

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Christopher Candice Tuck, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4912, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: ctuck@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7965
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

IRON ORE IN JULY 2020

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in July 2020 were 2.04 million metric tons (Mt) and 3.23 Mt, respectively (fig. 1, table 1). Average daily production of iron ore was 65,900 metric tons (t), a 50% increase from that of June 2020 and a 53% decrease from that of July 2019. Average daily shipments of iron ore were 104,000 t, a 4% decrease from those in June and a 41% decrease from those in July 2019. Mine stocks were 3.80 Mt at the end of July 2020, a 24% decrease from stocks held at the end of June and a 45% decrease from those held in July 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

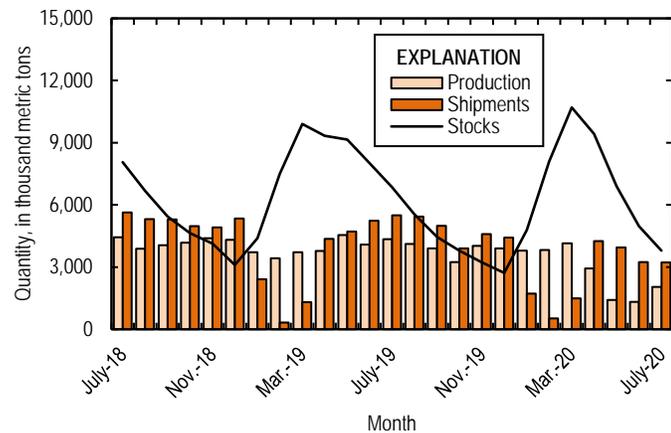


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore from July 2018 through July 2020.

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 867,000 t in July 2020, a 37% decrease from those in June and a 40% decrease from those in July 2019 (fig. 2, tables 3, 6). U.S. imports of iron ore were 183,000 t in July 2020, a 42% increase from those in June 2020 and a 65% decrease from those in July 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 \$108.52 per dry metric ton in July 2020, a 5% increase from \$103.30 per dry metric ton in June 2020 (fig. 2).

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

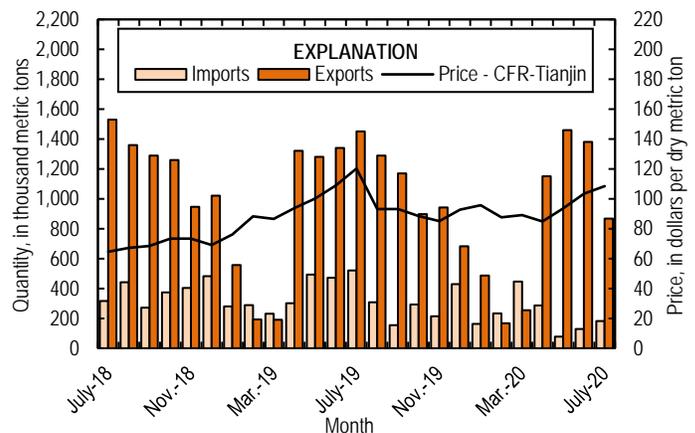


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron ore and spot prices for imported iron ore fines, 62% iron content, cost and freight (CFR), at Tianjin Port, China, from July 2018 through July 2020. Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Index Mundi, undated.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>

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:					
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
July ^e	2,040	19,500	3,230	18,400	3,800

^eEstimated.

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

²Excludes byproduct ores and iron metallica.

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:						
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
July	1,310	10,000	1,500	11,800	3,930	30,000

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–July	July		January–July		
	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)
Austria	34	34	3,280	69	7,210	104.42
Canada	4,600	591	51,800	3,790	318,000	83.98
Slovakia	--	241	16,700	495	31,400	63.41
Other	1,730 ^r	1	190	1,420	90,600	63.95
Total	6,370 ^r	867	72,000	5,770	447,000	77.54
Concentrates	135	1	184	1	409	409.00
Fine ores	1 ^r	(4)	61	1	284	284.00
Pellets	6,050 ^r	866	71,700	5,600	441,000	78.67
Other	183 ^r	1	31	163	5,750	35.30
Total	6,370 ^r	867	72,000	5,770	447,000	77.54

^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–July	July		January–July		
	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)
Bahrain	--	68	8,590	142	18,000	126.84
Brazil	1,320	73	9,000	629	77,500	123.28
Canada	668	4	462	385	44,800	116.38
Sweden	75	39	3,400	149	16,000	10.32
Other	522 ^r	(4)	51	211	23,900	113.43
Total	2,580 ^r	183	21,500	1,520	180,000	118.92
Concentrates	636	--	--	33	2,690	81.42
Fine Ores	93	39	3,450	185	19,100	103.42
Pellets	1,850	144	18,100	1,290	157,000	122.34
Other	6	--	--	12	1,130	94.08
Total	2,580 ^r	183	21,500	1,520	180,000	118.92

^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–July		July	January–July		July
	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020	2020
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	154	5	159 ^r	154	5
New Orleans, LA (20)	1,790	1,110	140	1,990	1,230	179
Other	63 ^r	26	--	435 ^r	136	(3)
Total	1,850	1,290	144	2,580 ^r	1,520	183

^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
2019:				
January–July	6,370 ^r	545,000	2,580 ^r	313,000
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
July	867	72,000	183	21,500
January–July	5,770	447,000	1,520	180,000

^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.