

Dry FFA Market Signals

Bull

- **Bauxite Market:** Robust bauxite shipments from Guinea to China are projected for November, with weekly volumes expected to rise from 1.1 MMT to 2.2 MMT between mid- and late November, boosting fronthaul demand. (Cape)
- **US–China Trade Policy:** The one-year truce between the US and China on reciprocal port fees removes cost burdens and improves vessel efficiency. In addition, the soybean market was supported by news that China agreed to purchase 12 million tonnes of US soybeans through January and 25 million tonnes annually for the next three years. (Dry Bulk)

Bear

- **Iron Ore Key Routes:** Although demand remained healthy, iron ore freight rates continued to slip last week. Capesize iron ore shipments rebounded sharply by 3.2 MMT (up 20.2% w/w) to 15.9 MMT, driven by strong supply from Australia, which offset a second consecutive week of export declines from Brazil. Steady daily activity was reported in both basins but remained insufficient to lift rates. In the Pacific, C5 rates eased from \$9.60 for 11–13 Nov laycans to \$9.15 for 17–19 Nov by the end of the week. In the Atlantic, rates continued to be pressured by increased prompt vessel supply and reduced cargo demand from Brazil. The C3 route initially fell to \$22.50 for 15 Nov onwards but rebounded to above \$23 on Friday amid firmer North Atlantic activity. Fresh inquiries were lacking so far for late-Nov C3 loadings, suggesting another weaker export week from Brazil. Total Capesize iron ore shipments are expected to remain below their 4-week moving average despite Pacific recovery. (Cape)
- **Chinese Demand:** Both China's hot metal output and the blast furnace operation rate of 247 steel mills surveyed by Mysteel declined last week, indicating softer steel demand. Moreover, NBS data released last Friday showed China's manufacturing PMI fell to 49.0 in October — its lowest level in six months — amid tariff concerns. Consequently, iron ore and coking coal futures dropped sharply on 3 Nov amid a weaker economic outlook and seasonally slower construction activity. Kpler vessel data indicates that weekly iron ore cargoes bound for China are projected at 24.4 MMT for 10–16 Nov laycans, compared with a 4-week moving average of 25.9 MMT. (Cape)
- **Coal Shipments:** Coal flows have increased for three consecutive weeks amid winter restocking and stronger global demand. Australian coal exports are projected to reach record levels in mid-to-late November; however, weather disruptions caused further delays. Last week, Australian coal exports held steady at 6.8 MMT but could rise to 11.4 MMT per week later this month. However, exports from other key supply regions showed significant decrease during the same period - Indonesia is projected at 7.1 MMT/ week (-3.8MMT), US+Canada 800kt (-1.1 MMT), and Colombia 705kt (-170kt). As a result, total global coal shipments could fall to 20.9 MMT, versus a 4-week moving average of 26.0 MMT, reducing cargo demand—especially for Panamax vessels. (Cape & Pmx)
- **Grains Market:** Weekly grain exports declined for a second week to 11.9 MMT, below the 4-week moving average of 11.5 MMT. Although exports from ECSA showed a small weekly increase, it was insufficient to offset noticeable declines from the US and Canada. (Pmx & Smx)

Ferrous Market Signals

Bull

- Last week, China's rebar and HRC inventories both declined at a pace outpacing production rebounds, indicating strong demand.
- In October, Mongolian coal shipments to China plummeted 35% month-on-month. The daily average shipment volume via the Ganqimaodu land port in the week ending October 31 was 128,000 mt, down from September's 173,000 mt. On October 22, daily truck shipments even dropped to 570 trucks, far below September's average of 1,280 trucks.
- Mines in Luliang and Linfen (Shanxi, China) halted operations due to safety issues. Meanwhile, open-pit mines in Wuhai (Inner Mongolia) suspended production over land reclamation compliance, leading to a sharp decline in domestic coking coal output.
- BHP concluded multiple deals for mid-grade concentrate products during the past week. In addition, Rio Tinto awarded a seven-month PBF strip tender covering 13 shipments of 170,000–190,000 mt each.

Bear

- Temperatures in northern China are dropping rapidly, which may put pressure on construction activities. In addition, the export profit margin for HRC has disappeared, and domestic demand is expected to weaken—potentially leading to a supply surplus in November.
- The price of China Fe 66% Tangshan concentrates rose by 13% last week; however, demand responded weakly.
- Hot metal output is expected to peak soon and enter a three-month phase of seasonal decline in China. As a result, pressure on raw materials will likely become more pronounced in Q4.

Market Data Snapshot (31th Oct)

Open Interest /lots	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Cape5TC	21,757	18,119	10,050	9,279	9,285	6,233
Pmx4TC	21,246	20,122	11,912	11,232	10,962	5,832
Smx10TC	12,980	9,897	5,550	5,325	5,130	2,935
Iron Ore (IODEX)	406,931	687,173	381,800	97,360	75,461	38,777
Coking Coal	3,689	3,809	1,607	1,040	915	570
US HRC	4,562	5,326	3,655	2,480	2,713	1,864
FOB China HRC	2,136	419	486	244	203	52

Price	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Cape5TC \$/day	24,632	25,146	17,989	13,975	18,425	20,686
Pmx4TC \$/day	14,868	14,943	12,872	11,508	13,379	13,638
Smx10TC \$/day	14,332	14,286	12,343	10,771	12,625	13,146
Iron Ore (IODEX) \$/mt	106.79	106.14	103.00	102.39	101.80	101.23
Coking Coal \$/mt	200.00	205.00	211.00	213.00	215.00	217.00
US HRC \$/st	851	888	898	896	898	895
FOB China HRC \$/t	461.5	464.0	466.0	467.0	467.0	467.5

OI WoW %	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Cape5TC	7.4%	9.6%	2.4%	3.3%	2.4%	2.4%
Pmx4TC	1.7%	9.4%	8.6%	8.2%	5.4%	6.2%
Smx10TC	1.1%	9.6%	5.9%	8.6%	4.8%	3.0%
Iron Ore (IODEX)	-22.1%	21.0%	6.2%	8.6%	10.4%	8.0%
Coking Coal	0.3%	21.3%	14.2%	-1.9%	-9.2%	-1.7%
US HRC	8.4%	2.4%	24.4%	15.2%	25.2%	50.2%
FOB China HRC	4.9%	39.7%	42.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Price WoW %	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Cape5TC \$/day	-0.4%	2.1%	0.8%	-1.5%	-0.7%	-8.2%
Pmx4TC \$/day	-0.3%	6.9%	9.6%	10.0%	8.3%	1.9%
Smx10TC \$/day	3.5%	5.8%	9.9%	10.6%	8.6%	1.8%
Iron Ore (IODEX) \$/mt	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%
Coking Coal \$/mt	1.0%	1.2%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
US HRC \$/st	0.9%	3.1%	2.6%	2.3%	2.4%	1.9%
FOB China HRC \$/t	0.7%	0.5%	1.1%	0.1%	0.6%	0.6%

Sources: EEX, SGX, CME

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