

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN AUGUST 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 August 2025 were estimated to be 3.08 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.58 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 99,000 metric tons (t), a decrease of 6% from 105,000 t in July and a decrease of 18% from 121,000 t in August 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 148,000 t, a decrease of 3% from 152,000 t in July and a decrease of 5% from 155,000 t in August 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 7.55 Mt at the end of August 2025, a decrease of 17% from 9.05 Mt at the end of July and a decrease of 1% from 7.61 Mt at the end of August 2024.

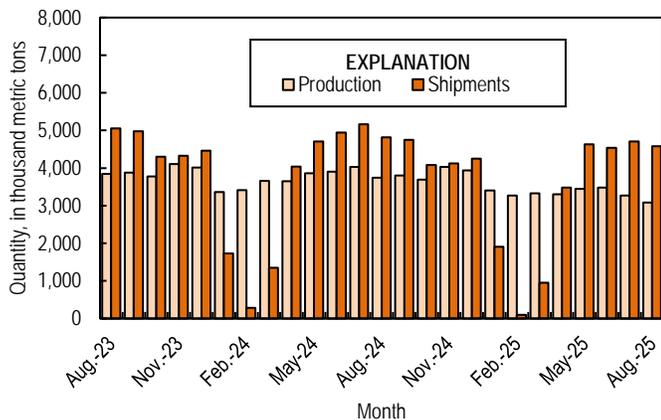


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from August 2023 through August 2025.

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$99.70 per dry metric ton in August 2025, an increase of 2% from \$97.30 per dry metric ton in July and compared to \$99.90 per dry metric ton in August 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2025).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 580,000 t in August 2025, a decrease of 34% from 878,000 t in July and a decrease of 49% from 1.14 Mt in August 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 85% of the total tonnage, followed by the Netherlands (15%). The average unit value of U.S. exports of iron ore from January through August was \$99.41, with pellets accounting for 89% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 264,000 t in August 2025, a decrease of 19% from 325,000 t in July and an increase of 218% from 83,000 t in August 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 66% of the total tonnage, followed by Chile (23%), and Brazil (7%) (table 4). The average unit value of U.S. imports of iron ore from January through August was \$138.21, with pellets accounting for 91% of total domestic imports (table 4).

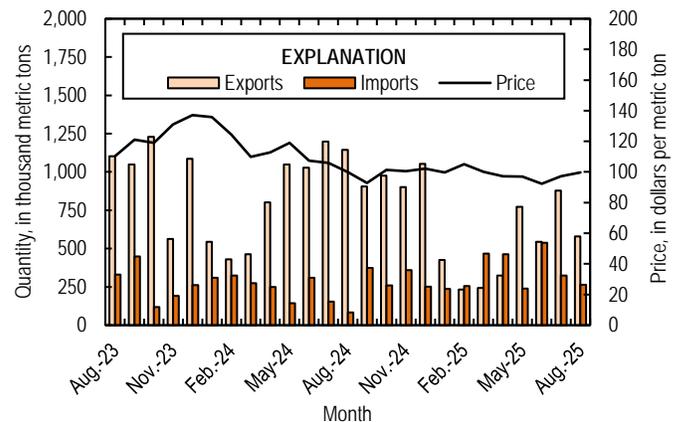


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from August 2023 through August 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2025).

Average daily production of pig iron in August 2025 was estimated to be 60,600 t, a decrease of 1% from 61,000 t in July and an increase of 4% from 58,400 t in August 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in August 2025 was estimated to be 229,000 t compared to 230,000 t in July, and an increase of 2% from 224,000 t in August 2024 (table 2).

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.

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 Etudes Economiques, Paris, France, December 19. (Accessed January 16, 2026, 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 metallics. Revised data are marked with a superscript “r”.]

| Period | Production | | Shipments ¹ | | Stocks |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Monthly | Year to date | Monthly | Year to date | End of month |
| 2024 | | | | | |
| 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 | 3,400 ^r | 3,400 ^r | 1,910 ^r | 1,910 ^r | 7,360 ^r |
| February | 3,270 ^r | 6,670 ^r | 100 ^r | 2,010 ^r | 10,500 ^r |
| March | 3,330 ^r | 10,000 ^r | 950 ^r | 2,960 ^r | 12,900 ^r |
| April | 3,300 ^r | 13,300 ^r | 3,480 ^r | 6,440 ^r | 12,700 ^r |
| May | 3,450 ^r | 16,800 ^r | 4,630 ^r | 11,100 ^r | 11,600 ^r |
| June | 3,480 ^r | 20,200 ^r | 4,540 ^r | 15,600 ^r | 10,500 ^r |
| July | 3,270 ^r | 23,500 ^r | 4,710 ^r | 20,300 ^r | 9,050 ^r |
| August | 3,080 | 26,600 | 4,580 | 24,900 | 7,550 |

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. Revised data are marked with a superscript “r”. 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 | | | | |
| 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 | 1,890 ^r | 12,600 ^r | 7,120 | 47,400 |
| August | 1,880 | 14,500 | 7,090 | 54,500 |

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. Revised data are marked with a superscript “r”. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

| Country or locality and type of product ¹ | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | January-August | August | | January-August | | |
| | Quantity | Quantity | Value ² | Quantity | Value ² | Value ² (dollars per ton) |
| Canada | 4,820 | 492 | 46,900 | 3,230 | 316,000 | 97.79 |
| Netherlands | 157 | 88 | 10,900 | 216 | 26,800 | 124.25 |
| Other ³ | 1,680 ^r | (⁴) | 76 | 561 | 71,500 | 127.47 |
| Total | 6,660 | 580 | 57,900 | 4,000 | 414,000 | 103.37 |
| Concentrates | 994 | (⁴) | 53 | 431 | 57,600 | 133.56 |
| Fine ores ⁵ | (⁴) ^r | 0 | 0 | (⁴) | 132 | 728.71 |
| Pellets | 5,610 | 580 | 57,800 | 3,560 | 354,000 | 99.41 |
| Other | 61 | (⁴) | 23 | 12 | 2,210 | 185.08 |
| Total | 6,660 | 580 | 57,900 | 4,000 | 414,000 | 103.37 |

¹Includes Schedule B numbers 2601.11.0030 (concentrates), 2601.11.0090 (fine ores), 2601.12.0030 (pellets), and “Other” includes 2601.11.0060 (coarse ores), 2601.12.0060 (briquettes), and 2601.12.0090 (other agglomerates).

²Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

³All countries with quantities less than 1,000 metric tons for the current month included in “Other”.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Data 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]

| Country or locality of origin and type of product ¹ | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | January-August | August | | January-August | | |
| | Quantity | Quantity | Value ² | Quantity | Value ² | Value ² (dollars per ton) |
| Brazil | 1,120 | 19 | 2,560 | 1,640 | 239,000 | 145.34 |
| Canada | 375 | 174 | 21,100 | 907 | 113,000 | 125.00 |
| Chile | 121 | 60 | 6,680 | 119 | 12,900 | 108.69 |
| Netherlands | 47 | 2 | 362 | 2 | 435 | 204.65 |
| Sweden | 94 | 9 | 1,080 | 97 | 12,000 | 123.03 |
| Other ³ | 95 ^r | (⁴) | 3 | 19 | 2,770 | 146.68 |
| Total | 1,850 | 264 | 31,800 | 2,790 | 380,000 | 136.42 |
| Concentrates | 178 ^r | 61 | 6,930 | 139 | 15,900 | 114.43 |
| Fine ores | 98 | (⁴) | 125 | 89 | 11,100 | 123.92 |
| Pellets | 1,570 ^r | 193 | 23,700 | 2,530 | 350,000 | 138.21 |
| Other | 4 | 9 | 1,070 | 27 | 3,310 | 123.75 |
| Total | 1,850 | 264 | 31,800 | 2,790 | 380,000 | 136.42 |

¹Includes HTS Codes 2601.11.0030 (concentrates), 2601.11.0090 (fine ores), 2601.12.0030 (pellets), and "Other" includes 2601.11.0060 (coarse ores), 2601.12.0060 (briquettes), and 2601.12.0090 (other agglomerates).

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

³All countries with quantities less than 1,000 metric tons for the current month included in "Other".

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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 ¹ | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|----------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| | January-August | | August | January-August | | August |
| | 2024 | 2025 | 2025 | 2024 | 2025 | 2025 |
| Baltimore, MD (13) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| Houston–Galveston, TX (53) | 94 | 757 | 41 | 94 | 810 | 41 |
| New Orleans, LA (20) | 1,480 ^r | 1,770 | 152 | 1,700 | 1,970 | 213 |
| Other ² | (³) | 0 | 0 | 52 ^r | 1 | (³) |
| Total | 1,570 ^r | 2,530 | 193 | 1,850 | 2,790 | 264 |

¹Includes HTS Codes 2601.11.0030 (concentrates), 2601.11.0090 (fine ores), 2601.12.0030 (pellets), and "Other" includes 2601.11.0060 (coarse ores), 2601.12.0060 (briquettes), and 2601.12.0090 (other agglomerates).

²All countries with total quantities less than 1,000 metric tons for the current month included in "Other".

³Less 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 ¹ | | Imports ¹ | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Quantity | Value ² | Quantity | Value ³ |
| 2024 | | | | |
| January-August | 6,660 | 692,000 | 1,850 | 297,000 |
| 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 |
| August | 580 | 57,900 | 264 | 31,800 |
| January-August | 4,000 | 414,000 | 2,790 | 380,000 |

¹Includes HTS Codes and Schedule B numbers 2601.11.0030 (concentrates), 2601.11.0090 (fine ores), 2601.12.0030 (pellets), and "Other" includes 2601.11.0060 (coarse ores), 2601.12.0060 (briquettes), and 2601.12.0090 (other agglomerates).

²Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.