

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 2017

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in June 2017 were 4.05 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.12 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 135,000 metric tons (t), 9% more than that of May 2017 and 8% more than that of June 2016. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 171,000 t, 10% more than those in May 2017 and 13% more than those in June 2016. Mine stocks at the end of June 2017 were 10% less than those held at the end of May 2017 and slightly less than those held at the end of June 2016.

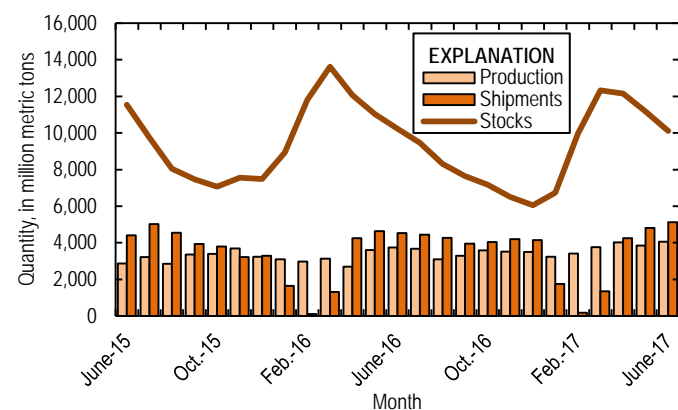


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from June 2015 through June 2017.

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.

U.S. exports of iron ore totaled 1.09 Mt in June 2017, 10% greater than those in May 2017 and 45% greater than those in June 2016. U.S. imports of iron ore totaled 210,000 t in June 2017, 33% less than those in May and 28% less than those in June 2016 (fig. 2).

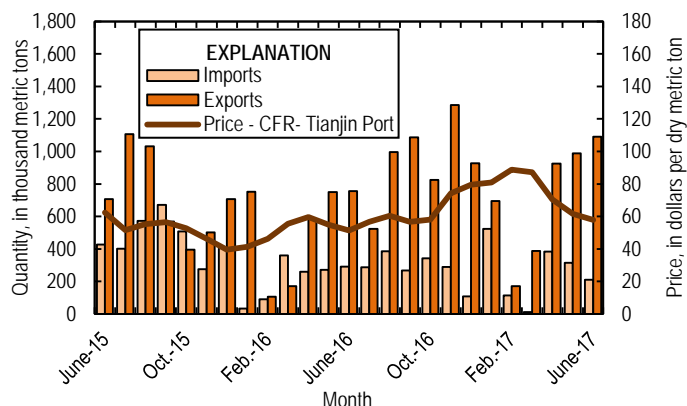


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content CFR, at Tianjin Port, from June 2015 through June 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons, usable ore)

Period	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2016:					
June	3,740	19,200	4,540	16,500	10,200
July	3,670	22,900	4,430	20,900	9,470
August	3,100	26,000	4,270	25,200	8,300
September	3,290	29,300	3,950	29,100	7,630
October	3,580	32,900	4,050	33,200	7,170
November	3,520	36,400	4,200	37,400	6,500
December	3,510	39,900	4,140	41,500	6,050
2017:					
January	3,240	3,240	1,740	1,740	6,730
February	3,420	6,660	179	1,920	9,970
March	3,760	10,400	1,340	3,260	12,400
April	4,020	14,400	4,250	7,510	12,200
May	3,840 ^r	18,300	4,820	12,300	11,200
June	4,050	22,300	5,120	17,400	10,100

^rRevised.

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
2016:						
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
November	1,660	22,300	1,920	22,000	4,260	48,200
December	1,810	24,100	2,090	24,100	4,370	52,600
2017:						
January	1,940	1,940	2,240	2,240	4,740	4,740
February	1,930	3,870	2,140	4,380	4,280	9,020
March	1,960	5,830	2,250	6,630	4,640	13,700
April	1,870	7,700	2,150	8,780	4,540	18,200
May	1,940	9,630	2,210	11,000	4,690	22,900
June	1,830	11,500	2,090	13,100	4,700	27,600

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

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	2016	2017		2017		
	January–June	June		January–June		
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Canada	3,080	685	50,500	3,070	224,000	73.14
Japan	(4)	395	14,600	1,040	54,700	52.66
Mexico	34	11	1,580	76	9,650	126.93
Other	8	--	--	78	5,550	71.21
Total	3,120	1,090	66,700	4,260	294,000	69.09
Concentrates	14	2	353	31	3,430	110.52
Fine ores	(4)	(4)	5	30	2,130	70.97
Pellets	3,070	1,090	66,300	4,130	284,000	68.67
Other	34	(4)	49	68	5,150	75.71
Total	3,120	1,090	66,700	4,260	294,000	69.09

-- 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 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	2016	2017		2017		
	January–June	June		January–June		
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Argentina	--	29	4,560	29	4,560	157.07
Brazil	732	76	9,750	866	91,200	105.32
Canada	265	66	8,730	235	25,800	109.74
Peru	38	11	1,450	31	11,400	366.39
South Africa	--	28	1,930	28	1,930	69.00
Other	269	(4)	25	368	31,800	86.49
Total	1,300	210	26,400	1,560	167,000	107.05
Concentrates	227	28	1,930	245	17,600	71.94
Fine Ores	68	40	6,030	83	18,300	220.00
Pellets	1,010	143	18,500	1,230	131,000	106.50
Other	(4)	--	--	(4)	10	2.50
Total	1,300	210	26,400	1,560	167,000	107.05

-- 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–June		June	January–June		June
	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017	2017
Chicago, IL (39)	--	--	--	197	95	28
Columbia-Snake, OR (29)	--	--	--	--	29	29
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,010	1,230	143	1,090	1,420	154
Other	--	--	--	21	12	(3)
Total	1,010	1,230	143	1,300	1,560	210

-- 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."

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.