Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 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 September 2025 were estimated to be 3.11 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.33 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 104,000 metric tons (t), an increase of 4% from 99,000 t in August and a decrease of 18% from 127,000 t in September 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 144,000 t, a decrease of 2% from 148,000 t in August and a decrease of 9% from 158,000 t in September 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 6.33 Mt in September 2025, a decrease of 16% from 7.55 Mt at the end of August and a decrease of 5% from 6.66 Mt at the end of September 2024.

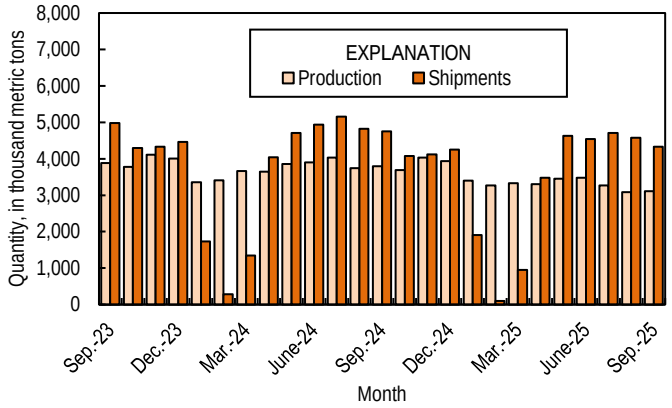

Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from September 2023 through September 2025.

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was $103.30 per dry metric ton in September 2025, an increase of 4% from $99.70 per dry metric ton in August and an increase of 11% from $92.80 per dry metric ton in September 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2026).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 583,000 t in September 2025, an increase of 1% from 580,000 t in August and a decrease of 36% from 905,000 t in September 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 86% of the total tonnage, followed by the Netherlands (14%). The average unit value of U.S. exports of iron ore from January through September was $102.44, with pellets accounting for 90% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 265,000 t in September 2025, compared to 264,000 t in August and a decrease of 29% from 375,000 t in September 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Oman was the leading country of origin, accounting for 59% of the total tonnage, followed by Canada (28%), and Brazil (12%). The average unit value of U.S. imports of iron ore from January through September was $135.66, with pellets accounting for 92% of total domestic imports (table 4).

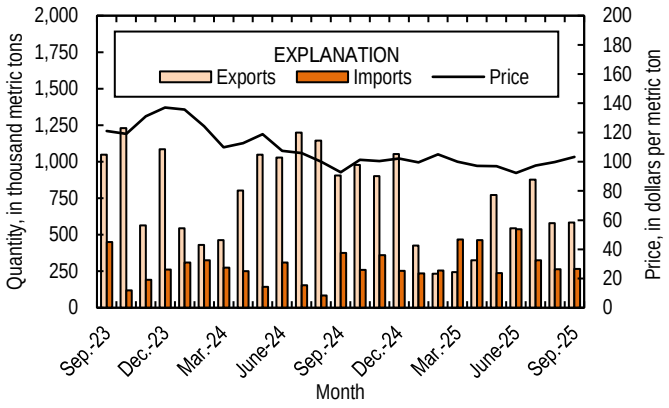

Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from September 2023 through September 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2026).

Average daily production of pig iron in September 2025 was estimated to be 61,000 t, an increase of 1% from 60,600 t in August and an increase of 10% from 55,700 t in September 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in September 2025 was estimated to be 230,000 t, an increase of 1% from 229,000 t in August and an increase of 7% from 215,000 t in September 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, 2026, 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, January 27. (Accessed January 27, 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

Period	Production		Shipments[1]		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2024					
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	3,400	1,910	1,910	7,360
February	3,270	6,670	100	2,010	10,500
March	3,330	10,000	950	2,960	12,900
April	3,300	13,300	3,480	6,440	12,700
May	3,450	16,800	4,630	11,100	11,600
June	3,480	20,200	4,540	15,600	10,500
July	3,270	23,500	4,710	20,300	9,050
August	3,080	26,600	4,580	24,900	7,550
September	3,110	29,700	4,330	29,200	6,330

[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				
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	12,600	7,120	47,400
August	1,880	14,500	7,090	54,500
September	1,830	16,300	6,900	61,400

[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[1]	2024	2025				
	January-September	September		January-September		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[2]	Quantity	Value[2]	Value[2] (dollars per ton)
Canada	5,550 r	503	48,000	3,730	363,000	97.47
Netherlands	157	81	8,060	296	34,900	117.65
Other[3]	1,860 r	(4)	13	561	71,500	127.49
Total	7,570 r	583	56,100	4,590	470,000	102.44
Concentrates	1,070	11	1,420	443	59,000	133.41
Fine ores[5]	1	(4)	13	(4)	145	746.45
Pellets	6,430 r	572	54,600	4,130	408,000	98.86
Other	61	0	0	12	2,210	185.08
Total	7,570 r	583	56,100	4,590	470,000	102.44

[1]Includes 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).

[2]Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

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

[4]Less than ½ unit.

[5]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[1]	2024	2025				
	January-September	September		January-September		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[2]	Quantity	Value[2]	Value[2] (dollars per ton)
Brazil	1,350	33	4,170	1,680	243,000	144.98
Canada	453	74	9,980	982	123,000	125.68
Oman	0	157	19,600	157	19,600	124.86
Other[3]	423 r	1	59	238	28,100	118.31
Total	2,220	265	33,800	3,050	414,000	135.66
Concentrates	202 r	1	37	140	16,000	114.13
Fine ores	131	(4)	22	89	11,100	124.04
Pellets	1,880 r	264	33,700	2,800	384,000	137.22
Other	13	0	0	27	3,310	123.75
Total	2,220	265	33,800	3,050	414,000	135.66

[1]Includes 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).

[2]Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

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

[4]Less 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-September		September	January-September		September
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	95	864	107	106	917	107
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,780 r	1,930	157	2,050	2,120	157
Other[2]	(3)	0	0	67 r	12	1
Total	1,880 r	2,800	265	2,220	3,050	265

[1]Includes 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).

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

[3]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. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r". Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Period	Exports[1]		Imports[1]	
	Quantity	Value[2]	Quantity	Value[3]
	2024			
January-September	7,570 [r]	778,000 [r]	2,220	354,000
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
September	583	56,100	265	33,800
January-September	4,590	470,000	3,050	414,000

[1]Includes 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),

[2]Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

[3]Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.