

Dry FFA Market Signals

Bull

- **Coal Shipments:** Coal flows have steadily increased since early June, with weekly volumes firming at 25.4 MMT. Robust demand appears set to persist into late August, following peak demand and strong mid-August fixtures. Weekly shipments are projected to reach a record high for loading dates beginning 18th August, followed by a likely pullback the week after. Both Capesize and Panamax coal shipments are forecast to trend higher into late August, driven by peak seasonal demand from Japan. (Pmx & Cape)
- **ECSA Grains Market:** After three consecutive weeks of growth, ECSA grain exports eased to 6.3 MMT last week, down 8% week-on-week but still aligned with the 4-week moving average. Momentum is expected to resume in the coming weeks, with shipments projected to rise to 6.5–6.7 MMT per week. Fixture activity was muted last week, with an ECSA–Singapore/Japan trip fixed below index at \$13,250 for 14–16 August dates.. (Pmx & Smx)
- **TA Market:** Some recovery emerged in the North Atlantic as minerals and grains activity picked up before the weekend. Both P1A and P2A indices rebounded from six-week lows to \$15,233 (-4% w-o-w) and \$22,017 (-1% w-o-w) respectively, on Friday 15th August. For the week ahead, vessel data suggests improving fundamentals, with coal and grains exports from the US recovering to their 4-week moving average of 2.9 MMT. Panamax liftings in particular are expected to rise sharply from 1.3 MMT to 1.9 MMT for end-August laycans. (Pmx)

Bear

- **Iron Ore Key Routes:** Strong iron ore shipments from Brazil and Australia supported the initial rally in the Cape FFA market, as Chinese restocking accelerated ahead of expected steel production cuts. C5 cargo volume rose nearly 14% w-o-w (+1.8 MMT) to 15.0 MMT, above the 4-week moving average of 14.6 MMT. The Atlantic was stronger still, with C3 volumes surging 38% to 7.3 MMT (+2 MMT) alongside firmer fixtures, pushing C3 rates up from \$24.10 to a weekly high of \$25.20 for 1–7 September dates. C5 trades, however, proved less stable—initially holding at \$10.40 before slipping below \$10 and rebounding, only to close the week just under \$10 with one major in the market. Looking ahead, Cape iron ore shipments are expected to decline as Chinese demand softens, with weekly volumes projected to fall sharply below the recent range. (Cape)
- **Steel Production Cut:** Chinese steel output is expected to fall in the coming weeks ahead of the upcoming military parade in Beijing. Supply and demand dynamics in northern regions will be constrained, with some Tangshan mills receiving notices to suspend production during 20 Aug and 6 Sept to curb pollution. As a result, iron ore prices firmed on stockpiling activity. Export flows into China are projected to decline from the current ~23 MMT per week to nearer 12 MMT. (Cape)
- **Minor Bulk Demand:** Supramax coal shipments showed a mixed picture last week, with Indonesia–China flows dropping sharply by nearly 36% w-o-w to 470kt—marking a third consecutive week below the 4-week moving average. Weak Indian demand further weighed on sentiment, with additional declines expected. However, overall Supramax coal flows remain supported by stronger demand from other regions. Likewise, Chinese nickel demand corrected heavily last week, leading to a soft market, though higher demand elsewhere could help absorb prompt tonnage. (Smx)

Ferrous Market Signals

Bull

- The total arrival volume at China's 45 ports reached 23.82 million tons, a month-on-month decrease of 1.26 million tons; arrivals at the six northern ports stood at 12.03 million tons, a month-on-month decrease of 0.5 million tons.
- Except for a slight drop in steel prices in the US and Turkey, steel prices in China, Southeast Asia, the European Union, the Middle East, the CIS, and India all rose last week. Steel-exporting countries still have sufficient demand space.
- Following the explosion at US Steel's Clairton Coke Works on 11 August, capacity has been reduced. Some market participants expect this incident may increase coal availability in the export market.
- Brazilian buyers have shown increased interest in purchasing US low-volatile hard coking coal as uncertainty surrounding US–Brazil tariff issues has eased.
- Profits of Chinese coking plants have recovered with the completion of the sixth round of coke price hikes on August 14, and some manufacturers are considering further increases.

Bear

- Global iron ore shipments have slightly declined, and iron ore arrivals at major ports this week have also decreased. However, due to the rebound in Chinese iron concentrate production, coupled with a small increase in ferrous scrap arrivals, the overall supply of iron units remains relatively stable.
- Brazilian iron ore miner LHG Mining has formally applied for environmental licensing, with plans to increase production capacity from the current 12 million mt/year to 25 million mt/year.
- Next week, China's military parade-related production restrictions will commence in Beijing. Steel supply and demand in some northern regions will likely be constrained.
- The market is set to see 400,000 tons of rebar deliveries arriving in Jiangsu, China during August, which may exert sales pressure on the market.

Market Data Snapshot (15th Aug)

Open Interest /lots	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Cape5TC	24,067	16,953	12,972	11,698	11,705	5,909
Pmx4TC	28,384	24,461	13,685	12,056	12,041	4,297
Smx10TC	12,208	12,224	7,923	7,213	6,920	3,185
Iron Ore 62%	375,513	491,534	286,735	237,770	207,848	64,548
Coking Coal	4,197	3,532	2,495	2,054	1,729	1,084
US HRC	4,985	5,320	3,850	2,455	3,123	1,160
FOB China HRC	1,808	1,050	366	364	187	129

Price	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Cape5TC \$/day	26,621	27,371	27,733	26,500	24,358	16,083
Pmx4TC \$/day	13,358	14,306	14,828	14,256	13,335	10,359
Smx10TC \$/day	14,817	15,308	15,379	14,300	12,958	10,229
Iron Ore 62% \$/mt	101.84	101.90	102.00	101.84	101.65	101.20
Coking Coal \$/mt	190.00	195.00	199.00	201.00	203.00	209.00
US HRC \$/st	832	816	826	847	855	865
FOB China HRC	473.0	478.0	479.0	481.5	483.0	486.5

OI WoW %	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Cape5TC	2.9%	10.3%	8.9%	6.4%	5.4%	2.4%
Pmx4TC	-2.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.2%	3.4%	4.8%
Smx10TC	-1.1%	4.5%	6.0%	0.8%	-0.4%	8.7%
Iron Ore 62%	1.3%	2.8%	24.8%	18.0%	15.7%	12.4%
Coking Coal	0.0%	7.9%	3.6%	2.0%	-2.3%	-0.9%
US HRC	0.2%	1.9%	17.0%	7.3%	3.3%	3.6%
FOB China HRC	0.0%	-7.0%	-7.6%	0.8%	0.0%	4.9%

Price WoW %	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Cape5TC \$/day	-0.2%	0.6%	1.9%	2.0%	2.9%	1.2%
Pmx4TC \$/day	0.5%	4.9%	7.5%	9.1%	10.4%	3.5%
Smx10TC \$/day	-0.2%	2.8%	5.0%	6.8%	7.2%	3.2%
Iron Ore 62% \$/mt	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Coking Coal \$/mt	-1.0%	-3.2%	-2.5%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-1.4%
US HRC \$/st	-0.4%	-2.0%	-1.9%	-0.9%	-1.2%	-0.8%
FOB China HRC \$/t	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.3%

Sources: EEX, SGX, CME

CONTACT

Paul Geddes

PaulG@freightinvestor.com
m: (+44) 7745644966

Federico Picciolini

FedericoP@freightinvestor.com
m: (+44) 7543223444

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