, after serving as our Chief Financial Officer since 2010, and Richard A. Manson has served as our Chief Financial Officer since January 1, 2019, after serving as our Vice President and Treasurer since 2013. Andrew S. Greiff has served as our President and Chief Operating Officer since January 1, 2020 after serving as our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since 2016. The loss of any member of our senior management team or the failure to attract and retain additional qualified personnel could prevent us from implementing our business strategy. We have employment agreements, which include non-competition provisions, with our President and Chief Operating Officer, and our Chief Financial Officer that expire on January 1, 2025 and January 1, 2027, respectively.

Participation in multiemployer pension plans carry withdrawal liability risks, which could impact our results of operations and financial condition.

Through our Chicago Tube and Iron, or CTI, subsidiary, we contribute to one multiemployer pension plan. The risks of participating in the multiemployer plan are different from a single-employer plan in that (i) assets contributed to the multiemployer plan by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers, (ii) if a participating employer stops contributing to the plan, the unfunded obligations of the plan may be borne by the remaining participating employers, and (iii) if CTI chooses to stop participating in the multiemployer plan, CTI may be required to pay the plan an amount based on the unfunded status of the plan, referred to as a withdrawal liability. Any future withdrawal liability could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our insurance coverage, customer indemnifications or other liability protections may be unavailable or inadequate to cover all of our significant risks, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

From time to time, we may be subject to litigation incidental to our businesses, including claims for damages arising out of use of our products, claims involving employment matters, cyber security claims and commercial disputes.

We currently carry insurance from financially strong, highly rated counterparties in established markets to cover significant risks and liabilities. However, our insurance coverage may be inadequate if such claims do arise and any liability not covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our business. Disputes with insurance carriers, including over policy terms, reservation of rights, the applicability of coverage (including exclusions), compliance with provisions (including notice) and/or the insolvency of one or more of our insurers may significantly affect the amount or timing of recovery. Although we have been able to obtain insurance in amounts we believe to be appropriate to cover such liability to date, our insurance premiums may increase in the future as a consequence of conditions in the insurance business generally or our situation in particular. Any such increase could result in lower net income or cause the need to reduce our insurance coverage. In addition, a future claim may be brought against us that could have a material adverse impact on us.

In some circumstances, we may be entitled to certain legal protections or indemnifications from our customers through contractual provisions, laws, regulations or otherwise. However, these protections are not always available, are typically subject to certain terms or limitations, including the availability of funds, and may not be sufficient to cover all losses or liabilities incurred.

If insurance coverage, customer indemnifications and/or other legal protections are not available or are not sufficient to cover our risks or losses, it could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Risks Related to Our Industry

Our business is highly competitive, and increased competition could reduce our market share and harm our financial performance.

Our business is highly competitive. We compete with metals service centers and, to a certain degree, metals producers and intermediate metals processors, on a regular basis, primarily on quality, price, inventory availability and the ability to meet the delivery schedules and service requirements of our customers. We have different competitors for each of our products and within each region. Certain of these competitors have financial and operating resources in excess of ours. Increased competition could lower our gross profits or reduce our market share and have a material adverse effect on our financial performance.

Risks Related to Our Debt

Although we expect to finance our growth initiatives through borrowings under our ABL Credit Facility, we may have to find additional sources of funding, which could be difficult. Additionally, increased leverage and borrowing rates could adversely impact our business and results of operations.

We expect to finance our growth initiatives through borrowings under our ABL Credit Facility, which matures on June 16, 2026. However, our ABL Credit Facility may not be sufficient or available to finance our growth initiatives, and we may have to find additional sources of financing. It may be difficult for us in the future to obtain the necessary funds and liquidity on terms acceptable to us, or at all, to run and expand our business.

The borrowings under our ABL Credit Facility are primarily at variable interest rates. If interest rates, which may be highly volatile, were to increase 100 basis points (1.0%) from December 31, 2023 rates and, assuming no change in total debt from December 31, 2023 levels, the additional annual interest expense to us would be approximately \$1.9 million.

Regulatory and Environmental Risks

Quotas and tariffs imposed or removed as a result of government actions can cause significant fluctuations in our operating results.

Global demand and global metals pricing, supply and demand are impacted by quotas and tariffs imposed as a result of government actions. The tariffs initiated by the U.S. government in 2018 under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (section 232 tariffs) resulted in increased metals prices in the United States. Effective January 1, 2022, the United States and the European Union replaced the existing 25 percent tariff on EU steel products and 10 percent tariff on EU aluminum products with a tariff-rate quota, or TRQ. Under the TRQ arrangement, historically based volumes of EU steel and aluminum products will enter the U.S. without application of Section 232 duties subject to certain conditions. The removal and addition of country-specific tariffs has caused uncertainty in the metals marketplace. Any additional future tariffs or quotas imposed on steel and aluminum imports may increase the price of metal, which may impact our sales, gross margin and profitability if we are unable to pass the increased prices onto our customers. The prolonged imposition of tariffs could also lead to additional trade disputes that could impact the global demand for metals and impact our sales, gross margin and profitability. Conversely, the removal of existing tariffs could cause the price of metal to decline, which may impact our sales, gross margin and profitability.

Changes in laws or regulations, including tax reform legislation, or the manner of their interpretation or enforcement could adversely impact our financial performance and restrict our ability to operate our business or execute our strategies.

New laws or regulations, or changes in existing laws or regulations, or the manner of their interpretation or enforcement, could increase our cost of doing business and restrict our ability to operate our business or execute our strategies. In particular, there may be significant changes in U.S. laws and regulations and existing international trade agreements by the current U.S. presidential administration that could affect a wide variety of industries and businesses, including those businesses we own and operate. If the U.S. presidential administration materially modifies U.S. laws and regulations and international trade agreements, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be affected.

We are subject to significant environmental, health and safety laws and regulations and related compliance expenditures and liabilities.

Our businesses are subject to many federal, state and local environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, particularly with respect to the use, handling, treatment, and disposal of substances and waste used or generated in our manufacturing processes. We have incurred and expect to continue to incur expenditures to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations. Our failure to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations and permit requirements could result in civil or criminal fines or penalties or enforcement actions, including regulatory or judicial orders enjoining or curtailing operations or requiring corrective measures, installation of pollution control equipment or remedial actions.

We may in the future be required to incur costs relating to the investigation or remediation of property, and for addressing environmental conditions. Some environmental laws and regulations impose liability and responsibility on present and former owners, operators or users of facilities and sites for contamination at such facilities and sites without regard to causation or knowledge of contamination. Consequently, we cannot assure you that existing or future circumstances, the development of new facts or the failure of third parties to address contamination at current or former facilities or properties will not require significant expenditures by us.

We expect to continue to be subject to environmental and health and safety laws and regulations. It is difficult to predict the future interpretation and development of environmental and health and safety laws and regulations or their impact on our future earnings and operations. We anticipate that compliance will continue to require increased capital expenditures and operating costs. Any increase in these costs, or unanticipated liabilities arising for example, out of discovery of previously unknown conditions or more aggressive enforcement actions, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We may be exposed to certain regulatory and financial risks related to climate change.

Growing concerns about climate change may result in the imposition of additional regulations or restrictions to which we may become subject. A number of governments or governmental bodies have introduced or are contemplating regulatory changes in response to climate change, including regulating greenhouse gas emissions. The outcome of new legislation or regulation in the United States may result in new or additional requirements, additional charges to fund energy efficient activities, and fees or restrictions on certain activities. Compliance with these climate change initiatives may also result in additional costs to us, including, among other things, increased production costs, additional taxes, reduced emission allowances or additional restrictions on production or operations. Any adopted future climate change regulations could also negatively impact our ability to compete with companies situated in areas not subject to such limitations. Even without such regulation, increased public awareness and adverse publicity about potential impacts on climate change emanating from us or our industry could harm us. We may not be able to recover the cost of compliance with new or more stringent laws and regulations, which could adversely affect our results of operations, cash flow or financial condition.

Expectations relating to environmental, social and governance considerations expose us to potential liabilities, increased costs, reputational harm and other adverse effects on our business.

Many governments, regulators, investors, employees, customers and other stakeholders are increasingly focused on ESG considerations relating to businesses, including climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, human capital and diversity, equity and inclusion. We make statements about our ESG goals and initiatives through information provided on our website, press statements and other communications. Responding to these ESG considerations and implementation of these goals and initiatives involves risks and uncertainties, requires investments, which could be material, and are impacted by factors that may be outside of our control. In addition, some stakeholders may disagree with our goals and initiatives and the focus of stakeholders may change and evolve over time. Stakeholders also may have very different views on where ESG focus should be placed, including differing views of regulators in various jurisdictions in which we operate. Any failure, or perceived failure, by us to achieve our goals, further our initiatives, adhere to our public statements, comply with federal, state or international ESG laws and regulations, or meet evolving and varied stakeholder expectations and standards could result in legal and regulatory proceedings against us and materially adversely affect our business, reputation, results of operations, financial condition and stock price.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

The market price for our common stock may be volatile.

Historically, there has been volatility in the market price for our common stock. Furthermore, the market price of our common stock could fluctuate substantially in the future in response to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the risk factors described herein. Examples include:

- changes in commodity prices, especially metals;
- changes in financial estimates or recommendations by stock market analysts regarding us or our competitors;
- the operating and stock performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable;
- developments affecting us, our customers or our suppliers;
- press releases, earnings releases or publicity relating to us or our competitors or relating to trends in the metals service center industry;
- inability to meet securities analysts' and investors' quarterly or annual estimates or targets of our performance;
- sales of our common stock by large shareholders;
- the amount of shares acquired for short-term investments;
- general domestic or international economic, market and political conditions;
- fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar;
- changes in (or changes in expectation) related to interest rates and the Federal Funds Rates;
- changes in the legal or regulatory environment affecting our business; and
- announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, dispositions or joint ventures, or other material events impacting the domestic or global metals industry.

In the past, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This volatility has had a significant effect on the market prices of securities issued by many companies for reasons unrelated to their specific operating performance. These factors may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock, regardless of actual operating performance.

In addition, stock markets from time to time experience extreme price and volume fluctuations that may be unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies. In the past, some shareholders have brought securities class action lawsuits against companies following periods of volatility in the market price of their securities. We may in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation, regardless of whether our defense is ultimately successful, could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources.

Our quarterly results may be volatile.

Our operating results have varied on a quarterly basis during our operating history and are likely to fluctuate significantly in the future. Our operating results may be below the expectations of our investors or stock market analysts as a result of a variety of factors, including the impact of LIFO estimates, many of which are outside of our control. Factors that may affect our quarterly operating results include, but are not limited to, the risk factors listed above.

Many factors could cause our revenues and operating results to vary significantly in the future. Accordingly, we believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results are not necessarily meaningful. Investors should not rely on the results of one quarter as an indication of our future performance. Further, it is our practice not to provide forward-looking sales or earnings guidance and not to endorse any analyst's sales or earnings estimates. Nonetheless, if our results of operations in any quarter do not meet analysts' expectations, our stock price could materially decrease.

Certain provisions in our charter documents and Ohio law could delay or prevent a change in management or a takeover attempt that you may consider to be in your best interest.

We are subject to Chapter 1704 of the Ohio Revised Code, which prohibits certain business combinations and transactions between an "issuing public corporation" and an "Ohio law interested shareholder" for at least three years after the Ohio law interested shareholder attains 10% ownership, unless the Board of Directors of the issuing public corporation approves the transaction before the Ohio law interest shareholder attains 10% ownership. We are also subject to Section 1701.831 of the Ohio Revised Code, which provides that certain notice and informational filings and special shareholder meeting and voting procedures must be followed prior to consummation of a proposed "control share acquisition." Assuming compliance with the notice and information filings prescribed by the statute, a proposed control share acquisition may be made only if the acquisition is approved by a majority of the voting power of the issuer represented at the meeting and at least a majority of the voting power remaining after excluding the combined voting power of the "interested shares."

Certain provisions contained in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Code of Regulations and Ohio law could delay or prevent the removal of directors and other management and could make a merger, tender offer or proxy contest involving us that you may consider to be in your best interest more difficult. For example, these provisions:

- allow our Board of Directors to issue preferred stock without shareholder approval;
- provide for our Board of Directors to be divided into two classes of directors serving staggered terms;
- limit who can call a special meeting of shareholders; and
- establish advance notice requirements for nomination for election to the Board of Directors or for proposing matters to be acted upon at shareholder meetings.

These provisions may discourage potential takeover attempts, discourage bids for our common stock at a premium over market price or adversely affect the market price of, and the voting and other rights of the holders of our common stock. These provisions could also discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for you and other shareholders to elect directors other than the candidates nominated by our Board of Directors.

Principal shareholders who own a significant number of shares of our common stock may have interests that conflict with yours.

Michael D. Siegal, our Executive Chairman of the Board and one of our largest shareholders, owned approximately 9.9% of our outstanding common stock as of December 31, 2023. Mr. Siegal may have the ability to significantly influence matters requiring shareholder approval. In deciding how to vote on such matters, Mr. Siegal may be influenced by interests that conflict with yours.

General Risks

Climate change may cause changes in weather patterns and increase the frequency or severity of weather events and flooding.

An increase in severe weather events, including those caused by climate change, may adversely impact us, our operations, and our ability to procure raw materials and process and transport our products and could result in an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Extreme weather conditions may increase our costs, temporarily impact our production capabilities or cause damage to our facilities. Severe weather may also adversely impact our suppliers and our customers and their ability to deliver and/or purchase and transport our products.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity Risk Management

Cybersecurity risk management is an integral part of our overall enterprise risk management program. Our cybersecurity risk management program is designed to provide a framework for handling cybersecurity threats and incidents, including threats and incidents associated with the use of services provided by third-party service providers, and to facilitate coordination across different departments of our company. Our processes include steps for assessing the severity of a cybersecurity threat, identifying the source of a cybersecurity threat including whether the cybersecurity threat is associated with a third-party service provider, implementing cybersecurity countermeasures and mitigation strategies and informing management and our board of directors of material cybersecurity threats and incidents. Our cybersecurity team also engages third-party security experts for risk assessment and system enhancements. In addition, our cybersecurity team provides training to all appropriate employees.

Our board of directors has overall oversight responsibility for our risk management, and delegates cybersecurity risk management oversight to the audit committee of the board of directors. The audit committee is responsible for ensuring that management has processes in place designed to identify and evaluate cybersecurity risks to which the company is exposed and implement processes and programs to manage cybersecurity risks and mitigate cybersecurity incidents. The audit committee also reports material cybersecurity risks to our full board of directors. Management is responsible for identifying, considering and assessing material cybersecurity risks on an ongoing basis, establishing processes designed to ensure that such potential cybersecurity risk exposures are monitored, putting in place mitigation measures and maintaining cybersecurity programs. Our cybersecurity programs are under the direction of our Vice President of Information Services (VP-IS) who receives reports from our cybersecurity team and monitors the prevention, detection, mitigation, and remediation of cybersecurity incidents. Our VP-IS and dedicated personnel are information system security professionals and information security managers with many years of experience. Management, including the VP-IS and our cybersecurity team, regularly update the audit committee on the company's cybersecurity programs, material cybersecurity risks and mitigation strategies and provide cybersecurity reports annually that cover, among other topics, third-party assessments of the company's cybersecurity programs, developments in cybersecurity and updates to the company's cybersecurity programs and mitigation strategies.

In 2023, we did not identify any cybersecurity incidents that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition. However, despite our efforts, we cannot eliminate all risks from cybersecurity threats, or provide assurances that we have not experienced an undetected cybersecurity incident. For more information about these risks, please see "Risk Factors - Risks Related to our Business" in this Annual Report on Form 10-k.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We believe that our properties are strategically situated relative to our domestic suppliers, our customers and each other, allowing us to support customers from multiple locations. Product is shipped from the most advantageous facility, regardless of where the customer order is taken. The facilities are located in the hubs of major metals consumption markets, and within a 250-mile radius of most of our customers, a distance approximating the one-day driving and delivery limit for truck shipments.

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our principal properties including which segment's products are serviced out of each location:

Operation	Location	Square Feet	Function	Owned or Leased	Segment		
					Carbon Flat	Specialty Metals Flat	Tube and Pipe
Cleveland	Bedford Heights, Ohio (1)	127,000	Corporate offices, coil processing and distribution center	Owned	✓	✓	
	Bedford Heights, Ohio (1)	121,500	Coil and plate processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	✓
	Bedford Heights, Ohio (1)	59,500	Plate processing, distribution center and offices	Leased (2)	✓		
Minneapolis	Dover, Ohio	62,000	Plate processing, fabrication and distribution center	Owned	✓		
	Plymouth, Minnesota	196,800	Coil and plate processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
	Plymouth, Minnesota	112,200	Plate processing, fabrication, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓		
Chambersburg	Chambersburg, Pennsylvania	157,000	Plate processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓		
	Chambersburg, Pennsylvania	150,000	Plate processing, fabrication, manufacturing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓		
Iowa	Bettendorf, Iowa	244,000	Coil and plate processing, fabrication, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
			Coil and plate processing, fabrication, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	✓
Winder	Winder, Georgia	285,000	Coil and plate processing, fabrication, and distribution center	Owned	✓	✓	✓
	Buford, Georgia	120,000	Distribution center	Leased (3)	✓	✓	
Hanceville	Hanceville, Alabama	27,000	Distribution center	Leased (4)	✓		
Kentucky	Mt. Sterling, Kentucky	100,000	Plate processing, fabrication and distribution center	Owned	✓	✓	
	Mt. Sterling, Kentucky	107,000	Distribution center and offices	Owned	✓		✓
Gary	Gary, Indiana	183,000	Coil processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
Connecticut	Milford, Connecticut	134,000	Coil processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
Chicago	Schaumburg, Illinois	122,500	Coil and sheet processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
Bartlett	Bartlett, Illinois	81,400	Coil and sheet processing, fabrication and distribution center	Leased (5)	✓	✓	
Berlin Metals	Hammond, Indiana	117,950	Coil processing, distribution center and offices	Leased (6)	✓	✓	
McCullough Industries	Kenton, Ohio	75,000	Manufacturing facility	Owned	✓	✓	
Streetsboro	Streetsboro, Ohio	66,200	Coil and sheet processing, distribution center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
	Latrobe, Pennsylvania	43,200	Coil and sheet processing, distribution center	Leased (7)	✓	✓	
Rock Hill	Rock Hill, South Carolina	45,075	Distribution, processing center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
Dallas	Carrollton, Texas	44,480	Distribution, processing center and offices	Owned	✓	✓	
Houston	Houston, Texas	30,000	Distribution, processing center and offices	Leased (8)	✓	✓	

Operation	Location	Square Feet	Function	Owned or Leased	Carbon Flat	Specialty Metals Flat	Tube and Pipe
Springdale	Springdale, Arkansas	12,200	Distribution, processing center and offices	Leased (9)		✓	
Kansas City	Riverside, Missouri	11,300	Distribution, processing center and offices	Leased (10)		✓	
Powder Springs	Powder Springs, Georgia	11,275	Fabrication and offices	Leased (11)		✓	
	Powder Springs, Georgia	17,766	Fabrication	Leased (12)		✓	
	Powder Springs, Georgia	22,200	Fabrication	Leased (13)		✓	
Marietta	Marietta, Georgia	11,300	Distribution and offices	Leased (14)		✓	
	Marietta, Georgia	26,880	Distribution and offices	Leased (15)		✓	
Hiram	Hiram, Georgia	16,000	Fabrication and offices	Leased (16)		✓	
Albany	Albany, Georgia	12,000	Distribution	Leased (17)		✓	
Wichita	Wichita, KS	265,404	Manufacturing, distribution and offices	Owned	✓		
	Wichita, KS	162,738	Manufacturing, distribution and offices	Leased (18)	✓		
Chicago	Romeoville, Illinois	363,000	Corporate offices, fabrication and distribution center	Owned			✓
St. Paul	St. Paul, Minnesota	132,000	Distribution center and offices	Owned			✓
Charlotte	Locust, North Carolina	127,600	Distribution center, fabrication and offices	Owned			✓
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac, Wisconsin	117,000	Distribution center and offices	Owned	✓		✓
Indianapolis	Indianapolis, Indiana	79,000	Distribution center and offices	Owned			✓
Des Moines	Ankeny, Iowa	50,000	Distribution center and offices	Owned			✓
Owatonna	Owatonna, Minnesota	23,000	Production cutting center	Owned			✓
Conway	Conway, Arkansas	35,000	Manufacturing and offices	Owned			✓
	Conway, Arkansas	72,480	Manufacturing and fabrication	Leased (19)			✓
Tulsa	Tulsa, Oklahoma	50,000	Manufacturing and fabrication	Owned			✓

- (1) The Bedford Heights facilities are all adjacent properties.
- (2) This facility is leased from a related party. The lease expires on December 31, 2028, with renewal options.
- (3) The lease on this facility expires on July 1, 2027.
- (4) The lease on this facility expires on November 30, 2025, with renewal options.
- (5) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2027, with renewal options.
- (6) The lease on this facility expires on August 31, 2024, with renewal options.
- (7) The lease on this facility expires on May 31, 2025, with renewal options.
- (8) The lease on this facility expires on October 31, 2025, with renewal options.
- (9) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2024, with renewal options.
- (10) The lease on this facility expires on January 31, 2026.
- (11) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (12) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (13) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (14) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (15) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (16) The lease on this facility expires on June 30, 2029.
- (17) The lease on this facility expires on January 1, 2029.
- (18) The lease on this facility expires on June 14, 2034.
- (19) The lease on this facility expires on August 31, 2026, with renewal options.

In addition to the facilities listed above, our executive office is leased and located in Highland Hills, Ohio and we have leased offices located in Bonita Springs, Florida; San Antonio, Texas and Monterrey, Mexico. Management believes we will be able to accommodate our capacity needs for the immediate future at our existing facilities.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are party to various legal actions that we believe are ordinary in nature and incidental to the operation of our business. In the opinion of management, the outcome of the proceedings to which we are currently a party will not have a material adverse effect upon our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

This information is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K pursuant to Instruction 3 of Item 401(b) of Regulation S-K. The following is a list of our executive officers and a brief description of their business experience. Each executive officer will hold office until his or her successor is chosen and qualified.

Michael D. Siegal, age 71, has served as the Executive Chairman of our Board of Directors since January 2019. He previously served as our Chief Executive Officer from 1984 until December 2018 and as Chairman of our Board of Directors from 1994 until December 2018. From 1984 until January 2001, he also served as our President. He has been employed by us in a variety of capacities since 1974. Mr. Siegal serves on the Board of Directors of Twin City Fan Companies, Ltd. He currently serves as volunteer President of the World Maccabi Union and the Global Jewish Sports Movement.

Richard T. Marabito, age 60, has served as our Chief Executive Officer since January 2019. From March 2000 through December 2018, he served as our Chief Financial Officer. He joined us in 1994 as Corporate Controller and served in this capacity until March 2000. He also served as Treasurer from 1994 through 2002 and again from 2010 through 2012. Prior to joining us, Mr. Marabito served as Corporate Controller for a publicly traded wholesale distribution company and was employed by a national accounting firm in its audit department. Mr. Marabito is a Board Member and the past Chair of the Metals Service Center Institute (MSCI), a North American metals industry trade association. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the University of Mount Union and has been a Board Member of CBIZ, Inc. (CBZ: NYSE), one of the nation's top providers of accounting, tax and advisory services, since August 2021 and currently serves as its Audit Committee Chair. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the United States. He served as a Board Member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana and was past Chair of its Northeast Ohio regional board.

Richard A. Manson, age 55, has served as our Chief Financial Officer since January 2019, and has been employed by us since 1996. From January 2013 through December 2018, he served as our Vice President and Treasurer. From March 2010 through December 2012, he served as our Vice President of Human Resources and Administration. From January 2003 through March 2010, he served as our Treasurer and Corporate Controller. From 1996 through 2002, he served as our Director of Taxes and Risk Management. Prior to joining us, Mr. Manson was employed for seven years by a national accounting firm in its tax department. Mr. Manson is a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland and the Advisory Board of Seeds of Literacy. Mr. Manson is a certified public accountant and member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Andrew S. Greiff, age 62, has served as our President and Chief Operating Officer since January 2020. From August 2016 through December 2019, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He previously served as President, Specialty Metals from 2011 to 2016 after having joined us in 2009 as Vice President of Specialty Metals. Prior thereto, Mr. Greiff spent 24 years in various positions within the steel industry and served as the President and CEO of his own steel trading company. Mr. Greiff served as a Board Member of the MSCI and a past director of Jewish Big Brother Big Sister and the Anti-Defamation League.

Lisa K. Christen, age 47, has served as our Vice President & Treasurer since January 2023. From January 2019 through December 2022, she served as our Corporate Controller & Treasurer. From March 2010 through December 2018, she served as our Corporate Controller. From 1999 through 2010 she served in various positions within the accounting department. Ms. Christen serves as the Treasurer and is a Board Member of Seton Catholic School in Hudson, Ohio and serves on the finance committee of Walsh Jesuit High School, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Ms. Christen is a certified public accountant and member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Common Stock

Our common stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "ZEUS."

Holders of Record

As of January 31, 2024, there were approximately 98 holders of record of our common stock.

Dividends

We expect to continue to make regular quarterly dividend distributions in the future, subject to the continuing determination by our Board of Directors that the dividend remains in the best interest of our shareholders. Our ABL Credit Facility restricts the aggregate amount of dividends and common stock repurchases that we can pay to \$15.0 million annually without limitations. Dividend distributions in excess of \$15.0 million require us to (i) maintain availability in excess of 20.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments or (ii) to maintain availability equal to or greater than 15.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments, and we must maintain a pro-forma ratio of EBITDA, minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00. Any determinations by the Board of Directors to pay cash dividends in the future will take into account various factors, including our financial condition, results of operations, current and anticipated cash needs, plans for expansion and restrictions under our credit agreement and any agreements governing our future debt. We cannot assure you that dividends will be paid in the future or that, if paid, the dividends will be at the same amount or frequency.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

We did not purchase any of our equity securities during the quarter ended December 31, 2023.

On October 2, 2015, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program of up to 550,000 shares of the Company's issued and outstanding common stock, which could include open market repurchases, negotiated block transactions, accelerated stock repurchases or open market solicitations for shares, all or some of which may be effected through Rule 10b5-1 plans. Any of the repurchased shares will be held in our treasury, or canceled and retired as our Board may determine from time to time. Any repurchases of common stock are subject to the covenants contained in the ABL Credit Facility. Our ABL Credit Facility restricts the aggregate amount of dividends and common stock repurchases that we can pay to \$15.0 million annually without limitations. Purchases in excess of \$15.0 million require us to (i) maintain availability in excess of 20.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments or (ii) to maintain availability equal to or greater than 15.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments and we must maintain a pro-forma ratio of EBITDA minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00. The timing and amount of any repurchases under the stock repurchase program will depend upon several factors, including market and business conditions, and limitations under the ABL Credit Facility. Repurchases may be discontinued at any time. As of December 31, 2023, 360,212 shares remain authorized for repurchase under the program.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

We did not have any unregistered sales of equity securities during the quarter ended December 31, 2023.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause a difference include, but are not limited to, those discussed under Item 1A, Risk Factors in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The following section is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, which appears elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Overview

We are a leading metals service center focused on the direct sale and value-added processing of carbon and coated sheet, plate and coil products; stainless steel sheet, plate, bar and coil; aluminum sheet, plate and coil; pipe, tube bar, valves and fittings, tin plate and metal-intensive end-use products. We provide metals processing and distribution services for a wide range of customers. We operate in three reportable segments: specialty metals flat products, carbon flat products, and tubular and pipe products. Our specialty metals flat products segment's focus is on the direct sale and distribution of processed aluminum and stainless flat-rolled sheet and coil products, flat bar products, prime tin mill products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our specialty metals flat products segment has expanded its geographical footprint and enhanced its product offerings in stainless steel and aluminum plate, sheet, angles, rounds, flat bar, tube and pipe and the manufacturing and distribution of stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. Our carbon flat products segment's focus is on the direct sale and distribution of large volumes of processed carbon and coated flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our carbon flat products segment has expanded its product offerings to include self-dumping metal hoppers and steel and stainless-steel dump inserts for pickup truck and service truck beds. Through the acquisition of Metal-Fab, on January 3, 2023, the carbon flat products segment further expanded its product offerings to include venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications. Our tubular and pipe products segment's focus is on the distribution of metal tubing, pipe, bar, valves and fittings and the fabrication of parts supplied to various industrial markets. Through the acquisition of CTB, on October 2, 2023, the tubular and pipe products segment further expanded its geographic footprint and extended its value-added contract manufacturing capabilities. We also perform toll processing of customer-owned metals. We sell certain products internationally, primarily in Canada and Mexico. International sales are immaterial to our consolidated financial results and to the individual segments' results.

Our results of operations are affected by numerous external factors including, but not limited to: metals pricing, demand and availability; the availability, and increased costs of labor; global supply, the level of metals imported into the United States, tariffs, and inventory held in the supply chain; general and global business, economic, financial, banking and political conditions; competition; layoffs or work stoppages by our own, our suppliers' or our customers' personnel; fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar to foreign currencies; transportation and energy costs; pricing and availability of raw materials used in the production of metals and customers' ability to manage their credit line availability. The metals industry also continues to be affected by the global consolidation of our suppliers, competitors and end-use customers.

Like other metals service centers, we maintain substantial inventories of metals to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon customer forecasts, historic buying practices, supply agreements with customers and market conditions. Our commitments to purchase metals are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. From time to time, we have entered into pass-through nickel swaps at the request of our customers in order to mitigate our customers' risk of volatility in the price of metals. We have no long-term, fixed-price metals purchase contracts. When metals prices decline, customer demands for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower gross profits and earnings as we use existing metals inventory. When metals prices increase, competitive conditions will influence how much of the price increase we can pass on to our customers. To the extent we are unable to pass on future price increases in our raw materials to our customers, the net sales and gross profits of our business could be adversely affected.

Reportable Segments

We operate in three reportable segments: specialty metals flat products, carbon flat products and tubular and pipe products. The specialty metals flat products segment and the carbon flat products segment are at times consolidated and referred to as the flat products segment. Some of the flat products segments' assets and resources are shared by the specialty metals and carbon flat products segments and both segments' products are stored in the shared facilities and, in some locations, processed on shared equipment. As such, total assets and capital expenditures are reported in the aggregate for the flat products segments. Due to the shared assets and resources, certain of the flat products segment expenses are allocated between the specialty metals flat products segment and the carbon flat products segment based upon an established allocation methodology.

We follow the accounting guidance that requires the utilization of a "management approach" to define and report the financial results of operating segments. The management approach defines operating segments along the lines used by the chief operating decision maker, or CODM, to assess performance and make operating and resource allocation decisions. Our CODM evaluates performance and allocates resources based primarily on operating income. Our operating segments are based primarily on internal management reporting.

Due to the nature of the products sold in each segment, there are significant differences in the segments' average selling price and the cost of materials sold. The specialty metals flat products segment generally has the highest average selling price among the three segments followed by the tubular and pipe products segment and carbon flat products segment. Due to the nature of the tubular and pipe products, we do not report tons sold or per ton information. Gross profit per ton is generally higher in the specialty metals flat products segment than the carbon flat products segment. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales is generally higher in the specialty metals flat products and tubular and pipe products segments than the carbon flat products segment. Due to the differences in average selling prices, gross profit and gross profit percentage among the segments, a change in the mix of sales could impact total net sales, gross profit, and gross profit percentage. In addition, certain inventory in the tubular and pipe products segment is valued under the LIFO method. Adjustments to the LIFO inventory value are recorded to cost of materials sold and may impact the gross margin and gross margin percentage at the consolidated Company and tubular and pipe products segment levels.

Specialty metals flat products

The primary focus of our specialty metals flat products segment is on the direct sale and distribution of processed aluminum and stainless flat-rolled sheet and coil products, flat bar products, prime tin mill products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our specialty metals flat products segment has expanded its geographical footprint and enhanced its product offerings in stainless steel and aluminum plate, sheet, angles, rounds, flat bar, tube and pipe and the manufacturing and distribution of stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. We act as an intermediary between metals producers and manufacturers that require processed metals for their operations. We serve customers in various industries, including manufacturers of food service and commercial appliances, agriculture equipment, transportation and automotive equipment. We distribute these products primarily through a direct sales force.

Carbon flat products

The primary focus of our carbon flat products segment is on the direct sale and distribution of large volumes of processed carbon and coated flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, our carbon flat products segment has expanded its product offerings to include self-dumping hoppers and steel and stainless-steel dump inserts for pickup truck and service truck beds. Through the acquisition of Metal-Fab, on January 3, 2023, the carbon flat products segment further expanded its product offerings to include venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications. We act as an intermediary between metals producers and manufacturers that require processed metals for their operations. We serve customers in most metals consuming industries, including manufacturers and fabricators of transportation and material handling equipment, construction and farm machinery, storage tanks, environmental and energy generation equipment, automobiles, military vehicles and equipment, as well as general and plate fabricators and metals service centers. We distribute these products primarily through a direct sales force.

Combined, the carbon and specialty metals flat products segments have 36 strategically-located processing and distribution facilities in the United States and one in Monterrey, Mexico. Many of our facilities service both the carbon and the specialty metals flat products segments, and certain assets and resources are shared by the segments. Our geographic footprint allows us to focus on regional customers and larger national and multi-national accounts, primarily located throughout the midwestern, eastern and southern United States.

Tubular and pipe products

The primary focus of our tubular and pipe products segment is on the distribution of metal tubing, pipe, bar, valve and fittings and the fabrication of pressure parts supplied to various industrial markets. Through the acquisition of CTB, on October 2, 2023, the tubular and pipe products segment further expanded its geographic footprint and extended its value-added contract manufacturing capabilities. The tubular and pipe products segment operates from 10 locations in the Midwestern and Southern United States. The tubular and pipe products segment distributes its products primarily through a direct sales force.

Corporate expenses

Corporate expenses are reported as a separate line item for segment reporting purposes. Corporate expenses include the unallocated expenses related to managing the entire Company (i.e., all three segments), including compensation for certain personnel, expenses related to being a publicly traded entity such as board of directors' expenses, audit expenses, and various other professional fees.

Results of Operations

This section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K generally discusses 2023 and 2022 items and year-to-year comparisons between 2023 and 2022. Discussions of 2021 items and year-to-year comparisons between 2022 and 2021 that are not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K can be found in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Part II, Item 7 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

2023 Compared to 2022

Our results of operations are impacted by the market price of metals. Metals prices fluctuate significantly and changes to our net sales, cost of materials sold, gross profit, cost of inventory and profitability, are all impacted by industry metals pricing.

Metals prices in our specialty metals products segment decreased during 2023 compared to 2022 due to decreases in metal surcharges experienced during 2023. The average price of stainless surcharges decreased 21.6% during 2023 compared to 2022. Metals prices in our carbon flat products segment saw a 45% decrease between April and September 2023. This decreased the average pricing on hot rolled coil steel by \$85 per ton, or 8.5%. However, year-over-year industry metals pricing on hot rolled coil steel increased during 2023 when compared to 2022 by \$435 per ton, or 65.5%. Despite the increases in year-over-year industry metals pricing during 2023, our average selling prices and average cost of materials sold were lower during 2023 than 2022 in each operating segment. Metals pricing for the tubular and pipe products segment lags behind the carbon flat products segment by several months.

Transactional or "spot" selling prices generally move in tandem with market price changes, while fixed selling prices typically lag and reset quarterly. Similarly, inventory costs (and, therefore, cost of materials sold) tend to move slower than market selling price changes due to mill lead times and inventory turnover impacting the rate of change in average cost. When average selling prices increase, and net sales increase, gross profit and operating expenses as a percentage of net sales will generally decrease.

Consolidated Operations

The following table sets forth certain consolidated income statement data for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 (dollars shown in thousands):

	2023		2022	
		% of net sales		% of net sales
Net sales	\$ 2,158,163	100.0	\$ 2,559,990	100.0
Cost of materials sold (a)	1,684,663	78.1	2,073,930	81.0
Gross profit (b)	473,500	21.9	486,060	19.0
Operating expenses (c)	395,829	18.3	352,313	13.8
Operating income	77,671	3.6	133,747	5.2
Other loss, net	78	0.0	45	0.0
Interest and other expense on debt	16,006	0.7	10,080	0.4
Income before income taxes	61,587	2.9	123,622	4.8
Income taxes	17,058	0.8	32,691	1.2
Net income	\$ 44,529	2.1	\$ 90,931	3.6

(a) Includes \$8,258 of LIFO income and \$565 of LIFO expense in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

(b) Gross profit is calculated as net sales less the cost of materials sold.

(c) Operating expenses are calculated as total costs and expenses less the cost of materials sold.

Net sales decreased \$401.8 million, or 15.7%, to \$2.2 billion in 2023 from \$2.6 billion in 2022. Specialty metals flat products net sales decreased \$208.3 million, or 26.8%, to \$567.7 million in 2023 compared to \$776.0 million in 2022 and were 26.3% of total net sales in 2023 compared to 30.3% of total net sales in 2022. Carbon flat products net sales decreased \$135.5 million, or 10.0%, to \$1.2 billion in 2023 compared to \$1.4 billion in 2022 and were 56.6% of total net sales in 2023 compared to 53.0% of total net sales in 2022. Tubular and pipe products net sales decreased \$58.0 million, or 13.6%, to \$369.3 million in 2023 compared to \$427.4 million in 2022 and were 17.1% of total net sales in 2023 compared to 16.7% of total net sales in 2022. The decrease in net sales was due to a 17.4% decrease in consolidated average selling prices during 2023 compared to 2022 partially offset by a 2.0% increase in consolidated volume. Average selling prices in 2023 were \$2,023 per ton, compared to \$2,448 per ton in 2022. The decrease in the average selling price is a result of the market pricing dynamics discussed above in Results of Operations.

Cost of materials sold decreased \$389.3 million, or 18.8%, to \$1.7 billion in 2023 from \$2.1 billion in 2022. During 2023, we recorded LIFO income of \$8.3 million compared to LIFO expense of \$0.6 million in 2022. The decrease in cost of materials sold in 2023 is primarily related to decreased average metals pricing in 2023 compared to 2022.

As a percentage of net sales, gross profit (as defined in footnote (b) in the table above) increased to 21.9% in 2023 from 19.0% in 2022. The increase in the gross profit as a percentage of net sales is due to the acquisitions of Metal-Fab and CTB during 2023, as well as average costs of inventory decreasing more quickly than the average selling prices as discussed above in Results of Operations.

Operating expenses (as defined in footnote (c) in the table above) increased \$43.5 million, or 12.4%, to \$395.8 million in 2023 from \$352.3 million in 2022. As a percentage of net sales, operating expenses increased to 18.3% in 2023 from 13.8% in 2022. Operating expenses in the specialty metals flat products segment decreased \$21.8 million, operating expenses in the carbon flat products segment increased \$55.7 million, operating expenses in the tubular and pipe products segment increased \$8.9 million, and corporate expenses increased \$0.7 million. Operating expenses increased during 2023 as a result of the inclusion of operating expenses related to the January 3, 2023 acquisition of Metal-Fab for the carbon flat products segment and the October 2, 2023 acquisition of CTB for the tubular and pipe segment, partially offset by lower year-over-year variable performance-based incentive compensation and reduced operating costs for the specialty metals flat products segment.

Interest and other expense on debt totaled \$16.0 million in 2023 compared to \$10.1 million in 2022. Our effective borrowing rate, exclusive of deferred financing fees and commitment fees, was 5.9% in 2023 compared to 3.2% in 2022. The increased effective borrowing rate is due to higher interest rates compared to 2022. Total average borrowings decreased \$41.0 million, or 14.6%, to \$239.4 million in 2023 from \$280.4 million in 2022.

Income before income taxes totaled \$61.6 million, or 2.9% of net sales, in 2023, compared to income before taxes of \$123.6 million, or 4.8% of net sales, in 2022.

An income tax provision of 27.7% was recorded in 2023, compared to an income tax provision of 26.4% in 2022.

Net income in 2023 totaled \$44.5 million, or \$ 3.85 per basic and diluted share, compared to net income of \$90.9 million, or \$ 7.87 per basic and diluted share, in 2022.

Segment Results of Operations

Specialty metals flat products

The following table sets forth certain income statement data for the specialty metals flat products segment for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 (dollars shown in thousands, except per ton data):

	2023		2022	
		% of net sales		% of net sales
Direct tons sold	112,412		135,584	
Toll tons sold	3,175		6,508	
Total tons sold	115,587		142,092	
Net sales	\$ 567,728	100.0	\$ 776,022	100.0
Average selling price per ton	4,912		5,461	
Cost of materials sold	473,784	83.5	589,472	76.0
Gross profit (a)	93,944	16.5	186,550	24.0
Operating expenses (b)	71,060	12.5	92,888	11.9
Operating income	\$ 22,884	4.0	\$ 93,662	12.1

(a) Gross profit is calculated as net sales less the cost of materials sold.

(b) Operating expenses are calculated as total costs and expenses less the cost of materials sold.

Tons sold in our specialty metals flat product segment decreased 27 thousand tons, or 18.7%, to 115 thousand tons in 2023 from 142 thousand tons in 2022. The decrease in tons sold was due to a shift towards lower volume fabrication and value-added services and an overall market decrease in the demand for stainless steel as domestic stainless steel mills ended their allocation programs during the second half of 2022. We do not report tons sold for our end-use products.

Net sales in our specialty metals flat products segment decreased \$208.3 million, or 26.8%, to \$567.7 million in 2023 from \$776.0 million in 2022. The decrease in sales was due to a 10.1% decrease in average selling prices and by a 18.7% decrease in sales volume during 2023 compared to 2022. Average selling prices in 2023 decreased to \$4,912 per ton, compared to \$5,461 per ton in 2022. The decrease in the year-over-year average selling price per ton is a result of the decreased industry metals pricing discussed above in Results of Operations.

Cost of materials sold decreased \$115.7 million, or 19.6%, to \$473.8 million in 2023 from \$589.5 million in 2022. The decrease in cost of materials sold was due to the decrease in industry metals pricing discussed above in Results of Operations.

As a percentage of net sales, gross profit (as defined in footnote (a) in the table above) decreased to 16.5% in 2023 from 24.0% in 2022. The average gross profit per ton sold totaled \$813 in 2023 compared to \$1,313 in 2022. The decrease in the gross profit as a percentage of net sales is due to average selling price decreasing more quickly than the average cost of inventory as discussed above in Results of Operations.

Operating expenses (as defined in footnote (b) in the table above) decreased \$21.8 million, or 23.5%, to \$71.1 million in 2023 from \$92.9 million in 2022. As a percentage of net sales, operating expenses increased to 12.5% of net sales in 2023 from 11.9% in 2022. The decrease in operating expenses was primarily attributable to lower year-over-year variable performance-based incentive compensation and reduced operating costs.

Operating income for 2023 totaled \$22.9 million, or 4.0% of net sales, compared to \$93.7 million, or 12.1% of net sales, in 2022.

Carbon flat products

The following table sets forth certain income statement data for the carbon flat products segment for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 (dollars shown in thousands, except per ton data):

	2023		2022	
		% of net sales		% of net sales
Direct tons sold	820,144		777,748	
Toll tons sold	34,048		29,171	
Total tons sold	854,192		806,919	
Net sales	\$ 1,221,093	100.0	\$ 1,356,605	100.0
Average selling price per ton	1,430		1,681	
Cost of materials sold	963,667	78.9	1,164,459	85.8
Gross profit (a)	257,426	21.1	192,146	14.2
Operating expenses (b)	222,844	18.2	167,131	12.4
Operating income	\$ 34,582	2.8	\$ 25,015	1.8

(a) Gross profit is calculated as net sales less the cost of materials sold.

(b) Operating expenses are calculated as total costs and expenses less the cost of materials sold.

Tons sold increased 47 thousand tons, or 5.9%, to 854 thousand tons in 2023 from 806 thousand tons in 2022. Toll tons sold increased 4 thousand tons, or 16.7%, to 34 thousand tons in 2023 from 29 thousand tons in 2022. We do not report tons sold for our end-use products.

Net sales decreased \$135.5 million, or 10.0%, to \$1.2 billion in 2023 from \$1.4 billion in 2022. The decrease in sales was due to a 15.0% decrease in average selling prices partially offset by a 5.9% increase in sales volume. Average selling prices in 2023 decreased to \$1,430 per ton, compared to \$1,681 per ton in 2022.

Cost of materials sold decreased \$200.8 million, or 17.2%, to \$963.7 million in 2023 from \$1.2 billion in 2022. The decrease in cost of materials sold was due to decreased industry metals pricing discussed above in Results of Operations.

As a percentage of net sales, gross profit (as defined in footnote (a) in the table above) increased to 21.1% in 2023 from 14.2% in 2022. The average gross profit per ton sold increased \$63 per ton, or 26.6%, to \$301 in 2023 from \$238 in 2022. The increase in gross profit as a percentage of net sales, and per ton, is a result of the acquisition of Metal-Fab during 2023, as well as average cost of inventory decreasing more quickly than the average selling prices as discussed above in Results of Operations.

Operating expenses in 2023 increased \$55.7 million, or 33.3%, to \$222.8 million from \$167.1 million in 2022. As a percentage of net sales, operating expenses increased to 18.2% in 2023 from 12.4% in 2022. Operating expenses increased primarily due to the January 3, 2023 acquisition of Metal-Fab and a 5.9% increase in year-over-year sales volume.

Operating income totaled \$34.6 million, or 2.8% of net sales, in 2023 compared to operating income of \$25.0 million, or 1.8% of net sales, in 2022.

Tubular and pipe products

The following table sets forth certain income statement data for the tubular and pipe products segment for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 (dollars shown in thousands).

	2023		2022	
		% of net sales		% of net sales
Net sales	\$ 369,342	100.0	\$ 427,363	100.0
Cost of materials sold (a)	247,212	66.9	319,999	74.9
Gross profit (b)	122,130	33.1	107,364	25.1
Operating expenses (c)	81,438	22.0	72,508	16.9
Operating income	\$ 40,692	11.0	\$ 34,856	8.2

(a) Includes \$8,258 of LIFO income and \$565 of LIFO expense in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

(b) Gross profit is calculated as net sales less the cost of materials sold.

(c) Operating expenses are calculated as total costs and expenses less the cost of materials sold.

Net sales decreased \$58.0 million, or 13.6%, to \$369.3 million in 2023 from \$427.4 million in 2022. The decrease in net sales was due to a 13.9% decrease in average selling prices offset by a 0.3% increase in sales volume during 2023.

Cost of materials sold decreased \$72.8 million, or 22.7%, to \$247.2 million in 2023 from \$320.0 million in 2022. The decrease in cost of materials sold is due to decreased metals pricing discussed above in Results of Operations. As a result of continued decreasing prices, during 2023, our tubular and pipe products segment recorded \$8.3 million of LIFO income, compared to \$0.6 million of LIFO expense recorded in 2022.

As a percentage of net sales, gross profit (as defined in footnote (b) in the table above) increased to 33.1% in 2023 compared to 25.1% in 2022. As a percentage of net sales, the LIFO income recorded in 2023 increased gross profit by 2.2% compared to the LIFO expense recorded in 2022, which decreased gross profit by 0.1%.

Operating expenses (as defined in footnote (c) in the table above) increased \$8.9 million, or 12.3%, to \$81.4 million in 2023 from \$72.5 million in 2022. As a percentage of net sales, operating expenses increased to 22.0% in 2023 compared to 16.9% in 2022. Operating expenses increased primarily due to the October 2, 2023 acquisition of CTB.

Operating income for 2023 totaled \$40.7 million, or 11.0% of net sales, compared to \$34.9 million, or 8.2% of net sales, in 2022.

Corporate expenses

Corporate expenses increased \$0.7 million, or 3.5%, to \$20.5 million in 2023 compared to \$19.8 million in 2022. Corporate expense increased primarily due to \$3.5 million of fees related to the acquisitions of Metal-Fab and CTB, partially offset by decreased variable performance-based incentive compensation.

Liquidity, Capital Resources and Cash Flows

Our principal capital requirements include funding working capital needs, purchasing, upgrading and acquiring processing equipment and facilities, making acquisitions and paying dividends. We use cash generated from operations and borrowings under our asset-based credit facility, or ABL Credit Facility, to fund these requirements.

We believe that funds available under our ABL Credit Facility, together with funds generated from operations, will be sufficient to provide us with the liquidity necessary to fund anticipated working capital requirements, capital expenditure requirements, our dividend payments and any share repurchases and business acquisitions over at least the next 12 months and for the foreseeable future thereafter. In the future, we may as part of our business strategy, acquire and dispose of assets or other companies in the same or complementary lines of business, or enter into or exit strategic alliances and joint ventures. Accordingly, the timing and size of our capital requirements are subject to change as business conditions warrant and opportunities arise.

2023 Compared to 2022

Operating Activities

During 2023, we generated \$175.2 million of cash from operations, of which \$94.1 million was generated from working capital and \$81.1 million was generated from operating activities. Net cash from operations during 2023 was primarily comprised of net income of \$44.5 million and the \$27.2 million addback of non-cash depreciation and amortization expense. During 2022, we generated \$185.9 million of net cash for operations, of which \$111.8 million was generated from operating activities and \$74.1 million was generated from working capital. Net cash from operations during 2022 was primarily comprised of net income of \$90.9 million and the \$20.2 million addback of non-cash depreciation and amortization expense.

Working capital at December 31, 2023 totaled \$422.9 million, a \$70.5 million decrease from December 31, 2022. The decrease was primarily attributable to a \$51.5 million decrease in inventory, a \$44.6 million decrease in accounts receivable, a \$12.1 million increase in accounts payable and outstanding checks, offset by a \$11.9 million decrease in accrued payroll and other accrued liabilities and a \$2.3 million increase in prepaid expenses and other.

Investing Activities

Net cash used for investing activities was \$190.8 million during 2023, compared to \$16.6 million during 2022. Investment activities in 2023 included \$169.8 million for the acquisitions of Metal-Fab on January 3, 2023 and CTB on October 2, 2023 and \$21.3 million of capital expenditures, primarily attributable to processing equipment at our existing facilities. Investment activities in 2022 included \$19.9 million of capital expenditures, primarily attributable to processing equipment at our existing facilities, partially offset by the \$3.3 million gain on the sale of the Milan, IL facility.

Financing Activities

During 2023, \$16.8 million of cash was generated from financing activities, which primarily consisted of \$24.5 million of net borrowings under our ABL Credit Facility, offset by, \$5.6 million of dividends paid, \$1.2 million of payments for credit facility fees and expenses and a \$1.0 million of principal payments for financing lease obligations. During 2022, \$166.9 million of cash was used for financing activities, which primarily consisted of \$162.1 million of net repayments under our ABL Credit Facility, \$4.0 million of dividends paid, \$0.7 million of principal payments for financing lease obligations and \$0.1 million of payments for credit facility fees and expenses.

In February 2024, our Board of Directors approved a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.15 per share, which is payable on March 15, 2024 to shareholders of record as of March 4, 2024. Our Board previously approved 2023 and 2022 regular quarterly dividends of \$0.125 per share and \$0.09 per share, respectively, which were paid in March, June, September and December of 2023 and 2022. Dividend distributions in the future are subject to the availability of cash, limitations on cash dividends under our ABL Credit Facility and continuing determination by our Board of Directors that the payment of dividends remains in the best interest of our shareholders.

Stock Repurchase Program

In 2015, our Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program of up to 550,000 shares of our issued and outstanding common stock, which could include open market repurchases, negotiated block transactions, accelerated stock repurchases or open market solicitations for shares, all or some of which may be effected through Rule 10b5-1 plans. Repurchased shares will be held in our treasury, or canceled and retired as our Board of Directors may determine from time to time. Any repurchases of common stock are subject to the covenants contained in the ABL Credit Facility. Under the ABL Credit Facility, we may repurchase common stock and pay dividends up to \$15.0 million in the aggregate during any trailing twelve months without restrictions. Purchases in excess of \$15.0 million require us to (i) maintain availability in excess of 20.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments (\$125.0 million at December 31, 2023) or (ii) to maintain availability equal to or greater than \$15.0 of the aggregate revolver commitments (\$93.8 million at December 31, 2023) and we must maintain a pro forma ratio of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00. The timing and amount of any repurchases under the stock repurchase program will depend upon several factors, including market and business conditions, and limitations under the ABL Credit Facility, and repurchases may be discontinued at any time. As of December 31, 2023, 360,212 shares remain authorized for repurchase under the program. No shares were repurchased during 2022 or 2023.

There were no shares repurchased during 2023 or 2022.

At-the-Market Equity Program

On September 3, 2021, we commenced an at-the-market, or ATM, equity program under our shelf registration statement, which allows us to sell and issue up to \$50 million in shares of our common stock from time to time. We entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement on September 3, 2021 with KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc., or KeyBanc, relating to the issuance and sale of shares of common stock pursuant to the program. KeyBanc is not required to sell any specific amount of securities but will act as our sales agent using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between KeyBanc and us. KeyBanc will be entitled to compensation for shares sold pursuant to the program of 2.0% of the gross proceeds of any shares of common stock sold under the Equity Distribution Agreement. No shares were sold under the ATM program during 2023 or 2022.

Debt Arrangements

We are parties to a Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, as amended which provides for a \$625 million ABL Credit Facility consisting of: (i) a revolving credit facility of up to \$595 million, including a \$20 million sub-limit for letters of credit, and (ii) a first in, last out revolving credit facility of up to \$30 million. Under the terms of the ABL Credit Facility, we may, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, request additional commitments under the revolving credit facility in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$200 million to the extent that existing or new lenders agree to provide such additional commitments and add real estate as collateral at our discretion. The ABL Credit Facility matures on June 16, 2026.

The ABL Credit Facility contains customary representations and warranties and certain covenants that limit our ability to, among other things: (i) incur or guarantee additional indebtedness; (ii) pay distributions on, redeem or repurchase capital stock or redeem or repurchase subordinated debt; (iii) make investments; (iv) sell assets; (v) enter into agreements that restrict distributions or other payments from restricted subsidiaries to us; (vi) incur or suffer to exist liens securing indebtedness; (vii) consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of their assets; and (viii) engage in transactions with affiliates. In addition, the ABL Credit Facility contains a financial covenant which provides that: (i) if any commitments or obligations are outstanding and our availability is less than the greater of \$30 million or 10.0% of the aggregate amount of revolver commitments (\$62.5 million at December 31, 2023) or 10.0% of the aggregate borrowing base (\$53.4 million at December 31, 2023), then we must maintain a ratio of EBITDA minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00 for the most recent twelve fiscal month period.

We have the option to borrow under its revolver based on the agent's base rate plus a premium ranging from 0.00% to 0.25% or the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, or SOFR, plus a premium ranging from 1.25% to 2.75%.

As of December 31, 2023, we were in compliance with our covenants and had approximately \$339.4 million of availability under the ABL Credit Facility.

As of December 31, 2023, \$1.7 million of bank financing fees were included in "Prepaid expenses and other" and "Other long-term assets" on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. The financing fees are being amortized over the five-year term of the ABL Credit Facility and are included in "Interest and other expense on debt" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

On January 10, 2019, we entered into a five-year forward starting fixed rate interest rate hedge in order to eliminate the variability of cash interest payments on \$75 million of the outstanding SOFR based borrowings under the ABL Credit Facility. The interest rate hedge fixed the rate at 2.42%. The interest rate swap expired on January 10, 2024.

Contractual and Other Obligations

The following table reflects the material cash requirements for our contractual and other obligations as of December 31, 2023. We believe that funds available under our ABL Credit Facility, together with funds generated from operations, will be sufficient to provide us with the liquidity necessary to satisfy these obligations in the short-term over the next 12 months and also in the long-term beyond the next 12 months.

Contractual and Other Obligations (amounts in thousands)		Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt obligations	(a)	190,198	\$ -	\$ 190,198	\$ -	\$ -
Interest obligations	(b)	33,020	13,350	19,670	-	-
Finance lease obligations	(c)	3,502	1,218	1,528	717	39
Unrecognized tax positions	(d)	174	10	164	-	-
Other long-term liabilities	(e)	17,882	2,866	8,046	4,856	2,114
Total contractual and other obligations		<u>\$ 244,776</u>	<u>\$ 17,444</u>	<u>\$ 219,606</u>	<u>\$ 5,573</u>	<u>\$ 2,153</u>

- (a) See Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (b) Future interest obligations are calculated using the debt balances and interest rates in effect on December 31, 2023.
- (c) See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (d) See Note 15 to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Classification is based on expected settlement dates and the expiration of certain statutes of limitations.
- (e) Consists of retirement liabilities, long-term cash incentives and deferred compensation payable in future years.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

An off-balance sheet arrangement is any contractual arrangement involving an unconsolidated entity under which a company has (a) made guarantees, (b) a retained or a contingent interest in transferred assets, (c) any obligation under certain derivative instruments or (d) any obligation under a material variable interest in an unconsolidated entity that provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit risk support to a company, or engages in leasing, hedging, or research and development services within a company.

Other than derivative instruments discussed in Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, as of December 31, 2023, we had no material off-balance sheet arrangements.

Effects of Inflation

Inflation generally affects us by increasing the cost of employee wages and benefits, transportation services, energy, borrowings under our credit facility, processing equipment, and purchased metals. Although general inflation, excluding increases in the price of metals and increased labor, has increased during 2023, it has not had a material effect on our financial results during the past three years, but may have a significant impact in future years.

Critical Accounting Estimates

This discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations is based on our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. On an on-going basis, we monitor and evaluate our estimates and assumptions.

We believe the accounting estimates employed are appropriate and the resulting balances are reasonable; however, due to the inherent uncertainties in developing estimates, actual results could differ from the original estimates, requiring adjustments to these balances in future periods. See Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements for our significant accounting policies related to our critical accounting estimates.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level considered appropriate based on historical experience and specific customer collection issues that we have identified. Estimations are based upon the application of a historical collection rate to the outstanding accounts receivable balance, which remains fairly level from year to year, and judgments about the probable effects of economic conditions on certain customers, which can fluctuate significantly from year to year. We cannot be certain that the rate of future credit losses will be similar to past experience. We consider all available information when assessing the adequacy of our allowance for credit losses each quarter.

Valuation of Inventory

Non-LIFO inventories are stated at the lower of its cost or net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. LIFO inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Market is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonable predictable costs of completion. Inventory costs include the costs of purchased metal, inbound freight, external and internal processing and applicable labor and overhead costs.

The cost of our specialty metals and carbon flat products segments' inventories, including flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products are determined using the specific identification method.

Certain inventoried products of our tubular and pipe segment are stated under the LIFO method. At December 31, 2023, and December 31, 2022, approximately \$38.2 million, or 9.9% of consolidated inventory, and \$46.3 million, or 11.1% of consolidated inventory, respectively, was reported under the LIFO method of accounting. The cost of the remainder of our tubular and pipe product segment's inventory is determined using a weighted average rolling first-in, first-out (FIFO) method.

On the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, "Costs of materials sold" consists of the cost of purchased metals, inbound and internal transfer freight, external processing costs, and LIFO income or expense.

Valuation of Deferred Tax Assets

The ability to realize deferred tax assets depends on the ability to generate sufficient taxable income within the carryback or carryforward periods provided for in the tax law for each applicable tax jurisdiction. The assessment regarding whether a valuation allowance is required or should be adjusted is based on an evaluation of possible sources of taxable income and also considers all available positive and negative evidence factors. Deferred income taxes on the consolidated balance sheet include, as an offset to the estimated temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts on the consolidated balance sheets, the tax effect of operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. If we determine that we will not be able to fully realize a deferred tax asset, we will record a valuation allowance to reduce such deferred tax asset to its net realizable value. We recognize the financial statement benefit of a tax position only after determining that the relevant tax authority would more likely than not sustain the position following an audit. For tax positions meeting the more-likely-than-not threshold, the amount recognized in the financial statements is the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the relevant tax authority.

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2023, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2023-07, "Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosure". The objective of this ASU is to enhance the disclosures a public entity provides about their reportable segments. The ASU does not amend any of the existing guidance or requirements in Topic 280, Segment Reporting. Under the ASU, public entities must disclose incremental segment information on both an annual and interim basis. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2023 and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2024, applied retroactively. We do not anticipate this having a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU No. 2023-09, "Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures". The objective of this ASU is to improve the information a reporting entity provides to users of financial statements about the entity's operations and the effects of related tax risks and tax planning on the entity's tax rate and potential future cash flows. The ASU enhances disclosures regarding the rate reconciliation, income taxes paid and other items. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024 for public business entities. We are not an early adopter of this guidance and its impacts are not included prospectively or retrospectively on our Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU No. 2020-04, "Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting". The objective of this ASU is to ease the potential burden in accounting for (or recognizing the effects of) reference rate reform on financial reporting. The amendments in this ASU are elective and apply to all entities, subject to meeting certain criteria, that have contracts, hedging relationships and other transactions that reference LIBOR or another reference rate expected to be discontinued because of reference rate reform. Then in December 2022, the FASB issued ASU No. 2022-06 "Deferral of the Sunset Date of Topic 848" which amends and extends the sunset date to December 31, 2024. We adopted this ASU in the first quarter of 2023 for the modification of the asset-based credit facility (the ABL Credit Facility) and the interest rate hedge which did not have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our principal raw materials are carbon, coated and stainless steel, and aluminum pipe and tube, flat rolled coil, sheet and plate that we typically purchase from multiple primary metals producers. The metals industry as a whole is cyclical and, at times, pricing and availability of metals can be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control, including general domestic and international economic conditions, the levels of metals imported into the United States, labor costs, sales levels, competition, levels of inventory held by other metals service centers, consolidation of metals producers, new global capacity by metals producers, higher raw material costs for the producers of metals, import duties and tariffs and currency exchange rates. This volatility can significantly affect the availability and cost of raw materials for us.

Like many other metals service centers, we maintain substantial inventories of metals to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon historic buying practices, supply agreements with customers and market conditions. Our commitments to purchase metals are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. We have no long-term, fixed-price metals purchase contracts. When metals prices increase, competitive conditions will influence how much of the price increase we can pass on to our customers. To the extent we are unable to pass on future price increases in our raw materials to our customers, the net sales and profitability of our business could be adversely affected. When metals prices decline, customer demands for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower gross profits and inventory lower of cost or market adjustments as we sell existing inventory. Significant or rapid declines in metals prices or reductions in sales volumes could adversely impact our ability to remain in compliance with certain financial covenants in our credit facility, as well as result in us incurring inventory or intangible asset impairment charges. Changing metals prices therefore could significantly impact our net sales, gross profits, operating income and net income.

Rising metals prices result in higher working capital requirements for us and our customers. Some customers may not have sufficient credit lines or liquidity to absorb significant increases in the price of metals. While we have generally been successful in the past in passing on producers' price increases and surcharges to our customers, there is no guarantee that we will be able to pass on price increases to our customers in the future. Declining metals prices have generally adversely affected our net sales and net income, while increasing metals prices have generally favorably affected our net sales and net income.

Approximately 48%, 52% and 47% of our consolidated net sales in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively, were directly related to industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators.

Inflation generally affects us by increasing the cost of employee wages and benefits, transportation services, energy, borrowings under our credit facility, processing equipment, and purchased metals. Although general inflation, excluding increases in the price of metals and increased labor and distribution expense, has increased during 2023, it has not had a material effect on our financial results during the past three years, but may have a significant impact in future years.

We are exposed to the impact of fluctuating metals prices and interest rate changes. During 2023, 2022 and 2021, we entered into metals swaps at the request of customers. These derivatives have not been designated as hedging instruments. For certain customers, we enter into contractual relationships that entitle us to pass-through the economic effect of trading positions that we take with other third parties on our customers' behalf.

Our primary interest rate risk exposure results from variable rate debt. If interest rates in the future were to increase 100 basis points (1.0%) from December 31, 2023 rates and, assuming no change in total debt from December 31, 2023 levels, the additional annual interest expense to us would be approximately \$1.9 million. We have the option to enter into 30- to 180-day fixed base rate SOFR loans under the revolving credit facility provided by our ABL Credit Facility.

On January 10, 2019, we entered into a five-year interest rate swap that locked the interest rate at 2.42% on \$75 million of our revolving debt. The interest rate swap expired on January 10, 2024.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Olympic Steel, Inc.

Index to Consolidated Financial Statements

	Page
Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms (PCAOB ID Number 248)	46
Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting	49
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	50
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022	51
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	52
Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	53
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	54
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	55
Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021	76

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Board of Directors and Shareholders
Olympic Steel, Inc.

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Olympic Steel, Inc. (an Ohio corporation) and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes and financial statement schedule included under Item 15(a) (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB"), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO"), and our report dated February 23, 2024 expressed an unqualified opinion.

Basis for opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Critical audit matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

Business Acquisition - Metal-Fab - valuation of customer relationships and trade name intangible assets

As described further in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company acquired Metal-Fab on January 3, 2023 for a cash purchase price of approximately \$131.2 million. The acquisition was accounted for as a business combination and the assets acquired and liabilities assumed were valued at fair value on the date of acquisition. Specifically, the Company identified customer relationships and a trade name of approximately \$36.5 million and \$11.5 million, respectively. We identified the valuation of customer relationships and trade name intangible assets acquired in the Metal-Fab acquisition as a critical audit matter.

The principal consideration for our determination that the valuation of customer relationships and trade name intangible assets acquired in the Metal-Fab acquisition are a critical audit matter is the high degree of auditor judgment and subjectivity in performing procedures and evaluating management's significant assumptions relating to the projected forecasted information including the revenue growth rate and discount rate.

Our audit procedures related to the valuation of customer relationships and trade name intangible assets acquired in the Metal-Fab acquisition included the following, among others:

- We tested the design and operating effectiveness of relevant controls over the development and review of significant assumptions used in the determination of the fair value of the customer relationships and trade name intangible assets.
- We tested the projected financial information including the revenue growth rate by assessing the reasonableness of management's forecasts compared to historical results and forecasted industry trends.
- With the assistance of our valuation specialists, we evaluated the appropriateness of the valuation methodology used to determine the fair value of the customer relationship and trade name and the reasonableness of the discount rate used by management. We developed an independent estimate of the discount rate using comparable companies and compared that rate to the rate selected by management.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2019.

Cleveland, Ohio
February 23, 2024

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Board of Directors and Shareholders
Olympic Steel, Inc.

Opinion on internal control over financial reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Olympic Steel, Inc. (an Ohio corporation) and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO"). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB"), the consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and our report dated February 23, 2024 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

Basis for opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and limitations of internal control over financial reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Cleveland, Ohio
February 23, 2024

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023. In making this assessment, our management used the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

Based on our assessment, we concluded that, as of December 31, 2023, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023 has been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which appears herein.

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income
For The Years Ended December 31,
(in thousands, except per share data)

	2023	2022	2021
Net sales	\$ 2,158,163	\$ 2,559,990	\$ 2,312,253
Costs and expenses			
Cost of materials sold (excludes items shown separately below)	1,684,663	2,073,930	1,802,052
Warehouse and processing	122,212	104,668	103,017
Administrative and general	122,239	114,004	104,617
Distribution	66,979	60,529	55,404
Selling	41,436	40,174	41,881
Occupancy	16,520	13,200	12,500
Depreciation	21,545	17,285	17,952
Amortization	4,898	2,453	2,364
Total costs and expenses	2,080,492	2,426,243	2,139,787
Operating income	77,671	133,747	172,466
Other loss, net	78	45	36
Income before interest and income taxes	77,593	133,702	172,430
Interest and other expense on debt	16,006	10,080	7,631
Income before income taxes	61,587	123,622	164,799
Income tax provision	17,058	32,691	43,748
Net income	\$ 44,529	\$ 90,931	\$ 121,051
Gain (loss) on cash flow hedges	(1,693)	4,409	2,960
Tax effect of hedges	423	(1,102)	(740)
Total comprehensive income	\$ 43,259	\$ 94,238	\$ 123,271
Net income per share - basic	\$ 3.85	\$ 7.87	\$ 10.53
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	11,573	11,551	11,492
Net income per share - diluted	\$ 3.85	\$ 7.87	\$ 10.52
Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted	11,578	11,559	11,503
Dividends declared per share of common stock	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.08

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheets
As of December 31,
(in thousands)

	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,224	\$ 12,189
Accounts receivable, net	191,149	219,789
Inventories, net (includes LIFO reserves of \$12,043 and of \$20,301 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively)	386,535	416,931
Prepaid expenses and other	12,261	9,197
Total current assets	603,169	658,106
Property and equipment, at cost	483,448	429,810
Accumulated depreciation	(297,340)	(281,478)
Net property and equipment	186,108	148,332
Goodwill	52,091	10,496
Intangible assets, net	92,621	32,035
Other long-term assets	16,466	14,434
Right-of-use assets, net	34,380	28,224
Total assets	\$ 984,835	\$ 891,627
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 119,718	\$ 101,446
Accrued payroll	30,113	40,334
Other accrued liabilities	22,593	16,824
Current portion of lease liabilities	7,813	6,098
Total current liabilities	180,237	164,702
Credit facility revolver	190,198	165,658
Other long-term liabilities	20,151	12,619
Deferred income taxes	11,510	10,025
Lease liabilities	27,261	22,655
Total liabilities	429,357	375,659
Commitments and contingencies (Note 14)		
Shareholders' Equity		
Preferred stock, without par value, 5,000 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding	-	-
Common stock, without par value, 20,000 shares authorized; 11,133 and 11,130 issued; 11,133 and 11,130 shares outstanding	136,541	134,724
Accumulated other comprehensive income	41	1,311
Retained earnings	418,896	379,933
Total shareholders' equity	555,478	515,968
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 984,835	\$ 891,627

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
For The Years Ended December 31,
(in thousands)

	2023	2022	2021
Net income	\$ 44,529	\$ 90,931	\$ 121,051
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from (used for) operating activities -			
Depreciation and amortization	27,176	20,206	20,954
Gain on disposition of property and equipment	(133)	(2,185)	(22)
Gain on disposition of Detroit operation (before expenses of \$2,569)	-	-	(6,068)
Stock-based compensation	1,817	1,297	1,045
Intangibles and other long-term assets	(1,257)	1,304	6,796
Deferred income taxes and other long-term liabilities	8,950	235	(6,231)
	<u>81,082</u>	<u>111,788</u>	<u>137,525</u>
Changes in working capital:			
Accounts receivable	44,576	64,781	(131,459)
Inventories	51,538	68,098	(241,899)
Prepaid expenses and other	(2,324)	792	(4,850)
Accounts payable	10,568	(52,274)	60,538
Change in outstanding checks	1,576	5,071	(1,189)
Accrued payroll and other accrued liabilities	(11,857)	(12,403)	34,960
	<u>94,077</u>	<u>74,065</u>	<u>(283,899)</u>
Net cash from (used for) operating activities	<u>175,159</u>	<u>185,853</u>	<u>(146,374)</u>
Cash flows from (used for) investing activities:			
Acquisitions	(169,768)	-	(12,105)
Capital expenditures	(21,326)	(19,854)	(11,011)
Proceeds from sale of Detroit property and equipment	-	-	9,506
Proceeds from disposition of property and equipment	251	3,293	146
Net cash used for investing activities	<u>(190,843)</u>	<u>(16,561)</u>	<u>(13,464)</u>
Cash flows from (used for) financing activities:			
Credit facility revolver borrowings	743,030	685,269	757,788
Credit facility revolver repayments	(718,490)	(847,375)	(590,632)
Principal payments under finance lease obligation	(1,039)	(703)	(828)
Credit facility fees and expenses	(1,216)	(100)	(1,325)
Dividends paid	(5,566)	(4,006)	(886)
Net cash from (used for) financing activities	<u>16,719</u>	<u>(166,915)</u>	<u>164,117</u>
Cash and cash equivalents:			
Net change	1,035	2,377	4,279
Beginning balance	12,189	9,812	5,533
Ending balance	<u>\$ 13,224</u>	<u>\$ 12,189</u>	<u>\$ 9,812</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information
For The Years Ended December 31,
(in thousands)

	2023	2022	2021
Interest paid	\$ 14,965	\$ 9,635	\$ 6,843
Income taxes paid	\$ 13,603	\$ 33,404	\$ 46,548

The Company incurred new leasing obligations of \$15.0 million, \$5.5 million and \$9.8 million during the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. This non-cash transaction has been excluded from the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity
For The Years Ended December 31,
(in thousands)

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total Equity</u>
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$ 132,382	\$ (4,215)	\$ 172,843	\$ 301,010
Net income	-	-	121,051	121,051
Payment of dividends	-	-	(886)	(886)
Stock-based compensation	1,045	-	-	1,045
Change in fair value of hedges	-	2,220	-	2,220
Other	-	(1)	-	(1)
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$ 133,427	\$ (1,996)	\$ 293,008	\$ 424,439
Net income	-	-	90,931	90,931
Payment of dividends	-	-	(4,006)	(4,006)
Stock-based compensation	1,297	-	-	1,297
Change in fair value of hedges	-	3,307	-	3,307
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 134,724	\$ 1,311	\$ 379,933	\$ 515,968
Net income	-	-	44,529	44,529
Payment of dividends	-	-	(5,566)	(5,566)
Stock-based compensation	1,817	-	-	1,817
Change in fair value of hedges	-	(1,270)	-	(1,270)
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 136,541</u>	<u>\$ 41</u>	<u>\$ 418,896</u>	<u>\$ 555,478</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Olympic Steel, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
For The Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Nature of Business

The Company operates in three reportable segments: specialty metals flat products, carbon flat products, and tubular and pipe products. The specialty metals flat products segment and the carbon flat products segment are at times consolidated and referred to as the flat products segments. Certain of the flat products segments' assets and resources are shared by the specialty metals and carbon flat products segments, and both segments' products are stored in the shared facilities and, in some locations, processed on shared equipment. As such, total assets and capital expenditures are reported in the aggregate for the flat products segment. Due to the shared assets and resources, certain of the flat products segment expenses are allocated between the specialty metals flat products segment and the carbon flat products segment based upon an established allocation methodology. The Company is a leading metals service center focused on the direct sale and value-added processing of carbon and coated steel, plate and coil products; stainless steel sheet, plate, bar and coil; aluminum sheet, plate and coil; pipe, tube bar, valves and fittings, tin plate and metal-intensive end-use products. The specialty metals flat products segment sells and distributes processed aluminum and stainless flat-rolled sheet and coil products, flat bar products, prime tin mill products and fabricated parts. Through acquisitions, the specialty metals flat products segment has expanded its geographic footprint and enhanced its product offerings in stainless steel and aluminum plate, sheet, angles, rounds, flat bar, tubing and pipe, stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. The carbon flat products segment sells and distributes large volumes of processed carbon and coated flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products, fabricated parts and fabricated products, including self-dumping metal hoppers and steel and stainless-steel dump inserts for pickup truck and service truck beds. With the recent acquisition of Metal-Fab, Inc. (Metal-Fab) on January 3, 2023, the carbon flat products segment further expanded its product offerings to include the manufacture of venting, micro air and clean air products for residential, commercial and industrial applications. The tubular and pipe product segment distributes metal tubing, pipe, bar, valves and fittings and the fabrication of parts supplied to various industrial markets. With the recent acquisition of Central Tube and Bar (CTB) on October 2, 2023, the tubular and pipe products segment expanded its product offerings to include fabricated tube and bar products, including round, square, rectangular and special shaped tubes.

Corporate expenses are reported as a separate line item for segment reporting purposes. Corporate expenses include the unallocated expenses related to managing the entire Company (i.e., all three segments), including payroll expenses for certain personnel, expenses related to being a publicly traded entity such as board of directors' expenses, audit expenses, and various other professional fees.

Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared from the financial records of Olympic Steel, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, Olympic or the Company), after elimination of intercompany accounts and transactions.

Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Concentration Risks

The Company is a major customer of flat-rolled coil and plate and tubular and pipe steel for many of its principal suppliers, but is not dependent on any one supplier. The Company purchased approximately 40%, 39% and 51% of its total steel tonnage requirements from its three largest suppliers in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The Company has a diversified customer and geographic base, which reduces the inherent risk and cyclicity of its business. The concentration of net sales to the Company's top 20 customers approximated 29%, 26% and 23% of consolidated net sales in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. In addition, the Company's largest customer accounted for approximately 3%, 3% and 2% of consolidated net sales in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Sales to industrial machinery and equipment manufacturers and their fabricators accounted for 48%, 52% and 47% of consolidated net sales in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents consist of short-term highly liquid investments, with a three month or less maturity, which are readily convertible into cash. The Company maintains cash levels in bank accounts that, at times, may exceed federally-insured limits. The Company has not experienced significant loss, and believe we are not exposed to significant risk of loss, in these accounts.

Fair Market Value

Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market for the liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Valuation techniques must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. To measure fair value, the Company applies a fair value hierarchy that is based on three levels of inputs, of which the first two are considered observable and the last unobservable, as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

Financial instruments, such as cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and the credit facility, are stated at their carrying value, which is a reasonable estimate of fair value. The fair value of marketable securities is based on quoted market prices.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The Company's allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level considered appropriate based on historical experience and specific customer collection issues that the Company has identified. Estimations are based upon the application of a historical collection rate to the outstanding accounts receivable balance, which remains fairly level from year to year, and judgments about the probable effects of economic conditions on certain customers, which can fluctuate significantly from year to year. The Company cannot guarantee that the rate of future credit losses will be similar to past experience. The Company considers all available information when assessing the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses each quarter.

Inventory Valuation

Non-LIFO inventories are stated at the lower of its cost or net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal and transportation. LIFO inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Market is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less reasonable predictable costs of completion. Inventory costs include the costs of the purchased metals, inbound freight, external and internal processing and applicable labor and overhead costs.

Substantially all of the costs of the Company's specialty metals and carbon flat products segments' inventories, including flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products are determined using the specific identification method.

Certain of the Company's tubular and pipe products inventory is stated under the LIFO method. At December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, approximately \$38.2 million, or 9.9% of consolidated inventory, and \$46.3 million, or 11.1% of consolidated inventory, respectively, was reported under the LIFO method of accounting. The cost of the remainder of tubular and pipe product segment's inventory is determined using a weighted average rolling first-in, first-out (FIFO) method.

On the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, "Cost of materials sold (exclusive of items shown separately below)" consists of the cost of purchased metals, inbound and internal transfer freight, external processing costs, and LIFO income or expense.

Property and Equipment, and Depreciation

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from two to 30 years. The Company capitalizes the costs of obtaining or developing internal-use software, including directly related payroll costs. The Company amortizes those costs over five years, beginning when the software is ready for its intended use.

Intangible Assets and Recoverability of Long-lived Assets

The Company performs an annual impairment test of indefinite-lived intangible assets in the fourth quarter, or more frequently if changes in circumstances or the occurrence of events indicate potential impairment. Events or changes in circumstances that could trigger an impairment review include significant nonperformance relative to the expected historical or projected future operating results, significant changes in the manner of the use of the acquired assets or the strategy for the overall business or significant negative industry or economic trends. Management uses judgment to determine whether to use a qualitative analysis or a quantitative fair value measurement for each of the Company's reporting units that carry intangible assets.

If a quantitative fair value measurement is used, the fair value of each indefinite-lived intangible asset is compared to its carrying value and an impairment charge is recorded if the carrying value exceeds the fair value. The Company estimates the fair value of indefinite-lived intangible assets using a discounted cash flow methodology. Management's assumptions used for the calculations are based on historical results, projected financial information and recent economic events. Actual results could differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions, which could adversely affect the reported value of intangible assets.

The Company evaluates the recoverability of long-lived assets and the related estimated remaining lives whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Events or changes in circumstances that could trigger an impairment review include significant underperformance relative to the expected historical or projected future operating results, significant changes in the manner of the use of the acquired assets or the strategy for the overall business or significant negative industry or economic trends. The Company records an impairment or change in useful life whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable or the useful life has changed.

Income Taxes

The Company records, as an offset to the estimated effect of temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts in its consolidated balance sheets, the tax effect of operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. If the Company determines that it will not be able to fully realize a deferred tax asset, it will record a valuation allowance to reduce such deferred tax asset to its realizable value. The Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. Penalties, if incurred, would be recognized as a component of administrative and general expense.

The Company recognizes the financial statement benefit of a tax position only after determining that the relevant tax authority would more likely than not sustain the position following an audit. For tax positions meeting the more-likely-than-not threshold, the amount recognized in the financial statements is the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the relevant tax authority.

The Company had no material unrecognized tax benefits as of or during the year ended December 31, 2023. The Company expects no significant increases or decrease in unrecognized tax benefits due to changes in tax positions within one year of December 31, 2023.

Revenue Recognition

The Company's contracts with customers are comprised of purchase orders with standard terms and conditions. Occasionally the Company may also have longer-term agreements with customers. Substantially all of the contracts with customers require the delivery of metals, which represent single performance obligations that are satisfied upon transfer of control of the product to the customer.

Transfer of control is assessed based on the use of the product distributed and rights to payment for performance under the contract terms. Transfer of control and revenue recognition for substantially all of the Company's sales occur upon shipment or delivery of the product, which is when title, ownership and risk of loss pass to the customer and is based on the applicable shipping terms. The shipping terms depend on the customer contract. An invoice for payment is issued at time of shipment and terms are generally net 30 days. The Company has certain fabrication contracts in one business unit for which revenue is recognized over time as performance obligations are achieved. This fabrication business is immaterial to the Company's consolidated results.

Sales returns and allowances are treated as reductions to sales and are provided for based on historical experience and current estimates and are immaterial to the consolidated financial statements.

Shipping and Handling Fees and Costs

Amounts charged to customers for shipping and other transportation services are included in net sales. The distribution expense line on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income is entirely comprised of all shipping and other transportation costs incurred by the Company in shipping goods to its customers.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company records compensation expense for stock awards issued to employees and directors. For additional information, see Note 13, Equity Plans.

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2023, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2023-07, "Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosure". The objective of this ASU is to enhance the disclosures a public entity provides about their reportable segments. The ASU does not amend any of the existing guidance or requirements in Topic 280, Segment Reporting. Under the ASU, public entities must disclose incremental segment information on both an annual and interim basis. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2023 and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2024, applied retroactively. The adoption of this ASU is not anticipated to have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU No. 2023-09, "Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures". The objective of this ASU is to improve the information a reporting entity provides to users of financial statements about the entity's operations and the effects of related tax risks and tax planning on the entity's tax rate and potential future cash flows. The ASU enhances disclosures regarding the rate reconciliation, income taxes paid and other items. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024 for public business entities. The Company is not an early adopter of this guidance and its impacts are not included prospectively or retrospectively in our Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU No. 2020-04, "Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting". The objective of this ASU is to ease the potential burden in accounting for (or recognizing the effects of) reference rate reform on financial reporting. The amendments in this ASU are elective and apply to all entities, subject to meeting certain criteria, that have contracts, hedging relationships and other transactions that reference LIBOR or another reference rate expected to be discontinued because of reference rate reform. Then in December 2022, the FASB issued ASU No. 2022-06 "Deferral of the Sunset Date of Topic 848" which amends and extends the sunset date to December 31, 2024. We adopted this ASU in the first quarter of 2023 for the modification of the asset-based credit facility (the ABL Credit Facility) and the interest rate hedge. The adoption of the standard did not have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

2. Acquisitions

On January, 3 2023, the Company acquired all the outstanding shares of capital stock of Metal-Fab for a cash purchase price of \$131.2 million. Metal-Fab, headquartered in Wichita, Kansas, is a manufacturer of venting, micro air and clean air products for residential and industrial applications.

The Company paid total cash consideration of \$131.2 million, consisting of a base purchase price of \$131.0 million and a cash adjustment of \$0.2 million. During 2023, the Company incurred \$2.6 million of direct acquisition-related costs, which are included in "Administrative and general" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, and \$2.1 million of non-recurring amortization of inventory fair market value adjustments, which are included in "Cost of materials sold" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

On October 2, 2023, the Company acquired all membership interest of CTB for a cash purchase price of \$40.3 million. CTB, headquartered in Conway, Arkansas, is a fabricator of tube and bar products which services the transportation, agricultural, commercial furniture and data center construction industries.

The Company paid total cash consideration of \$40.3 million, consisting of a base purchase price of \$37.8 million and a working capital adjustment of \$2.5 million. During 2023, the Company incurred \$0.9 million of direct acquisition-related costs, which are included in "Administrative and general" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

On October 1, 2021 the Company acquired substantially all of the net assets of Shaw Stainless & Alloy, Inc. (Shaw), based in Powder Springs, Georgia, for \$12.1 million. Shaw is a full-line distributor of stainless steel sheet, pipe, tube, bar and angles. Shaw also manufactures and distributes stainless steel bollards and water treatment systems. The acquisition includes Shaw's stainless-steel distribution and fabrication businesses as well as its architectural and barrier defense businesses.

Each acquisition was funded with borrowings under the Company's asset-based credit facility (ABL Credit Facility).

Purchase Price Allocation

The acquisitions were accounted for as business combinations and the assets and liabilities were valued at fair market value on the date of acquisition.

The final purchase price allocations presented below are based upon management's estimate of the fair value of the acquired assets and assumed liabilities using Level 3 valuation techniques including income, cost and market approaches. The fair value estimates involve the use of estimates and assumptions, including, but not limited to, the timing and amounts of future cash flows, revenue growth rates, discount rates, and royalty rates. The table below summarizes the final purchase price allocations of the fair market values of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed.

Details of Acquisition (in thousands)	Metal-Fab As of January 3, 2023	CTB As of October 2, 2023
Assets acquired		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,728	\$ -
Accounts receivable, net	10,597	5,339
Prepaid expenses and other	740	-
Inventories, net	17,236	3,906
Property and equipment	20,408	16,193
Goodwill	33,194	8,401
Intangible assets	54,740	9,590
Right-of-use and other long-term assets	6,930	917
Total assets acquired	145,573	44,346
Total liabilities assumed	(14,369)	(4,054)
Cash paid	\$ 131,204	\$ 40,292

The accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income include the revenues and expenses of Metal-Fab, CTB and Shaw since January 3, 2023, October 2, 2023 and October 1, 2021, respectively. Metal-Fab's operations are included within the carbon flat-rolled segment, CTB operations are included within the tubular and pipe segment and Shaw's operations are included within the specialty metals flat-rolled segment. The combined net sales for the 2023 acquisitions totaled \$110.3 million.

In connection with the acquisition of Metal-Fab, the Company identified and valued certain intangible assets, including the Metal-Fab trade name, internally developed technology and know-how, restrictive covenants and customer relationships. The intangible assets were valued on the premise of highest and best use to a market participant, primarily utilizing the income approach valuation methodology. The trade name intangible asset was valued at \$11.5 million, and the useful life was determined to be indefinite primarily due to their history and reputation in the marketplace, the Company's expectation that the trade name will continue to be used, and the conclusion that there are currently no other factors identified that would limit their useful life. The internally developed technology and know-how intangible asset was valued at \$5.3 million, and the useful life was determined to be 15 years. The non-compete agreements intangible asset was valued at \$1.4 million, and the useful life was determined to be the length of the non-compete agreements, which range from two to five years. The customer relationships intangible asset was valued at \$36.5 million, and the useful life was determined to be 26 years, based primarily on the consistent and predictable revenue source associated with the existing customer base, the present value of which extends through the 26 year amortization period.

In connection with the acquisition of CTB, the Company identified and valued certain intangible assets, including the CTB trade name, internally developed technology and know-how, restrictive covenants and customer relationships. The intangible assets were valued on the premise of highest and best use to a market participant, primarily utilizing the income approach valuation methodology. The trade name intangible asset was valued at \$4.0 million, and the useful life was determined to be indefinite primarily due to their history, reputation in the marketplace, the Company's expectation that the trade name will continue to be used, and the conclusion that there are currently no other factors identified that would limit their useful life. The internally developed technology and know-how intangible asset was valued at \$1.7 million, and the useful life was determined to be 10 years. The non-compete agreements intangible asset was valued at \$0.4 million, and the useful life was determined to be the length of the non-compete agreements, or five years. The customer relationships intangible asset was valued at \$3.5 million, and the useful life was determined to be 10 years, based primarily on the consistent and predictable revenue source associated with the existing customer base, the present value of which extends through the 10 year amortization period.

Pro Forma Financial Information

The following pro forma summary of financial results presents the consolidated results of operations as if the Metal-Fab acquisition has occurred on January 1, 2022, after the effect of certain adjustments. The historical consolidated financial information has been adjusted to give effect of the impact of the consideration issued by the Company to Metal-Fab's stockholders in connection with the acquisition and the effect of debt refinancing necessary to complete the transaction. The pro forma summary also includes certain purchase price accounting adjustments, including the items expected to have a continuing impact on combined results, such as depreciation and amortization expense on acquired assets. The pro forma combined financial information does not reflect the cost of any integration activities or benefits that may result from synergies that may be derived from integration activities.

The pro forma results have been presented for comparative purposes only and are not indicative of what would have occurred had the acquisition been made on January 1, 2022, or of any potential results that may occur in the future. The CTB acquisition was not considered to be material for a pro forma historical analysis.

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2022

	Historical OSI	Historical Metal-Fab	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Combined
<i>(in thousands, except per share amounts)</i>				
Pro forma:				
Net sales	\$ 2,559,990	\$ 95,528	\$ 736	\$ 2,656,254
Net income (loss)	90,931	16,538	(12,850)	94,619
Basic earnings per share	7.87	1.43	(1.11)	8.19
Diluted earnings per share	7.87	1.43	(1.11)	8.19

3. Disposition of Assets

On September 17, 2021, the Company sold substantially all of the assets related to its Detroit operation to Venture Steel (U.S.), Inc. for \$58.4 million plus a working capital adjustment of \$12.6 million, which was settled on February 8, 2022. The sale price included \$9.5 million for property and equipment and the remaining assets and liabilities were sold at fair value, which equaled carrying value. The Detroit operation was primarily focused on the distribution of carbon flat-rolled steel to domestic automotive manufacturers and their suppliers. The sale of the Detroit operation does not indicate a strategic shift in the Company's operations. The gain on the sale net of associated professional and legal fees totaled \$3.5 million and is included in "Administrative and general" in the Corporate segment in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the year ended December 31, 2021. The operating results of the Detroit operation were included in the flat-products segments prior to the disposition.

4. Revenue Recognition

The Company provides metals processing, distribution and delivery of large volumes of processed carbon, coated flat-rolled sheet, coil and plate products, aluminum, and stainless flat-rolled products, prime tin mill products, flat bar products, metal tubing, pipe, bar, valves, fittings, and fabricated parts. The Company's contracts with customers are comprised of purchase orders with standard terms and conditions. Occasionally the Company may also have longer-term agreements with customers. Substantially all of the contracts with customers require the delivery of metals, which represent single performance obligations that are satisfied at a point in time upon transfer of control of the product to the customer.

Transfer of control is assessed based on the use of the product distributed and rights to payment for performance under the contract terms. Transfer of control and revenue recognition for substantially all of the Company's sales occur upon shipment or delivery of the product, which is when title, ownership and risk of loss pass to the customer and is based on the applicable shipping terms. The shipping terms depend on the customer contract. An invoice for payment is issued at time of shipment and terms are generally net 30 days. The Company has certain fabrication contracts in one business unit for which revenue is recognized over time as performance obligations are achieved. This fabrication business is not material to the Company's consolidated results.

Within the metals industry, revenue is frequently disaggregated by products sold. The tables below disaggregates the Company's revenues by segment and products sold for the year ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Disaggregated Revenue by Products Sold				
For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2023				
	Carbon flat products	Specialty metals flat products	Tubular and pipe products	Total
Hot Rolled	28.8%	-	-	28.8%
Plate	12.9%	-	-	12.9%
Cold Rolled	4.0%	-	-	4.0%
Coated	10.3%	-	-	10.3%
Specialty	-	26.3%	-	26.3%
Pipe & Tube	-	-	17.1%	17.1%
Other	0.6%	-	-	0.6%
Total	56.6%	26.3%	17.1%	100.0%

Disaggregated Revenue by Products Sold				
For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2022				
	Carbon flat products	Specialty metals flat products	Tubular and pipe products	Total
Hot Rolled	29.8%	-	-	29.8%
Plate	13.3%	-	-	13.3%
Cold Rolled	4.7%	-	-	4.7%
Coated	4.5%	-	-	4.5%
Specialty	-	30.3%	-	30.3%
Pipe & Tube	-	-	16.7%	16.7%
Other	0.7%	-	-	0.7%
Total	53.0%	30.3%	16.7%	100.0%

Disaggregated Revenue by Products Sold				
For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2021				
	Carbon flat products	Specialty metals flat products	Tubular and pipe products	Total
Hot Rolled	31.4%	-	-	31.4%
Plate	10.4%	-	-	10.4%
Cold Rolled	7.0%	-	-	7.0%
Coated	7.7%	-	-	7.7%
Specialty	-	25.3%	-	25.3%
Pipe & Tube	-	-	16.5%	16.5%
Other	1.6%	0.1%	-	1.7%
Total	58.1%	25.4%	16.5%	100.0%

5. Accounts Receivable:

Accounts receivable are presented net of allowances for credit losses and unissued credits of \$4.2 million and \$4.3 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Credit loss income totaled \$0.4 million in 2023 and credit loss expense totaled \$2.2 million and \$1.3 million in 2022 and 2021, respectively. The allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level considered appropriate based on historical experience, specific customer collection issues that have been identified, current market conditions and estimates for supportable forecasts when appropriate. Estimations are based upon a calculated percentage of accounts receivable, which remains fairly level from year to year, and judgments about the probable effects of economic conditions on certain customers, which can fluctuate significantly from year to year. The Company cannot guarantee that the rate of future credit losses will be similar to past experience. The Company considers all available information when assessing the adequacy of its allowance for credit losses and unissued credits.

6. Inventories:

Inventories consisted of the following:

(in thousands)	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Unprocessed	\$ 282,565	\$ 356,588
Processed and finished	103,970	60,343
Total	\$ 386,535	\$ 416,931

At December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, approximately \$38.2 million, or 9.9% of consolidated inventory, and \$46.3, or 11.1% of consolidated inventory, respectively, was reported under the LIFO method of accounting.

During 2023, the Company recorded \$8.3 million of LIFO income as a result of decreased metals pricing during 2023. The LIFO income increased the Company's inventory balance and decreased its cost of materials sold. During 2022, the Company recorded \$0.6 million of LIFO expense as a result of increased metals pricing during 2022. The LIFO expense decreased the Company's inventory balance and increased its cost of materials sold.

The Company's tubular and pipe inventory quantities were reduced during 2023 and 2022 resulting in a liquidation of LIFO inventory layers (a LIFO decrement). A LIFO decrement results in the erosion of layers created in earlier years, and, therefore, a LIFO layer is not created for years that have decrements. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the effect of the LIFO decrement impacted cost of materials sold by an immaterial amount.

If the FIFO method had been in use, inventories would have been \$12.0 million and \$20.3 million higher than reported at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

7. Property and Equipment:

Property and equipment consists of the following:

(in thousands)	Depreciable Lives	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Land	-	\$ 16,676	\$ 15,058
Land improvements	5 - 10	4,685	4,160
Buildings and improvements	7 - 30	158,335	141,585
Machinery and equipment	2 - 15	254,777	221,375
Furniture and fixtures	3 - 7	6,849	6,829
Computer software and equipment	2 - 5	26,787	25,338
Vehicles	2 - 5	5,112	4,049
Financing lease	-	5,686	3,144
Construction in progress	-	4,541	8,272
		483,448	429,810
Less accumulated depreciation		(297,340)	(281,478)
Net property and equipment		<u>\$ 186,108</u>	<u>\$ 148,332</u>

Leasehold improvements are included with buildings and improvements and are depreciated over the life of the lease or seven years, whichever is less.

Construction in progress as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 primarily consisted of payments for additional processing equipment, equipment and building upgrades to our existing facilities that were not yet placed into service.

8. Goodwill and Intangible Assets:

The Company's intangible assets were recorded in connection with its acquisitions of Metal-Fab and CTB in 2023, Shaw in 2021, Action Stainless in 2020, EZ Dumper® hydraulic dump inserts and McCullough Industries in 2019, Berlin Metals, LLC in 2018 and Chicago Tube and Iron (CTI) in 2011. The intangible assets were evaluated on the premise of highest and best use to a market participant, primarily utilizing the income approach valuation methodology.

Goodwill, by reportable unit, was as follows as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. The goodwill is deductible for tax purposes.

(in thousands)	Carbon Flat Products	Specialty Metals Flat Products	Tubular and Pipe Products	Total
Balance as of December 31, 2021	1,065	9,431	-	10,496
Acquisitions	-	-	-	-
Impairments	-	-	-	-
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 1,065	\$ 9,431	\$ -	\$ 10,496
Acquisitions	33,194	-	8,401	41,595
Impairments	-	-	-	-
Balance as of December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 34,259</u>	<u>\$ 9,431</u>	<u>\$ 8,401</u>	<u>\$ 52,091</u>

Intangible assets, net, consisted of the following as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively:

(in thousands)	As of Balance at December 31, 2023		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Intangible Assets, Net
Customer relationships - subject to amortization	\$ 62,559	\$ (15,084)	\$ 47,475
Covenant not to compete - subject to amortization	2,339	(679)	1,660
Technology and know-how - subject to amortization	7,000	(382)	6,618
Trade name - not subject to amortization	36,868	-	36,868
	<u>\$ 108,766</u>	<u>\$ (16,145)</u>	<u>\$ 92,621</u>

(in thousands)	As of December 31, 2022		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Intangible Assets, Net
Customer relationships - subject to amortization	\$ 22,559	\$ (12,100)	\$ 10,459
Covenant not to compete - subject to amortization	509	(301)	208
Trade name - not subject to amortization	21,368	-	21,368
	<u>\$ 44,436</u>	<u>\$ (12,401)</u>	<u>\$ 32,035</u>

The useful life of the customer relationships was determined to be 10 to 26 years, based primarily on the consistent and predictable revenue source associated with the existing customer base, the present value of which extends through the amortization period. The useful life of the non-compete agreements was determined to be the length of the non-compete agreements, which range from one to five years. The useful life of the technology and know-how was determined to be 10 to 15 years. The useful life of the trade names was determined to be indefinite primarily due to their history and reputation in the marketplace, the Company's expectation that the trade names will continue to be used, and the conclusion that there are currently no other factors identified that would limit their useful life. The Company will continue to evaluate the useful life assigned to its amortizable customer relationships and noncompete agreements in future periods.

During 2023 a quantitative test was performed for goodwill and the other indefinitely lived intangible assets and no indication of impairment was identified. During 2022, a qualitative test was performed for goodwill and the other indefinitely lived intangible assets and no indication of impairment was identified.

The Company estimates that amortization expense for its intangible assets subject to amortization will be approximately \$4.2 million per year for the next two years, \$3.7 million for the next year, \$3.3 million for the next year, \$3.0 million for the next year and then \$2.2 million per year thereafter.

9. Leases

The Company leases warehouses and office space, industrial equipment, office equipment, vehicles, industrial gas tanks and forklifts from other parties and leases warehouse space to third parties. The Company determines if a contract contains a lease when the contract conveys the right to control the use of identified assets for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Upon identification and commencement of a lease, the Company establishes a right-of-use (ROU) asset and a lease liability. Operating leases are included in ROU assets, current portion of lease liabilities, and lease liabilities on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Financing leases are included in property, plant and equipment, other accrued liabilities and other long-term liabilities.

The Company has remaining lease terms ranging from 1 year to 15 years, some of these include options to renew the lease for up to five years. The total lease term is determined by considering the initial term per the lease agreement, which is adjusted to include any renewal options that the Company is reasonably certain to exercise as well as any period that the Company has control over the space before the stated initial term of the agreement. If the Company determines a reasonable certainty of exercising termination or early buyout options, then the lease terms are adjusted to account for these facts.

The Company leases one warehouse from a related party. The Company's Executive Chairman of the Board owns 50% of an entity that owns one of the Cleveland warehouses and leases it to the Company at a fair market value annual rental of \$0.2 million. The lease expires on December 31, 2028 with two five-year renewal options.

[Table of Contents](#)

ROU assets and lease liabilities are recognized based on the present value of the future minimum lease payments over the lease term at commencement date. As most of the leases do not provide an implicit rate, the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at commencement date in determining the present value of future payments. Lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The components of lease expense were as follows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

(in thousands)	2023		2022		2021	
Operating lease cost	\$	9,008	\$	7,446	\$	6,952
Finance lease cost						
Amortization		1,056		720		721
Interest on lease liabilities		157		67		71
	\$	<u>1,213</u>	\$	<u>787</u>	\$	<u>792</u>

Supplemental cash flow information related to leases was as follows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

(in thousands)	2023		2022		2021	
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities:						
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$	8,901	\$	7,268	\$	6,830
Operating cash flows from finance leases		157		67		71
Financing cash flows from finance leases		1,039		703		828
Total cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities	\$	<u>10,097</u>	\$	<u>8,038</u>	\$	<u>7,729</u>

Supplemental balance sheet information related to leases was as follows:

(in thousands)	2023		2022	
Operating leases				
Operating lease	\$	56,117	\$	45,987
Operating lease accumulated amortization		(21,737)		(17,763)
Operating lease right of use asset, net	\$	<u>34,380</u>	\$	<u>28,224</u>
Operating lease current liabilities		7,813		6,098
Operating lease liabilities		27,261		22,655
	\$	<u>35,074</u>	\$	<u>28,753</u>

(in thousands)	2023		2022	
Finance leases				
Finance lease	\$	5,686	\$	3,144
Finance lease accumulated depreciation		(2,615)		(1,585)
Finance lease, net	\$	<u>3,071</u>	\$	<u>1,559</u>
Finance lease current liabilities		1,087		594
Finance lease liabilities		2,106		1,025
	\$	<u>3,193</u>	\$	<u>1,619</u>

	2023		2022	
Weighted average remaining lease term (in years)				
Operating leases		6		6
Finance leases		4		3
Weighted average discount rate				
Operating leases		4.07%		3.41%
Finance leases		5.06%		3.56%

Maturities of lease liabilities were as follows:

(in thousands)	Operating Lease	Finance Lease
Year Ending December 31,		
2024	\$ 9,040	\$ 1,218
2025	7,482	910
2026	6,307	618
2027	5,049	417
2028	3,782	300
Thereafter	8,139	39
Total future minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 39,799</u>	<u>\$ 3,502</u>
Less remaining imputed interest	<u>(4,725)</u>	<u>(309)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 35,074</u>	<u>\$ 3,193</u>

10. Debt:

The Company's debt is comprised of the following components:

(in thousands)	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Asset-based revolving credit facility due June 16, 2026	\$ 190,198	\$ 165,658
Total debt	190,198	165,658
Less current amount	-	-
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 190,198</u>	<u>\$ 165,658</u>

The Company's ABL Credit Facility is collateralized by the Company's accounts receivable, inventory and personal property. The \$ 625 million ABL Credit Facility consists of: (i) a revolving credit facility of up to \$595 million, including a \$20 million sub-limit for letters of credit, and (ii) a first in, last out revolving credit facility of up to \$30 million. Under the terms of the ABL Credit Facility, the Company may, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, request additional commitments under the revolving credit facility in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$200 million to the extent that existing or new lenders agree to provide such additional commitments, and add real estate as collateral at the Company's discretion. The ABL Credit Facility matures on June 16, 2026.

The ABL Credit Facility contains customary representations and warranties and certain covenants that limit the ability of the Company to, among other things: (i) incur or guarantee additional indebtedness; (ii) pay distributions on, redeem or repurchase capital stock or redeem or repurchase subordinated debt; (iii) make investments; (iv) sell assets; (v) enter into agreements that restrict distributions or other payments from restricted subsidiaries to the Company; (vi) incur or suffer to exist liens securing indebtedness; (vii) consolidate, merge or transfer all or substantially all of their assets; and (viii) engage in transactions with affiliates. In addition, the ABL Credit Facility contains a financial covenant which provides that: (i) if any commitments or obligations are outstanding and the Company's availability is less than the greater of \$30 million or 10.0% of the aggregate amount of revolver commitments (\$62.5 million at December 31, 2023) or 10.0% of the aggregate borrowing base (\$53.4 million at December 31, 2023), then the Company must maintain a ratio of Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00 for the most recent twelve fiscal month period.

As of December 31, 2023, the Company was in compliance with its covenants and had approximately \$339.4 million of availability under the ABL Credit Facility.

The Company has the option to borrow under its revolver based on the agent's base rate plus a premium ranging from 0.00% to 0.25% or the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) plus a premium ranging from 1.25% to 2.75%.

On January 10, 2019, the Company entered into a five-year forward starting fixed rate hedge in order to eliminate the variability of cash interest payments on \$75 million of the outstanding London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) based borrowings under the ABL Credit Facility. On January 3, 2023, the Company amended the interest rate hedge agreement to use SOFR as the reference rate and updated the fixed rate to 2.42% from 2.57%. Although the Company is exposed to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the interest rate hedge agreement, the Company anticipates performance by the counterparty. The interest rate swap expired on January 10, 2024.

As of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, \$1.7 million and \$1.2 million, respectively, of bank financing fees were included in "Prepaid expenses and other" and "Other long-term assets" on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. The financing fees are being amortized over the five-year term of the ABL Credit Facility and are included in "Interest and other expense on debt" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Scheduled Debt Maturities, Interest, Debt Carrying Values

The Company's principal payments over the next five years, as of December 31, 2023, are detailed in the table below:

(in thousands)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
ABL Credit Facility	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,198	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,198
Total principal payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,198	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,198

The overall effective interest rate for all debt, exclusive of deferred financing fees and deferred commitment fees, amounted to 5.9%, 3.2% and 2.5% in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Interest paid totaled \$15.0 million, \$9.6 million and \$6.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Average total debt outstanding was \$239.4 million, \$280.4 million and \$255.8 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

11. Derivative Instruments:*Metals swaps*

During 2023, 2022 and 2021, the Company entered into nickel swaps indexed to the London Metal Exchange (LME) price of nickel with third-party brokers. The nickel swaps are treated as derivatives for accounting purposes and were included in "Other accrued liabilities" and "Prepaid expenses and other" on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2023. There were \$5.2 million of outstanding metals swaps at December 31, 2023. There were no outstanding metal swaps at December 31, 2022. The Company entered into the swaps to mitigate its customers' risk of volatility in the price of metals. The swaps are settled with the brokers at maturity. The economic benefit or loss arising from the changes in fair value of the swaps is contractually passed through to the customer. The primary risk associated with the metals swaps is the ability of customers or third-party brokers to honor their agreements with the Company related to derivative instruments. If the customer or third-party brokers are unable to honor their agreements, the Company's risk of loss is the fair value of the metals swaps.

While these derivatives are intended to help the Company manage risk, they have not been designated as hedging instruments. The periodic changes in fair value of the metals and embedded customer derivative instruments are included in "Cost of materials sold" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The Company recognizes derivative positions with both the customer and the third party for the derivatives and classifies cash settlement amounts associated with them as part of "Cost of materials sold" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The cumulative change in fair value of the metals swaps that had not yet settled as of December 31, 2023 were included in "Accounts Receivable, net" and the embedded customer derivatives are included in "Other accrued liabilities" on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Fixed rate interest rate hedge

On January 10, 2019, the Company entered into a five-year forward starting fixed rate interest rate hedge in order to eliminate the variability of cash interest payments on \$75 million of the outstanding SOFR based borrowings under the ABL Credit Facility. The interest rate hedge fixed the rate at 2.42%. On January 3, 2023, the Company amended the interest rate hedge agreement to use SOFR as the reference rate. The interest rate hedge is included in "Prepaid expenses and other" on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and in "Other long-term assets" on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2022 and had a fair value of \$54.8 thousand and \$1.7 million, respectively. The mark-to-market adjustment of the fair value of the hedge is recorded to "Accumulated other comprehensive income" on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Although the Company is exposed to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the interest rate hedge agreement, the Company anticipates performance by the counterparty. The interest rate swap expired on January 10, 2024.

There was no net impact from the nickel swaps or embedded customer derivative agreements to the Company's Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. The table below shows the total impact to the Company's Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income through "Net income" of the derivatives for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

(in thousands)	Net Gain (Loss) Recognized		
	2023	2022	2021
Fixed interest rate hedge	\$ 1,906	\$ (664)	\$ (1,880)
Metals swaps	(1,903)	633	418
Embedded customer derivatives	1,903	(633)	(418)
Total income (loss)	\$ 1,906	\$ (664)	\$ (1,880)

12. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities:

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, short-term trade receivables, derivative instruments, accounts payable and debt instruments. For short-term instruments, other than those required to be reported at fair value on a recurring basis and for which additional disclosures are included below, management concluded the historical carrying value is a reasonable estimate of fair value because of the short period of time between the origination of such instruments and their expected realization.

During 2023 and 2022, there were no transfers of financial assets between Levels 1, 2 or 3 fair value measurements. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023. Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Metals swaps and embedded customer derivatives – Determined by using Level 2 inputs that include the price of nickel indexed to the LME. The fair value is determined based on quoted market prices and reflects the estimated amounts the Company would pay or receive to terminate the nickel swaps.

Fixed rate interest rate hedge – Based on the present value of the expected future cash flows, considering the risks involved, and using discount rates appropriate for the maturity date. Market observable Level 2 inputs are used to determine the present value of future cash flows.

Supplemental executive retirement plan - Determined by the Level 1 inputs that include the readily determinable and available fair value of the mutual funds that comprise the plan assets.

The following tables present information about the Company's assets and liabilities that were measured at fair value on a recurring basis and indicates the fair value hierarchy of the valuation techniques utilized by the Company:

(in thousands)	Value of Items Recorded at Fair Value As of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Metal swaps	\$ -	\$ 4,458	\$ -	\$ 4,458
Embedded customer derivatives	\$ -	\$ 766	\$ -	\$ 766
Fixed interest rate hedge	\$ -	\$ 55	\$ -	\$ 55
Supplemental executive retirement plan	\$ 11,617	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,617
Total assets at fair value	\$ 11,617	\$ 5,279	\$ -	\$ 16,896
Liabilities:				
Metal swaps	\$ -	\$ 5,224	\$ -	\$ 5,224
Total liabilities recorded at fair value	\$ -	\$ 5,224	\$ -	\$ 5,224

(in thousands)	Value of Items Recorded at Fair Value As of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Fixed interest rate hedge	\$ -	\$ 1,748	\$ -	\$ 1,748
Supplemental executive retirement plan	\$ 7,676	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,676
Total assets at fair value	\$ 7,676	\$ 1,748	\$ -	\$ 9,424

The value of the items not recorded at fair value represent the carrying value of the liabilities.

The carrying value of the ABL Credit Facility was \$190.2 million and \$165.7 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Management believes that the ABL Credit Facility's carrying value approximates its fair value due to the variable interest rate on the ABL Credit Facility.

13. Equity Plans:**Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Units**

Pursuant to the Amended and Restated Olympic Steel 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan), the Company may grant stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units (RSUs), performance shares, and other stock- and cash-based awards to employees and directors of, and consultants to, the Company and its affiliates. Since adoption of the Incentive Plan, 1,400,000 shares of common stock have been authorized for equity grants.

On an annual basis, the compensation committee of the Company's Board of Directors awards RSUs to each non-employee director as part of their annual compensation. The annual awards for 2023 and 2022 per director were \$80,000. Subject to the terms of the Incentive Plan and the RSU agreement, the RSUs vest after one year of service (from the date of grant). The RSUs are not converted into shares of common stock until the director either resigns or is terminated from the board of directors.

In January 2022, the Company adopted a new C-Suite Long-Term Incentive Plan (the C-Suite Plan) that operates under the Senior Manager Stock Incentive Plan. Under the C-Suite Plan, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the President and Chief Operating Officer are eligible for participation. In each calendar year, the Committee may award eligible participants a long-term incentive of both a RSU grant and a performance stock unit (PSU) grant. Additionally, the Committee may offer a long-term cash incentive (split equally between service and performance-based portions) to supplement both the RSU and PSU grants in order to arrive at the total long-term award target. The total long-term award target is \$1.1 million for the Chief Executive Officer, \$0.3 million for the Chief Financial Officer and \$0.6 million for the President and Chief Operating Officer. The PSUs will vest if the return on net assets, calculated as EBITDA divided by Average Accounts Receivable, Inventory and Property and Equipment, exceeds 5 percent. Each RSU and service-based cash incentive vests three years after the grant date. Each vested RSU will convert into the right to receive one share of common stock. During each of the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, a total of 20,000 RSUs and 20,000 PSUs were granted to the participants under the C-Suite Plan, and \$0.5 million and \$0.5 million, respectively, were granted in service-based and performance-based cash awards. If the return on net assets falls below 5 percent, no performance-based incentive will be awarded. The maximum performance-based award is achieved if return on net assets exceeds ten percent, and is capped at 150% of the grant.

The performance-based awards granted in 2023 and 2022 are expected to vest at 150% of the grant. All pre-tax charges related to the long-term cash incentives were included in the caption "Administrative and general" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The total remaining estimated compensation cost of non-vested awards total \$2.5 million and the weighted average remaining vesting period is 1.5 years as of December 31, 2023.

Stock-based compensation expense recognized on RSUs for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively, is summarized in the following table:

(in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,					
	2023		2022		2021	
RSU expense before taxes of the Plan	\$	1,817	\$	1,297	\$	1,045
RSU expense after taxes		1,314		954		767

All pre-tax charges related to RSUs and PSUs were included in the caption "Administrative and general" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The total compensation cost of non-vested awards totaled \$4.2 million and the weighted average remaining vesting period is 1.6 years as of December 31, 2023.

The following table summarizes the activity related to RSUs and PSUs for the year ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

	2023		2022		2021	
	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Estimated Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Estimated Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Estimated Fair Value
Beginning balance	617,518	\$ 18.95	576,867	\$ 18.29	610,540	\$ 18.14
Granted	49,768	36.63	55,558	25.56	20,604	23.29
Converted into shares	(2,610)	18.78	(5,841)	18.16	(49,191)	18.67
Forfeited	(2,573)	19.65	(9,066)	17.52	(5,086)	17.55
Outstanding at December 31	662,103	\$ 20.28	617,518	\$ 18.95	576,867	\$ 18.29
Vested at December 31	454,939	\$ 19.71	423,941	\$ 19.24	370,771	\$ 18.78

Phantom Stock Units

In January 2022, the Company adopted a new Senior Manager Phantom Stock Plan (Phantom Stock Plan) that operates under the Senior Manager Stock Incentive Plan. Under the Phantom Stock Plan, certain senior managers are eligible to participate in the plan. The Phantom Stock Plan supersedes any previous stock incentive programs offered to the eligible participants. Each year, eligible participants will receive an award of Phantom Stock Units (Phantom Units) of up to \$30 thousand. The number of Phantom Units granted on the Grant Date is determined by dividing the amount of the Phantom Units granted by the closing price of a share of the Company's common stock on the Grant Date. Each Phantom Unit Award under this plan shall vest 3 years after the Grant Date (Vesting Date). Upon vesting, the Company will pay the Participant in cash, the value of the vested Phantom Units multiplied by the closing price of a share of the Company's common stock on the Vesting Date.

Pre-tax charges related to Phantom Stock Units for the year ended December 31, 2023 totaled \$1.5 million and were included in the caption "Administrative and general" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The total estimated remaining compensation cost of non-vested awards total \$1.6 million and the weighted average remaining vesting period is 1.5 years as of December 31, 2023. Pre-tax charges related to Phantom Stock Units for the year ended December 31, 2022, totaled \$0.3 million and were included in the caption "Administrative and general" on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The total estimated remaining compensation cost of non-vested awards totaled \$0.7 million and the weighted average remaining vesting period was 2 years as of December 31, 2022. Accrued liability balances related to Phantom Stock Units for the year ended December 31, 2023 totaled \$1.8 million and were included in "Other long-term liabilities" on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Accrued liability balances related to Phantom Stock Units for the year ended December 31, 2022 totaled \$0.3 million and were included in "Other long-term liabilities" on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

14. Commitments and Contingencies:

The Company is party to various legal actions that it believes are ordinary in nature and incidental to the operation of its business. In the opinion of management, the outcome of the proceedings to which the Company is currently a party will not have a material adverse effect upon its results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

In the normal course of business, the Company periodically enters into agreements that incorporate indemnification provisions. While the maximum amount to which the Company may be exposed under such agreements cannot be estimated, it is the opinion of management that these indemnifications are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations or financial condition.

At December 31, 2023, approximately 244 of the hourly plant personnel are represented by seven separate collective bargaining units. The table below shows the expiration dates of the collective bargaining agreements.

Facility	Expiration date
Hammond, Indiana	November 30, 2024
Locust, North Carolina	March 4, 2025
St. Paul, Minnesota	May 25, 2025
Romeoville, Illinois	May 31, 2025
Minneapolis (coil), Minnesota	September 30, 2025
Indianapolis, Indiana	January 29, 2026
Minneapolis (plate), Minnesota	April 1, 2027

15. Income Taxes:

The components of the Company's provision (benefit) for income taxes from continuing operations were as follows:

(in thousands)	As of December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Current:			
Federal	\$ 11,574	\$ 27,865	\$ 36,592
International	1,047	102	85
State and local	2,529	5,691	7,739
	<u>15,150</u>	<u>33,658</u>	<u>44,416</u>
Deferred	1,908	(967)	(668)
Income tax provision	<u>\$ 17,058</u>	<u>\$ 32,691</u>	<u>\$ 43,748</u>

The components of the Company's deferred income taxes at December 31 are as follows:

(in thousands)	2023	2022
Deferred tax assets:		
Inventory (excluding LIFO reserve)	\$ 3,340	\$ 2,176
Net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards	803	1,029
Allowance for credit losses	657	833
Accrued expenses	7,543	6,114
Lease liabilities	9,567	7,916
Other	379	214
Deferred tax assets before valuation allowance	<u>22,289</u>	<u>18,282</u>
Valuation allowance	(489)	(919)
Total deferred tax assets	<u>21,800</u>	<u>17,363</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:		
LIFO reserve	(3,820)	(3,451)
Property and equipment	(16,223)	(12,194)
Lease right of use assets	(9,363)	(7,769)
Interest rate hedge	(14)	(437)
Intangibles	(3,890)	(3,537)
Total deferred tax liabilities	<u>(33,310)</u>	<u>(27,388)</u>
Deferred tax liabilities, net	<u>\$ (11,510)</u>	<u>\$ (10,025)</u>

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company's gross unrecognized tax benefits:

(in thousands)	2023		2022		2021	
Balance as of January 1	\$	220	\$	228	\$	28
Increases related to current year tax positions		-		-		8
Increase (Decrease) related to prior year tax positions		8		(8)		200
Decreases related to lapsing of statute of limitations		(8)		-		(8)
Settlements		(46)		-		-
Balance as of December 31	<u>\$</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>228</u>

It is expected that the amount of unrecognized tax benefits will not materially change in the next twelve months. The tax years 2020 through 2022 remain open to examination by major taxing jurisdictions to which the Company is subject.

The Company recognized interest related to uncertain tax positions in the income tax provision.

The following table reconciles the U.S. federal statutory rate to the Company's effective tax rate:

	2023	2022	2021
U.S. federal statutory rate in effect	21.0%	21.0%	21.0%
State and local taxes, net of federal benefit	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%
Foreign	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%
Meals and entertainment	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%
Tax credits	(0.4)%	(0.1)%	(0.1)%
All other, net	0.3%	0.7%	0.9%
Effective income tax rate	<u>27.7%</u>	<u>26.4%</u>	<u>26.5%</u>

Income taxes paid in 2023, 2022 and 2021 totaled \$13.6 million, \$33.4 million and \$46.5 million, respectively. Some subsidiaries of the Company's consolidated group file state tax returns on a separate company basis and have state net operating loss carryforwards expiring over the next 15 to 20 years. A valuation allowance is recorded to reduce certain deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. The valuation allowances recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 were related to certain state net operating losses and totaled \$0.5 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

16. Shares Outstanding and Earnings Per Share:

Earnings per share have been calculated based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding as set forth below:

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Weighted average basic shares outstanding	11,573	11,551	11,492
Assumed exercise of stock options and issuance of stock awards	5	8	11
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	<u>11,578</u>	<u>11,559</u>	<u>11,503</u>
Net income	\$ 44,529	\$ 90,931	\$ 121,051
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 3.85</u>	<u>\$ 7.87</u>	<u>\$ 10.53</u>
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 3.85</u>	<u>\$ 7.87</u>	<u>\$ 10.52</u>
Unvested RSUs and PSUs	207	194	206

17. Equity Programs:

Stock Repurchase Program

On October 2, 2015, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program of up to 550,000 shares of the Company's issued and outstanding common stock, which could include open market repurchases, negotiated block transactions, accelerated stock repurchases or open market solicitations for shares, all or some of which may be affected through Rule 10b5-1 plans. Any of the repurchased shares are held in the Company's treasury, or canceled and retired as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time. Any repurchases of common stock are subject to the covenants contained in the ABL Credit Facility. Under the ABL Credit Facility, the Company may repurchase common stock and pay dividends up to \$15.0 million in the aggregate during any trailing twelve months without restrictions. Purchases of common stock or dividend payments in excess of \$15.0 million in the aggregate require the Company to (i) maintain availability in excess of 20.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments (\$125.0 million at December 31, 2023) or (ii) to maintain availability equal to or greater than 15.0% of the aggregate revolver commitments (\$93.8 million at December 31, 2023) and the Company must maintain a pro-forma ratio of EBITDA minus certain capital expenditures and cash taxes paid to fixed charges of at least 1.00 to 1.00.

As of December 31, 2023, 360,212 shares remain authorized for repurchase under the program.

There were no shares repurchased during 2023 or 2022.

At-the-Market Equity Program

On September 3, 2021, the Company commenced an at-the-market (ATM) equity program under its shelf registration statement, which allows it to sell and issue up to \$50 million in shares of its common stock from time to time. The Company entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement on September 3, 2021 with KeyBank Capital Markets Inc. (KeyBank) relating to the issuance and sale of shares of common stock pursuant to the program. KeyBank is not required to sell any specific amount of securities but will act as the Company's sales agent using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between KeyBank and the Company. KeyBank will be entitled to compensation for shares sold pursuant to the program of 2.0% of the gross proceeds of any shares of common stock sold under the Equity Distribution Agreement. No shares were sold under the ATM program during 2023 or 2022.

18. Segment Information:

The Company follows the accounting guidance that requires the utilization of a "management approach" to define and report the financial results of operating segments. The management approach defines operating segments along the lines used by the Company's chief operating decision maker (CODM) to assess performance and make operating and resource allocation decisions. The Company's Chief Executive Officer serves as the CODM. The CODM evaluates performance and allocates resources based primarily on operating income. The operating segments are based primarily on internal management reporting.

The Company operates in three reportable segments; specialty metals flat products, carbon flat products, and tubular and pipe products. The specialty metals flat products segment and the carbon flat products segment are at times consolidated and referred to as the flat products segments, as certain of the flat products segments' assets and resources are shared by the specialty metals and carbon flat products segments and both segments' products are stored in the shared facilities and, in some locations, processed on shared equipment. Since the January 3, 2023 acquisition, Metal-Fab's financial results are included in the carbon flat products segment and since the October 2, 2023 acquisition, CTB's financial results are included in the tubular and pipe products segment.

Corporate expenses are reported as a separate line item for segment reporting purposes. Corporate expenses include the unallocated expenses related to managing the entire Company (i.e., all three segments), including compensation for certain personnel, expenses related to being a publicly traded entity such as board of directors' expenses, audit expenses, and various other professional fees.

The following table provides financial information by segment and reconciles the Company's operating income by segment to the consolidated income before income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

(in thousands)	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Net sales			
Specialty metals flat products	\$ 567,728	\$ 776,022	\$ 585,751
Carbon flat products	1,221,093	1,356,605	1,344,150
Tubular and pipe products	369,342	427,363	382,352
Total net sales	\$ 2,158,163	\$ 2,559,990	\$ 2,312,253
Depreciation and amortization			
Specialty metals flat products	\$ 3,929	\$ 4,060	\$ 3,692
Carbon flat products	14,762	10,695	11,286
Tubular and pipe products	7,682	4,913	5,267
Corporate	70	70	71
Total depreciation and amortization	\$ 26,443	\$ 19,738	\$ 20,316
Operating income			
Specialty metals flat products	\$ 22,884	\$ 93,662	\$ 70,544
Carbon flat products	34,582	25,015	110,074
Tubular and pipe products	40,692	34,856	7,353
Corporate	(20,487)	(19,786)	(15,505)
Total operating income	\$ 77,671	\$ 133,747	\$ 172,466
Other loss, net	78	45	36
Income before interest and income taxes	77,593	133,702	172,430
Interest and other expense on debt	16,006	10,080	7,631
Income before income taxes	\$ 61,587	\$ 123,622	\$ 164,799

(in thousands)	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Capital expenditures			
Flat products	\$ 14,306	\$ 15,299	\$ 8,797
Tubular and pipe products	7,020	4,555	2,214
Total capital expenditures	\$ 21,326	\$ 19,854	\$ 11,011
Assets			
Flat products	\$ 649,744	\$ 631,607	\$ 777,074
Tubular and pipe products	333,677	258,412	245,962
Corporate	1,414	1,608	536
Total assets	\$ 984,835	\$ 891,627	\$ 1,023,572

There were no material revenue transactions between the carbon flat products, specialty metals flat products and tubular and pipe products segments for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

The Company sells certain products internationally, primarily in Canada and Mexico. International sales are immaterial to the consolidated financial results and to the individual segments' results.

19. Retirement Plans:

The Company's retirement plans consist of 401(k) plans covering union and non-union employees, a multi-employer pension plan covering certain CTI employees and a SERP covering certain executive officers of the Company.

The 401(k) retirement plans allow eligible employees to contribute up to the statutory maximum. The Company's non-union 401(k) matching contribution is determined annually by the Board of Directors and is based on a percentage of eligible employees' earnings and contributions. For the 401(k) retirement plans, the Company matched one-half of each eligible employee's contribution, limited to the first 6% of eligible compensation. For the Action Stainless 401(k) retirement plans, the Company matched 100% of the first 3% of eligible compensation and one-half of the next 2% of each eligible employee's contribution, limited to 4% of eligible compensation.

In 2005, the Board of Directors adopted a SERP, which has been amended from time to time. Contributions to the SERP are based on: (i) a portion of the participants' compensation multiplied by a factor of 6.5% or 13% depending on participant; and (ii) for certain participants a portion of the participants' compensation multiplied by a factor, which is contingent upon the Company's return on invested capital. Benefits are subject to a vesting schedule of up to seven years.

The Company, through its CTI subsidiary, contributes to a multiemployer pension plan. CTI contributes to the Multiemployer Plan under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement that covers certain of its union employees, and which expires May 31, 2025. CTI contributions to the Multiemployer Plan were immaterial for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Retirement plan expense, which includes all Company 401(k), SERP defined contributions and the Multiemployer Plan, amounted to \$4.7 million, \$4.1 million and \$3.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The fair values of the Company's SERP assets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 were \$11.6 million and \$7.7 million, respectively, and are measured at Net Asset Value (NAV). The fair value of the SERP assets are included in Other Long Term Assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

20. *Related-Party Transactions:*

The Company's Executive Chairman of the Board owns 50% of an entity that owns one of the Cleveland warehouses and leases it to the Company at a fair market value annual rental of \$0.2 million. The lease expires on December 31, 2028 with two five-year renewal options.

Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts
(in thousands)

Description	Balance at Beginning of Period	Additions		Deductions	Balance at End of Period
		Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts		
Year Ended December 31, 2021					
Allowance for credit losses	\$ 1,726	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ (474)	\$ 2,502
Tax valuation reserve	\$ 2,302	\$ 236	\$ -	\$ (1,341)	\$ 1,197
Year Ended December 31, 2022					
Allowance for credit losses	\$ 2,502	\$ 2,184	\$ -	\$ (855)	\$ 3,831
Tax valuation reserve	\$ 1,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (278)	\$ 919
Year Ended December 31, 2023					
Allowance for credit losses	\$ 3,831	\$ (425)	\$ -	\$ (776)	\$ 2,630
Tax valuation reserve	\$ 919	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (430)	\$ 489

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Evaluations required by Rule 13a-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report have been carried out under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Based upon such evaluations, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2023 in providing reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC and that such information is accumulated and communicated to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting is set forth in Part II, Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and is incorporated herein. Grant Thornton LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, as stated in their report, which appears in Part II, Item 8 of this Annual Report.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2023 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Trading Arrangement

During the quarter ended December 31, 2023, no director or officer (as defined in Rule 16a-1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act) of the Company adopted or terminated a "Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement" or "non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement" (as each term is defined in Item 408 of Regulation S-K).

ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS

Not applicable.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information required by Item 10 as to the executive officers is provided in Part I of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and is incorporated by reference into this section. Other information required by Item 10 will be incorporated herein by reference to the information set forth in our definitive proxy statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information required by Item 11 will be incorporated herein by reference to the information set forth in our definitive proxy statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information required by Item 12 will be incorporated herein by reference to the information set forth in our definitive proxy statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information required by Item 13 will be incorporated herein by reference to the information set forth in our definitive proxy statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Information required by Item 14 will be incorporated herein by reference to the information set forth in our definitive proxy statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) The following financial statements are included in Part II, Item 8:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
 Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
 Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
 Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022
 Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
 Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
 Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
 Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules.

Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts for the Years Ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

(a)(3) Exhibits. The Exhibits filed herewith are set forth on the Index to Exhibits filed as part of this Annual Report and incorporated herein by reference.

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
2.2	Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 3, 2023, among Olympic Steel, Inc., OS Holdings, Inc., Metal-Fab, Inc., the sellers party thereto and the representative of the sellers.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 3, 2023 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
3.1(i)	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1(i) to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-73992) filed with the Commission on January 12, 1994.
3.1(ii)	Amended and Restated Code of Regulations	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Company's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 6, 2015 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
3.1(iii)	Amendment to Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Company's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 6, 2021 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.25	Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2017, by and among the Registrant, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and the other agents from time to time party thereto	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.25 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 14, 2017 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.26	Joinder and First Amendment to Bank Agreement, dated as of April 4, 2018, to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2017, by and among the Registrant, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and the other agents from time to time party thereto.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.25 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on May 3, 2018 (Commission File No. 0-23320).

Exhibit

4.27	Joinder and Second Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of November 30, 2018, by and among the Registrant, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and the other agents from time to time party thereto.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.26 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 4, 2018 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.28	Description of Securities	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.28 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 21, 2020 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.29	Joinder and Third Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of December 14, 2020, by and among Olympic Steel, Inc., Olympic Steel Lafayette, Inc., Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc., Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., Oly Steel NC, Inc., IS Acquisition, Inc., Chicago Tube and Iron Company, B Metals, Inc., MCI, Inc. and ACT Acquisition, Inc. the lenders from time to time party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent for the Lenders.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.29 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 14, 2020 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.30	Fourth Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2021, among Olympic Steel, Inc., Olympic Steel Lafayette, Inc., Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc., Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., Oly Steel NC, Inc., IS Acquisition, Inc., Chicago Tube and Iron Company, B Metals, Inc., MCI, Inc., ACT Acquisition, Inc., the lenders from time to time party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent for the Lenders.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.30 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on June 21, 2021 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.31	Joinder and Fifth Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of October 1, 2021, among Olympic Steel, Inc., Olympic Steel Lafayette, Inc., Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc., Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., Oly Steel NC, Inc., IS Acquisition, Inc., Chicago Tube and Iron Company, B Metals, Inc., MCI, Inc., ACT Acquisition, Inc., SHAO, Inc., the lenders from time to time party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent for the Lenders.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.31 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 25, 2022 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.32	Joinder and Sixth Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of January 2, 2023, among Olympic Steel, Inc., Olympic Steel Lafayette, Inc., Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc., Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., Oly Steel NC, Inc., IS Acquisition, Inc., Chicago Tube and Iron Company, B Metals, Inc., MCI, Inc., ACT Acquisition, Inc., SHAO, Inc., OS Holdings, Inc., Metal-Fab, Inc., the lenders from time to time party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent for the Lenders.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.32 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 3, 2023 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
4.33	Joinder and Seventh Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2023, among Olympic Steel, Inc., Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc., Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc., Oly Steel NC, Inc., IS Acquisition, Inc., Chicago Tube and Iron, B Metals, Inc., MCI, Inc., ACT Acquisition, Inc., SHAO, Inc., OS Holdings, Inc., Metal-Fab, Inc., Central Tube and Bar, Inc., the lenders from time to time party thereto and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent for the Lenders.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.33 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on November 3, 2023 (Commission File No. 0-23320).

[Table of Contents](#)

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
10.8 *	Form of Management Retention Agreement for Senior Executive Officers of the Company	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 7, 2000 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.9 *	Form of Management Retention Agreement for Other Officers of the Company	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 7, 2000 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.14 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. Executive Deferred Compensation Plan dated December 15, 2004	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 14, 2005 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.15 *	Form of Non-Solicitation Agreements	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 4, 2005 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.16 *	Form of Management Retention Agreement	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 8, 2005 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.17 *	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan Term Sheet	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 5, 2006 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.20 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on April 28, 2006 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.21 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. Amended and Restated Olympic Steel, Inc. 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan as Amended Effective May 7, 2021	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 6, 2021 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.22 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. C-Suite Long-Term Incentive Plan	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 25, 2022 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.23 *	Form of C-Suite Long-Term Incentive Agreement for participants.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 25, 2021 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.30 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. Senior Manager Compensation Plan	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on May 6, 2011 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.33 *	Richard T. Marabito Employment Agreement effective as of December 21, 2018	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 21, 2018 (Commission File No. 0-23320).

[Table of Contents](#)

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
10.34 *	Form of RSU Agreements for Messrs. Marabito, Greiff and Manson.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 23, 2012 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.37 *	Amendment to Form of Management Retention Agreement for Senior Executive Officers of the Company	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on May 1, 2015 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.41 *	Employment Agreement, dated as of January 1, 2020, between Olympic Steel, Inc. and Andrew S. Greiff	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 27, 2019 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.42 *	Richard A. Manson Employment Agreement effective as of January 1, 2022	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Commission on November 26, 2021 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.43 *	Key Employee Severance Benefit Plan.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on November 3, 2023 (Commission File No. 0-23320).
10.44 *	Form of RSU Agreement for Outside Directors.	Filed herewith
21	List of Subsidiaries	Filed herewith
23.1	Consent of Grant Thornton, LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Filed herewith
24	Directors and Officers Powers of Attorney	Filed herewith
31.1	Certification of the Principal Executive Officer of the Company, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	Filed herewith
31.2	Certification of the Principal Financial Officer of the Company, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	Filed herewith
32.1	Written Statement of Richard T. Marabito, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	Furnished herewith
32.2	Written Statement of Richard A. Manson, Chief Financial Officer of the Company pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	Furnished herewith
97 *	Olympic Steel, Inc. Compensation Recoupment Policy	Filed herewith
101	The following materials from Olympic Steel's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, formatted in Inline XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, (iv) the Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information, (v) the Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity, (vi) Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements and (vii) document and entity information.	
104	Cover Pager Interactive Data File (embedded with the Inline XBRL document).	

* This exhibit is a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY

None.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

February 23, 2024

By: /s/ Richard A. Manson
Richard A. Manson,
Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated and on the dates indicated.

February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Richard T. Marabito *</u> Richard T. Marabito, Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Richard A. Manson *</u> Richard A. Manson, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Michael D. Siegal *</u> Michael D. Siegal, Executive Chairman of the Board
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Arthur F. Anton *</u> Arthur F. Anton, Lead Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Dirk A. Kempthorne *</u> Dirk A. Kempthorne, Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Idalene F. Kesner *</u> Idalene F. Kesner, Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Michael G. Rippey *</u> Michael G. Rippey, Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Richard P. Stovsky *</u> Richard P. Stovsky, Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ Vanessa Whiting *</u> Vanessa Whiting, Director
February 23, 2024	<u>/s/ David A. Wolfort *</u> David A. Wolfort, Director

* The undersigned, by signing his name hereto, does sign and execute this Annual Report on Form 10-K pursuant to the Powers of Attorney executed by the above-named officers and directors of the Company and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of such officers and directors.

By: /s/ Richard A. Manson
Richard A. Manson, Attorney-in-Fact

February 23, 2024

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.OLYMPIC STEEL, INC. 2007 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLANRESTRICTED STOCK UNIT (RSU) AGREEMENT

THIS RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AGREEMENT (the "Agreement"), is entered into as of this [] day of (the "Effective Date"), by and between Olympic Steel, Inc., an Ohio corporation (the "Company"), and [] (the "Grantee").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee") administers the Amended and Restated Olympic Steel, Inc. 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Committee desires to provide the Grantee with Restricted Stock Units under the Plan upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Company and the Grantee agree as follows:

1. Definitions. Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, capitalized terms shall have the meanings attributed to them under the Plan.
2. Grant of Restricted Stock Units. As of the Effective Date, the Company grants to the Grantee, upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement [] Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs"). The RSUs give the Grantee the right to receive one (1) Common Share for each RSU subject to the satisfaction of the vesting requirements set forth in Section 4. The RSUs are granted in accordance with, and subject to, all the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Plan, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. The Grantee irrevocably agrees to, and accepts, the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Plan and this Agreement on his own behalf and on behalf of any heirs, successors and assigns.
3. Restrictions on RSUs. The Grantee cannot sell, transfer, assign, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of the RSUs or pledge RSUs as collateral for a loan. In addition, the RSUs will be subject to such other restrictions as the Compensation Committee deems necessary or appropriate.
4. Vested Interest. If the Grantee continues to be a Director of the Company from the Effective Date until [], his or her Vested Interest will be 100%. Except as otherwise provided herein, if the Grantee does not continue to be a Director of the Company until [] his or her Vested Interest will be 0% and he or she will immediately forfeit the RSUs.
5. Death, Disability, Retirement and Other Terminations of Service. Notwithstanding the vesting provisions in Section 4 above, if prior to [], the Grantee dies or terminates his or her service as a Director of the Company as a result of a Disability or Retirement or in circumstances that are satisfactory to the Board of Directors, his or her Vested Interest will be 100%.
6. Change in Control. Notwithstanding the vesting provisions in Section 4 above, if a Change in Control as defined in the Plan has occurred or an event has occurred that the Board of Directors, in the good faith exercise of its discretion, determines to be a Change in Control prior to [], the Grantee's Vested Interest in the Common Shares will immediately become 100%.
7. Issuance of Common Shares. The Company will deliver to the Grantee (or his or her Beneficiary or Beneficiaries) the Common Shares to which the Grantee is entitled free and clear of any restrictions (except any applicable securities law restrictions) upon the resignation or any other termination of his or her position as a Director from the Board.
8. Stockholder Rights After RSUs Vest But Before Payment. During the period commencing on the date that the RSUs vest under Sections 4, 5 or 6 above but before the date the Common Shares are issued pursuant under Section 7 above, the Grantee will not be entitled to vote the Common Shares but will be entitled to receive a credit for payment of any extraordinary dividends declared and paid by the Company on Common Stock in general. The Compensation Committee shall have the sole authority to determine whether a dividend is extraordinary and its decision shall be final and conclusive with respect to the credit and payment of extraordinary dividends under this Agreement. Payment of the credit for extraordinary dividends will be made when the Common Shares are issued to the Grantee under Section 7 above.
9. Designation of Beneficiary. By properly executing and delivering a Designation of Beneficiary Form to the Company, the Grantee may designate an individual or individuals as his or her Beneficiary or Beneficiaries under the Plan. In the event that the Grantee fails to properly designate a Beneficiary, his or her interests under the Plan will pass to the person or persons in the first of the following classes in which there are any survivors: (i) spouse at the time of death; (ii) issue, *per stirpes*; (iii) parents; and (iv) the executor or administrator of estate. Except as the Company may determine in its sole and exclusive discretion, a properly completed Designation of Beneficiary Form shall be deemed to revoke all prior designations upon its receipt and approval by the Designated Representative.
10. Non-Transferability and Legends. When issued, if the Common Shares have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), they may not be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of unless a registration statement under the Act with respect to the Common Shares have become effective or unless the Grantee establishes to the satisfaction of the Company that an exemption from such registration is available. The Common Shares will bear a legend stating the substance of such restrictions, as well as any other restrictions the Compensation Committee deems necessary or appropriate.
11. Termination of Agreement. This Agreement will terminate on the earliest of: (i) the date of the Grantee's resignation or other termination from the Board prior to [], or (ii) the date that the Common Shares are issued to the Grantee. Any terms or conditions of this Agreement that the Company determines are reasonably necessary to effectuate its purposes will survive the termination of this Agreement.
12. Miscellaneous Provisions.
 - a. Effect of Corporate Reorganization or Other Changes. The RSUs issued under this Agreement shall be subject to adjustment as described in Section 3.4 of the Plan.
 - b. Successors and Legal Representatives. This Agreement will bind and inure to the benefit of the Company and the Grantee, and their respective successors, assigns and legal representatives.
 - c. Integration. This Agreement, together with the Plan, constitutes the entire agreement between the Grantee and the Company with respect to the grant of RSUs under this Agreement, and may not be modified, amended, renewed or terminated, nor may any term, condition or breach of any term or condition be waived, except pursuant to the terms of the Plan or by a writing signed by the person or persons sought to be bound by such modification, amendment, renewal, termination or waiver. Any waiver of any term, condition or breach thereof will not be a waiver of any other term or condition or of the same term or condition for the future, or of any subsequent breach.
 - d. Notice. Any notice relating to this grant must be in writing.
 - e. Separability. In the event of the invalidity of any part or provision of this Agreement, such invalidity will not affect the enforceability of any other part or provision of this Agreement.
 - f. Section Headings. The section headings of this Agreement are for convenience and reference only and are not intended to define, extend or limit the contents of the sections.
 - g. Amendment, Waiver and Revocation of Terms. The Compensation Committee may waive any term or condition in this Agreement that could have been excluded on the date of grant. No such waiver will be deemed to be a waiver of similar terms under other agreements. The Compensation Committee may amend this Agreement to include or exclude any provision which could have been included in, or excluded from, this Agreement on the date of grant, but only with the Grantee's written consent. Similarly, the Compensation Committee may revoke this Agreement at any time except that, after execution of the Agreement and its delivery to the Company, revocation may only be accomplished with the Grantee's written consent.
 - h. Plan Administration. The Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee, which has sole and exclusive power and discretion to interpret, administer, implement and construe the Plan and this Agreement. All elections, notices and correspondence relating to the Plan should be directed to the Chairman of the Compensation Committee at:

Olympic Steel, Inc.
22901 Millcreek Boulevard, Suite 650
Highland Hills, Ohio 44122
 - i. Governing Law. Except as may otherwise be provided in the Plan, this Agreement will be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Ohio, without giving effect to its principles of conflict of laws.
 - j. Incapacity. If the Compensation Committee determines that the Grantee is incompetent by reason of physical or mental disability or a person incapable of handling his or her property, the Compensation Committee may deal directly with or direct any payment or distribution to the guardian, legal representative or person having the care and custody of the incompetent or incapable person. The Compensation Committee may require proof of incompetence, incapacity or guardianship, as it may deem appropriate before making any payment or distribution. In the event of a payment or distribution, the Compensation Committee will have no obligation thereafter to monitor or follow the application of the Shares distributed or amounts so paid. Payments or distributions made pursuant to this paragraph shall completely discharge the Company with respect to such payments or distributions.
 - k. It is intended that this Agreement and the compensation and benefits hereunder either be exempt from, or comply with, Internal Revenue Code Section 409A, and this Agreement shall be so construed and administered. In the event that the Company reasonably determines that any compensation or benefits payable under this Agreement may be subject to taxation under Section 409A, the Company, after consultation with the Grantee, shall have the authority to adopt, prospectively or retroactively, such amendments to this Agreement or to take any other actions it determines necessary or appropriate to (a) exempt the compensation and benefits payable under this Agreement from Section 409A or (b) comply with the requirements of Section 409A. In no event, however, shall this section or any other provisions of this Agreement be construed to require the Company to provide any gross-up for the tax consequences of any provisions of, or payments under, this Agreement and the Company shall have no responsibility for tax consequences to Grantee (or his or her beneficiary) resulting from the terms or operation of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this Agreement to be executed on its behalf by its duly authorized officer and the Grantee has hereunto set his or her hand.

GRANTEE:

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

By: _____

Print Name: _____

Its:

Date: _____

Date:

List of Subsidiaries of Olympic Steel, Inc.

<u>Name of Subsidiary</u>	<u>State of Organization</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>
Olympic Steel Lafayette, Inc.	Ohio	100%
Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc.	Minnesota	100%
Olympic Steel Iowa, Inc.	Iowa	100% (a)
Oly Steel NC, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Tinsley Group – PS&W, Inc.	North Carolina	100% (b)
IS Acquisition, Inc.	Ohio	100%
Olympic Steel Trading, Inc.	Ohio	100%
Chicago Tube and Iron Company	Delaware	100%
Metales De Olympic, S. de R. L. de C.V.	Mexico	100% (c)
B Metals, Inc.	Ohio	100%
MCI, Inc.	Ohio	100%
ACT Acquisition, Inc.	Texas	100%
SHAQ, Inc.	Georgia	100%
OS Holdings, Inc.	Ohio	100%
Metal-Fab, Inc.	Kansas	100%

(a) Owned 100% by Olympic Steel Minneapolis, Inc.

(b) Owned 100% by Oly Steel NC, Inc.

(c) Owned 100% by Olympic Steel Trading, Inc.

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We have issued our reports dated February 23, 2024, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting included in the Annual Report of Olympic Steel, Inc. on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. We consent to the incorporation by reference of said reports in the Registration Statements of Olympic Steel, Inc. on Forms S-3 (File No. 333-265301) and on Forms S-8 (File No. 333-259306, File No. 333-211023 and File No. 333-143900).

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Cleveland, Ohio
February 23, 2024

POWERS OF ATTORNEYOLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that OLYMPIC STEEL, INC., an Ohio corporation, and each person whose name is signed below hereby constitute and appoint Richard T. Marabito and Richard A. Manson their attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for and on behalf of Olympic Steel, Inc. and the undersigned directors and officers of Olympic Steel, Inc., and each of such directors and officers, to sign Olympic Steel, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, any or all amendments thereto, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting such attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary in connection with such matters and hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorneys-in-fact and agents or their substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

This Power of Attorney of Olympic Steel, Inc., and the directors and officers of Olympic Steel, Inc. may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original with respect to the person executing it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Power of Attorney has been signed at Cleveland, Ohio this 23rd day of February 2024.

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

By: /s/ Richard A. Manson
Richard A. Manson, Chief Financial Officer

Directors and Officers:

/s/ Richard T. Marabito
Richard T. Marabito, Chief Executive Officer
and Director

/s/ Idalene F. Kesner
Idalene F. Kesner, Director

/s/ Richard A. Manson
Richard A. Manson, Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

/s/ Michael G. Rippey
Michael G. Rippey, Director

/s/ Michael D. Siegal
Michael D. Siegal, Executive Chairman of the Board

/s/ Richard P. Stovsky
Richard P. Stovsky, Director

/s/ Arthur F. Anton
Arthur F. Anton, Lead Director

/s/ David A. Wolfort
David A. Wolfort, Director

/s/ Dirk A. Kempthorne
Dirk A. Kempthorne, Director

/s/ Vanessa Whiting
Vanessa Whiting, Director

**Certification of the Principal Executive Officer
Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78m(a) or 78o(d)
(Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)**

I, Richard T. Marabito, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Olympic Steel, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Richard T. Marabito

Richard T. Marabito
Olympic Steel, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer

February 23, 2024

Certification of the Principal Financial Officer
Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78m(a) or 78o(d)
(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

I, Richard A. Manson, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Olympic Steel, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which, are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Richard A. Manson

Richard A. Manson
Olympic Steel, Inc.
Chief Financial Officer

February 23, 2024

**Certification of the Principal Executive Officer
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350
(Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)**

I, Richard T. Marabito, the Chief Executive Officer of Olympic Steel, Inc. (the "Company"), certify that to the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of this annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2023 of the Company (the "Report"):

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as of the dates and for the periods expressed in the Report.

By: /s/ Richard T. Marabito

Richard T. Marabito
Olympic Steel, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer

February 23, 2024

Certification of the Principal Financial Officer
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350
(Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

I, Richard A. Manson, the Chief Financial Officer of Olympic Steel, Inc. (the "Company"), certify that to the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of this annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2023 of the Company (the "Report"):

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as of the dates and for the periods expressed in the Report.

By: /s/ Richard A. Manson

Richard A. Manson
Olympic Steel, Inc.
Chief Financial Officer

February 23, 2024

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.
Compensation Recoupment Policy Effective November 2, 2023

Purpose

As required pursuant to the listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (the "*Stock Exchange*"), Section 10D of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "*Exchange Act*"), and Rule 10D-1 under the Exchange Act, the Board of Directors (the "*Board*") of Olympic Steel, Inc. (the "*Company*") has adopted this Compensation Recoupment Policy (the "*Policy*") to empower the Company to recover Covered Compensation (as defined below) erroneously awarded to a Covered Officer (as defined below) in the event of an Accounting Restatement (as defined below).

Notwithstanding anything in this Policy to the contrary, at all times, this Policy remains subject to interpretation and operation in accordance with the final rules and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "*SEC*"), the final listing standards adopted by the Stock Exchange, and any applicable SEC or Stock Exchange guidance or interpretations issued from time to time regarding such Covered Compensation recovery requirements (collectively, the "*Final Guidance*"). Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Company's Chief Financial Officer.

Policy Statement

Unless a Clawback Exception (as defined below) applies, the Company will recover reasonably promptly from each Covered Officer the Covered Compensation Received (as defined below) by such Covered Officer in the event that the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued financial statements, or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period (each, an "*Accounting Restatement*"). If a Clawback Exception applies with respect to a Covered Officer, the Company may forgo such recovery under this Policy from any such Covered Officer.

Covered Officers

For purposes of this Policy, "*Covered Officer*" is defined as any current or former "Section 16 officer" of the Company within the meaning of Rule 16a-1(f) under the Exchange Act, as determined by the Board or the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "*Committee*"). Covered Officers include, at a minimum, "executive officers" as defined in Rule 3b-7 under the Exchange Act and identified under Item 401(b) of Regulation S-K.

For purposes of this Policy:

- "*Covered Compensation*" is defined as the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation (as defined below) Received during the applicable Recovery Period (as defined below) that exceeds the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation that otherwise would have been Received during such Recovery Period had it been determined based on the relevant restated amounts, and computed without regard to any taxes paid.
- Incentive-Based Compensation Received by a Covered Officer will only qualify as Covered Compensation if (i) it is Received on or after **October 2, 2023**; (ii) it is Received after such Covered Officer begins service as a Covered Officer; (iii) such Covered Officer served as a Covered Officer at any time during the performance period for such Incentive-Based Compensation; and (iv) it is Received while the Company has a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or a national securities association.
- For Incentive-Based Compensation based on stock price or total shareholder return, where the amount of erroneously awarded Covered Compensation is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in an Accounting Restatement, the amount of such Incentive-Based Compensation that is deemed to be Covered Compensation will be based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the Accounting Restatement on the stock price or total shareholder return upon which the Incentive-Based Compensation was Received, and the Company will maintain and provide to the Stock Exchange documentation of the determination of such reasonable estimate.
- "*Incentive-Based Compensation*" is defined as any compensation that is granted, earned, or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a Financial Reporting Measure (as defined below). For purposes of clarity, Incentive-Based Compensation includes compensation that is in any plan, other than tax-qualified retirement plans, including long term disability, life insurance, and supplemental executive retirement plans, and any other compensation that is based on such Incentive-Based Compensation, such as earnings accrued on notional amounts of Incentive-Based Compensation contributed to such plans.
 - "*Financial Reporting Measure*" is defined as a measure that is determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the Company's financial statements, and any measures that are derived wholly or in part from such measures. Stock price and total shareholder return are also Financial Reporting Measures.
 - Incentive-Based Compensation is deemed "*Received*" in the Company's fiscal period during which the Financial Reporting Measure specified in the Incentive-Based Compensation award is attained, even if the payment or grant of the Incentive-Based Compensation occurs after the end of that period.

Recovery Period

For purposes of this Policy, the applicable "*Recovery Period*" is defined as the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the Trigger Date (as defined below) and, if applicable, any transition period resulting from a change in the Company's fiscal year within or immediately following those three completed fiscal years (provided, however, that if a transition period between the last day of the Company's previous fiscal year end and the first day of its new fiscal year comprises a period of nine to 12 months, such period would be deemed to be a completed fiscal year).

For purposes of this Policy, the "*Trigger Date*" as of which the Company is required to prepare an Accounting Restatement is the earlier to occur of: (i) the date that the Board, applicable Board committee, or officers authorized to take action if Board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the Company is required to prepare the Accounting Restatement or (ii) the date a court, regulator, or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare the Accounting Restatement.

Clawback Exceptions

The Company is required to recover all Covered Compensation Received by a Covered Officer in the event of an Accounting Restatement unless (i) one of the following conditions are met and (ii) the Committee has made a determination that recovery would be impracticable in accordance with Rule 10D-1 under the Exchange Act (under such circumstances, a "*Clawback Exception*" applies):

- the direct expense paid to a third party to assist in enforcing this Policy would exceed the amount to be recovered (and the Company has already made a reasonable attempt to recover such erroneously awarded Covered Compensation from such Covered Officer, has documented such reasonable attempt(s) to recover, and has provided such documentation to the Stock Exchange);
- recovery would violate home country law that was adopted prior to November 28, 2022 (and the
- Company has already obtained an opinion of home country counsel, acceptable to the Stock Exchange, that recovery would result in such a violation, and provided such opinion to the Stock Exchange); or
- recovery would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the Company, to fail to meet the requirements of Section 401(a)(13) or Section 411(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations thereunder. For purposes of clarity, this Clawback Exception only applies to tax-qualified retirement plans and does not apply to other plans, including long term disability, life insurance, and supplemental executive retirement plans, or any other compensation that is based on Incentive-Based Compensation in such plans, such as earnings accrued on notional amounts of Incentive-Based Compensation contributed to such plans.

Prohibitions

The Company is prohibited from paying or reimbursing the cost of insurance for, or indemnifying, any Covered Officer against the loss of erroneously awarded Covered Compensation.

Administration and Interpretation

The Committee will administer this Policy in accordance with the Final Guidance, and will have full and exclusive authority and discretion to supplement, amend, repeal, interpret, terminate, construe, modify, replace and/or enforce (in whole or in part) this Policy, including the authority to correct any defect, supply any omission or reconcile any ambiguity, inconsistency or conflict in the Policy, subject to the Final Guidance. The Committee will review the Policy from time to time and will have full and exclusive authority to take any action it deems appropriate.

The Committee will have the authority to offset any compensation or benefit amounts that become due to the applicable Covered Officers to the extent permissible under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and as it deems necessary or desirable to recover any Covered Compensation.

Each Covered Officer, upon being so designated or assuming such position, is required to execute and deliver to the Chief Financial Officer an acknowledgment of and consent to this Policy, in a form reasonably acceptable to and provided by the Company from time to time, (i) acknowledging and consenting to be bound by the terms of this Policy, (ii) agreeing to fully cooperate with the Company in connection

with any of such Covered Officer's obligations to the Company pursuant to this Policy, and (iii) agreeing that the Company may enforce its rights under this Policy through any and all reasonable means permitted under applicable law as it deems necessary or desirable under this Policy.

Disclosure

This Policy, and any recovery of Covered Compensation by the Company pursuant to this Policy that is required to be disclosed in the Company's filings with the SEC, will be disclosed as required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Exchange Act, and related rules and regulations, including the Final Guidance.

OLYMPIC STEEL, INC.

Form of Compensation Recoupment Policy Acknowledgment and Consent

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he or she has received and reviewed a copy of the Compensation Recoupment Policy (the "**Policy**") of Olympic Steel, Inc. (the "**Company**"), effective as of **November 2, 2023**, as adopted by the Company's Board of Directors.

Pursuant to such Policy, the undersigned hereby:

- acknowledges that he or she has been designated as (or assumed the position of) a Covered Officer (as defined in the Policy);
- acknowledges and consents to the Policy;
- acknowledges and consents to be bound by the terms of the Policy;
- agrees to fully cooperate with the Company in connection with any of the undersigned's obligations to the Company pursuant to the Policy, including, without limitation, the repayment by or recovery from the undersigned of Covered Compensation (as defined in the Policy); and
- agrees that the Company may enforce its rights under the Policy through any and all reasonable means permitted under applicable law as the Company deems necessary or desirable under the Policy.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED:

Name:
Date: