

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 2018

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in June 2018 were 4.51 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.37 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 150,000 metric tons (t), about 13% more than that of May and 11% more than that of June 2017. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 179,000 t, slightly more than those in May and 5% more than those in June 2017. Mine stocks at the end of June 2018 were 7% less than those held at the end of May and 20% more than those held at the end of June 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

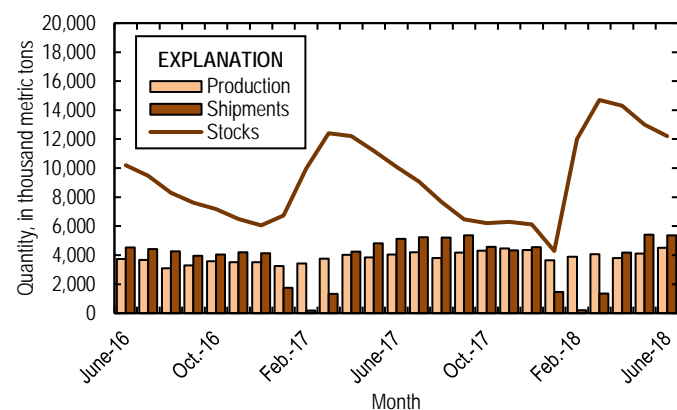


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from June 2016 through June 2018.

Monthly iron ore data are reported as gross weight unless otherwise noted and do not include iron metalics such as pig iron, direct-reduced iron, hot-briquetted iron, or iron nuggets.

U.S. exports of iron ore were 1.49 Mt in June 2018, 8% less than those in May and 37% more than those in June 2017 (fig. 2, table 3). U.S. imports of iron ore were 322,000 t in June 2018,

30% more than those in May and 53% more than those in June 2017 (fig. 2, table 4).

Seasonal variations of exports, imports, shipments, and stocks during the winter months are attributed to freezing of waterways and the closing of the Soo Locks, which are used to transport iron ore in the Great Lakes region through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

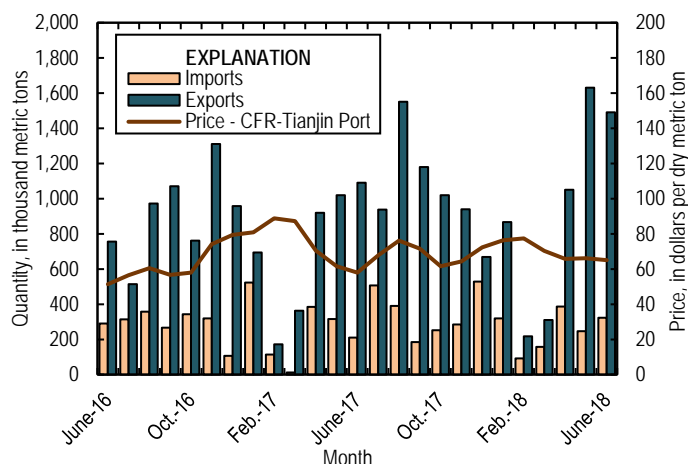


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, from June 2016 through June 2018. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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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
2017:					
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	6,300
December	4,360	47,600	4,560	46,700	6,120
2018:					
January	3,640	3,640	1,470	1,470	8,290
February	3,900	7,540	214	1,680	12,000
March	4,070	11,600	1,360	3,050	14,700
April	3,810	15,400	4,180	7,230	14,300
May	4,120	19,500	5,420	12,600	13,000
June	4,510	24,000	5,370	18,000	12,200

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
2017:						
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
December	1,840	22,400	2,120	25,800	4,620	55,800
2018:						
January	1,920	1,920	2,240	2,240	4,650	4,650
February	1,790	3,710	1,980	4,210	4,620	9,270
March	1,970	5,680	2,270	6,490	5,060	14,300
April	1,930	7,600	2,200	8,690	4,720	19,000
May	2,070	9,680	2,400	11,100	4,860	23,900
June	2,060	11,700	2,330	13,400	4,730	28,600

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

Country or locality and type of product	2017	2018		2018		
	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	3,070	1,100	80,700	4,300	311,000	72.23
Japan	901 ^r	367	22,000	810	50,800	62.77
Mexico	76	22	2,280	338	36,100	106.89
Other	219 ^r	--	--	114	4,840	42.47
Total	4,260	1,490	105,000	5,560	402,000	72.35
Concentrates	31	3	407	52	6,770	130.21
Fine ores	30	(4)	12	(4)	79	19.75
Pellets	4,130	1,490	105,000	5,430	392,000	72.33
Other	68	(4)	33	85	3,140	36.96
Total	4,260	1,490	105,000	5,560	402,000	72.35

^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	2017	2018		2018		
	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)
Australia	--	42	4,690	42	4,690	111.67
Brazil	866	188	21,700	1,010	113,000	112.24
Canada	235	56	2,880	278	25,100	90.13
Sweden	152	31	2,940	116	12,300	105.91
Venezuela	--	5	828	10	1,730	172.50
Other	303 ^r	1	33	67	5,240	78.18
Total	1,560	322	33,100	1,520	162,000	106.53
Concentrates	245	30	1,880	299	23,400	78.34
Fine Ores	83	112	10,600	141	12,700	89.76
Pellets	1,230	180	20,600	1,080	126,000	116.53
Other	(4)	--	--	1	67	67.00
Total	1,560	322	33,100	1,520	162,000	106.53

^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–June		June	January–June		June
	2017	2018	2018	2017	2018	2018
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	--	--	(3)	7	7
Chicago, IL (39)	--	28	28	95	207	95
Columbia-Snake, OR (29)	--	--	--	29	42	42
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	(3)	--	(3)	123	2
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,230	1,060	152	1,420	1,140	175
Other	--	--	--	11	1	(3)
Total	1,230	1,080	180	1,560	1,520	322

-- 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.