

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN APRIL 2025

Data are reported as gross weight unless otherwise noted and do not include iron metallics such as direct-reduced iron, hot-briquetted iron, iron nuggets, or pig iron. Each year, production, shipments, and trade are impacted in the first quarter of the year owing to seasonal closures of the Soo Locks, the primary shipping route for iron ore in the Great Lakes region.

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in April 2025 were estimated to be 3.62 million metric tons (Mt) and 3.40 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 121,000 metric tons (t), an increase of 3% from 117,000 t in March and a decrease compared to 122,000 t in April 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 113,000 t, an increase of 304% from 28,100 t in March and a decrease of 16% from 135,000 t in April 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 13.7 Mt at the end of April 2025, a slight increase from 13.5 Mt at the end of March and an increase of 17% from at the end of April 2024.

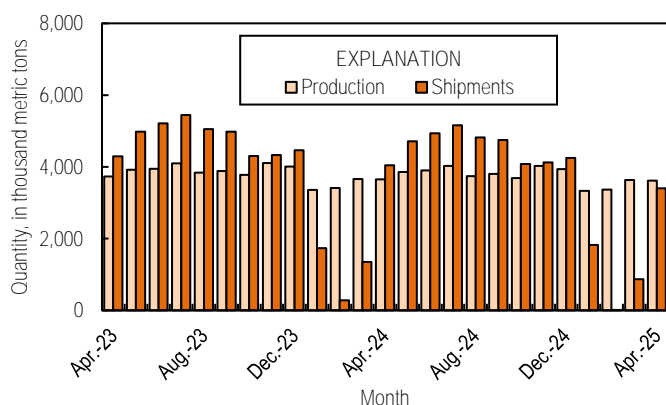


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from April 2023 through April 2025.

U.S. exports of iron ore were 324,000 t in April 2025, an increase of 33% from 244,000 t in March and a decrease of 60% from 802,000 t in April 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 51% of the total, followed by the Netherlands (23%), and France (16%) (table 3). U.S. imports of iron ore were 464,000 t in April 2025, a decrease compared to 467,000 t in March and an increase of 86% from 250,000 t in April 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Brazil

was the leading country of origin, accounting for 56% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Canada (43%) (table 4).

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$97.20 per dry metric ton in April 2025, a decrease of 3% from \$100.10 per dry metric ton in March and a decrease of 14% from \$112.80 per dry metric ton in April 2024 (fig. 2; tables 3, 6; INSEE, 2024).

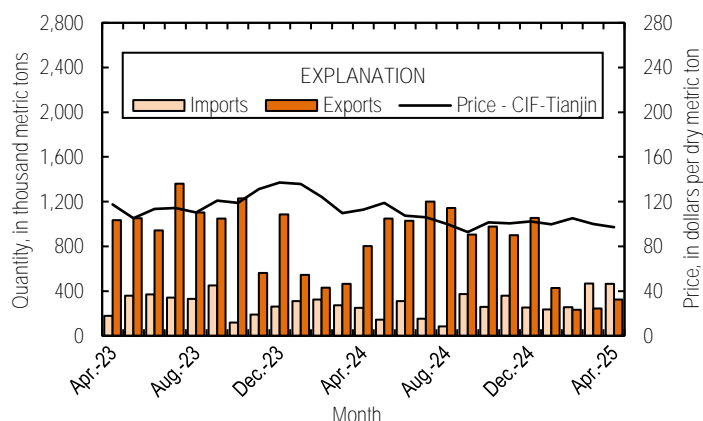


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from April 2023 through April 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2025).

U.S. production of pig iron and raw steel were 1.74 Mt and 6.55 Mt in April 2025, respectively (table 2). Average daily production of pig iron in April 2025 was estimated to be 58,000 t, compared to 58,400 t in March and a slight increase from 57,000 t in April 2024. Average daily production of raw steel, as reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, in April 2025 was estimated to be 218,000 t, compared to 221,000 t in March and 220,000 t in April 2024.

Reference Cited

INSEE, 2025, International prices of imported raw materials – iron ore – Chinese imports, Tianjin Port – spot price – CIF – 62% Fe type – price in US dollars per tonne: Paris, France, INSEE, Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques, Paris, France, July 9. (Accessed May 1, 2025, at <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/serie/010002059>.)

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Table Data

A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled RemoveTextButton for instructions in how to use the tool. Note: you must download the excel file in order to use the tool.

Table 1. U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Data are in thousand metric tons. Data are estimated based on publicly reported data, employment hours, and historical ratios. Excludes byproduct ores and iron metallica.]

Period	Production		Shipments ¹		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of month
2024					
April	3,650	14,100	4,040	7,400	11,700
May	3,860	17,900	4,710	12,100	10,900
June	3,900	21,800	4,940	17,100	9,820
July	4,030	25,900	5,160	22,200	8,690
August	3,740	29,600	4,820	27,000	7,610
September	3,800	33,400	4,750	31,800	6,660
October	3,690	37,100	4,080	35,900	6,270
November	4,030	41,100	4,120	40,000	6,180
December	3,940	45,100	4,250	44,200	5,870
2025					
January	3,330	3,330	1,820	1,820	7,380
February	3,370	6,700	10	1,830	10,700
March	3,630	10,300	870	2,700	13,500
April	3,620	14,000	3,400	6,100	13,700

¹Includes rail and vessel.

Table 2. U.S. production of pig iron and raw steel.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Data are in thousand metric tons. Source: American Iron and Steel Institute, U.S. Geological Survey estimates.]

Period	Pig iron production ¹		Raw steel production	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2024				
April	1,710	6,850	6,590	26,400
May	1,780	8,630	6,870	33,300
June	1,710	10,300	6,620	39,900
July	1,770	12,100	6,810	46,700
August	1,810	13,900	6,940	53,700
September	1,670	15,600	6,440	60,100
October	1,650	17,200	6,390	66,500
November	1,620	18,900	6,270	72,800
December	1,730	20,600	6,690	79,500
2025				
January	1,810	1,810	6,830	6,830
February	1,640	3,450	6,190	13,000
March	1,810	5,260	6,840	19,900
April	1,740	7,000	6,550	26,400

¹Pig iron data are estimated based on historical ratios.

Table 3. U.S. exports of iron ore, by country or locality and type.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except “unit value”; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons and thousand dollars, unless otherwise noted. Revised data are marked with a superscript “r”. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Country or locality and type of product	2024			2025		
	January-April		April	January-April		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value ¹	Quantity	Value ¹	Value ¹ (dollars per ton)
Austria ²	0	29	11,700	29	11,700	402.31
Canada	1,340	166	17,300	587	58,200	99.15
France	113	53	7,770	53	7,770	146.60
Malaysia	0	1	256	1	256	256.00
Netherlands	157	75	11,000	128	15,900	124.22
Other ³	627 ^r	(⁴)	88	429	45,000	104.90
Total	2,240	324	48,100	1,230	139,000	113.01
Concentrates	454	33	13,100	410	52,100	127.07
Fine ores ²	1	(⁴)	24	(⁴)	43	921.72
Pellets	1,730	289	34,700	805	84,500	104.97
Other	60	2	271	12	2,150	179.17
Total	2,240	324	48,100	1,230	139,000	113.01

¹Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

²Data sent to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

³All countries with quantities less than 500 metric tons for the current month included in “Other”.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Table 4. U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore, by country or locality and type.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except “unit value”; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons and thousand dollars, unless otherwise noted. Revised data are marked with a superscript “r”. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Country or locality of origin and type of product	2024			2025		
	January-April		April	January-April		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value ¹	Quantity	Value ¹	Value ¹ (dollars per ton)
Brazil	794	262	37,400	874	127,000	145.87
Canada	201	201	16,800	485	58,400	120.32
Other ²	163	(³)	28	64	7,010	109.47
Total	1,160	464	54,200	1,420	193,000	135.52
Concentrates	85 ^r	0	0	64	6,940	108.36
Fine ores ⁴	1	(³)	28	(³)	66	300.45
Pellets	1,070 ^r	464	54,200	1,340	184,000	136.92
Other	(³)	0	0	18	2,240	124.28
Total	1,160	464	54,200	1,420	193,000	135.52

¹ Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

² All countries with quantities less than 500 metric tons for the current month included in “Other”.

³ Less than ½ unit.

⁴ Data sent to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Table 5. U.S imports for consumption of iron ore, by customs district.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r". Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Customs district (code no.)	Pellets			Total, all products		
	January-April		April	January-April		April
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	68	483	228	69	502	228
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,000 ^r	858	236	1,090	921	236
Other ¹	0	0	0	1	1	(²)
Total	1,070 ^r	1,340	464	1,160	1,420	464

¹Customs Districts with quantities less than 500 metric tons for the current month included in "Other".

²Less than ½ unit.

Table 6. U.S. iron ore trade summary.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Data are in thousand metric tons and thousand dollars. Revised data are marked with a

superscript "r". Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Period	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value ¹	Quantity	Value ²
2024				
January-April	2,240	245,000	1,160	200,000
April	802	81,500	250	43,900
May	1,050	104,000	143	17,600
June	1,030	104,000	311	46,300
July	1,200	124,000	154	23,900
August	1,140	117,000	83	9,280
September	905 ^r	85,600 ^r	374	57,500
October	977 ^r	108,000 ^r	259	37,200
November	901	92,700	360	47,000
December	1,050	105,000	252	37,200
January-December	10,500 ^r	1,080,000 ^r	3,090	476,000
2025				
January	426	40,600	236	34,000
February	232	24,100	256	38,000
March	244	26,000	467	66,700
April	324	48,100	464	54,200
January-April	1,230	139,000	1,420	193,000

¹Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.