

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN AUGUST 2018

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in August 2018 were 3.88 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.31 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 125,000 metric tons (t), about 13% less than that of July and slightly more than that of August 2017. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 171,000 t, 6% less than those in July and slightly more than those in August 2017. Mine stocks at the end of August 2018 were 13% less than those held at the end of July and 24% more than those held at the end of August 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

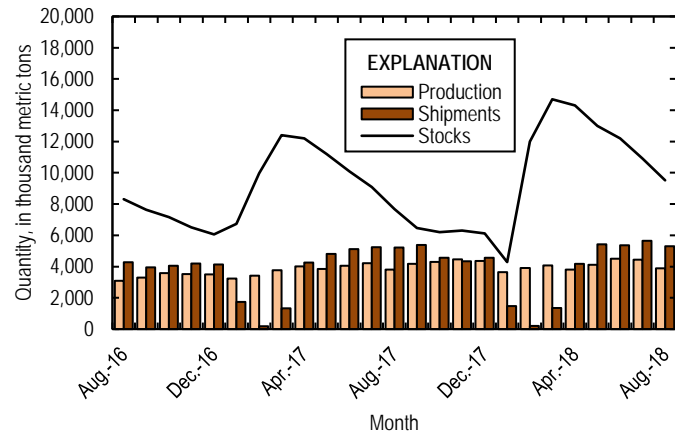


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from August 2016 through August 2018.

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 were 1.35 Mt in August 2018, 12% less than those in July and 14% less than those in August 2017 (fig. 2, table 3). U.S. imports of iron ore were 442,000 t in

August 2018, 40% more than those in July and slightly more than those in August 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.

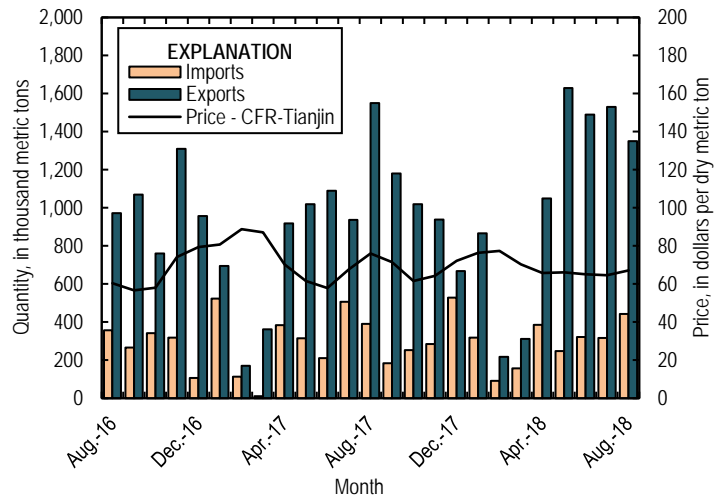


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for iron ore import fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, China, from August 2016 through August 2018. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE<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
2017:					
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
July	4,440	28,500	5,640	23,700	10,900
August	3,880	32,400	5,310	29,000	9,520

<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
2017:						
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
July	2,100	13,800	2,370	15,800	5,010	33,700
August	2,030	15,900	2,340	18,100	5,140	38,800

<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	2017		2018			
	January–August Quantity (thousand metric tons)	August		January–August		
		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)
Canada	4,850	927	80,300	6,440	474,000	73.61
Germany	15	4	1,240	117	5,810	49.66
Japan	1,590 <sup>r</sup>	343	20,400	1,450	88,600	61.13
Mexico	76	74	4,980	435	43,000	98.83
Other	240 <sup>r</sup>	(4)	46	3	719	239.67
Total	6,770 <sup>r</sup>	1,350	107,000	8,440	612,000	72.50
Concentrates	74	19	3,320	83	11,800	141.78
Fine ores	31	(4)	30	(4)	139	34.75
Pellets	6,580	1,290	102,000	8,220	594,000	72.29
Other	83	43	1,600	141	6,060	42.96
Total	6,770 <sup>r</sup>	1,350	107,000	8,440	612,000	72.50

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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	2017		2018			
	January–August Quantity (thousand metric tons)	August		January–August		
		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	1,430	239	25,900	1,500	165,000	109.96
Canada	404	85	10,200	391	36,900	94.49
Russia	65	67	8,290	67	8,290	123.76
South Africa	28	28	2,890	29	2,950	101.66
Sweden	274 <sup>r</sup>	17	1,220	133	13,500	101.52
Venezuela	--	5	886	16	2,610	163.25
Other	251 <sup>r</sup>	(4)	36	145	12,000	82.60
Total	2,450	442	49,400	2,280	241,000	105.75
Concentrates	687	86	6,030	504	35,900	71.19
Fine Ores	152	17	1,220	189	15,700	83.18
Pellets	1,610	339	42,100	1,590	190,000	119.43
Other	9	--	--	1	67	67.00
Total	2,450	442	49,400	2,280	241,000	105.75

<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–August		August	January–August		August
	2017	2018	2018	2017	2018	2018
Chicago, IL (39)	--	28	--	403	402	85
Detroit, MI (38)	--	--	--	(3)	17	17
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,610 <sup>r</sup>	1,560	339	1,850 <sup>r</sup>	1,690	339
Other	--	--	--	206 <sup>r</sup>	177	2
Total	1,610 <sup>r</sup>	1,590	339	2,450 <sup>r</sup>	2,280	442

<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.