

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 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 November 2025 were estimated to be 2.76 million metric tons (Mt) and 3.54 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 92,000 metric tons (t), an increase of 1% from 91,300 t in October and a decrease of 32% from 134,000 t in November 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 118,000 t, a decrease of 10% from 132,000 t in October and a decrease of 14% from 137,000 t in November 2024. Mine stocks were estimated to be 4.30 Mt in November 2025, a decrease of 15% from 5.08 Mt at the end of October and a decrease of 30% from 6.18 Mt at the end of November 2024.

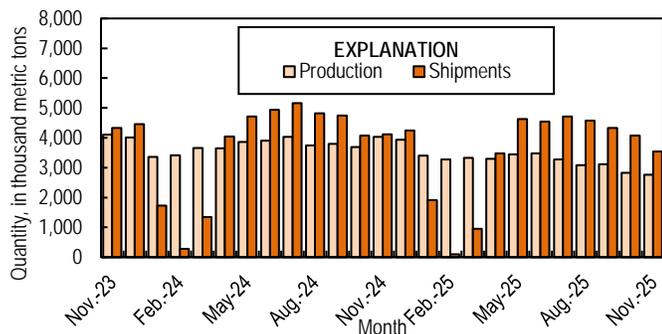


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from November 2023 through November 2025.

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$102.50 per dry metric ton in November 2025, a decrease of 1% from \$103.50 per dry metric ton in October and an increase of 2% from \$100.50 per dry metric ton in November 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2026).

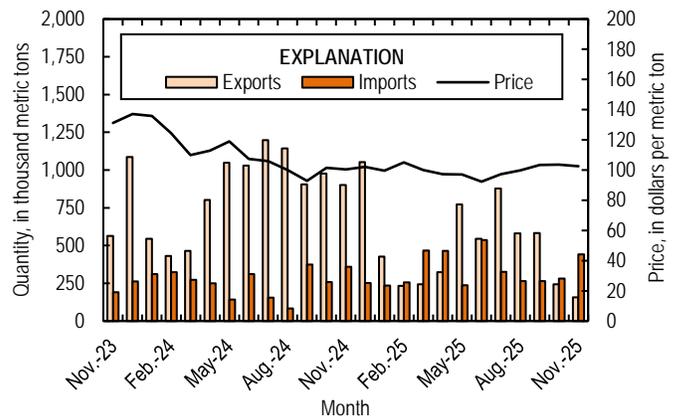


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from November 2023 through November 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2026).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 157,000 t in November 2025, a decrease of 35% from 243,000 t in October and a decrease of 83% from 901,000 t in November 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). The Netherlands was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 51% of the total tonnage, followed by Canada (49%). The average unit value of U.S. exports of iron ore from January through November was \$101.86, with pellets accounting for 91% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 441,000 t in November 2025, an increase of 56% from 282,000 t in October and an increase of 22% from 360,000 t in November 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Brazil was the leading country of origin, accounting for 55% of the total tonnage, followed by Canada (45%). The average unit value of U.S. imports of iron ore from January through November was \$135.87, with pellets accounting for 92% of total domestic imports (table 4).

Average daily production of pig iron in November 2025 was estimated to be 59,300 t, a 1% decrease from 59,700 t in October and an increase of 10% from 54,000 t in November 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in November 2025 was estimated to be 224,000 t compared to 223,000 t in October and an increase of 7% from 209,000 t in November 2024 (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2025; 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.

References Cited

American Iron and Steel Institute, 2025, Pig iron and raw steel production: Washington DC, American Iron and Steel Institute, December 29.
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, February 25. (Accessed March 5, 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					
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
November	2,760	35,300	3,540	36,900	4,300

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				
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
November	1,780	19,900	6,720	75,000

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-November	November		January-November		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value ²	Quantity	Value ²	Value ² (dollars per ton)
Canada	7,080 ^r	77	7,290	4,040	393,000	97.34
Netherlands	223	80	6,650	387	43,300	111.93
Other ³	2,140 ^r	0	0	561	71,500	127.51
Total	9,450 ^r	157	13,900	4,990	508,000	101.86
Concentrates	1,340	0	0	443	59,000	133.43
Fine ores	1	0	0	(⁴)	145	746.45
Pellets	8,030 ^r	157	13,900	4,520	445,000	98.37
Other	72	0	0	22	3,960	179.87
Total	9,450 ^r	157	13,900	4,990	508,000	101.86

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). Unpublished data corrections were issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, available at (<https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/corrections/index.html>).

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.

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-November	November		January-November		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value ²	Quantity	Value ²	Value ² (dollars per ton)
Brazil	1,810	244	34,300	2,010	290,000	144.09
Canada	535	197	26,500	1,320	169,000	127.98
Other ³	495 ^r	(⁴)	105	445	54,400	122.09
Total	2,840	441	60,900	3,770	513,000	135.87
Concentrates	224 ^r	0	0	140	16,000	114.13
Fine ores	132	(⁴)	105	130	16,300	125.52
Pellets	2,470 ^r	440	60,800	3,470	476,000	137.22
Other	13	0	0	37	4,730	128.59
Total	2,840	441	60,900	3,770	513,000	135.87

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-November		November	January-November		November
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	99	995	56	109	1,050	56
New Orleans, LA (20)	2,380 ^r	2,470	384	2,670	2,700	384
Other ²	(³)	0	0	68	22	(³)
Total	2,470 ^r	3,470	440	2,840	3,770	441

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. 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-November	9,450 ^r	979,000 ^r	2,840	439,000
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
November	157	13,900	441	60,900
January-November	4,990	508,000	3,770	513,000

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.