

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN JULY 2017

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in July 2017 were 4.21 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.24 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 136,000 metric tons (t), slightly greater than that of June and 15% greater than that of July 2016. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 169,000 t, slightly less than those in June and 18% greater than those in July 2016. Mine stocks at the end of July 2017 were 10% less than those held at the end of June 2017 and 4% less than those held at the end of July 2016.

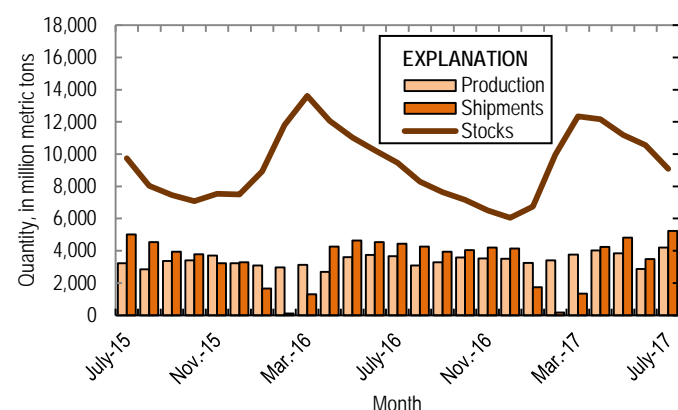


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from July 2015 through July 2017.

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 941,000 t in July 2017, 14% less than those in June 2017 and nearly double those in July 2016. U.S. imports of iron ore totaled 463,000 t in July 2017, more than double those in June and 61% greater than those in July 2016 (fig. 2).

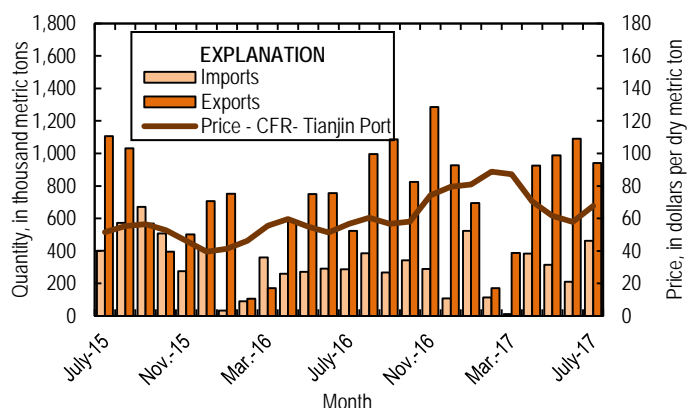


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content CFR, at Tianjin Port, from July 2015 through July 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons, usable ore)

Period	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2016:					
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	18,300	4,820	12,300	11,200
June	4,050	22,300	5,120	17,400	10,100
July	4,210	26,500	5,240	22,700	9,080

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes byproduct ores and iron metallics.

<sup>3</sup>Includes rail and vessel.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL, BY TYPE OF FURNACE<sup>1</sup>

(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:						
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
July	1,860	13,300	2,200	15,300	4,760	32,400

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 OR LOCALITY AND TYPE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country or locality and type of product	2016	2017				
	January–July	July		January–July		
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>3</sup> (dollars per ton)
Austria	--	21	1,620	21	1,620	77.00
Canada	3,580	615	50,600	3,680	275,000	74.68
Germany	--	15	1,290	15	1,290	85.73
Japan	(4)	290	11,000	1,330	63,700	49.03
Other	61	(4)	50	153	17,300	94.36
Total	3,640	941	64,500	5,200	359,000	68.99
Concentrates	19	31	3,250	62	6,670	107.65
Fine ores	(4)	(4)	10	31	2,140	69.00
Pellets	3,590	895	60,000	5,020	343,000	68.37
Other	34	15	1,300	83	6,440	77.63
Total	3,640	941	64,500	5,200	359,000	68.99

-- Zero.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY AND TYPE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country or locality of origin and type of product	2016	2017				
	January–July	July		January–July		
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>3</sup> (dollars per ton)
Brazil	863	208	15,400	1,070	107,000	99.22
Canada	351	161	13,200	396	39,000	98.52
Chile	54	16	1,190	166	13,400	80.54
Sweden	241	78	8,760	230	22,700	98.48
Other	109 <sup>r</sup>	--	--	153	23,600	154.25
Total	1,620 <sup>r</sup>	463	38,500	2,020	205,000	101.58
Concentrates	311 <sup>r</sup>	242	11,400	488	29,000	59.49
Fine Ores	116	(4)	45	84	18,300	217.92
Pellets	1,170	219	27,100	1,450	158,000	109.07
Other	22	1	23	2	33	16.50
Total	1,620 <sup>r</sup>	463	38,500	2,020	205,000	101.58

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT<sup>1, 2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	Pellets			Total, all products		
	January–July		July	January–July		July
	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017	2017
Chicago, IL (39)	5	--	--	285 <sup>r</sup>	321	226
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,160	1,450	219	1,250	1,660	235
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	--	--	--	2	2
Other	10	--	--	81 <sup>r</sup>	40	(3)
Total	1,170	1,450	219	1,620 <sup>r</sup>	2,020	463

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.