

05/01/2026

Verdict:

- Our view is Short-run Neutral

Macro:

- OPEC+ issued a statement deciding to maintain the production plan established in early November 2025, continuing to pause output increases in February and March 2026. An OPEC+ representative stated that the meeting did not discuss the Venezuela issue.

Iron Ore Key Indicators:

- Platts IODEX 105.50, -3.00 MTD \$105.50. The iron ore market remained quiet during the New Year holiday period. Starting from January 2, Platts officially updated the 61% Fe grade as the pricing benchmark.
- Mysteel: In December 2025, global iron ore shipments reached a record high, with a year-on-year increase of over 15 million tonnes for the month. China's iron ore imports also hit a historic high, with a single-month year-on-year increase exceeding 10 million tonnes.

SGX Iron Ore IODEX Futures& Options Open Interest (Jan 2nd)

- Futures 148,552,700 tons (Decrease 713,400 tons)
- Options 137,352,300 tons (Decrease 26,300 tons)

Steel Indicators:

- Last week, the blast furnace operating rate of 247 steel mills is 78.94%, increasing by 0.62% week-on-week and increasing by 0.84% year-on-year. The blast furnace utilization rate is 85.26%, increasing by 0.32% week-on-week and increasing by 0.71% year-on-year. The average daily hot metal output was 2.27 million tons, an increase of 8,500 tons week-on-week and a increase of 22,300 tons year-on-year.

Coking Coal and Coke Indicators:

- According to Australian media reports, a coal mine operated by Colorado Global Resources in Queensland has suspended operations following an underground incident that resulted in worker fatalities. Additionally, persistent rainfall in Queensland over the coming week may impact coking coal supply.

Five Major Steels Inventories(10,000 tonnes)

