

Dry FFA Market Signals

Bull

- **Iron Ore Key Routes:** Iron ore exports are set to rise further, supported by Chinese restocking ahead of the Labour Holiday (1–5 May). Vessel tracking shows shipments surpassing the 4-week average, increasing from 31.0 Mt to 31.6 Mt last week. Demand remains firm into early May, with C5 rebounding to \$7.80 for mid-May laycan and C3 approaching \$20 for 18 May onwards. (Cape)
- **Coal Shipments:** Global coal exports remained stable at ~13.7 MMT per week in April. Capesize volumes rose nearly 40% (+1.5 MMT to 5.3 MMT) last week, while Panamax shipments were steady. Coal demand is expected to strengthen further in the current week, particularly for Capesize. (Cape)
- **TA Market:** Positive sentiment continued in both basins, underpinned by strong grains and minerals flows. P1A posted the most gains among all indices, rising over 20% in a week to \$11,000, while P2A also returned to the high range seen in April, around \$18,000. (Pmx)
- **ECSA Grains:** Solid momentum was seen early last week with stronger fixing rates and forward interest into June. Activity has since moderated, with eased cargo volumes likely this week ahead of Chinese and UK holidays.. (Pmx)
- **China Stimulus:** Top policymakers stated during a Politburo meeting on 25 April that more measures — including timely RRR and interest rate cuts when appropriate — will be introduced to achieve the 5% growth target this year, despite trade tensions. In another development, China may face lower tariffs if the U.S. adopts a tiered approach, reducing duties on "non-threatening to U.S. national security" goods. (Dry bulk)

Bear

- **Market Activity:** Public holidays across key regions may weigh on fresh inquiries, capping short-term gains. (Dry bulk)
- **Chinese Steel Production:** Iron ore prices slipped below \$100 late last week, with muted trading on Monday as the market awaited clarity on possible annual steel output restrictions.. (Dry bulk)

Ferrous Market Signals

Bull

- China steel mills inventory went down 242,100 tons to 90.53 million tons on the week, down 3.12 million tons on the year. Approaching Labor Day holiday, market expected more iron ore restocks in the current two days.
- The iron ore shipment up from Australia and decrease from Brazil during past week. The overall shipments were stable during April.
- The US Tariffs tell less story during past week, as most of steels and ferrous materials under tariff documents were fixed and it is hard to see additional change. However, market participants start to expect some exemptions on steels used in special areas.
- China cokery plants initiated second round of physical coke price increase, yet to receive any feedback from the negotiation.
- Virtual steel margin remain strong from 70-120 yuan/ton in Q2, compared with negative area in Q1.
- China daily pig iron production at 2.44 million tons, strong level on the week and on the year.
- The prime coal market remain tight after the Australian miner cut. India end-users also support the price level.

Bear

- China iron ore inventories up 2.85 million tons to 140.56 million tons during past week.
- Physical buyers were static during past week because of stable index level.
- The coke inventories were at seasonal high level in China steel mills, which potentially resist the buying for next few weeks.
- The demand of front laycans from Indian buyers were in small size.
- China coal import from Mongolia expected to maintain high level in Q2 and Q3.
- The flat steel export orders from China were decreasing significantly in May compared with April.

Market Data Snapshot (25th Apr)

Open Interest /lots	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Cape5TC	23,511	20,402	14,330	11,209	10,995	11,031
Pmx4TC	31,503	29,147	22,893	11,894	11,404	11,364
Smx10TC	11,485	10,710	8,380	6,458	6,448	6,508
Iron Ore 62%	245,373	284,759	312,737	171,805	82,259	99,705
Coking Coal	4,022	3,394	3,037	2,637	2,372	2,262
US HRC	6,099	7,801	10,313	4,912	2,497	2,357
FOB China HRC	1,088	1,621	909	404	247	305

Price	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Cape5TC \$/day	16,175	19,358	20,708	20,471	20,488	20,679
Pmx4TC \$/day	10,596	11,425	11,196	11,042	11,100	11,163
Smx10TC \$/day	10,204	10,779	10,742	10,742	10,883	10,850
Iron Ore 62% \$/mt	100	98	97	97	96	95
Coking Coal \$/mt	187	186	187	188	188	188
US HRC \$/st	944	887	820	811	818	828
FOB China HRC	460	450	455	455	459	461

OI WoW %	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Cape5TC	-0.1%	7.6%	4.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%
Pmx4TC	-0.5%	2.1%	8.8%	2.9%	1.5%	1.2%
Smx10TC	-0.4%	3.8%	10.0%	3.6%	3.0%	3.5%
Iron Ore 62%	-5.7%	-13.9%	36.9%	21.9%	3.4%	10.5%
Coking Coal	0.0%	1.8%	8.2%	-0.2%	-0.8%	-3.8%
US HRC	-0.3%	1.6%	6.6%	-1.0%	9.5%	11.5%
FOB China HRC	0.0%	3.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%

Price WoW %	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Cape5TC \$/day	0.5%	6.7%	5.2%	4.8%	4.1%	3.2%
Pmx4TC \$/day	0.0%	2.7%	2.4%	2.1%	2.4%	2.8%
Smx10TC \$/day	-1.0%	-2.7%	-2.2%	-0.5%	1.2%	1.6%
Iron Ore 62% \$/mt	0.6%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%
Coking Coal \$/mt	1.6%	-2.1%	-1.6%	-1.6%	-2.1%	-2.6%
US HRC \$/st	0.4%	3.4%	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	2.9%
FOB China HRC \$/t	-0.8%	0.6%	1.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%

Sources: EEX, SGX, CME

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