

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 2019

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in June 2019 were 4.09 million metric tons (Mt) and 5.23 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 136,000 metric tons (t), a 7% decrease from that of May and a 9% decrease from that of June 2018. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 174,000 t, a 15% increase from those in May and a 3% decrease from those in June 2018. Mine stocks were 10.9 Mt at the end of June 2019, a 9% decrease from those held at the end of May and an 11% decrease from those held at the end of June 2018 (fig. 1, table 1).

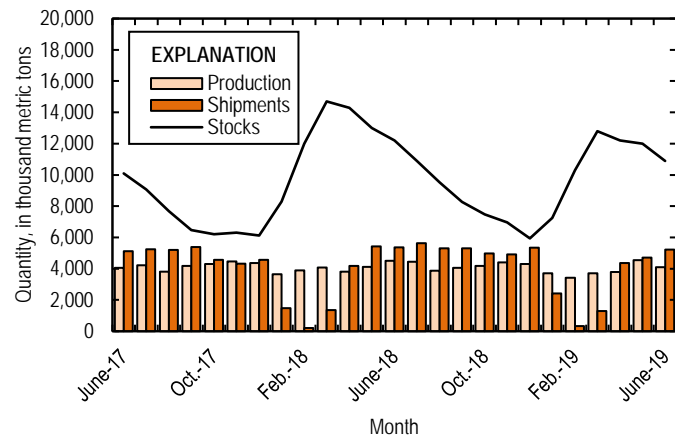


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from June 2017 through June 2019.

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 1.34 Mt in June 2019, a 5% increase from those in May and a 10% decrease from those in June 2018 (fig. 2, table 3, 6). U.S. imports of iron ore were 471,000 t in June 2019, a 4% decrease from those in May and a 46% decrease from those in June 2018 (fig. 2, table 4, 6). The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost

and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$108.94 per dry metric ton in June 2019, an 8.8% increase from \$100.15 per dry metric ton in May and a 67% increase from \$65.04 per dry metric ton in June 2018 (fig. 2).

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 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, which are used to transport iron ore in the Great Lakes region through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

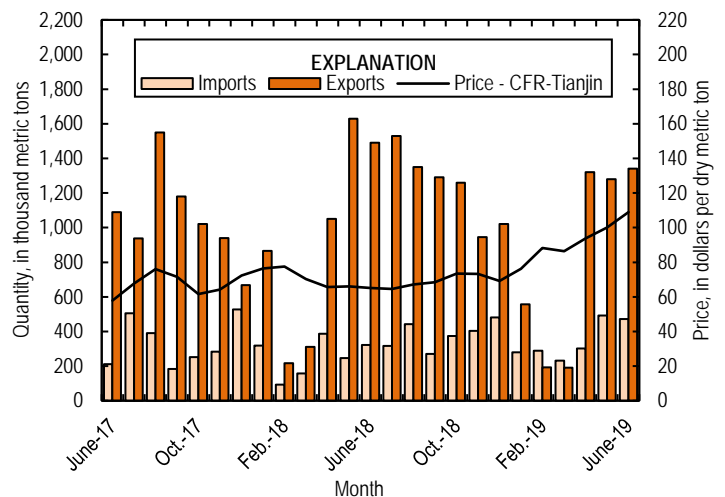


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, China, from June 2017 through June 2019. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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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
2018:					
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
September	4,050	36,400	5,300	34,300	8,270
October	4,180	40,600	4,970	39,200	7,480
November	4,400	45,000	4,910	44,100	6,970
December	4,310	49,300	5,340	49,500	5,940
2019:					
January	3,710	3,710	2,410	2,410	7,240
February	3,430	7,130	326	2,740	10,300
March	3,710	10,800	1,300	4,040	12,800
April	3,780	14,600	4,360	8,400	12,200
May	4,540	19,200	4,710	13,100	12,000
June	4,090	23,300	5,230	18,300	10,900

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
2018:						
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
September	2,010	17,900	2,350	20,500	4,910	43,700
October	2,060	19,900	2,360	22,800	5,190	48,900
November	2,030	22,000	2,380	25,200	5,020	53,900
December	2,100	24,100	2,490	27,700	4,990	58,900
2019:						
January	1,880	1,880	2,330	2,330	5,190	5,190
February	1,840	3,720	2,140	4,470	4,810	10,000
March	2,080	5,800	2,390	6,870	5,290	15,300
April	1,860	7,670	2,170	9,040	5,190	20,500
May	1,930	9,600	2,430	11,500	5,120	25,600
June	1,900	11,500	2,380	13,900	4,870	30,500

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	2018		2019			
	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	4,310 ^r	969	86,600	3,590	320,000	89.00
Japan	807 ^r	293	18,200	995	61,300	61.64
Mexico	338	45	1,780	78	6,030	77.33
Other	114	32	2,750	206	36,700	177.96
Total	5,570 ^r	1,340	109,000	4,870	424,000	86.99
Concentrates	52	32	2,800	133	36,100	271.07
Fine ores	(4)	(4)	26	(4)	114	9.25
Pellets	5,440 ^r	1,260	105,000	4,600	383,000	83.13
Other	84 ^r	46	1,740	137	5,050	36.88
Total	5,570 ^r	1,340	109,000	4,870	424,000	86.99

^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 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	2018		2019			
	January–June Quantity (thousand metric tons)	June		January–June		
		Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Brazil	1,010	160	16,300	986	124,000	125.95
Canada	278	105	13,500	522	65,700	125.95
Chile	37	--	--	102	10,300	100.75
Russia	--	69	11,500	261	38,300	146.66
Sweden	116	44	3,430	62	5,420	87.47
Other	82 ^r	93	4,580	131	8,270	63.13
Total	1,520	471	49,200	2,060	252,000	122.18
Concentrates	299	139	9,000	470	38,400	81.75
Fine Ores	141	85	4,550	85	4,660	22.00
Pellets	1,080	247	35,600	1,500	209,000	138.94
Other	1	(⁴)	43	6	273	45.50
Total	1,520	471	49,200	2,060	252,000	122.18

^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
	2018	2019	2019	2018	2019	2019
Chicago, IL (39)	28	15	15	207	218	97
Columbia -Snake (OR (29)	--	--	--	42	42	42
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	(3)	--	--	123	104	11
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	11	--	--	11	--
Mobile, AL (19)	--	21	--	--	21	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,060	1,460	232	1,140	1,660	312
Other	--	--	--	8 ^r	9	8
Total	1,080	1,500	247	1,520	2,060	471

^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
2018:				
January–June	5,570 ^r	402,000	1,520	162,000
June	1,490	105,000	322	33,100
July	1,530	103,000	316	29,600
August	1,350	107,000	442	49,400
September	1,290	103,000	271	23,100
October	1,260	100,000	373	35,200
November	946	77,200	403	38,500
December	1,020	82,900	482	50,400
January–December	12,900	975,000	3,810	388,000
2019:				
January	556	48,600	280	33,300
February	192	14,400	288	38,700
March	191	16,200	231	32,100
April	1,320	108,000	301	37,300
May	1,280	128,000	493	61,500
June	1,340	109,000	471	49,200
January–June	4,880	424,000	2,060	252,000

^rRevised.

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.