



Ryerson was founded in 1842 by Joseph T. Ryerson as an iron store in Chicago, Illinois. From its start 175 years ago, Ryerson has grown into an international, diversified metals processor and distributor with approximately 3,500 employees at around 100 locations across North America, as well as in China. Ryerson is owned by affiliates of Platinum Equity, LLC., a private equity company headquartered in Beverly Hills, California, USA.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

As one of North America's largest processors and distributors of metals, Ryerson offers more than 65,000 products in stainless steel, aluminum, carbon steel and alloy steel; and, employs advanced fabricating techniques to process materials to customer requirements. Ryerson has a vast network of facilities across North America, as well as in China, strategically located close to customers to provide next-day delivery and just-in-time services. The company also has strong domestic and international supplier relationships, as well as deep knowledge and experience with metals. These services enable Ryerson to improve customers' supply chain management, reduce inventory and costs, and improve operational efficiency.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1646** The brothers Marten and Adriaen Reyerszen (Ryerson) leave Amsterdam, Holland, for the United States, buying farms on Long Island near Brooklyn. Marten is the great-great grandfather of Joseph T. Ryerson, who founded Ryerson in 1842.
- 1842-1852** At the age of 29, Joseph T. Ryerson arrives in Chicago on November 1, 1842 as an agent for a Pennsylvania iron master. His first business is a joint venture, but Joseph soon buys out his partner with the hardware firm of Blaikie & Ryerson becoming J.T. Ryerson. He leases a two-story building on the banks of the Chicago River and, in 1844, expands and builds his own iron store. In 1852, he builds an 80x55-foot dock on the Chicago River so consignments of iron arriving on ships from Lake Michigan can be unloaded at the store.
- 1871** The Great Chicago Fire leaves Mr. Ryerson's warehouse in ruin, but he immediately reopens the business in temporary quarters while rebuilding the iron store on its original site. Exhibiting great determination, he declares*: "I shall do everything in my power to serve my customers as usual in my line of goods. I still live, and intend to do business, notwithstanding the awful calamity that has befallen our city and the citizens generally. I am ready for the fight against misfortune, and I trust my old friends and customers will stand by me."
- 1882-1889** As railroads expand across the United States, the boiler and flue shops that service steam locomotives rely on Ryerson to supply them with iron, steel and machinery for boilermakers.

- 1892-1903** Ryerson issues a monthly publication, *The Boilermaker* that includes trade news, advertising and company inventory. In 1899, the publication is renamed *The Boilermaker & Sheet Metal Worker* to reflect the increasing use of sheet steel. By 1902, the name has changed again to "*Ryerson Monthly Journal & Stock List*" to reflect a broadening customer base.
- Ryerson opens an office in New York City to better service eastern railroads.
- Several Joseph T. Ryerson & Son scholarships are offered covering four years' tuition and expenses at any college or university "affording a technical education that would fit the recipient for the management of a ship of manufactory using iron and steel."
- In 1903, the newly founded Ford Motor Company comes to Ryerson for "quite a lot of steel," notes Joseph T. Ryerson, grandson of the company's founder.
- 1908-1929** The company expands to 10 service centers as the use of alloy steel grows with new railroad, automotive and machinery requirements. The Chicago operation moves to another nearby location, making it one of the largest iron and steel warehouses in the world. Ryerson opens sales offices throughout the United States, including Jersey City, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Houston and Seattle.
- 1935** The Boards of Directors of Inland Steel Company and Ryerson approve plans to merge, with Ryerson becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of one of the largest steel manufacturers in the United States.
- 1946-1967** The product line expands to include stocks of aluminum, titanium, polyvinyl chloride sheets, pipe and fittings. The company establishes operations in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and has 22 service centers and two construction-steel fabricating plants.
- 1970s** During this period, Ryerson begins converting stainless and aluminum coils into flat sheets to service special customer orders. Later, a stainless plate center and a new plate-processing facility are established in Chicago. Also during this time, Ryerson acquires several companies to increase its geographic presence, purchasing the Federal Steel in 1967 and the Vance Iron & Steel in 1975.
- 1986-1994** In 1986, Inland Steel acquires another distributor, Atlanta-based J.M. Tull.
- 1996-1998** In 1996, Ryerson Tull, Inc. completes an initial public offering, selling a 13 percent stake in the company. In 1998, Inland Steel is sold to Ispat International, and Ryerson Tull becomes a fully independent public company.
- 1999-2005** By the end of the 20th century, Ryerson Tull is a leading processor and distributor of metals in North America, with close to \$3 billion in annual sales.
- In 2005, Ryerson purchases Integris Metals from joint venture partners Alcoa and BHP Billiton for \$640 million. Following integration of the acquired company, Ryerson Tull changes its name to Ryerson.
- 2007** Platinum Equity takes Ryerson private.

2010-2012 Ryerson expands its North America service center network through several acquisitions that include Texas Steel Processing, SFI-Gray Steel, Singer Steel and Sunbelt-Turret Steel. The company also opens service centers in El Paso, Texas and Monterrey, Mexico, as well as a plate processing center in Eldridge, Iowa.

Ryerson also expands its international presence in China. Ryerson's China operations include six service and processing centers performing coil processing, sheet metal fabrication and plate processing in Guangzhou, Dongguan, Kunshan and Tianjin.

2014 Ryerson Holding Corporation relists with the New York Stock Exchange as a publicly traded company under the ticker symbol "RYI".

2015 Ryerson continues to expand its service center network in North America and strengthen its processing capabilities with the acquisitions of Fay Industries, Inc. and Southern Tool Steel.

2016 Ryerson enlarges its footprint in Mexico with construction of a new facility in Querétaro.

Investments in tube laser machines and deep hole drilling equipment, as well as an automated bar and tube order filling station help enhance the company's bar and tube processing capabilities.

2017 Ryerson celebrates its 175th anniversary!

The company also enhances its value-added processing capabilities through introduction of its Ryerson Advanced Processing division, as well as acquisition of The Laserflex Corporation and Guy Metals, Inc., the creators of PFD (PIT FREE DAIRY)[™] and SUPER4 (SINGLE DIGIT RA)[™] polished stainless.

*Source: International Directory of Company Histories, Vol. 15. St. James Press, 1996.