

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 2017

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in September 2017 were 4.18 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.38 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 139,000 metric tons (t), 13% greater than that of August and 27% greater than that of September 2016. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 179,000 t, 7% greater than those in August and 36% greater than those in September 2016. Mine stocks at the end of September 2017 were 16% less than those held at the end of August 2017 and 15% less than those held at the end of September 2016.

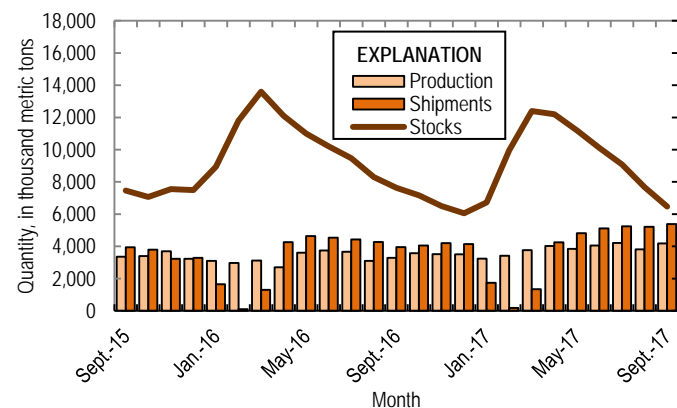


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from September 2015 through September 2017.

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 1.20 Mt in September 2017, 23% less than those in August 2017 and 10% greater than those in September 2016. U.S. imports of iron ore totaled 178,000 t in September 2017, less than one-half those in August and 33% less than those in September 2016 (fig. 2).

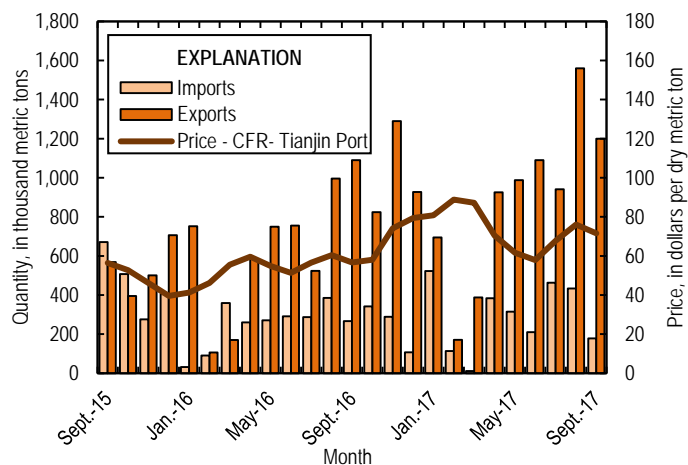


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content CFR, at Tianjin Port, from September 2015 through September 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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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:					
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
August	3,810	30,300	5,210	27,900	7,670
September	4,180	34,500	5,380	33,300	6,470

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:						
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
August	1,930	15,300	2,250	17,500	4,850	37,200
September	1,850	17,100	2,160	19,700	4,490	41,700

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 OR LOCALITY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country or locality and type of product	2016	2017		2017		
	January–September	September		January–September		
	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	5,140	917	69,400	5,770	430,000	74.51
Germany	--	24	1,270	39	2,560	65.64
Japan	85	228	13,700	1,950	102,000	52.44
Mexico	175	32	4,070	108	13,800	127.66
Other	325 ^r	--	--	99	7,210	72.78
Total	5,720 ^r	1,200	88,500	7,960	556,000	69.75
Concentrates	60	42	4,390	116	13,000	111.71
Fine ores	71	(4)	11	31	2,160	69.68
Pellets	5,500 ^r	1,160	84,100	7,730	534,000	69.05
Other	88	(4)	16	83	6,480	78.02
Total	5,720 ^r	1,200	88,500	7,960	556,000	69.75

^rRevised. -- 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 OR LOCALITY AND TYPE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country or locality of origin and type of product	2016	2017		2017		
	January–September	September		January–September		
	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)
Brazil	1,240 ^r	29	1,320	1,460	138,000	94.33
Canada	427	53	3,620	457	42,900	93.93
Chile	62	59	4,210	226	17,600	77.82
South Africa	43	28	1,930	56	3,860	68.96
Sweden	324	8	466	282	26,600	94.26
Other	150 ^r	--	--	149	24,400	163.76
Total	2,240 ^r	178	11,600	2,630	253,000	96.26
Concentrates	499 ^r	167	11,100	854	51,300	60.10
Fine Ores	186	(4)	10	152	24,700	162.34
Pellets	1,540	--	--	1,610	177,000	109.97
Other	22	10	488	19	658	34.63
Total	2,240 ^r	178	11,600	2,630	253,000	96.26

^rRevised. -- 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–September		September	January–September		September
	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017	2017
Chicago, IL (39)	5	--	--	467 ^r	511	108
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	32	--	--	74	126	8
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,500	1,610	--	1,630	1,900	59
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	--	--	--	12	2
Other	-- ^r	--	--	71 ^r	79	(3)
Total	1,540	1,610	--	2,240 ^r	2,630	178

^rRevised. -- 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.