Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Candice C. Tuck, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-4912
Email: ctuck@usgs.gov

Omar Dehrab (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7964
Email: odehrab@usgs.gov
Internet: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 2025

NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey plans to discontinue Table 2 and modify the data utilized in Tables 3, 4, and 5 of the Iron Ore Mineral Industry Surveys report. The last published report including those data will be the Iron Ore in December 2025. Information relating to Table 2 will still be available in the Iron and Steel Scrap Mineral Industry Surveys report and information relating to Tables 3, 4, and 5 are available through the U.S Census Bureau. Prior to the proposed discontinuation date, please direct any comments or concerns to Lee Bray, Acting Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, lbray@usgs.gov.

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 October 2025 were estimated to be 2.83 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.08 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 91,300 metric tons (t), a decrease of 12% from 104,000 t in September and a decrease of 23% from 119,000 t in October 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 132,000 t, a decrease of 9% from 144,000 t in September and unchanged from those in October 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 5.08 Mt in October 2025, a decrease of 20% from 6.33 Mt at the end of September and a decrease of 19% from 6.27 Mt at the end of October 2024.

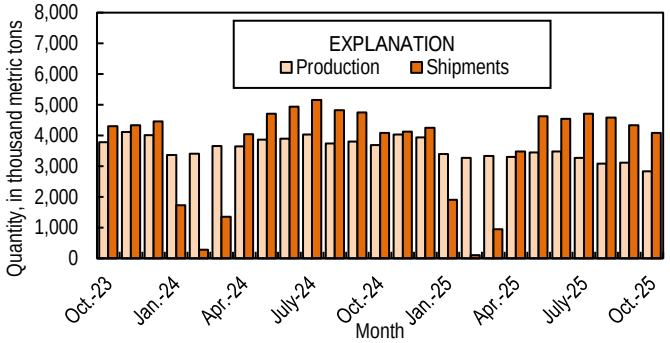

Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from October 2023 through October 2025.

Average daily production of pig iron in October 2025 was estimated to be 59,400 t, a decrease of 2% from 61,000 t in September and an increase of 12% from 53,200 t in October 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in October 2025 was estimated to be 223,000 t, a decrease of 3% from 230,000 t in September and an increase of 8% from 206,000 t in October 2024 (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2025; table 2).

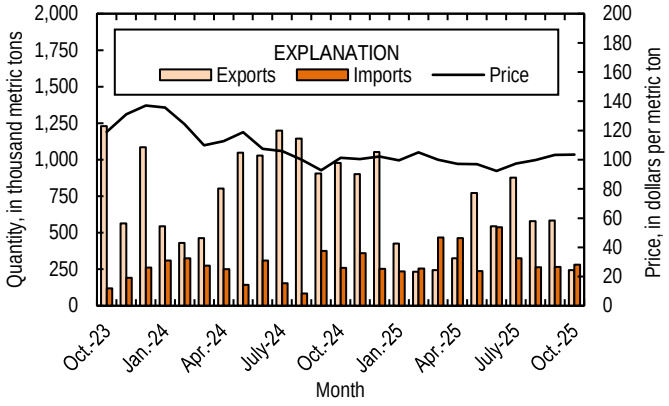

Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from October 2023 through October 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2026).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 243,000 t in October 2025, a decrease of 58% from 583,000 t in September and a decrease of 75% from 977,000 t in October 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 96% of the total tonnage, followed by the Netherlands (4%). The average unit value of iron ore pellet exports from January through October 2025 was $98.72, with pellets accounting for 90% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 282,000 t in October 2025, an increase of 6% from 265,000 t in September and an increase of 9% from 259,000 t in October 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 49% of the total tonnage, followed by Brazil (33%), and Sweden (18%). The average unit value of iron ore pellet imports from January through October was $137.08, with pellets accounting for 91% of total domestic imports (table 4).

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was $103.50 per dry metric ton in October 2025, compared to $103.30 per dry metric ton in September and an increase of 2% from $101.40 per dry metric ton in October 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2026).

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

American Iron and Steel Institute, 2025, Pig iron and raw steel production: Washington DC, American Iron and Steel Institute, December 2.

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 March 3, 2026, at https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/serie/010002059.)

List Services

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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					
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
October	2,830	32,500	4,080	33,300	5,080

[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				
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
October	1,850	18,100	6,920	68,300

[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-October	October		January-October		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[2]	Quantity	Value[2]	Value[2] (dollars per ton)
Canada	6,330 r	233	22,400	3,960	386,000	97.40
Netherlands	223	10	1,750	306	36,600	119.49
Other[3]	1,990 r	(4)	10	561	71,500	127.51
Total	8,540 r	243	24,200	4,830	494,000	102.30
Concentrates	1,190 r	(4)	10	443	59,000	133.43
Fine ores[5]	1	0	0	(4)	145	746.45
Pellets	7,290 r	233	22,400	4,360	431,000	98.72
Other	72	10	1,750	22	3,960	179.87
Total	8,540 r	243	24,200	4,830	494,000	102.30

[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). Does not include data corrections that have been issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, which are available at https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/corrections/index.html.

[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-October	October		January-October		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value[2]	Quantity	Value[2]	Value[2] (dollars per ton)
Brazil	1,590 r	92	12,600	1,770	255,000	144.54
Canada	453	139	18,700	1,120	142,000	126.78
Sweden	136	50	6,560	148	18,500	125.58
Other[3]	309 r	0	0	297	35,700	120.18
Total	2,480 r	282	37,900	3,330	452,000	135.56
Concentrates	223 r	0	0	140	16,000	114.13
Fine ores	132	40	5,150	130	16,200	125.12
Pellets	2,120 r	231	31,300	3,030	415,000	137.08
Other	13	10	1,420	37	4,730	128.59
Total	2,480 r	282	37,900	3,330	452,000	135.56

[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”.

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-October		October	January-October		October
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	96	939	75	107	992	75
New Orleans, LA (20)	2,020 r	2,090	156	2,310 r	2,180	196
Tampa, FL (18)	0	0	0	0	10	10
Other[2]	([3])	0	0	67	149	([3])
Total	2,110 r	3,030	231	2,480 r	3,330	282

[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-October	8,540 [r]	887,000 [r]	2,480 [r]	392,000
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
October	243	24,200	282	37,900
January-October	4,830	494,000	3,330	452,000

[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), 2601.12.0060 (briquettes), and 2601.12.0090 (other agglomerates).

[2]Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

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