

04/02/2026

**Verdict:**

- Our view is Short-run Neutral to Bearish

**Macro:**

- According to a report by AXIOS citing Arab sources, the Trump administration has agreed to Iran's request to change the location of the negotiations from Turkey. The U.S.-Iran nuclear talks are now expected to take place in Oman on Friday.

**Iron Ore Key Indicators:**

- Platts IODEX 102.00, -0.40 MTD \$102.20. The iron ore market lacks momentum as pre-holiday restocking by steel mills is almost complete, leading to a continued slight decline in prices. In the primary market, the discount for MACF narrowed to - \$4/dmt, followed by another cargo transacted at -\$3.93/dmt, both based on the April index. Regarding lump ore, three cargoes of NBL were traded yesterday at +\$0.020/dmtu.
- During the period from January 26 to February 1, the total iron ore inventory across seven major ports in Australia and Brazil reached 13.703 million tonnes, an increase of 2.014 million tonnes week-on-week, indicating a recovery in inventory levels. The current stockpile is at its highest level since the beginning of the year.
- ArcelorMittal's expansion project at the Tokadeh mine in Liberia is nearing completion. The plan aims to increase the mine's iron ore shipment capacity from approximately 5 million tonnes per year to 20 million tonnes per year by 2026.

**SGX Iron Ore IODEX Futures& Options Open Interest (Feb 3rd)**

- Futures 150,005,400 tons (Increase 1,536,900 tons)
- Options 147,219,500 tons (Increase 1,039,600 tons)

**Coking Coal and Coke Indicators:**

- According to a Reuters report, Indonesian mining officials stated on Tuesday that miners in the country have suspended spot coal exports due to the government's proposal for significant production cuts. Last month, Indonesia issued production quotas to major miners that are 40% to 70% lower than 2025 levels, as part of its plan to boost coal prices. The country's main industry association opposes the move, warning that it could lead to layoffs and mine closures.

