



五矿期货有限公司

中国五矿

High Inventory Levels, Range-Bound Trading, Focus on Overseas Geopolitical Disruptions

Iron Ore Monthly Report

March 6, 2026

WAN Linxin (Contact)

☎ 0755-23375162

✉ wanlx@wkqh.cn

CHEN Zhangying
(Ferrous Building Materials Group)

📄 Futures Practice Qualification: F03098415

📄 Futures Practice Qualification: F03133967

📄 Investment Consulting Qualification: Z0020771

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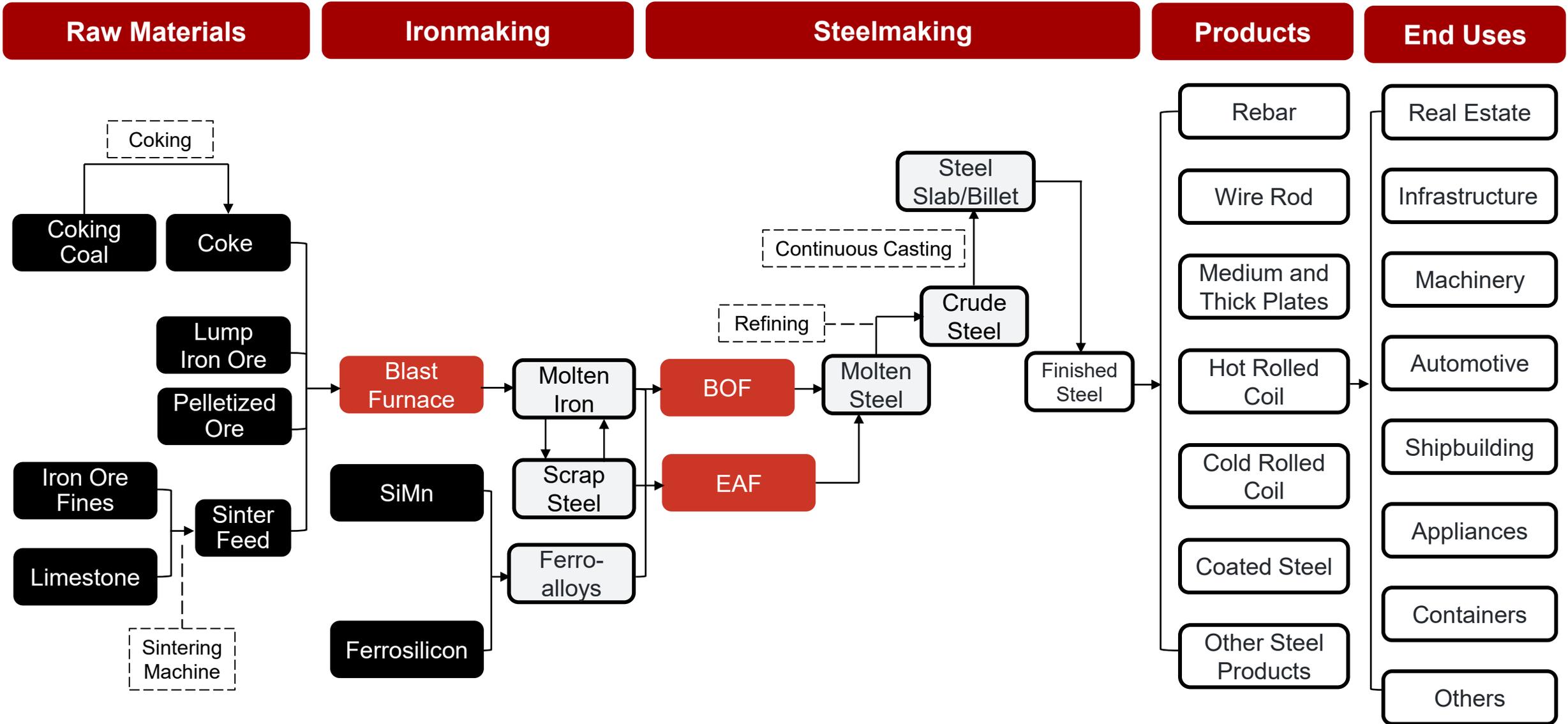
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Basis

01

Monthly Review & Strategy Recommendation

Schematic Diagram of the Ferrous Metal Industry Chain



- ◆ **Supply:** Calculated average weekly global iron ore shipments in February totaled 29.717 million tons, a MoM decrease of 1.0778 million tons. Average weekly Australian shipments to China (19 ports) reached 13.919 million tons, MoM -1.0524 million tons. Brazilian shipments averaged 6.72 million tons per week, MoM +225,000 tons. Average weekly arrival volume at 45 Chinese ports was 22.6965 million tons, MoM -4.0059 million tons.
- ◆ **Demand:** Calculated average daily hot metal output in China during February was 2.3067 million tons, MoM +22,500 tons.
- ◆ **Inventory:** As of end of February, imported iron ore port inventory at 45 Chinese ports totaled 170.9196 million tons, MoM +697,000 tons. Average daily port clearance volume at 45 ports was 3.3025 million tons per week in February, MoM +79,700 tons. Average daily consumption of imported iron ore at steel mills was 2.855 million tons per week, MoM +37,700 tons.
- ◆ **Outlook for March:** Looking ahead to March, overseas iron ore shipments declined MoM in February due to cyclone disruptions in Australia. With weather impacts diminishing in March, shipment volumes are expected to rebound slightly MoM, remaining at seasonally elevated levels. Arrival volumes, affected by shipment patterns, continued their downward trend in February but may increase sequentially thereafter. On the demand side, hot metal output showed recovery in February; however, production restrictions triggered a significant output drop early in March, with potential acceleration in recovery during the latter half of the month. Port inventory remains elevated year-on-year with structural imbalances, while BHP contract negotiations continue to cause market uncertainty. Overseas, Middle East conflicts have spilled into commodity markets, elevating volatility risks; prolonged conflict may increase ocean freight costs, warranting close monitoring. Overall, high inventory levels and loose supply expectations continue to cap iron ore price upside potential. Previous hot metal recovery progress has been moderate, and BHP contract negotiations remain unresolved. Prices are expected to trade range-bound.

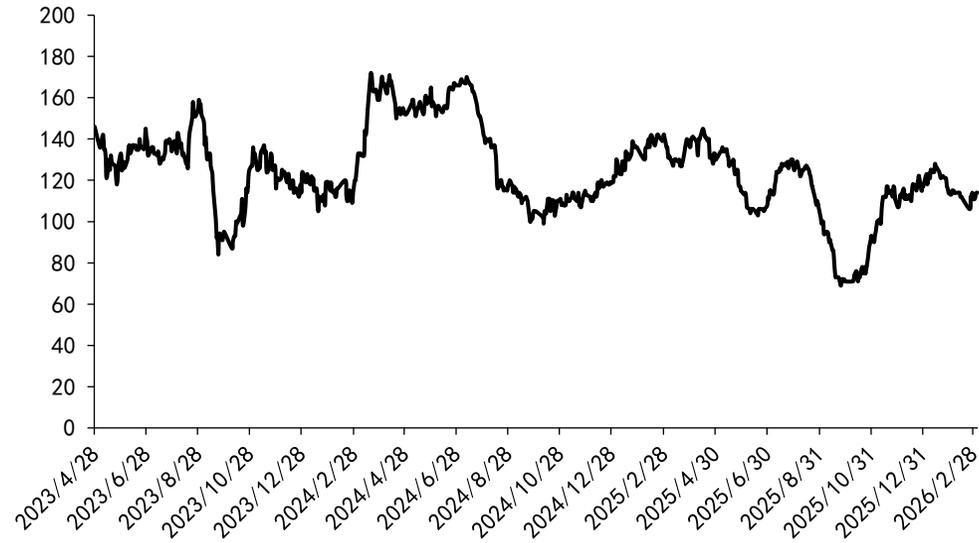
Valuation & Driving Forces

Fundamentals	Valuation		Driving Forces				
	Basis	Import Profit	Shipment	High-Low Grade Spread	Steel Mills Profitability	Molten Iron Output	45 Ports Inventory
Score	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	(-1)
Comment	-	Positive import margin	MoM down	-	-	Production Resume	High levels
Summary	<p>Looking ahead to March, overseas iron ore shipments declined MoM in February due to cyclone disruptions in Australia. With weather impacts diminishing in March, shipment volumes are expected to rebound slightly MoM, remaining at seasonally elevated levels. Arrival volumes, affected by shipment patterns, continued their downward trend in February but may increase sequentially thereafter. On the demand side, hot metal output showed recovery in February; however, production restrictions triggered a significant output drop early in March, with potential acceleration in recovery during the latter half of the month. Port inventory remains elevated year-on-year with structural imbalances, while BHP contract negotiations continue to cause market uncertainty. Overseas, Middle East conflicts have spilled into commodity markets, elevating volatility risks; prolonged conflict may increase ocean freight costs, warranting close monitoring. Overall, high inventory levels and loose supply expectations continue to cap iron ore price upside potential. Previous hot metal recovery progress has been moderate, and BHP contract negotiations remain unresolved. Prices are expected to trade range-bound.</p>						

02

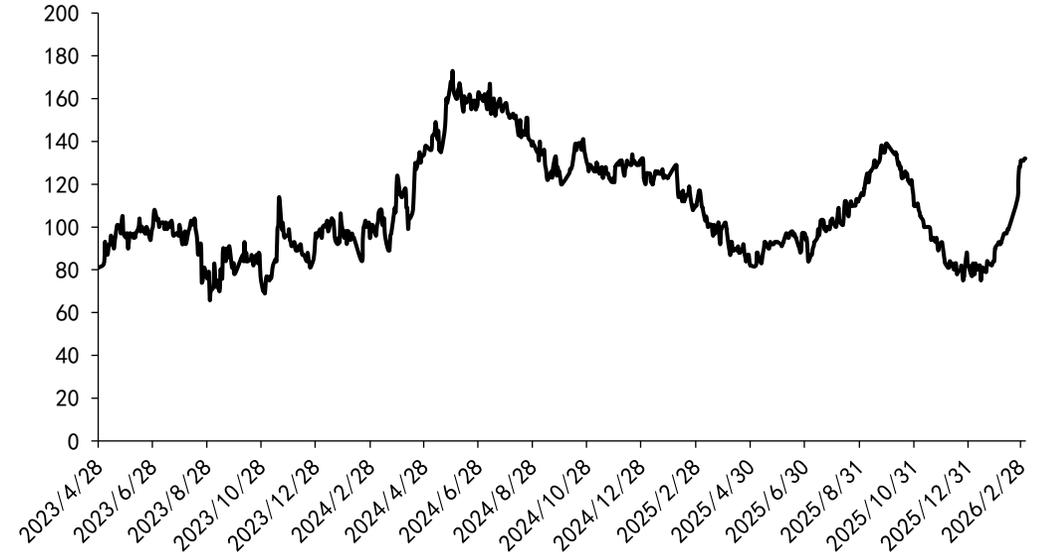
Futures Market & Spot Market

Figure 1: PB Fines-Super Special Fines Spread (CNY/t)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 2: Carajás Fines-PB Fines Spread (CNY/t)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

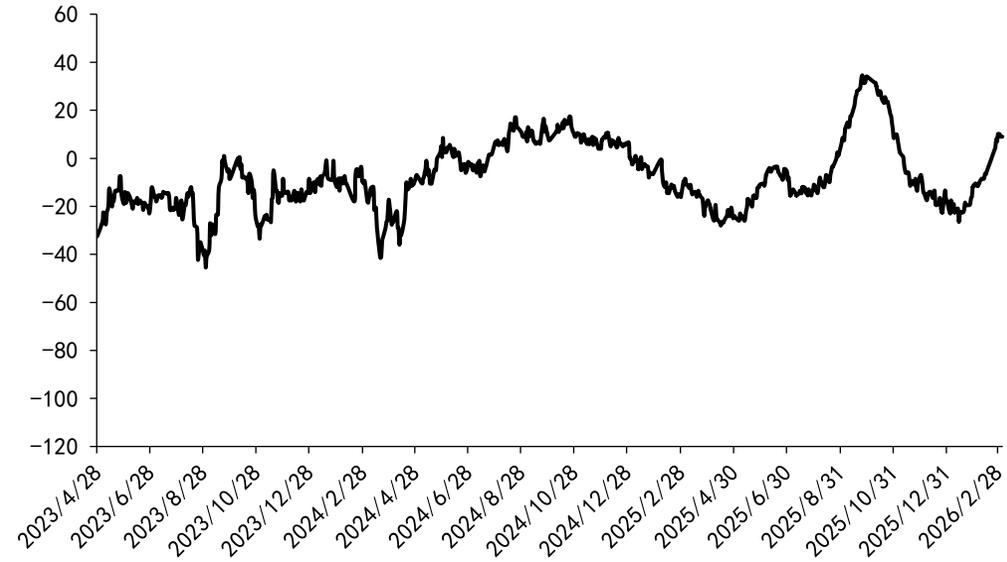
- PB–Super Special Fines spread: CNY 111/t (-3/t MoM)
- Carajás–PB Fines spread: CNY 131/t (+41/t MoM)

Figure 3: Carajás Fines-Jimblebar Fines Spread (CNY/t)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 4: (Carajás + Super Special)/2-PB Fines Spread (CNY/t)



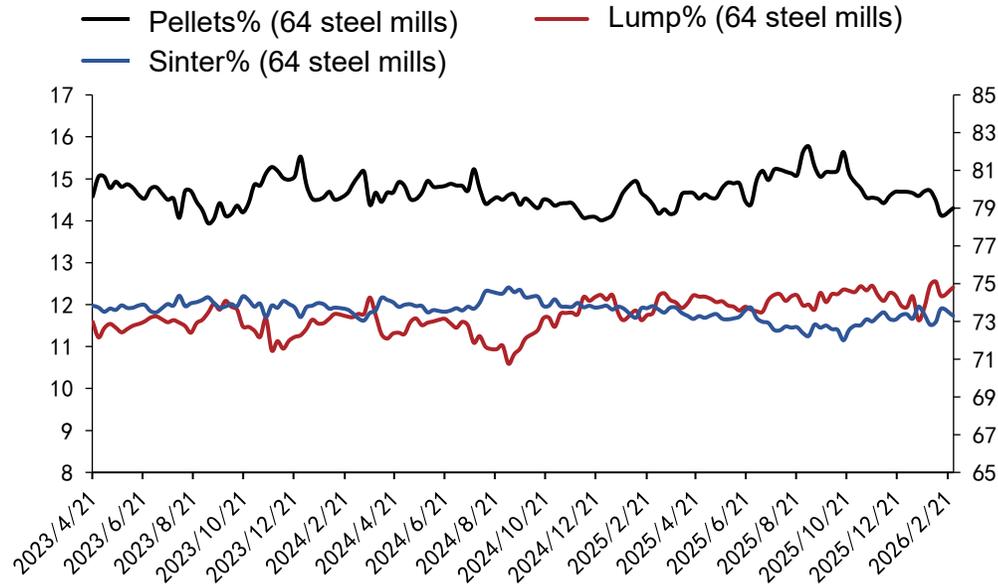
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

- Carajás–Jimblebar Fines spread: CNY 187/t (+38/t MoM)
- (Carajás + Super Special Fines)/2 – PB Fines spread: CNY 10/t (+22/t MoM)

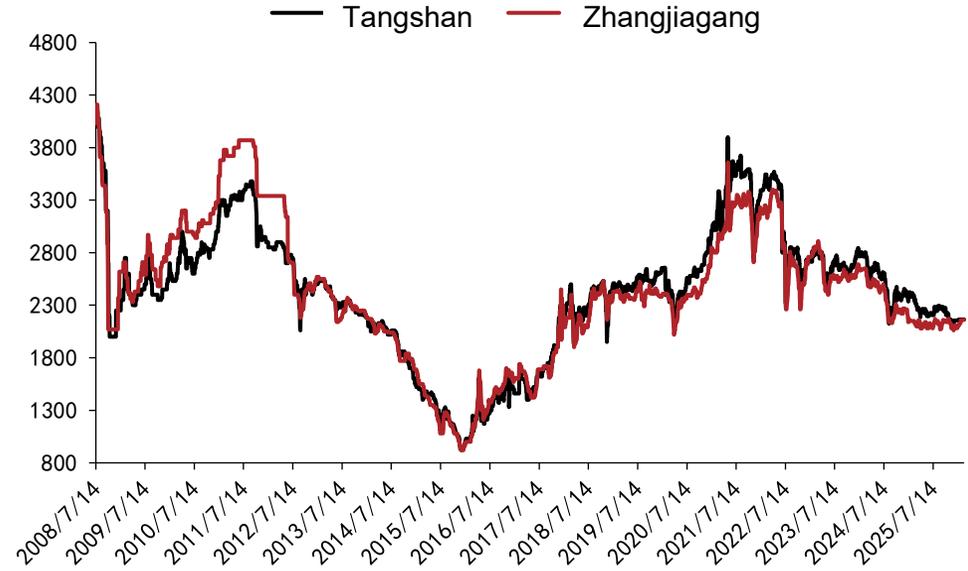
Furnace Input Ratios, Scrap Steel

Figure 5: Steel Mill Charge Mix (%)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 6: Scrap Steel Price (CNY/t)

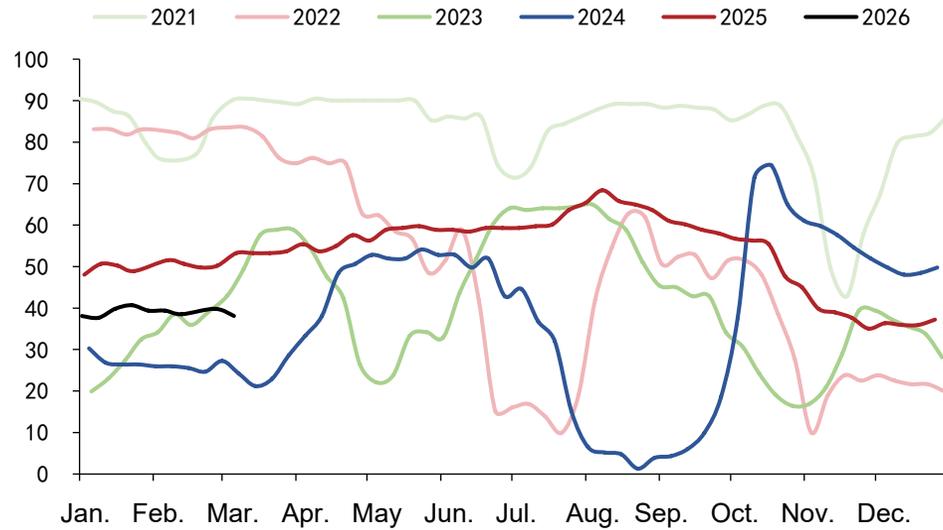


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

- Pellet ratio: 14.3% (-0.42 pp MoM)
- Lump ratio: 12.41% (-0.04 pp MoM)
- Sinter ratio: 73.3% (+0.47 pp MoM)
- Tangshan scrap: CNY 2,165/t (flat MoM)
- Zhangjiagang scrap: CNY 2,160/t (+30/t MoM)

Figure 7: Steel Mill Profitability Rate (%)

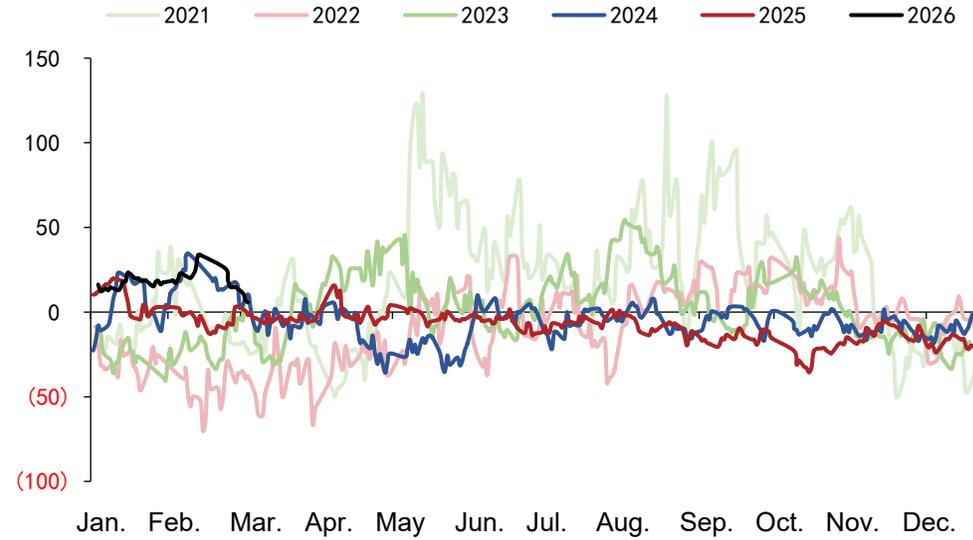


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

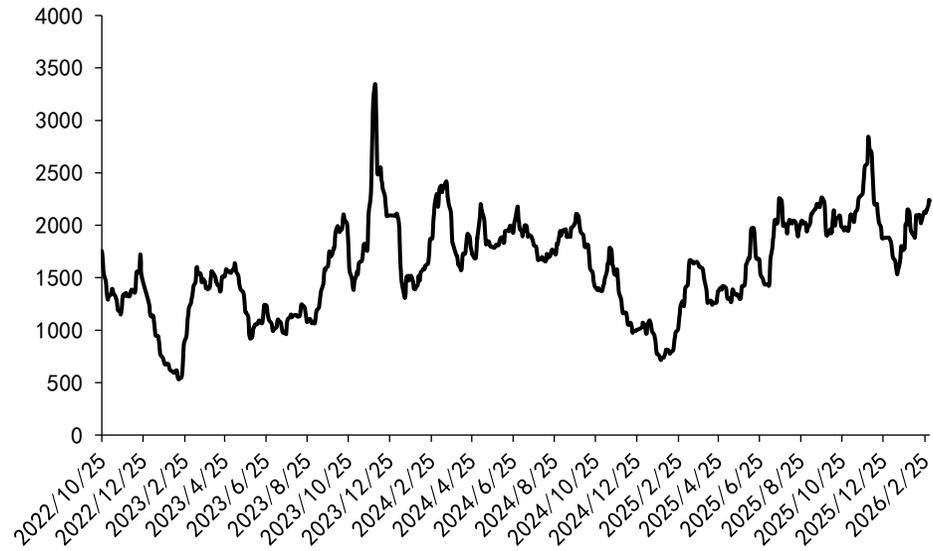
- Mill profitability rate: 39.83% (+0.44 pp MoM)

Figure 8: PB Fines Import Profit Margin (CNY/wet t)



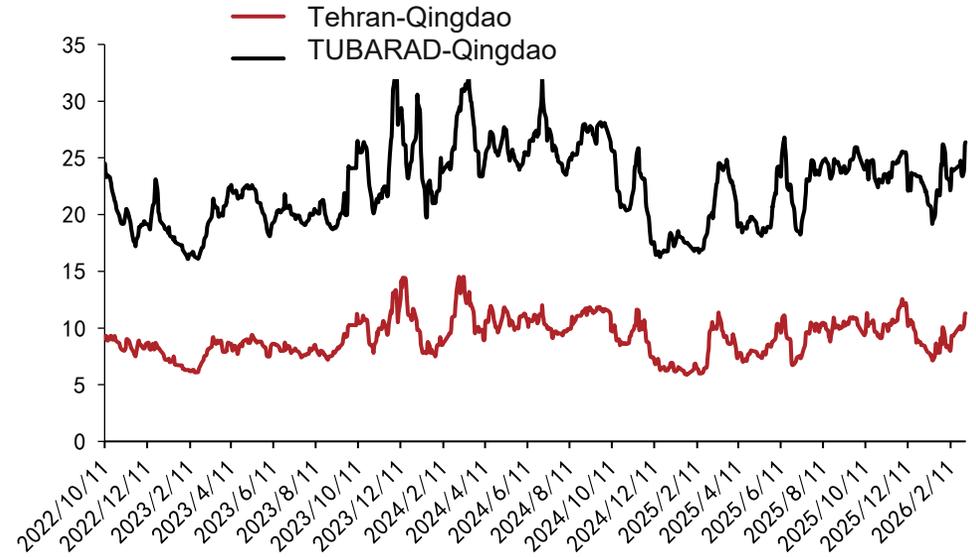
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 9: BDI (points)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 10: Ocean Freight by Country (USD/t)



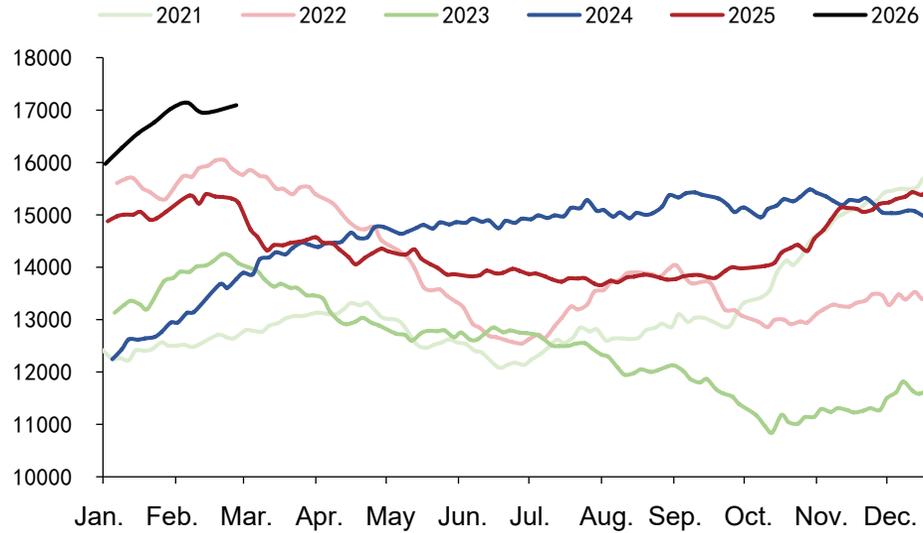
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

03

Inventory



Figure 11: Imported Iron Ore Port Inventory at 45 Chinese Ports (10kt)

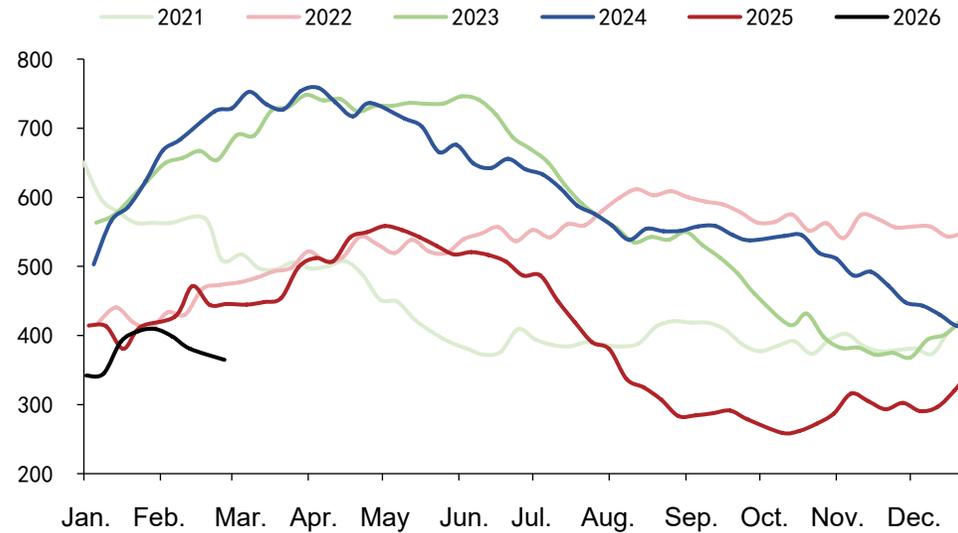


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

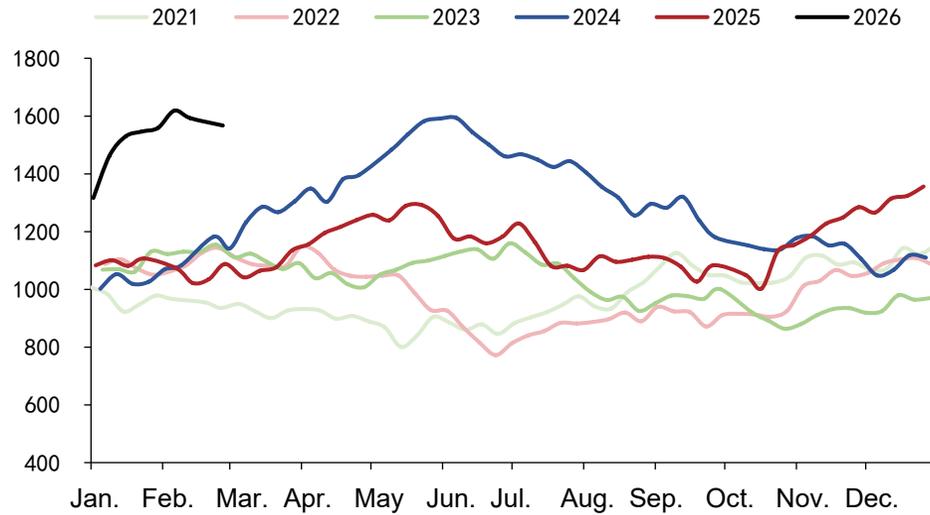
- 45-port total inventory: 170.9196 million t (+697,000 t MoM)
- Pellet inventory: 3.6473 million t (-445,800 t MoM)

Figure 12: Port Inventory: Pellets (10kt)



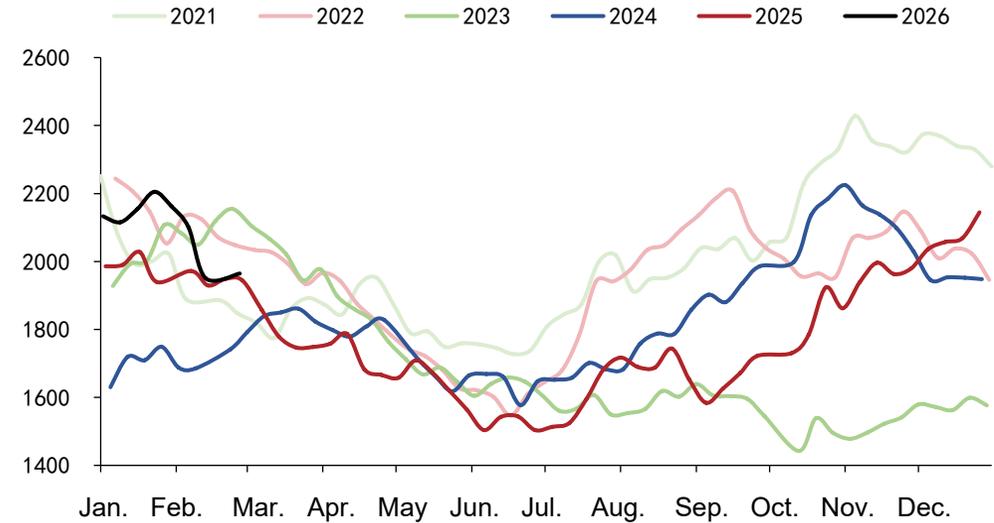
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 13: Port Inventory: Iron Concentrate (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 14: Port Inventory: Lump Ore (10kt)

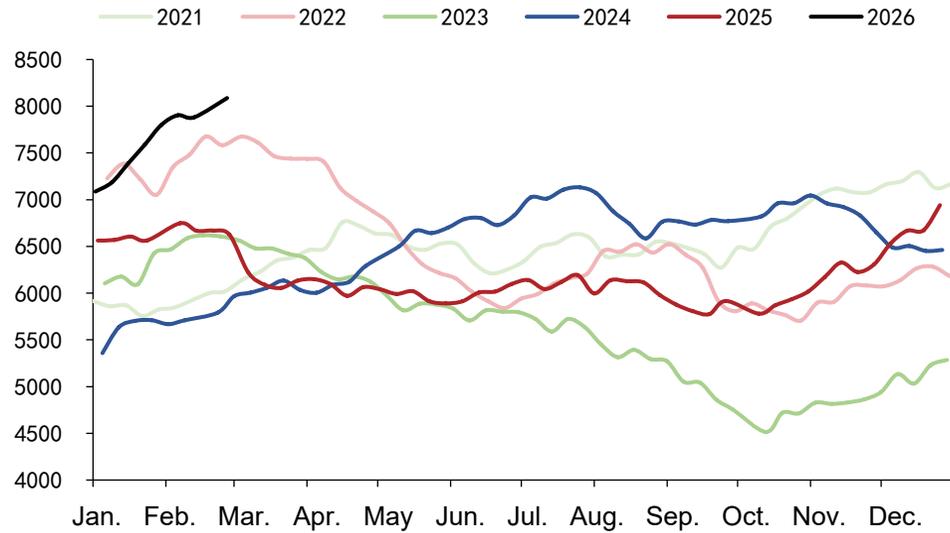


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

- Concentrate inventory: 15.6726 million t (+81,000 t MoM)
- Lump ore inventory: 19.6457 million t (-1.9754 million t MoM)

Figure 15: Port inventory of Australian ores (10kt)

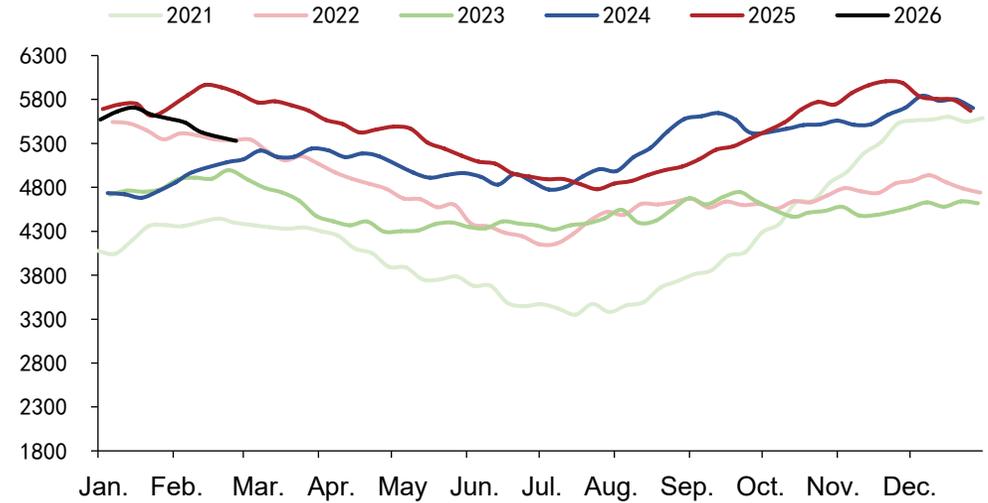


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

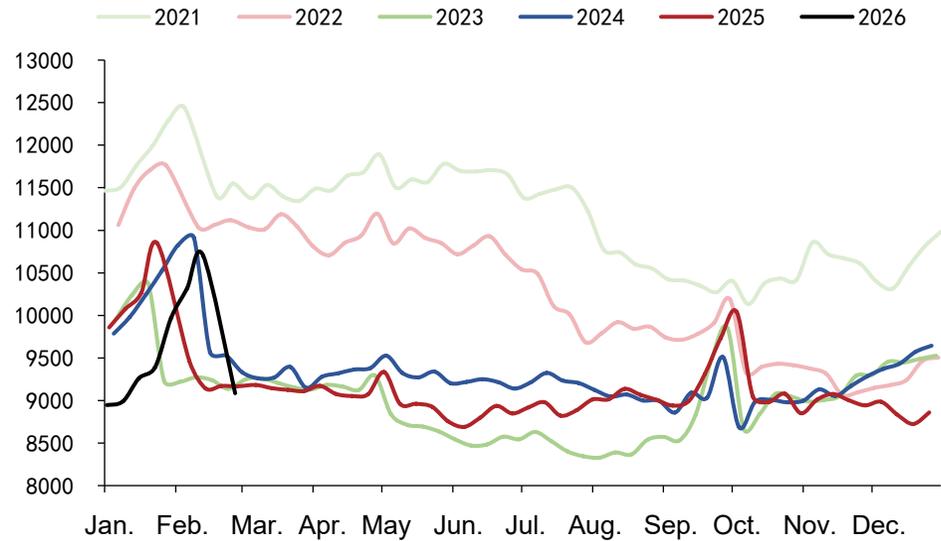
- Australian ore: 80.8764 million t (+2.8845 million t MoM)
- Brazilian ore: 53.291 million t (-2.5487 million t MoM)

Figure 16: Port inventory of Brazilian ores (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 17: Imported inventory of 247 steel mills (10kt)



As of end-February:

- Import iron ore inventory at steel mills: 90.851 million t (-8.8349 million t MoM)

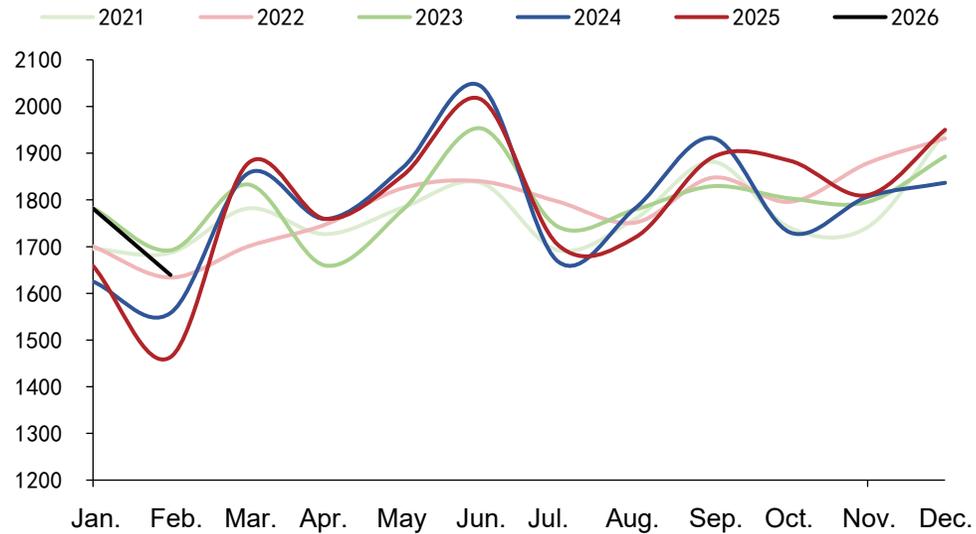
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

04

Supply

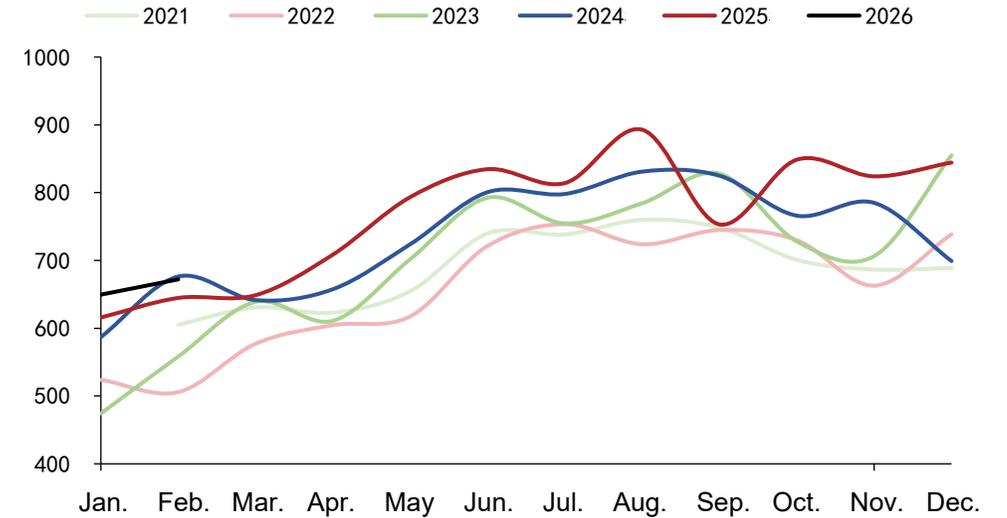
The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of multiple thin, parallel lines in a light beige color. These lines are arranged in a series of overlapping, wavy bands that create a sense of movement and depth, resembling a stylized landscape or a series of ripples.

Figure 18: Australia to China Shipments: 19 Ports (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 19: Brazil Shipments: 19 Ports (10kt)

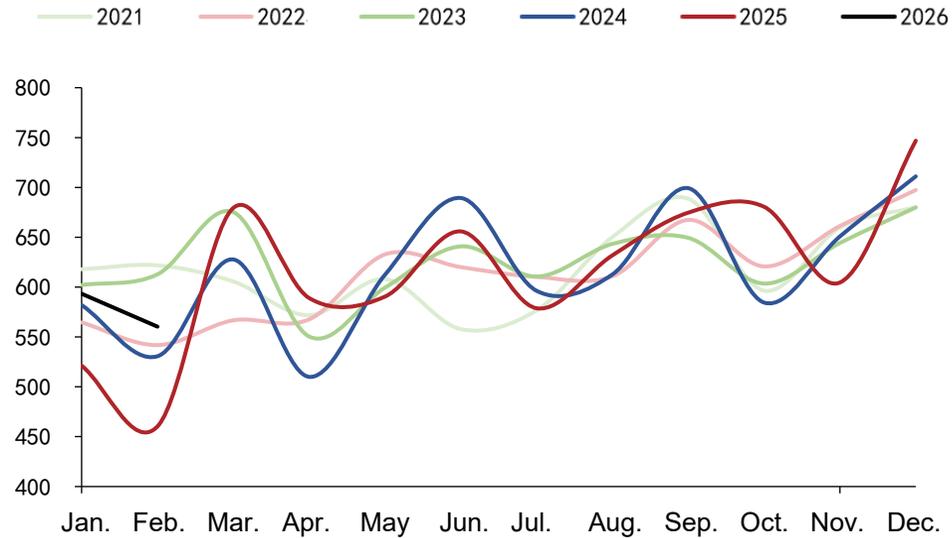


Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

In February:

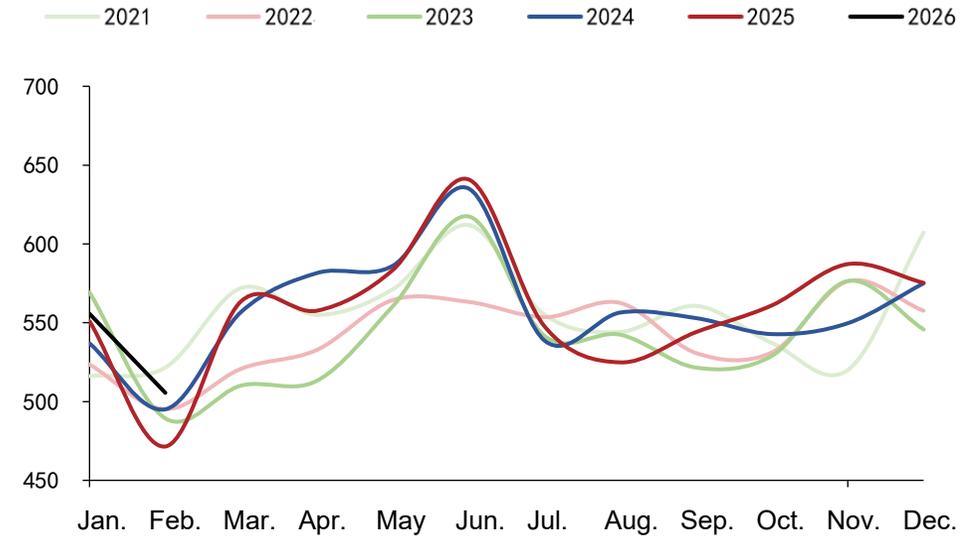
- Australia to China (19 ports) weekly average: 13.919 million t (-1.0524 million t MoM)
- Brazil weekly average: 6.72 million t (+225,000 t MoM)

Figure 20: From Rio Tinto to China (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 21: From BHP Billiton to China (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

In February:

- Rio Tinto weekly average: 5.6035 million t (-330,100 t MoM)
- BHP weekly average: 5.0550 million t (-501,800 t MoM)

Figure 22: From Vale to China (10kt)

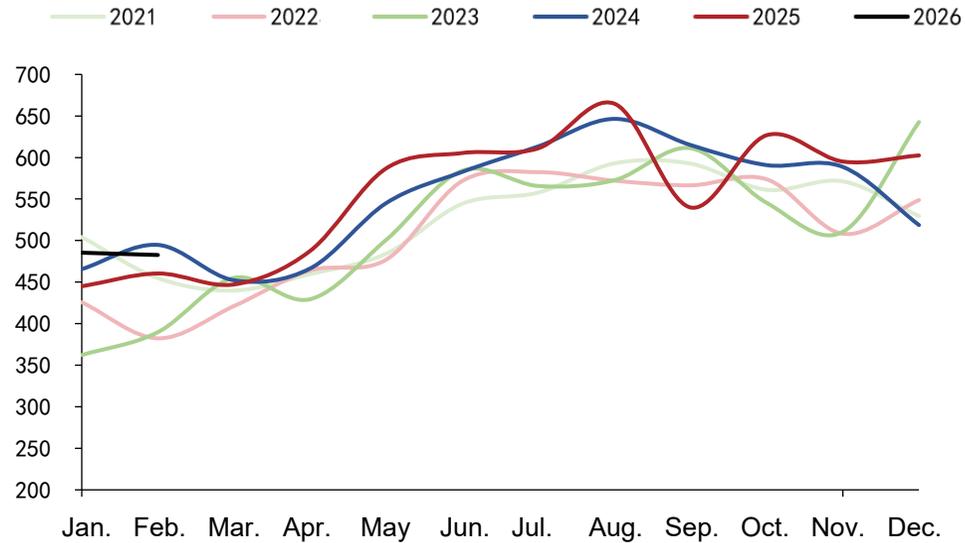
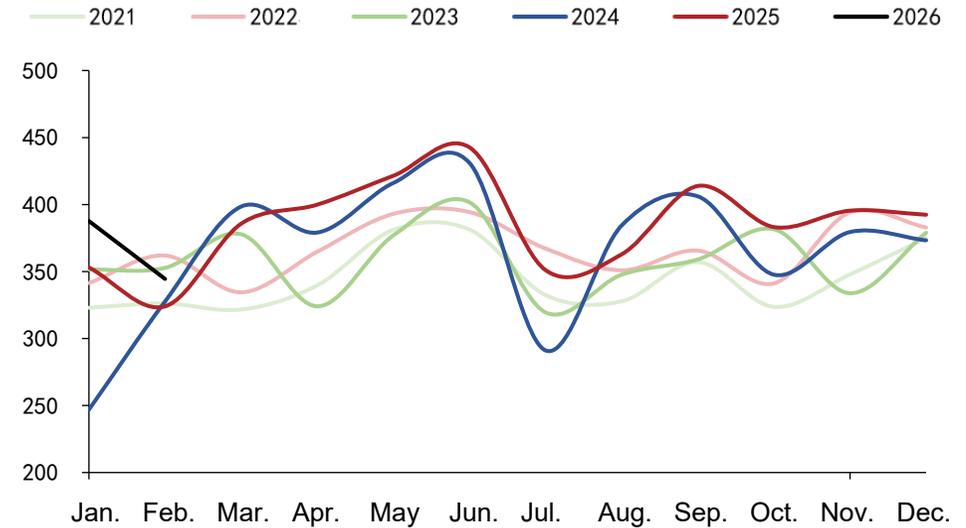


Figure 23: From FMG to China (10kt)



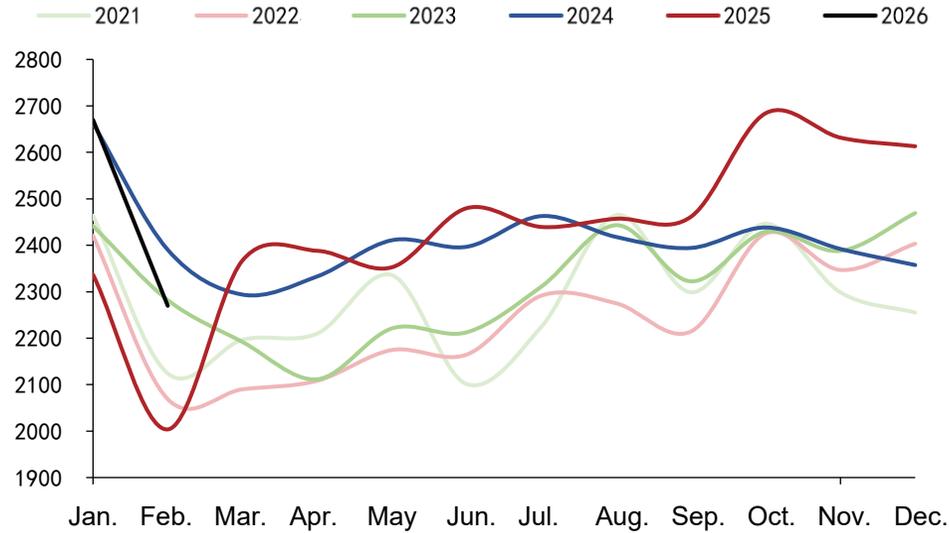
Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

In February:

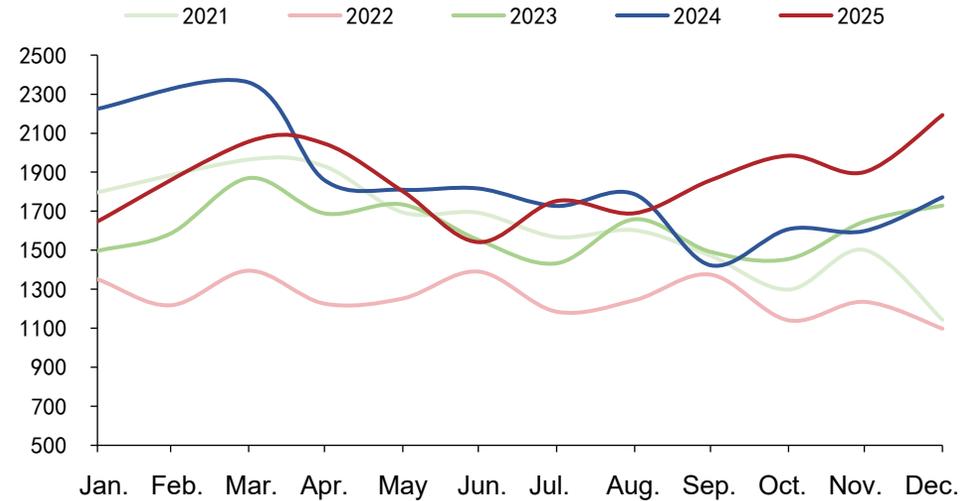
- Vale weekly average: 4.8265 million t (-27,700 million t MoM)
- FMG weekly average: 3.4448 million t (-431,900 t MoM)

Figure 24: China Iron Ore Arrival Volume (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 25: Domestic Non-Mainstream Ore Import Volume (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

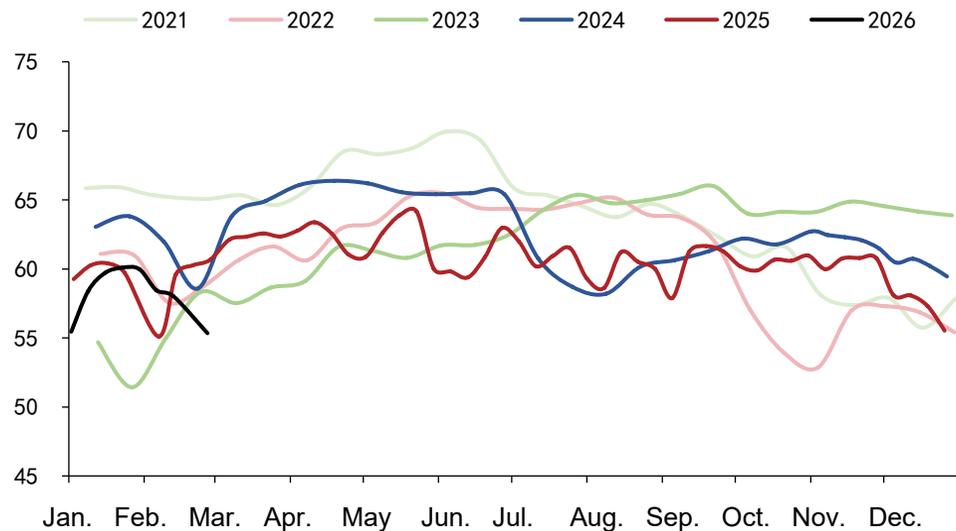
In February:

- 45 ports weekly average arrival volume: 22.6965 million t (-4.0059 million t MoM)

In December:

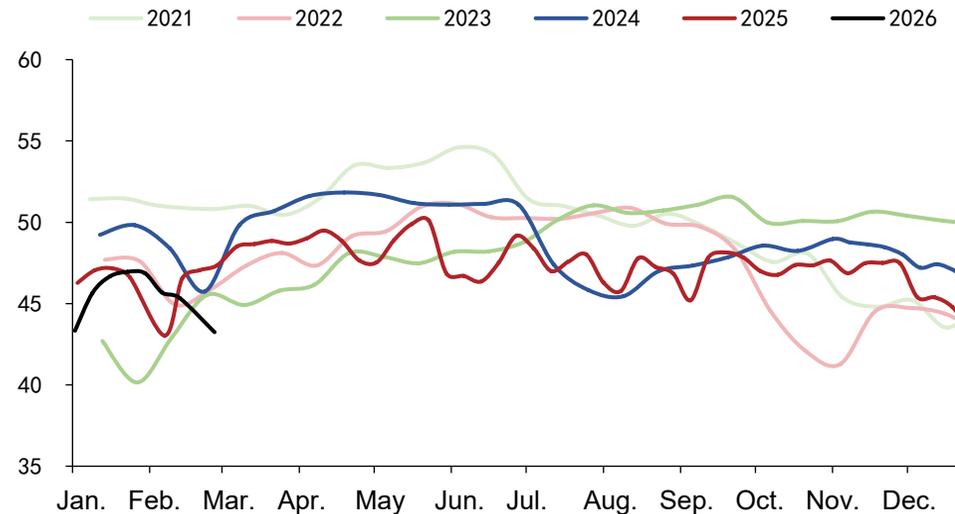
- China non-Australia/Brazil iron ore imports: 21.9278 million t (+2.9236 million t MoM)

Figure 26: Domestic Mines Operating Rate (%)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 27: Daily Average Output of Iron Concentrate Fines in 186 Miners (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of end-February:

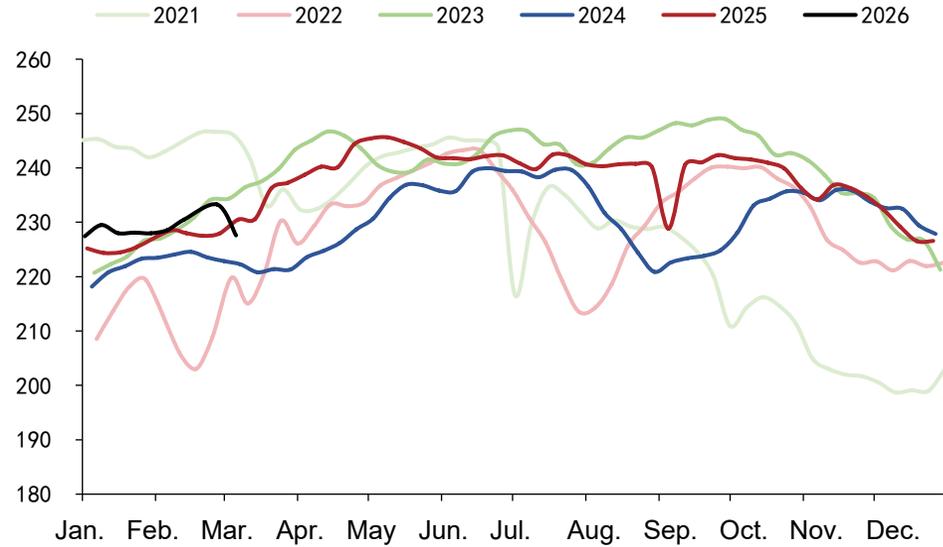
- Domestic mine capacity utilization rate: 55.34% (-4.64 pp MoM)
- Domestic iron concentrate daily output: 432,400 t (-36,300 t MoM)

05

Demand

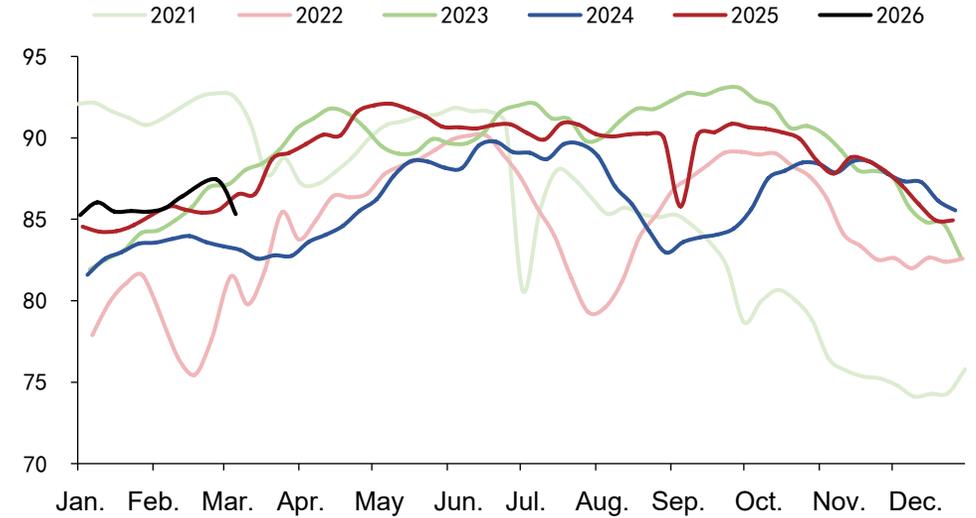
The background of the slide features a series of thin, light-colored lines that curve and flow across the bottom half, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are more densely packed in some areas and more sparse in others, contributing to a modern, abstract aesthetic.

Figure 28: Daily Average Domestic Molten Iron Output (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 29: Blast Furnace Utilization Rate (%)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

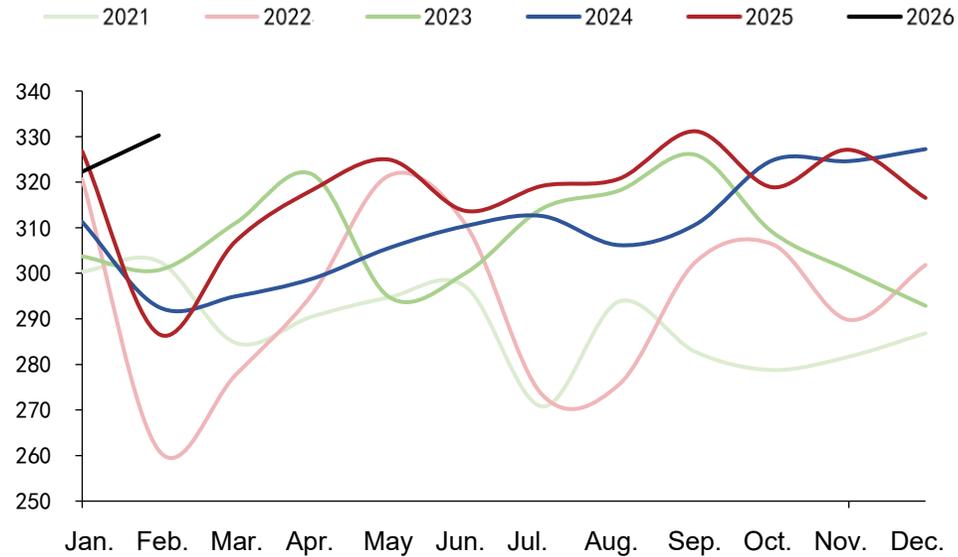
Estimated for February:

- Domestic daily average hot metal output: 2.3067 million t (+22,500 t MoM)

As of end-February:

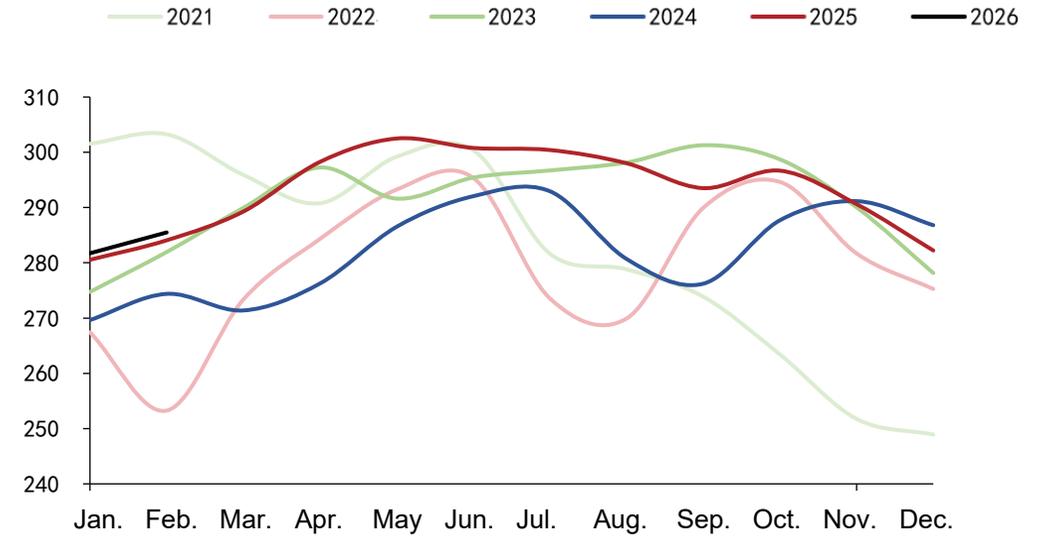
- Blast furnace utilization rate: 87.45% (+1.98 pp MoM)

Figure 30: Average Daily Withdrawals (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 31: Daily Consumption of Imported Iron Ore of 247 Steel Mills (10kt)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

In February:

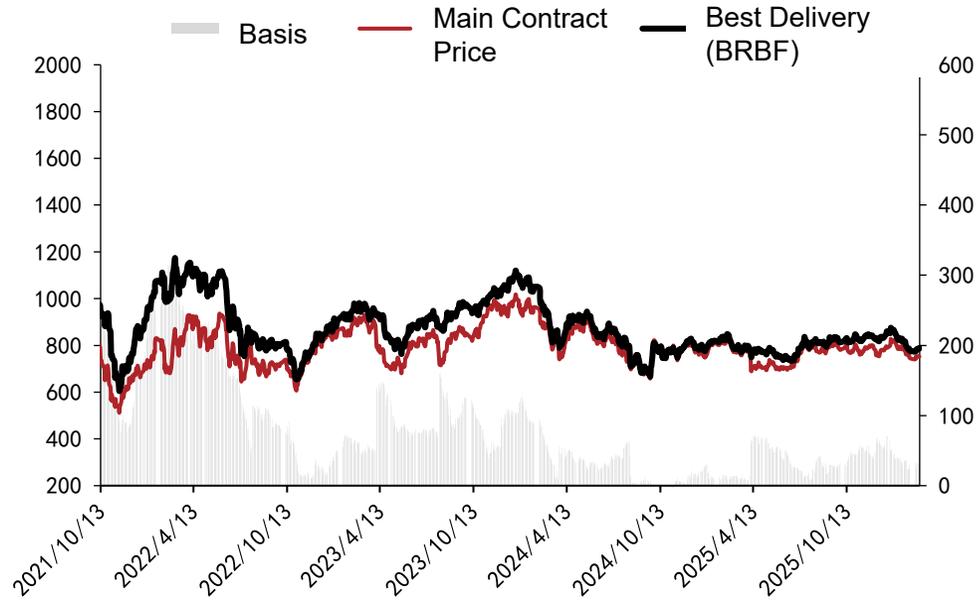
- 45 ports daily average port clearance volume (weekly avg): 3.3025 million t (+79,700 t MoM)
- Steel mills import iron ore daily consumption (weekly avg): 2.8550 million t (+37,700 t MoM)

06

Basis

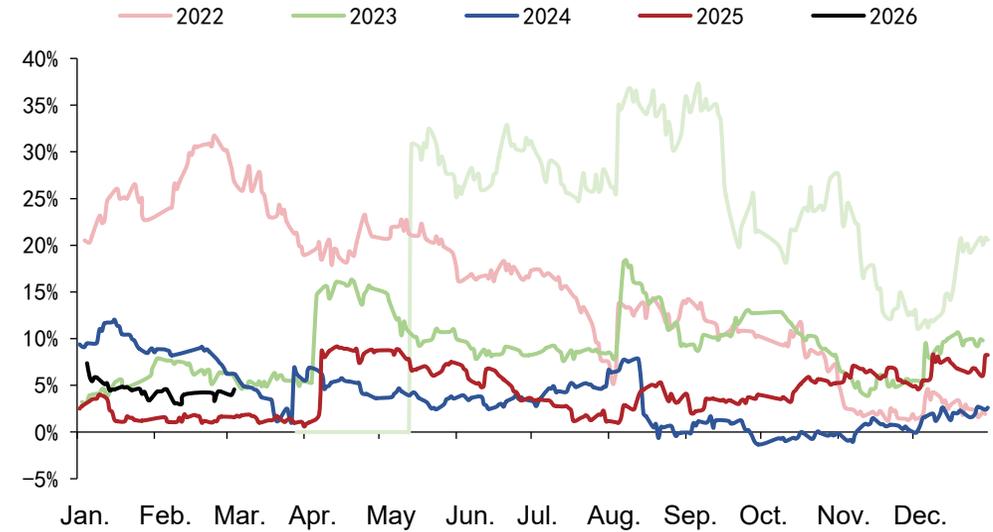


Figure 32: Iron Ore Basis (RMB/ton)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

Figure 33: Basis Rate (%)



Sources: MYSTEEL, Minmetals Futures

As of February 27:

- Estimated iron ore BRBF main contract basis: CNY 34.27/t
- Basis rate: 4.37%

Please refer to international@minfutures.com for any comment or suggestion.

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Website

www.wkqh.cn www.minfutures.com/english/index

Hotline

400-888-5398

Headquarter

13-16/F, Minmetals Financial Center, No. 3165 Binhai Ave., Nanshan District, Shenzhen, China



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