Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JULY 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. Production, shipments, and trade are impacted during the first quarter of every year owing to seasonal closures of the Soo Locks, the primary shipping route for iron ore in the Great Lakes region. Imports of iron ore pellets primarily serve as feedstock for domestic iron metallics operations.

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in July 2025 were estimated to be 3.86 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.14 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 125,000 metric tons (t), the same as that in June and a decrease of 4% from 130,000 t in July 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 166,000 t, an increase of 1% from 164,000 t in June and the same as those in July 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 10.5 Mt in July 2025, a decrease of 11% from 11.8 Mt at the end of June and an increase of 21% from 8.69 Mt at the end of July 2024.

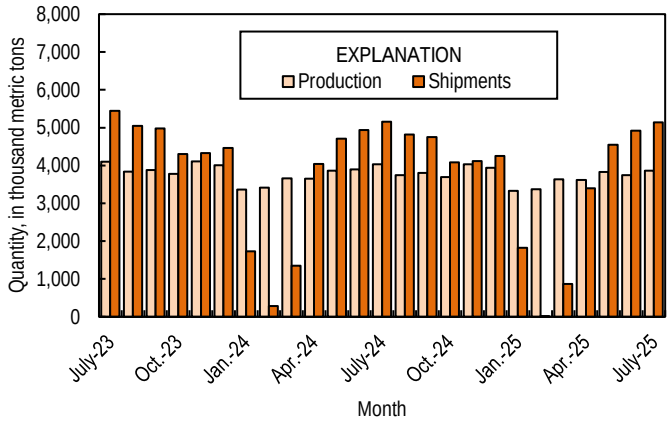

Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from July 2023 through July 2025.

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was $97.30 per dry metric ton in July 2025, an increase of 5% from $92.30 per dry metric ton in June and a decrease of 8% from $106.00 per dry metric ton in July 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2025).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 878,000 t in July 2025, an increase of 61% from 544,000 t in June and a decrease of 27% from 1.20 Mt in July 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 96% of the total tonnage, followed by France (4%), and France (4%) (table 3). The average unit value of U.S. exports of iron ore from January through July was $104.00, with pellets accounting for 87% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 325,000 t in July 2025, a decrease of 40% from 537,000 t in June and more than double those from 154,000 t in July 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 54% of the total tonnage, followed by Brazil (32%), and Sweden (20%) (table 4). The average unit value of U.S. imports of iron ore from January through July was $138.07, with pellets accounting for 87% of total domestic imports (table 4).

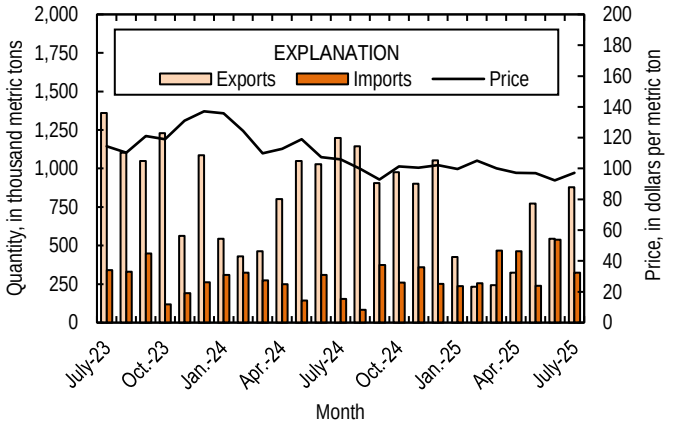

Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from July 2023 through July 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2025).

Average daily production of pig iron in July 2025 was estimated to be 65,800 t, an increase of 7% from 61,700 t in June and an increase of 15% from 57,100 t in July 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in July 2025 was estimated to be 230,000 t, a decrease of 1% from 232,000 t in June and an increase of 4% from 220,000 t in July 2024 (table 2).

Industry News

A presidential proclamation was issued to grant a two-year exemption from the Environmental Protection Agency's final regulatory rule, published in 2024, that originally set a target of 2027 to reduce mercury emissions from domestic iron ore facilities. The final rule, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Taconite Iron Ore Processing (98 FR 16408), would have required a 33% reduction in mercury emissions from Minnesota's iron ore plants. Mercury acts as a neurotoxin that can harm young children and infants in the womb. Mercury is emitted from air pollution related to coal burning and converts into a more toxic form, known as methylmercury, that works its way up the food chain and has affected more than 1,500 rivers and lakes in Minnesota. Minnesota set a goal of 2025 to achieve 76% reductions in mercury emissions from 2005 levels, however, only an approximate 50% decrease was achieved statewide while iron ore emissions of mercury remained largely unchanged. The proclamation states that the compliance standards are not achievable under current conditions and risk forcing shutdowns of domestic iron ore facilities (Executive Office of the President, 2025; Kraker, 2025).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency released draft permits that would require the Keetac Mine, operated by U.S. Steel Corp., to meet state sulfate standards affecting wild rice waters by April 2030. Sulfates released via wastewater from iron ore mines harm fish habitat and cultivated wild rice growth areas. Minnesota is the world's leading producer of wild rice. The permits follow a report by the Environmental Protection Agency alleging Keetac released wastewater with 299 times the permitted sulfate levels in a two-year period and a denial by the Minnesota Court of Appeals of Keetac's variance request (Fenske, 2024; Lovrien, 2025).

Industry Participation

Industry participation is key to the publication of aggregated totals of domestic iron ore statistics. Data may be withheld or estimated, as marked in the accompanying tables, owing to lack of industry response or to withhold proprietary data. Companies already registered with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) can sign up to report electronically by selecting the "Sign up" link at https://mids.er.usgs.gov. To notify the USGS of a new operation, or for further information on registering for electronic submissions, visit https://mids.er.usgs.gov. The USGS iron and steel scrap survey has a canvas code of G01. For more information on how to participate in the iron and steel scrap surveys, please contact Candice Tuck using the contact information listed above.

References Cited

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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 metallics.]

Period	Production		Shipments[1]		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2024					
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
May	3,830	17,800	4,550	10,700	13,000
June	3,740	21,500	4,920	15,600	11,800
July	3,860	25,400	5,140	20,700	10,500

[1]Includes 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				
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
May	1,830	8,830	6,910	33,300
June	1,850	10,700	6,970	40,300
July	2,040	12,700	7,120	47,400

[1]Pig 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. 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-July	July		January-July		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[1]	Quantity	Value[1]	Value[1] (dollars per ton)
Canada	3,980	845	82,500	2,730	269,000	98.25
France	189	33	3,300	86	11,100	128.93
Other[2]	1,350 r	(3)	62	602	76,200	126.53
Total	5,520	878	85,900	3,420	356,000	104.00
Concentrates	840	2	674	431	57,600	133.49
Fine ores[4]	1	(3)	23	(3)	132	728.71
Pellets	4,620	876	85,200	2,980	296,000	99.37
Other	61	(3)	10	12	2,190	183.87
Total	5,520	878	85,900	3,420	356,000	104.00

[1]Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

[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 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. 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-July	July		January-July		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[1]	Quantity	Value[1]	Value[1] (dollars per ton)
Australia	37	10	1,450	10	1,450	142.99
Brazil	1,120	105	14,700	1,620	236,000	145.46
Canada	374	175	23,200	733	92,300	125.88
Sweden	77	35	4,260	89	10,900	122.67
Other[2]	160 r	(3)	3	68	7,650	112.51
Total	1,770	325	43,600	2,520	348,000	138.07
Concentrates	112 r	10	1,450	78	9,010	115.71
Fine ores[4]	85	35	4,260	89	10,900	123.21
Pellets	1,570 r	280	37,900	2,340	326,000	139.50
Other	(3)	(3)	3	18	2,240	122.67
Total	1,770	325	43,600	2,520	348,000	138.07

[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-July		July	January-July		July
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	93	716	125	93	769	160
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,480 r	1,620	155	1,630	1,750	165
Other[1]	0	0	0	39	1	([2])
Total	1,570 r	2,340	280	1,770	2,520	325

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

[2]Less 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. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Period	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value[1]	Quantity	Value[2]
	2024			
January-July	5,520	576,000	1,770	288,000
July	1,200	124,000	154	23,900
August	1,140	117,000	83	9,280
September	905	85,600	375	57,500
October	977	108,000	259	37,200
November	901	92,700	360	47,000
December	1,050	105,000	252	37,200
January-December	10,500	1,080,000	3,100	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
May	773	75,500	238	34,800
June	544	55,800	537	77,100
July	878	85,900	325	43,600
January-July	3,420	356,000	2,520	348,000

[1]Free alongside ship (FAS) value.
[2]Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.