

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 2016

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in October 2016 were 3.58 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.05 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 116,000 metric tons (t), 5% more than that of September and that of October 2015. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 131,000 t, slightly less than those in September, and 7% greater those in October 2015. Mine stocks at the end of October 2016 were 5% less than those held at the end of September and 6% less than those held at the end of October 2015.

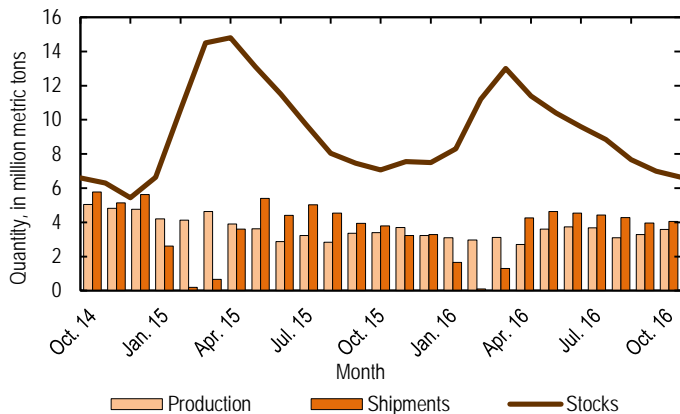


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from October 2014 through October 2016.

Monthly iron ore data are reported as gross weight unless otherwise noted and do not include iron metallics such as pig iron, direct-reduced iron, hot-briquetted iron, or iron nuggets. Data for iron metallics can be found in the Iron Ore chapter in the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume I, Metals and minerals.

U.S. exports of iron ore totaled 824,000 t in October 2016, 24% less than those in September and more than double those in October 2015. U.S. imports of iron ore totaled 342,000 t in October 2016, 28% greater than those in September and 33% less than those in October 2015 (fig. 2).

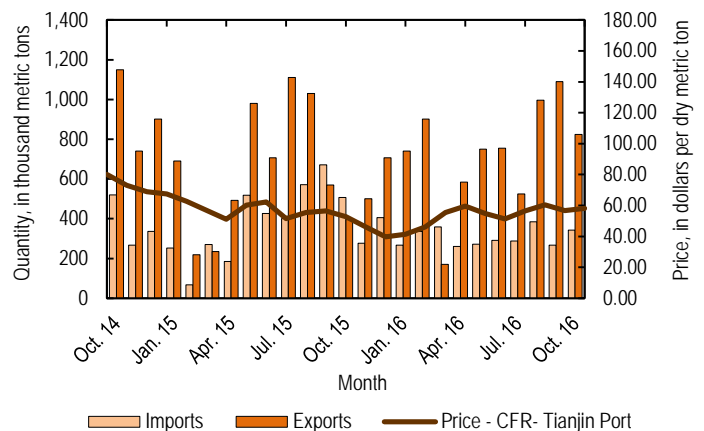


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content CFR, at Tianjin Port, from October 2014 through October 2016. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

Industry News

Magnetation LLC received approval from a bankruptcy judge to proceed with plans to shut down the company's last remaining iron ore tailings reclamation operation in Grand Rapids, MN, and its pellet plant in Reynolds, IN. The company filed for bankruptcy in May 2015 and had previously shut down two other iron ore tailings reclamation operations in late 2014 and early 2015. (DePass, 2016).

Reference Cited

DePass, Dee, 2016, Court approves final shutdown of bankrupt Magnetation LLC: Star Tribune [Minneapolis, MN], October 6. (Accessed January 20, 2017, at <http://www.startribune.com/court-approves-final-shut-down-of-bankrupt-magnetation-llc/396218561/>.)

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TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, usable ore)

Period	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2015:					
October	3,400	36,200	3,790	34,200	7,070
November	3,700	39,900	3,230	37,400	7,550
December	3,230	43,100	3,290	40,700	7,490
2016:					
January ^f	3,100	3,100	1,650	1,650	8,940
February ^f	2,970	6,070	104	1,760	11,800
March ^f	3,120	9,190	1,300	3,060	13,600
April ^f	2,700	11,900	4,260	7,320	12,100
May ^f	3,610	15,500	4,640	12,000	11,000
June	3,740	19,200	4,540	16,500 ^r	10,200 ^r
July	3,670 ^r	22,900	4,430	20,900 ^r	9,470 ^r
August	3,100	26,000	4,270	25,200 ^r	8,300 ^r
September	3,290	29,300	3,950	29,100 ^r	7,630 ^r
October	3,580	32,900	4,050	33,200	7,170

^fRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores and iron metallics.

³Includes rail and vessel.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL, BY TYPE OF FURNACE¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Pig iron production,		Raw steel production			
	Basic oxygen furnace		Blast furnace		Electric furnace	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2015:						
October	2,270	25,200	1,990	21,700	4,270	41,900
November	2,120	27,300	1,780	23,500	3,710	45,600
December	2,110	29,400	1,930	25,400	3,860	49,400
2016:						
January	2,200	2,200	1,910	1,910	4,250	4,250
February	2,260	4,460	2,010	3,920	4,170	8,420
March	2,380	6,840	2,040	5,960	4,390	12,800
April	2,150	8,980	1,860	7,820	4,460	17,300
May	1,910	10,900	2,210	10,000	4,770	22,000
June	2,280	13,200	1,950	12,000	4,550	26,600
July	2,220	15,400	1,890	13,900	4,480	31,100
August	1,860	17,200	2,160	16,000	4,490	35,600
September	1,770	19,000	2,070	18,100	4,120	39,700
October	1,610	20,600	1,940	20,000	4,290	44,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country and type of product	2015			2016		
	January–October	October		January–October	January–October	
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Canada	5,540	500	\$33,900	5,640	\$390,000	\$69.23
China	252	254	8,900	619	21,700	34.99
Mexico	895	69	6,240	244	20,800	85.09
Other	74	(4)	29	51	3,130	61.31
Total	6,760	824	49,000	6,550	436,000	66.51
Concentrates	265	14	1,720	73	9,330	127.77
Fine ores	29	26	1,540	97	6,190	63.81
Pellets	5,760	762	43,400	6,270	413,000	65.84
Other	707	22	2,380	110	7,340	66.75
Total	6,760	824	49,000	6,550	436,000	66.51

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²All countries with less than 5,000 metric tons of exports per month included in "Other."

³Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2015			2016		
	January–October	October		January–October	January–October	
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Argentina	97	51	\$4,120	87	\$8,600	\$98.86
Brazil	1,940	161	11,900	1,500	109,000	72.50
Canada	1,580	130	9,280	557	38,800	69.57
Other	254	(4)	5	542	56,700	104.66
Total	3,870	342	25,300	2,680	213,000	79.24
Concentrates	697	109	4,600	707	34,100	48.27
Fine Ores	175	51	4,120	236	34,600	146.69
Pellets	2,960	182	16,500	1,720	142,000	82.58
Other	42	--	--	22	2,080	94.32
Total	3,870	342	25,300	2,680	213,000	79.24

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²All countries with less than 5,000 metric tons of imports per month included in "Other."

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}

(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	Pellets			Total, all products		
	January–October		October	January–October		October
	2015	2016	2016	2015	2016	2016
Chicago, IL (39)	13	5	--	1,290	576	109
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,720	1,680	182	2,170	1,860	233
Other	1,220	32	--	416	243	--
Total	2,960	1,720	182	3,870	2,680	342

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Customs Districts with less than 5,000 metric tons of imports per month included in "Other."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.