

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2017

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in November 2017 were 4.47 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.33 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 149,000 metric tons (t), 7% greater than that of October and 27% greater than that of November 2016. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 144,000 t, slightly less than those in October and 3% greater than those in November 2016. Mine stocks at the end of November 2017 were slightly greater than those held at the end of October 2017 and slightly less than those held at the end of November 2016.

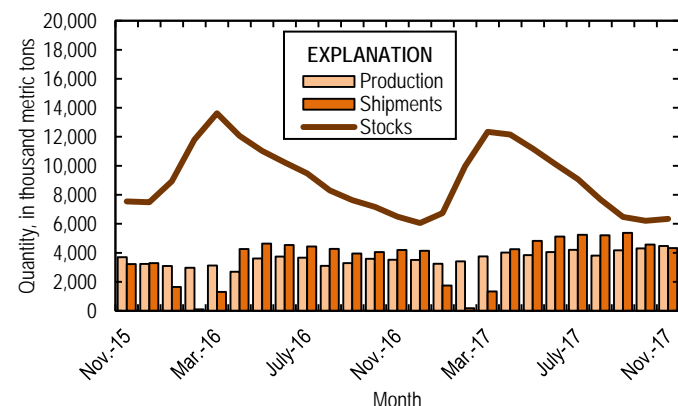


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from November 2015 through November 2017.

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 943,000 t in November 2017, 9% less than those in October 2017 and 27% less than those in November 2016. U.S. imports of iron ore totaled 320,000 t in November 2017, 45% greater than those in October and 11% greater than those in November 2016 (fig. 2).

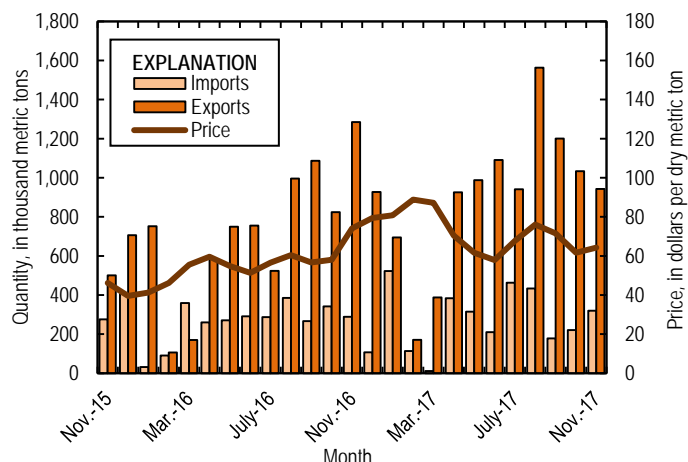


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, from November 2015 through November 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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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:					
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
October	4,300	38,800	4,570	37,800	6,210
November	4,470	43,300	4,330	42,200	6,350

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:						
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
October	1,690	18,800	2,000	21,700	4,860	46,500
November	1,770	20,600	1,980	23,700	4,660	51,200

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–November	November		January–November		
	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	6,490	681	48,400	7,240	542,000	74.77
Japan	364	206	12,600	2,330	125,000	53.77
Mexico	300	55	4,980	196	22,600	115.39
Other	654 ^r	--	--	171	12,400	72.50
Total	7,810 ^r	943	66,000	9,940	702,000	70.61
Concentrates	77	4	546	135	15,800	116.93
Fine ores	110 ^r	(4)	9	31	2,180	70.35
Pellets	7,430 ^r	939	65,400	9,660	675,000	69.87
Other	193	(4)	6	116	9,130	78.66
Total	7,810 ^r	943	66,000	9,940	702,000	70.61

^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–November	November		January–November		
	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	1,660 ^r	113	11,300	1,760	164,000	93.21
Canada	557	136	13,100	629	57,400	91.33
South Africa	71	25	1,830	80	5,690	71.14
Sweden	350	46	4,380	328	31,000	94.39
Other	262 ^r	(4)	8	375	42,000	111.99
Total	2,900 ^r	320	30,700	3,170	300,000	94.62
Concentrates	691 ^r	87	6,130	1,050	63,200	60.18
Fine Ores	262	31	2,660	184	27,500	149.33
Pellets	1,930 ^r	189	20,600	1,900	207,000	109.18
Other	22	13	1,270	38	2,040	53.55
Total	2,900 ^r	320	30,700	3,170	300,000	94.62

^rRevised.

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–November		November	January–November		November
	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017	2017
Chicago, IL (39)	5	28	--	659	757	109
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	63	33	33	104	165	39
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,860	1,840	157	2,070	2,140	157
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	--	--	--	1	1
Tampa, FL (18)	--	--	--	23	14	14
Other	-- ^r	--	--	48 ^r	98	(3)
Total	1,930 ^r	1,900	189	2,900 ^r	3,170	320

^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.