

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN APRIL 2022

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

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in April 2022 were estimated to be 3.8 million metric tons (Mt) and 4.7 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 127,000 metric tons (t), a 7% increase from that in March and a 6% decrease from that in April 2021. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 155,000 t, more than double those in March and a 3% decrease from those in April 2021. Mine stocks were estimated to be 6.9 Mt at the end of April 2022, an 11% decrease from those held at the end of March 2022, and a 39% decrease from those held at the end of April 2021 (fig. 1, table 1).

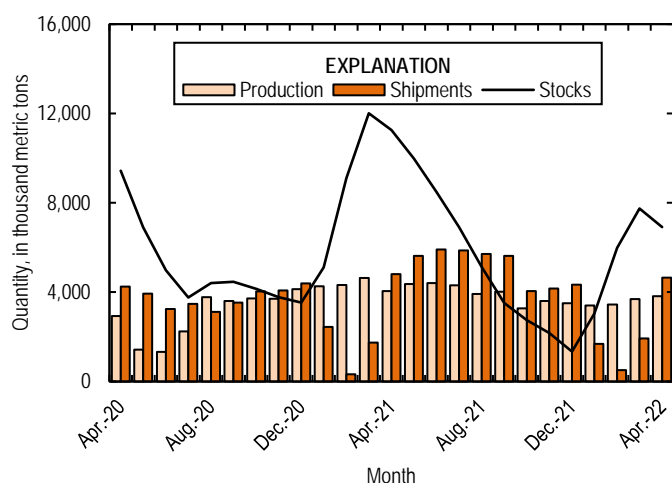


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from April 2020 through April 2022.

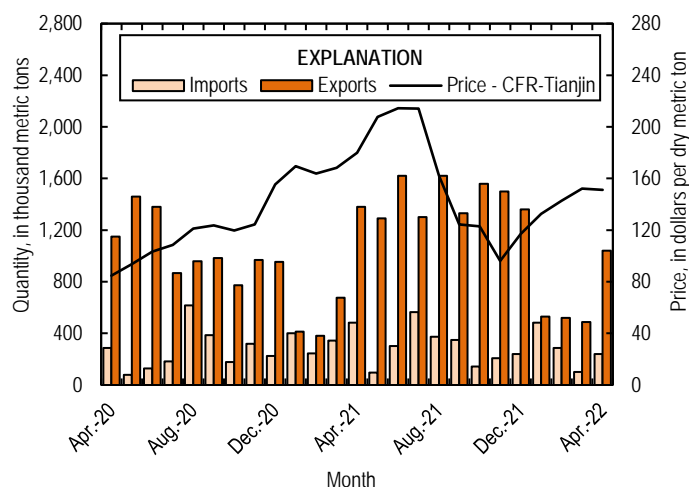


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, China, from April 2020 through April 2022. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and IndexMundi, undated.

U.S. exports of iron ore were 1.0 Mt in April 2022, more than double those in March and a 24% decrease from those in April 2021 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). U.S. imports of iron ore were 239,000 t in April 2022, more than double those in March and a 50% decrease from those in April 2021 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$151.25 per dry metric ton in April 2022, essentially unchanged from \$152.07 per dry metric ton in March 2022 (fig. 2).

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TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons, usable ore)

Period	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2021:					
April	4,050	17,300	4,810	9,310	11,300
May	4,360	21,600	5,630	14,900	9,980
June	4,400	26,000	5,910	20,900	8,470
July	4,310	30,300	5,870	26,700	6,910
August	3,920	34,300	5,710	32,400	5,120
September	4,020	38,300	5,620	38,100	3,520
October	3,270	41,600	4,050	42,100	2,740
November	3,600	45,200	4,170	46,300	2,170
December	3,510	48,700	4,340	50,600	1,340
2022:					
January	3,400	3,400	1,690	1,690	3,050
February	3,440	6,840	510	2,200	5,980
March	3,690	10,500	1,930	4,130	7,740
April	3,820	14,400	4,650	8,780	6,910

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data are estimated based on publicly reported data, employment hours, and historical ratios. Excludes 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 ²		Raw steel production	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2021:				
April	1,920	7,500	7,130	27,500
May	2,020	9,520	7,370	34,900
June	1,970	11,500	7,170	42,100
July	2,040	13,500	7,480	49,500
August	2,050	15,600	7,520	57,100
September	1,950	17,500	7,150	64,200
October	2,010	19,500	7,380	71,600
November	1,930	21,500	7,100	78,700
December	1,940	23,400	7,100	85,800
2022:				
January	1,740	1,740	6,970	6,970
February	1,640	3,380	6,370	13,300
March	1,820	5,200	6,870	20,200
April	1,840	7,040	6,950	27,200

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Pig iron data are estimated based on historical ratios.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute, U.S. Geological Survey estimates.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY AND TYPE ^{1,2}

Country or locality and type of product	2021	2022				
	January-April	April		January-April		
	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	1,120 ^r	556	49,600	1,200	106,000	87.75
China	492 ^r	150	15,100	450	52,500	116.77
India	--	75	11,800	149	21,800	146.47
Japan	394	185	4,120	237	6,300	26.57
Spain	120	77	4,850	202	13,300	65.92
Other	730 ^r	1	157	343	46,800	136.46
Total	2,850	1,040	85,600	2,590	246,000	95.33
Concentrates	529 ^r	149	22,100	617	99,200	160.72
Fine ores	(4)	(4)	84	1	257	257.00
Pellets	2,170 ^r	895	63,400	1,880	144,000	76.57
Other	153	(4)	5	88	3,140	35.73
Total	2,850	1,040	85,600	2,590	246,000	95.33

^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}

Country or locality of origin and type of product	2021	2022				
	January-April	April		January-April		
	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	925 ^r	156	28,200	554	112,000	201.44
Canada	249	76	12,300	310	70,800	228.42
Ukraine	--	6	761	13	2,490	191.15
Other	298 ^r	1	166	233	46,300	198.61
Total	1,470	239	41,500	1,110	231,000	208.25
Concentrates	36	--	--	61	6,680	109.51
Fine Ores	105	(4)	34	28	5,370	191.64
Pellets	1,320	238	41,300	1,020	219,000	214.63
Other	10	1	133	1	201	201.00
Total	1,470	239	41,500	1,110	231,000	208.44

^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}

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	Pellets			Total, all products		
	January-April		April 2022	January-April		April 2022
	2021	2022		2021	2022	
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	48	38	9	58	38	10
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,270	982	229	1,370 ^r	1,070	229
Other	--	(3)	--	46 ^r	1	(3)
Total	1,320	1,020	238	1,470	1,110	239

^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.

TABLE 6
U.S. IRON ORE TRADE SUMMARY¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value ²	Quantity	Value ³
2021:				
January-April	2,850	252,000	1,470	232,000
April	1,380	109,000	482	82,700
May	1,290	109,000	95	19,300
June	1,620	138,000	302	58,700
July	1,300	132,000	564	123,000
August	1,620	152,000	374	91,800
September	1,330	139,000	348	91,600
October	1,560	138,000	142	31,800
November	1,500	114,000	207	45,900
December	1,360	115,000	239	55,700
January–December	14,400	1,290,000	3,740	750,000
2022:				
January	531	48,200	484	112,000
February	521	66,800	286	58,100
March	489	45,900	101	19,800
April	1,040	85,600	239	41,500
January–April	2,590	246,000	1,110	231,000

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

²Free alongside ship (FAS) value.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.