

## Ferrous Market Signals

### Bull

- The inconclusive talks between the US and Iran held in Pakistan have heightened risks of prolonged oil supply disruptions and rising freight costs, potentially providing broad support for the dry bulk sector.
- Port iron ore inventories in China are expected to decline following progress in negotiations between CRMG and BHP. Meanwhile, the seasonal pickup in iron ore demand will further aid inventory digestion.
- Geopolitical tensions and tariffs have significantly curbed exports from non-Australian and non-Brazilian iron ore miners, reducing the flexibility and diversity of global iron ore supply.

### Bear

- Market rumours emerged last week that CRMG and BHP had reached a negotiated settlement, which would see NHGF and JMBF iron ore volumes released to the market in the coming weeks.
- Vale has concluded large-volume SFHJ shipments through bilateral negotiations with Chinese steel mills. Ample supply has weighed on the premium for mid-grade iron ore concentrates.
- Over the past month, particularly since late March, the iron ore lump premium has declined sharply and remains on a downward trajectory. This was driven by relaxed environmental regulations in China, the start of the seasonal peak demand period, as well as steel mill margin dynamics.
- Asian coking coal demand remained weak, amid limited buying interest from China and price resistance from Indian buyers due to elevated freight rates. Meanwhile, high energy costs provided support to Atlantic basin coking coal prices despite subdued overall market sentiment.
- Major steel products in China recorded low inventory levels and muted output, reflecting sluggish downstream demand. Long products maintained slim margins, while flat products suffered substantial losses.

**Market Data Snapshot (10th Apr)**

Open Interest /lots	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26
<b>Cape5TC (180)</b>	19,966	13,172	12,957	10,203	10,093	10,140
<b>Pmx5TC</b>	22,627	19,436	17,124	11,498	11,408	11,438
<b>Smx10TC</b>	13,702	11,247	9,562	5,922	5,857	5,857
<b>Iron Ore (IODEX)</b>	358,483	589,258	244,624	111,396	57,447	62,513
<b>Coking Coal</b>	2,460	2,553	3,294	1,610	1,420	1,065
<b>US HRC</b>	6,992	8,575	7,561	4,580	2,236	1,825
<b>FOB China HRC</b>	1,231	900	406	119	161	17

Price	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26
<b>Cape5TC (180) \$/day</b>	28,271	30,811	31,350	29,557	28,829	28,993
<b>Pmx5TC \$/day</b>	17,193	18,925	19,093	18,689	18,393	18,104
<b>Smx10TC \$/day</b>	15,364	16,796	16,821	16,568	16,329	16,154
<b>Iron Ore (IODEX) \$/mt</b>	105.47	103.48	102.70	102.10	101.45	100.84
<b>Coking Coal \$/mt</b>	229.75	224.00	224.00	224.50	226.00	227.25
<b>US HRC \$/st</b>	1,046	1,076	1,087	1,054	1,030	1,005
<b>FOB China HRC \$/t</b>	488.0	485.5	488.0	485.5	487.5	490.0

OI WoW %	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26
<b>Cape5TC (180)</b>	4.9%	-1.5%	2.6%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%
<b>Pmx4TC</b>	1.9%	6.1%	3.0%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%
<b>Smx10TC</b>	1.6%	4.7%	2.1%	3.0%	2.4%	2.4%
<b>Iron Ore 62%</b>	-2.6%	10.6%	16.7%	11.5%	2.6%	3.2%
<b>Coking Coal</b>	0.0%	-1.5%	3.1%	10.3%	11.8%	16.4%
<b>US HRC</b>	0.0%	-5.7%	11.8%	5.9%	35.8%	17.1%
<b>FOB China HRC</b>	0.2%	57.9%	0.0%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%

Price WoW %	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26
<b>Cape5TC (180) \$/day</b>	6.1%	5.1%	7.2%	6.4%	4.8%	5.0%
<b>Pmx4TC \$/day</b>	-2.2%	-0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
<b>Smx10TC \$/day</b>	4.8%	6.1%	5.7%	3.9%	3.2%	2.7%
<b>Iron Ore 62% \$/mt</b>	-1.4%	-1.9%	-1.7%	-1.4%	-1.4%	-1.4%
<b>Coking Coal \$/mt</b>	-1.6%	-4.3%	-5.2%	-5.3%	-5.2%	-5.3%
<b>US HRC \$/st</b>	-0.5%	-0.6%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
<b>FOB China HRC \$/t</b>	0.9%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.8%	-0.4%	-0.2%

Sources: EEX, SGX, CME

**CONTACT**

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

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