

IRON ORE

Rio Tinto's iron ore operations in Western Australia's Pilbara region recorded stable results in the third quarter of 2025, with production reaching 84.1 million tonnes and shipments totalling 84.3 million tonnes on a 100 percent basis—virtually unchanged from the same period last year but around six percent higher than in the previous quarter. The miner reaffirmed its full-year shipment guidance of 323 to 338 million tonnes, noting that output is expected to come in toward the lower end of that range due to earlier weather-related disruptions. Alongside steady iron-ore performance, Rio Tinto reported a 9 percent year-on-year increase in bauxite production to 16.4 million tonnes and a 7 percent rise in alumina output to 1.9 million tonnes, highlighting a broadly consistent operational quarter across its commodities portfolio. (SteelOrbis)

COAL

China's imports of Mongolian coal reached a record monthly high in September, customs data showed on Monday, as Beijing's efforts to tackle overcapacity pushed up domestic prices and sent traders looking for cheaper supply. Mongolia shipped 9.29 million metric tons of coal to China in September, according to China's General Administration of Customs. That marked a 33% surge from a year earlier and the highest monthly level on record since customs started reporting the data in 2015. China has placed restrictions on coal production in recent months following an unexpected supply increase in the first half of the year that weighed on prices, widely perceived to be part of China's so-called "anti-involution" campaign aimed at curbing overcapacity and unsustainably low prices across many industries. The move has pushed domestic thermal coal prices to the highest level in roughly eight months. Futures prices for metallurgical coal used in steelmaking have jumped 30% since the beginning of July. (Reuters)

Venezuela, casting around for income amid U.S. sanctions, recently restarted coal production with a Turkish company and is looking to export more than 10 million tons of the fuel this year, company sources say. But the mining is occurring without environmental safeguards, polluting local air and water, according to a company source with knowledge of the operations, Indigenous leaders and members of local communities. Venezuela's coal production stood at around 3 million tons in the first quarter of 2025, according to data from Carbozulia, putting the nation on track to surpass its 8-million-ton annual output of the early 2000s. (Reuters)

GRAIN

China imported no soybeans from the U.S. in September, the first time since November 2018 that shipments fell to zero, while South American shipments surged from a year earlier, as buyers shunned American cargoes during the ongoing trade dispute between the world's two largest economies. Imports last month from the U.S. fell to zero from 1.7 million metric tons a year earlier, data from China's General Administration of Customs showed on Monday. Shipments fell because of the high tariffs China has imposed on U.S. imports and as previously harvested U.S. supplies, known as old-crop beans, have already been traded. China is the world's biggest soybean importer. Brazil arrivals last month jumped 29.9% year-on-year to 10.96 million tons, accounting for 85.2% of China's total imports of the oilseed, customs data showed, while shipments from Argentina rose 91.5% to 1.17 million tons, or 9% of the total.

OIL

The European Union 's energy ministers on Monday backed the bloc's proposals to phase out Russian oil and gas imports by January 2028, the Council of the European Union said on Monday. In a meeting in Luxembourg, EU energy ministers approved the plans, which would also phase out Russian gas imports under new contracts from January 2026, then existing short-term contracts from June 2026, and long-term contracts in January 2028. The EU wants to phase out Russian oil and gas imports in a bid to deprive the Kremlin of revenues to fund its war in Ukraine. (Reuters)

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