

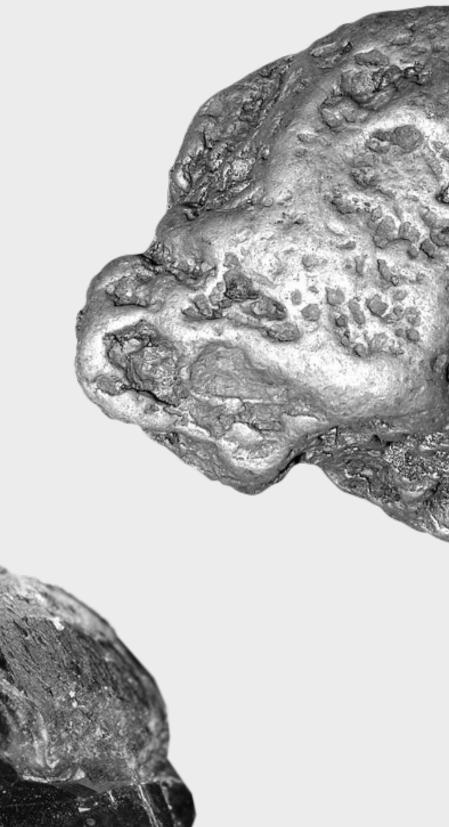
Iron Ore 2022 & The Road Ahead

Norman Fong

Asia Steelmaking Raw Materials Reporter







Downtrend in IO prices in 2H 2022



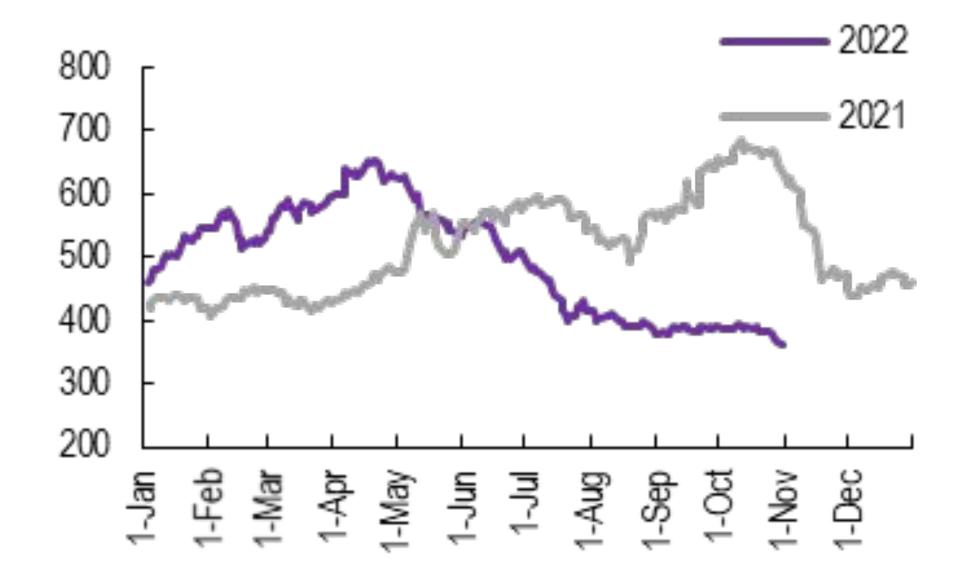
Iron ore 62% Fe fines, cfr Qingdao, \$/tonne Iron ore 62% Fe low-alumina fines, cfr Qingdao, \$/tonne Iron ore 65% Fe Brazil-origin fines, cfr Qingdao, \$/tonne



Weakness in domestic and export demand for downstream steel products

Limited upside for IO prices - narrow mill margins alongside high iron ore inventory

Downtrend in IO prices in 2H 2022



Hot metal cost, usd/tonne



Weakness in domestic and export demand for downstream steel products

Limited upside for IO prices - narrow mill margins alongside high iron ore inventory

Domestic downstream market rocked by poor construction & manufacturing demand



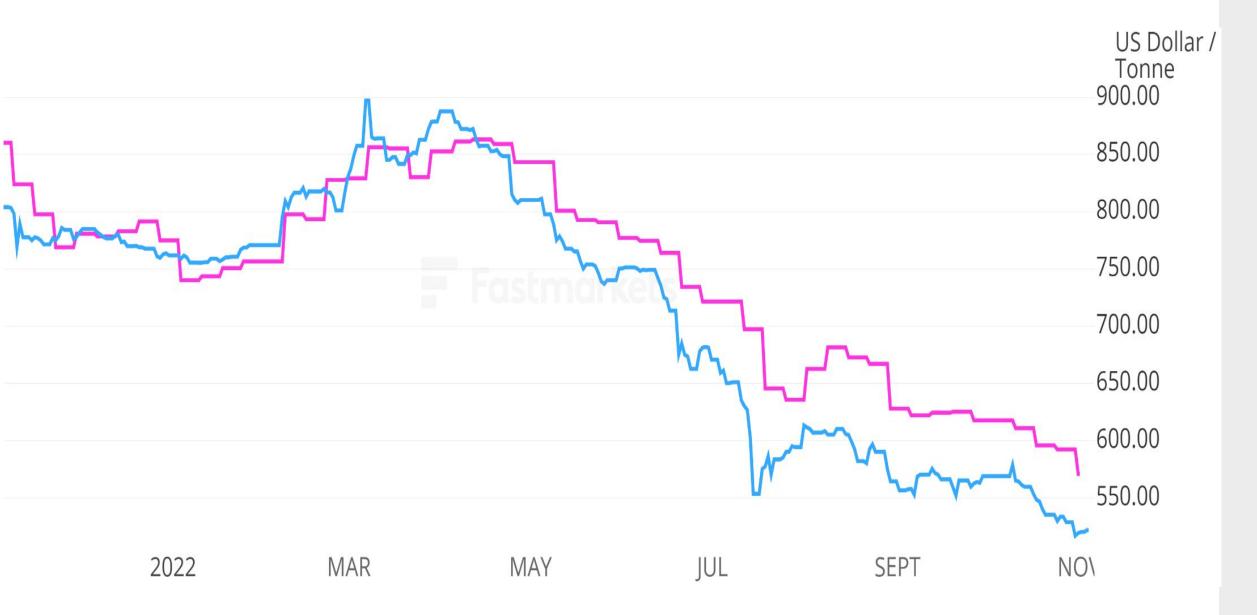
Steel reinforcing bar (rebar) domestic, ex-whs Eastern China, yuan/tonne Steel hot-rolled coil domestic, ex-whs Eastern China, yuan/tonne



Rebar and HRC prices have tumbled by 20% since June 2022

Construction activity expected to remain thin throughout winter

Limited upside in regional export market



Steel reinforcing bar (rebar) index export, fob China main port, \$/tonne Steel hot-rolled coil index export, fob main port China, \$/tonne

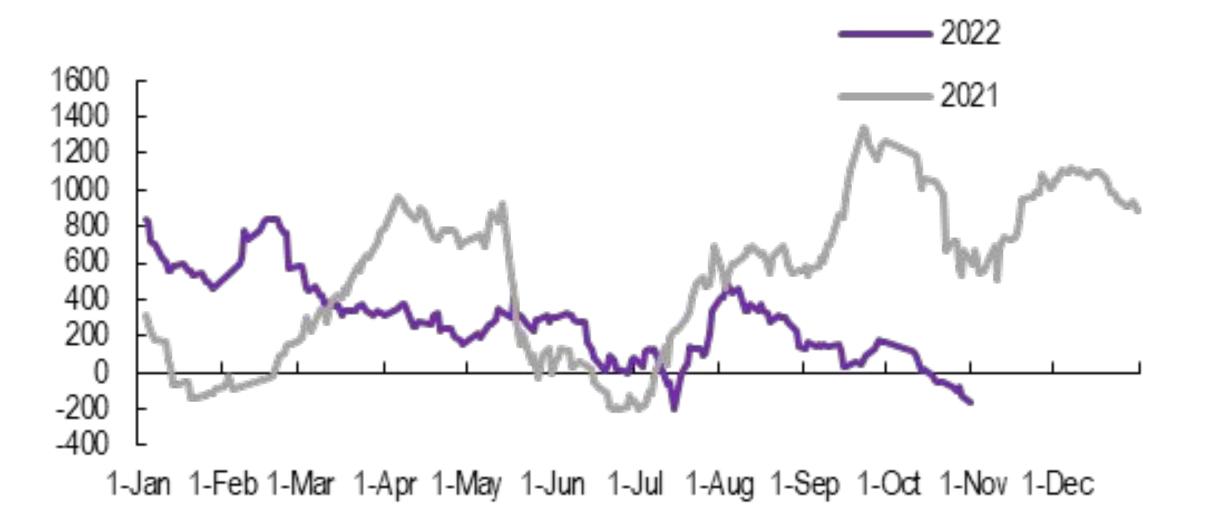


Poor consumption from major importers in JKT and Vietnam

Asia-Pacific region rocked by headwinds in from slow construction and manufacturing demand

5

Mill margins under threat



China's Steel Mill rebar margin proxy, yuan/tonne



Chinese mills saw thinner profit margins amid weak downstream steel market

Mill margins under threat

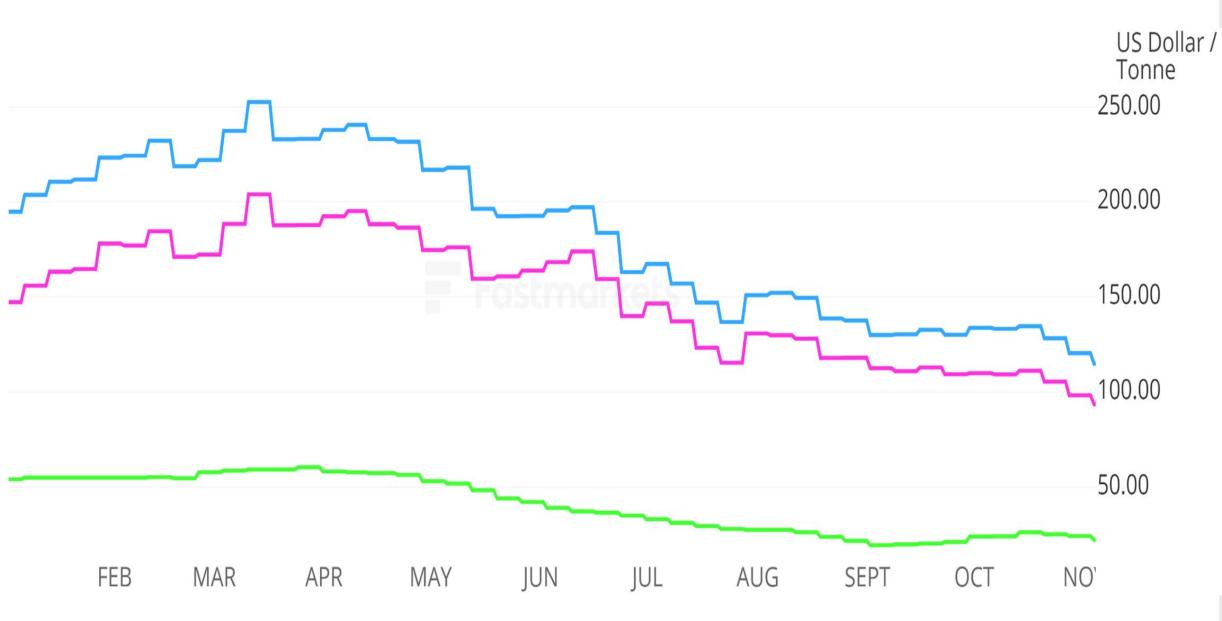


China's Steel Mill HRC margin proxy, yuan/tonne



Chinese mills saw thinner profit margins amid weak downstream steel market

High-grade IO market in doldrums



Iron ore 66% Fe concentrate, cfr Qingdao, \$/tonne Iron ore 65% Fe blast furnace pellet, cfr Qingdao, \$/tonne Iron ore pellet premium over 65% Fe fines, cfr China, \$/tonne



Strong preference for low-cost sinter fines amid tight margins

Diverted volumes amid slowdown in EU BF activity

High-grade IO market in doldrums



Iron Ore 65% Fe Fines/62% Fe Fines Differential, usd/tonne



Strong preference for low-cost sinter fines amid tight margins

Diverted volumes amid slowdown in EU BF activity

Has the decarbonization drive in the ferrous industry taken a backseat in 2022?



Decarbonization down the IO chain

Scaling back on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions

Curbing environmental impact of mining operations

Weaning away from fossil fuel-based production towards renewable energy

Rio Tinto to invest \$7.5bln to meet emission

targets

Rio Tinto will invest \$7.5 billion to reduce emissions and meet its carbon targets earlier than planned, the company announced on Wednesday September 20.

Fortescue announces execution plan for

industry leading decarbonisation

- US\$6.2 billion capital investment by 2030 to eliminate fossil fuel risk and reduce operating costs by US\$818 million per vear.

Operations

(Scopes 1 and 2)

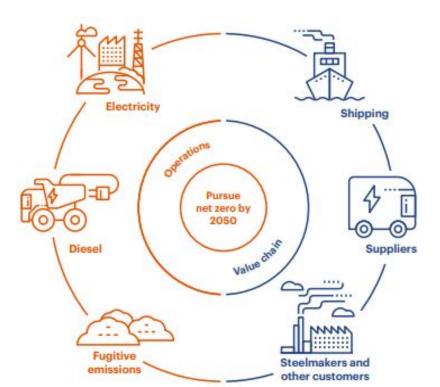
FY2030

arget	Reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% from FY2020 levels.

2050

Goal Achieve net zero operational greenhouse gas emissions.





Decarbonization down the IO chain

Scope 3:

Producing <u>multiple pathways</u> to green steel through its feedstock

Vale pushes 'green briquette' to reduce GHG

Brazil's Vale has launched a new iron ore product that will reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by up to 10% in the steel production process, it said on Thursday September 9.



We are developing the production of carbon-free sponge iron. This way, we're taking a step forward in the value chain, increasing the value of our products and giving our customers direct access to the carbon-free iron needed to build the sustainable world of the future.



'Green' Iron Ore

Carbon-free sponge iron

Green Iron Ore

of mining.

IO produced with lesser emissions

IO that reduces emission load in steelmaking

Weaning the ferrous industry from high-impurity fines

Minimizing sinter load

- High-grade sinter fines
- Lowering reduction burden \bullet
- Direct charge material

2 Drilling Blasting Loading

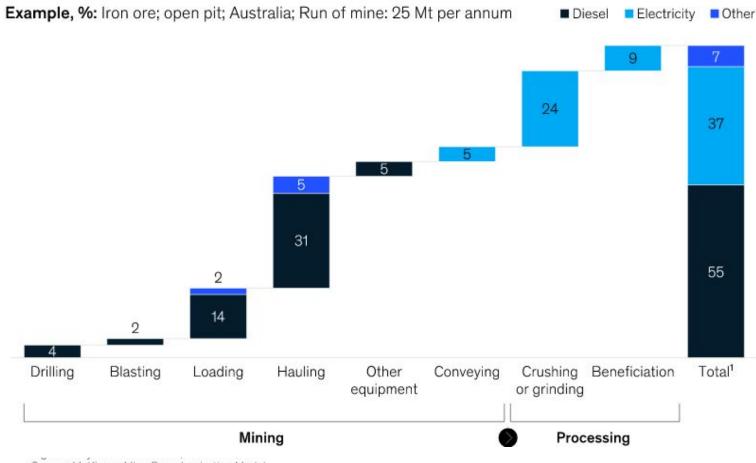
Source: McKinsey Mine Decarbonization Model

Southeast Asia's blast furnace capacity set for 25% growth

Blast furnace (BF)-based steelmaking capacity in Southeast Asia could balloon by 25% over the next few years with the emergence of new projects, the South East Asia Iron & Steel Institute (Seaisi) said recently



Addressing emissions from multiple sources is key to the decarbonization



Developments in the IO industry



Ongoing pivot towards high-grade sinter fines

Expanding the use of BF and DR-grade pellets





Direct Reduced Iron & Hot Briquetted Iron



Thank you

Norman Fong – Steelmaking Raw Materials Reporter norman.fong@fastmarkets.com

