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Daily Virtual Steel Mill Report

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Verdict:

Short-run Neutral.

Macro:

- The US Federal Reserve's "Beige Book" survey shows no change in economic activity from September to early October. Business hiring increased slightly, continuing the recent trend. These statistics reinforces expectations that the Federal will choose a smaller 25 bps rate cut in two weeks.
- The Bank of Canada cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points to 3.75%, in line with market expectations. This is the fourth consecutive rate cut.

Iron Ore Key Indicators:

- Platts62 \$98.25, -1.75, MTD \$104.63. Due to the environmental curb in China Tangshan area, the market expected indirect impact on steel production with lower efficiency on transportation in the area. Indian concentrates saw stronger domestic demand, while export concentrates shift to domestic market. However, China demand on Indian pellets were frozen, which caused the weakness on pellets market.
- The Australian mining company FMG produced 57.1 million tons of iron ore in the third quarter, a decrease of 3% quarter-on-quarter and an increase of 2% year-on-year. The iron ore shipments in the third quarter reached 47.7 million tons, a decrease of 11% quarter-on-quarter and an increase of 4% year-on-year.

SGX Iron Ore 62% Futures& Options Open Interest (Oct 23rd)

- Futures 135,814,000 tons(Increase 135,100 tons)
- Options 185,264,100 tons(Increase 502,000 tons)

Steel Key Indicators:

• In Tangshan, the average cost of hot metal without tax for mainstream sample steel mills is 2418 yuan/ton. The average cost of steel billet with tax is 3194 yuan/ton. Compared with the ex-factory price of billet of 3070 yuan/ton on October 23, the average loss of steel mills is 124 yuan/ton.

Coking Coal and Coke Indicators:

• The seaborne FOB coking coal market remains weak in the week. There are PLVs and BMA LVs reselling interests in the market, which were purchased earlier by ender-users. China CFR market saw wide spread between buyers and sellers.

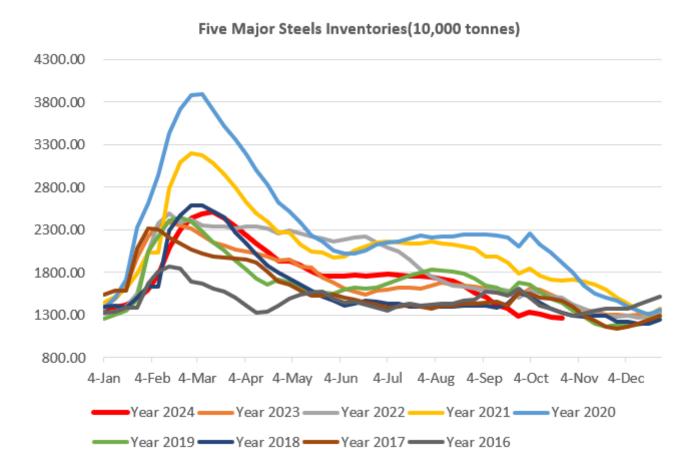
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