

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 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 December 2025 were estimated to be 2.72 million metric tons (Mt) and 3.45 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 87,700 metric tons (t), a decrease of 5% from 92,000 t in November and a decrease of 31% from 127,000 t in December 2024. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 111,000 t, a decrease of 6% from 118,000 t in November and a decrease of 19% from 137,000 t in December 2024.

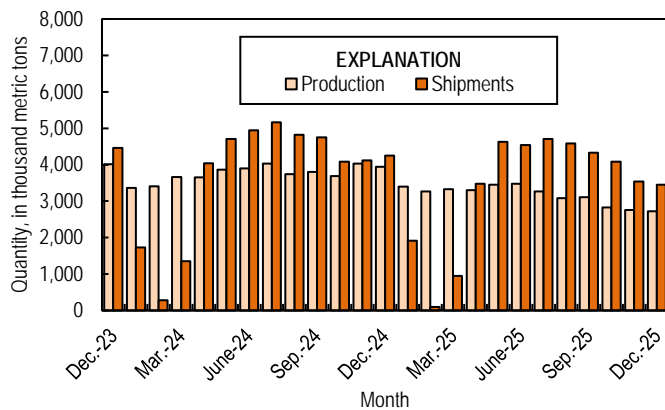


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production and shipments of iron ore from December 2023 through December 2025.

Mine stocks were estimated to be 3.57 Mt in December 2025, a decrease of 17% from 4.30 Mt at the end of November and a decrease of 39% from 5.87 Mt at the end of December 2024.

The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, was \$104.60 per dry metric ton in December 2025, an increase of 2% from \$102.50 per dry metric ton in November and an increase of 2% from \$102.20 per dry metric ton in December 2024 (fig. 2; INSEE, 2026).

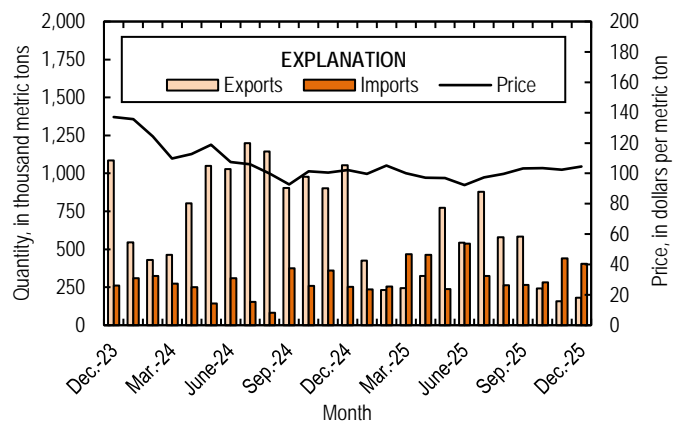


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China, from December 2023 through December 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, INSEE (2026).

U.S. exports of iron ore were 182,000 t in December 2025, an increase of 16% from 157,000 t in November and a decrease of 83% from 1.05 Mt in December 2024 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). Canada was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 73% of the total tonnage, followed by Germany (27%). The

average unit value of U.S. exports of iron ore pellets from January through December was \$98.38; iron ore pellets accounted for 90% of total domestic exports (table 3).

U.S. imports of iron ore were 404,000 t in December 2025, a decrease of 8% from 440,000 t in November and an increase of 60% from 252,000 t in December 2024 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). Brazil was the leading country of origin, accounting for 44% of the total tonnage, followed by Canada (42%). The average unit value of U.S. imports of iron ore pellets from January through December was \$137.22; iron ore pellets accounted for 91% of total domestic imports (table 4).

Average daily production of pig iron in December 2025 was estimated to be 59,000 t, a decrease of 1% from 59,300 t in November and an increase of 6% from 55,800 t in December 2024. Average daily production of raw steel in December 2025 was estimated to be 223,000 t compared to 224,000 t in November and an increase of 3% from 216,000 t in December 2024 (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2026; table 2).

### Annual Review

U.S. production of iron ore in 2025 totaled 38.0 Mt, a 16% decrease from 45.1 Mt in 2024. U.S. shipments of iron ore in 2025 totaled 40.3 Mt, a 9% decrease from 44.2 Mt in 2024. Stocks at yearend 2025 were 3.57 Mt, a 39% decrease from the 5.87 Mt held at yearend 2024 (table 1).

The average spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), at Tianjin Port, China was \$100.18 in 2025, an 8% decrease from \$109.33 in 2024 (INSEE, 2026). The total quarterly hours for mine production, from active iron ore mines producing iron ore for steel consumption, in 2025 totaled 9,570 hours, a 10% decrease from 10,600 hours in 2024 (Mine Safety and Health Administration, undated).

Iron ore exports totaled 5.17 Mt in 2025, a 51% decrease from 10.5 Mt in 2024, with a total value of \$523 million in 2025 (tables 3, 6). Iron ore imports totaled 4.18 Mt in 2025, a 35% increase from 3.10 Mt in 2024, with a total value of \$567 million in 2025 (tables 4, 5, 6).

Pig iron production in 2025 was 21.7 Mt, a 6% increase from 20.6 Mt in 2024. Raw steel production totaled 81.9 Mt in 2025, a 3% increase from 79.5 Mt in 2024 (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2026; 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, 2026, Pig iron and raw steel production: Washington, DC, American Iron and Steel Institute, January 23. (Accessed March 23, 2026, via <https://pmc.spglobal.com/>.)
- 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 23, 2026, at <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/serie/010002059>.)
- Mine Safety and Health Administration, undated, Mine Data Retrieval System: U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration. (Accessed March 23, 2026, via <https://www.msha.gov/data-and-reports/mine-data-retrieval-system>.)

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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 <sup>1</sup>		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of month
<b>2024</b>					
December	3,940	45,100	4,250	44,200	5,870
<b>2025</b>					
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
December	2,720	38,000	3,450	40,300	3,570

<sup>1</sup>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 <sup>1</sup>		Raw steel production	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
<b>2024</b>				
December	1,730	20,600	6,690	79,500
<b>2025</b>				
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
December	1,830	21,700	6,910	81,900

<sup>1</sup>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 <sup>1</sup>	2024			2025		
	January-December		December	January-December		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Value <sup>2</sup> (dollars per ton)
Canada	7,930 <sup>r</sup>	133	13,200	4,170	406,000	97.39
Germany	129	49	1,710	100	7,610	75.77
Other <sup>3</sup>	2,440 <sup>r</sup>	0	0	896	109,000	121.54
<b>Total</b>	10,500 <sup>r</sup>	182	14,900	5,170	523,000	101.16
Concentrates	1,490	0	0	443	59,000	133.43
Fine ores	1	0	0	( <sup>4</sup> )	145	746.45
Pellets	8,940 <sup>r</sup>	133	13,200	4,650	458,000	98.38
Other	72	49	1,710	71	5,670	80.00
<b>Total</b>	10,500 <sup>r</sup>	182	14,900	5,170	523,000	101.16

<sup>1</sup>Includes Schedule B of the United States 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). Unpublished data corrections were issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, available at (<https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/corrections/index.html>).

<sup>2</sup>Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

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

<sup>4</sup>Less 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 <sup>1</sup>	2024			2025		
	January-December	December		January-December		
	Quantity	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Value <sup>2</sup> (dollars per ton)
Brazil	1,960	176	25,200	2,190	315,000	144.02
Canada	613	169	22,100	1,490	191,000	128.34
Chile	121	59	7,010	178	19,900	112.05
Other <sup>3</sup>	397 <sup>r</sup>	0	0	326	41,500	126.98
<b>Total</b>	3,100	404	54,300	4,180	567,000	135.75
Concentrates	225 <sup>r</sup>	59	7,010	199	23,000	115.52
Fine ores	154	0	0	130	16,300	125.52
Pellets	2,700 <sup>r</sup>	345	47,300	3,810	523,000	137.22
Other	13	0	0	37	4,730	128.59
<b>Total</b>	3,100	404	54,300	4,180	567,000	135.75

<sup>1</sup>Includes Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States 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).

<sup>2</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

<sup>3</sup>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 <sup>1</sup>		
	January-December		December	January-December		December
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Houston–Galveston, TX (53)	101	1,110	112	112	1,160	112
New Orleans, LA (20)	2,600 <sup>r</sup>	2,700	233	2,910	2,990	292
Other <sup>2</sup>	( <sup>3</sup> ) <sup>r</sup>	0	0	69 <sup>r</sup>	22	0
<b>Total</b>	2,700 <sup>r</sup>	3,810	345	3,100	4,180	404

<sup>1</sup>Includes Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States 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).

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

<sup>3</sup>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 <sup>1</sup>		Imports <sup>1</sup>	
	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup>
<b>2024</b>				
December	1,050	105,000	252	37,200
January-December	10,500	1,080,000	3,100	476,000
<b>2025</b>				
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
December	182	14,900	404	54,300
<b>January-December</b>	<b>5,170</b>	<b>523,000</b>	<b>4,180</b>	<b>567,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>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).

<sup>2</sup>Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

<sup>3</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.