

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 2020

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in June 2020 were 1.32 million metric tons (Mt) and 3.24 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 43,900 metric tons (t), a 4% decrease from that of May 2020 and a 68% decrease from that of June 2019. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 108,000 t, a 15% decrease from those in May and a 38% decrease from those in June 2019. Mine stocks were 4.98 Mt at the end of June 2020, a 28% decrease from stocks held at the end of May and a 38% decrease from those held in June 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

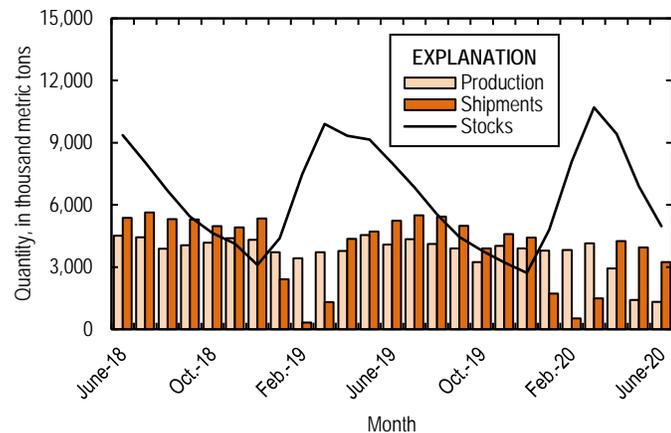


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from June 2018 through June 2020.

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 1.38 Mt in June 2020, a 6% decrease from those in May and a 3% increase from those in June 2019 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). U.S. imports of iron ore were 129,000 t in June 2020, a 65% increase from those in May 2020

and a 73% decrease from those in June 2019 (fig. 2, tables 4, 6). The spot price for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight, at Tianjin Port, China, was \$103.30 per dry metric ton in June 2020, an 10% increase from \$93.65 per dry metric ton in May 2020 (fig. 2).

Significant decreases in production, shipments, and trade were owing to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on lower steel production and consumption globally.

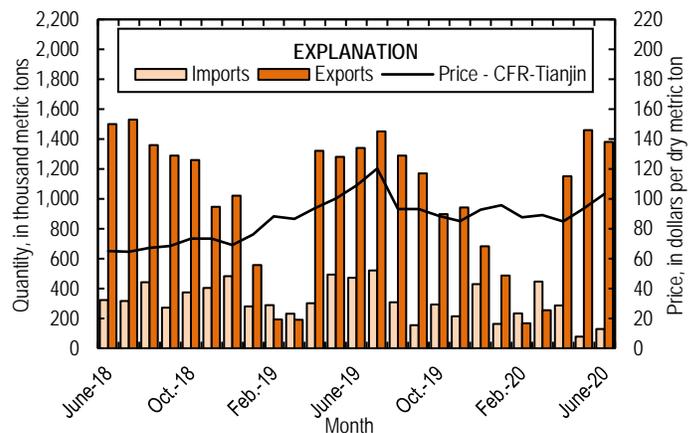


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, China, from June 2018 through June 2020. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

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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
2019:					
June	4,090	23,300	5,230	18,300	8,020
July	4,340	27,600	5,500	23,800	6,850
August	4,120	31,700	5,430	29,300	5,550
September	3,900	35,600	4,990	34,300	4,460
October	3,240	38,900	3,900	38,200	3,800
November	4,030	42,900	4,590	42,700	3,230
December	3,900	46,800	4,420	47,200	2,720
2020:					
January	3,790	3,790	1,720	1,720	4,790
February	3,830	7,620	520	2,240	8,100
March	4,140	11,800	1,490	3,720	10,700
April	2,930	14,700	4,250	7,980	9,430
May	1,420	16,100	3,940	11,900	6,900
June	1,320	17,400	3,240	15,200	4,980

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
2019:						
June	1,900	11,500	2,380	13,900	4,870	30,500
July	1,830	13,300	2,190	16,000	5,230	35,700
August	1,840	15,200	2,180	18,200	5,220	40,900
September	1,870	17,000	2,150	20,400	4,850	45,800
October	1,700	18,700	2,120	22,500	5,130	50,900
November	1,720	20,500	1,970	24,500	5,120	56,000
December	1,850	22,300	2,140	26,600	5,160	61,200
2020:						
January	1,680	1,680	2,270	2,270	5,380	5,380
February	1,920	3,600	2,270	4,540	4,800	10,200
March	1,910	5,510	2,230	6,770	4,770	14,900
April	1,110	6,620	1,240	8,010	3,580	18,500
May	949	7,570	1,100	9,110	3,820	22,300
June	1,170	8,740	1,230	10,300	3,690	26,000

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	2019		2020			
	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	3,590	775	64,000	3,200	266,000	83.32
Japan	1,000 ^r	460	30,800	1,250	84,300	67.34
Slovakia	--	85	3,840	254	14,700	57.89
United Kingdom	50	59	2,050	163	5,690	34.93
Other	190 ^r	(4)	81	38	4,350	114.47
Total	4,830 ^r	1,380	101,000	4,900	375,000	76.57
Concentrates	133	(4)	26	1	225	225.00
Fine ores	(4)	(4)	55	1	222	222.00
Pellets	4,610 ^r	1,320	98,600	4,740	369,000	77.92
Other	93 ^r	59	2,050	163	5,720	35.11
Total	4,830 ^r	1,380	101,000	4,900	375,000	76.57

^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	2019			2020		
	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	24	3,040	24	3,040	126.63
Bahrain	--	74	9,420	74	9,420	127.26
Brazil	986	8	771	556	68,500	123.28
Canada	521 ^r	15	1,740	381	44,300	116.39
Sweden	62	7	668	110	12,600	114.48
Other	452 ^r	(4)	72	187	20,800	111.50
Total	2,060	129	15,700	1,330	159,000	119.11
Concentrates	470	(4)	10	33	2,690	81.42
Fine Ores	85	25	3,100	146	15,700	107.43
Pellets	1,500	97	11,900	1,140	139,000	121.96
Other	6	7	666	12	1,130	94.08
Total	2,060	129	15,700	1,330	159,000	119.11

^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
	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020	2020
Columbia-Snake, OR (29)	--	--	--	42	24	24
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	150	23	104	172	23
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,460	966	74	1,660	1,050	74
Tampa, FL (18)	--	--	--	8	7	7
Other	47 [†]	26	--	251 [†]	82	(3)
Total	1,500	1,140	97	2,060	1,330	129

[†]Revised. -- 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
2019:				
January–June	4,880	424,000	2,060	252,000
June	1,340	109,000	471	49,200
July	1,450	121,000	521	60,800
August	1,290	103,000	307	35,900
September	1,170	105,000	154	20,900
October	897	83,700	293	42,900
November	942	79,500	213	27,900
December	682	67,600	428	58,500
January–December	11,300	983,000	3,980	499,000
2020:				
January	486	45,900	162	21,500
February	168	11,200	233	32,700
March	254	18,800	446	52,300
April	1,150	89,000	286	29,400
May	1,460	110,000	78	7,150
June	1,380	101,000	129	15,700
January–June	4,900	375,000	1,330	159,000

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.