

29/01/2026

Verdict:

- Our view is Short-run Neutral

Macro:

- CME has once again raised margin requirements for silver, platinum, and palladium contracts. The new margin levels for some silver contracts exceed previous benchmarks, representing about 11% of the nominal value.
- According to a CNN report citing informed sources, due to the stalemate in the US-Iran nuclear negotiations, Trump is considering launching a major new strike on Iran.

Iron Ore Key Indicators:

- Platts IODEX 102.70, -0.65 MTD \$105.83. As the Chinese New Year approaches, liquidity in the secondary market has weakened. On seaborne market, discounts for MACF and NHGF stood at -\$4.20/dmt and -\$5.12/dmt respectively, largely flat compared to previous levels. Meanwhile, a cargo of BRBF was transacted at \$107.10/dmt.

SGX Iron Ore IODEX Futures& Options Open Interest (Jan 28th)

- Futures 182,774,000 tons (Increase 3,259,200 tons)
- Options 168,540,100 tons (Increase 3,044,500 tons)

Steel Indicators:

- Mysteel: China's steel exports totaled 27.42 million metric tons in the first quarter of 2025. Under the influence of the implementation of the steel export licensing policy, the steel export volume in the first quarter of 2026 is expected to decline, with an estimated decrease of 15%–20%.
- This week, the average tax-included billet cost at mainstream sample steel mills in Tangshan continued to decline slightly. Losses at steel enterprises narrowed, decreasing by 17 yuan/mt compared to the previous week, though the sector overall remained in a loss-making position.

Coking Coal and Coke Indicators:

- On January 28, several steel mills in Hebei and Tianjin implemented the first round of upward adjustments to coke procurement prices, with increases of 50 yuan/mt for wet-quenched coke and 55 yuan/mt for dry-quenched coke. The adjustments took effect from January 30.

