

# Steel Price Tracker

# Weak demand prevents steel price hikes in Brazil as mills cut HRC operating rates

**Industry Overview** 

# Tracking global steel and raw materials price variations

Our Steel Price Tracker aims to track variations in steel prices across the globe as well as regional simplified cash margins. We also provide a snippet of key news articles related to price movements as well as a weekly tracking of import parity premiums in Brazil and a summary of the latest industry data.

We hope that you find it useful. We welcome feedback or suggestions readers may have.

# Exhibit 1: Snapshot of steel prices (USD/t)

Summary of weekly price movements

| Current Price (USD/t) | w/w Change (USD/t)  | w/w Change (%) |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
|                       |   |                |
| 535.1                 | -19.66  | -3.54%         |
| 491.2                 | -32.17  | -6.15%         |
|                       |   |                |
| 529.0                 | -20.00  | -3.64%         |
| 542.0                 | -18.00  | -3.21%         |
|                       |   |                |
| 4,800.0               | 0.00  | 0.00%          |
| 3,900.0               | 0.00  | 0.00%          |
|                       |   |                |
| 1,135.4               | -22.04  | -1.90%         |
| 925.0                 | -10.00  | -1.07%         |
|                       |   |                |
| 680.0                 | 0.00  | 0.00%          |
| 622.5                 | 2.00  | 0.32%          |
|                       |   |                |
| 222.0                 | -2.50   | -1.11%         |
| 223.0                 | 1.00  | 0.45%          |
| 87.7                  | -5.30   | -5.70%         |
| 102.5                 | -5.95   | -5.49%         |
| 113.8                 | -8.65   | -7.07%         |
| 130.7                 | -2.94   | -2.20%         |
| 480.0                 | 0.00  | 0.00%          |
| 375.0                 | 5.00  | 1.35%          |
|                       |   |                |
| 462.6                 | 0.00  | 0.00%          |
| 230.2                 | -3.86   | -1.65%         |
| 385.0                 | 9.50  | 2.53%          |
|                       | 535.1<br>491.2<br>529.0<br>542.0<br>4,800.0<br>3,900.0<br>1,135.4<br>925.0<br>680.0<br>622.5<br>222.0<br>223.0<br>87.7<br>102.5<br>113.8<br>130.7<br>480.0<br>375.0 | 535.1          |

Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

(\*) Brazilian prices in BRL

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### 30 May 2023

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CRC = cold rolled coil

HCC = hard coking coal

HDG = hot dip galvanized

HMS = heavy melting scrap

HRC = hot rolled coil

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Timestamp: 30 May 2023 03:45PM EDT

# Weekly news flow

### Asia: Prices down w/w; BF operating rates up to 89.93%

Steel export prices were down w/w in China last week, with Chinese exported hot rolled coil (HRC) down \$20/t w/w to \$529/t and rebar down \$18/t w/w to \$542/t. Chinese steel spot cash margins dropped RMB6/t w/w to RMB57/t for rebar but rose RMB5/t w/w to RMB27/t for HRC. Weekly production fell 4.2% w/w for rebar but rose 2.6% for HRC, while apparent consumption increased 1.4% w/w for rebar and 2.1% for HRC. Mill inventory dropped 2.7% w/w, while social inventory decreased 3.1% w/w. Downstream demand remained weak as construction and manufacturing still suffered from a shortage of funds (see the BofA Global Research China Basic Materials team's 29 May 2023 report). The blast furnace (BF) capacity utilization rate among 247 Chinese steel mills under Mysteel's regular survey had risen for the second straight week to 89.93% over May 19-25, inching up by another 0.8 percentage point from the prior week. As of May 25, 52 of the 126 blast furnaces in Tangshan region, North China's Hebei province, under Mysteel's weekly survey are either undergoing maintenance (excluding long-term production halts) or being idled.

#### New home sales volume was flattish y/y last week

Primary home sales volume increased by 1% y/y in the 42 cities that the BofA Global Research China property team tracks last week and decreased 4% w/w. The y/y growth rate weakened from the 16% y/y increase during the previous week, in line with channel checks, which indicated a weakening in sell-through rate and show flat visitor traffic. Across Tiers, primary home sales volume grew by 84% y/y in Tier-1 cities but declined by 6% y/y in Tier-2 and 20% y/y in Tier-3 cities. In May MTD, primary new home sales volume in 42 cities grew by 13% y/y, with Tier-1 cities rising by 89% y/y and Tier-2 rising by 8% y/y, while tier-3 cities were down by 11% y/y. Compared to the same period in April, May MTD sales volume declined by 14% m/m versus a typical 10% m/m increase seasonally. Looking into June, the team sees a double-digit y/y decline given a tougher comparison base in previous year (see the BofA Global Research China property team's 29 May 2023 report).

#### **BofA China Cement Outlook Indicator**

The BofA Global Research team's China cement indicator has stayed in negative territory for an extended period, with the latest reading at -0.75 in May, sequentially weaker from -0.51 in April. 75% of the cement producers throughout the nation have stayed pessimistic on the 3-month market outlook, and concrete producers are slightly more pessimistic at 80%, despite the traditional peak season in 1H. Meanwhile, cement inventory is hovering at a high level at 70%+, up 5%pt y/y. Cement respondents expect national demand to be flattish MoM in May. Overall, cement producers expect both property and infrastructure cement demand to be flattish in May on a sequential basis, a continuation of weak demand year to date. In the East, lukewarm demand fails to live up to expectations, while in the South & Central, prices are likely to drop further in the rainy season. In the Northeast & North & Northwest, the end of suspension has materially dampened market confidence, and production halt extensions are likely. In the Southwest, both infra and property demand have continued to disappoint (see the 30 May 2023 China Cement Outlook Indicator report).

#### April China ACT reading jumped higher against a low base

The BofA Global Research China team's Activity Coincident Tracker (ACT) surged further to 55.9% y/y in April from a revised reading of 22.3% in March. The y/y growth of all the underlying components improved, with passenger turnover and fiscal revenue jumping 391.1% and 69.8%, respectively. However, the elevated ACT reading was mainly boosted by a low year-ago base. If measured in two-year average growth terms, the headline China ACT was 16.7% in April (versus 7.9% in March), while electricity production (0.8%), real exports (1.4%), and real retail sales (-1.0%) all slowed down (see the 29 May 2023 BofA China ACT report).



# Türkiye: suppliers hold their offers post election week

Turkish export rebar prices were up \$2/t w/w to \$622.5/t. Platts reported that over the past week Turkish steelmakers held back their offers as they awaited the outcome of the Turkish election. Most suppliers were not willing to sell at prices lower than \$630-635/t, while buyers' tradable levels were \$610-615/t and with the mismatch between bid and ask prices, suppliers chose to wait. There is an expectation of developments in the Turkish domestic steel market in the week after the election, and with scrap prices moving up, mills believed they could hold their prices. The spread between rebar and scrap clocked in at \$237.5/t.

# Europe: bearish outlook as prices continue to drop

Platts reported that the outlook in the European HRC market remained bearish, particularly as steel buyers were purchasing limited volumes given their sufficient inventories and expectations that prices would drop going forward. According to Platts' contacts, buyers were expecting prices to reach EUR 700/t. Lead times are now also shorter, given this environment of lower orders and falling prices. Competitive imports were also one of the factors pressuring steel prices in Europe, according to Platts' contacts.

# North America: steel prices under pressure

Weekly US HRC prices were down \$22.04/t w/w to \$1,135/t last week, and rebar was down \$10/t w/w at \$925/t, as per Platts. Platt's US lead times dropped again w/w to 5.3 weeks for HRC, down from a recent peak of 8.7 weeks in March, while CRC's was down w/w to 6.9 weeks. According to Platts, HRC buyers were cautious, purchasing only on an as-needed basis and not building inventories now. Despite this, end-user demand remained strong, particularly in the construction and oil sectors, according to Platts' contacts. As for rebar, prices were under pressure over recent weeks, given the combination of increased competition with imported volumes and an anticipation of lower scrap prices for June.

# Latin America: weak demand prevents price hikes

Brazilian steel prices remained flat w/w last week, with HRC at R\$4,800/t and rebar at R\$3,900/t. Platts reported that mills continued to try to implement the sheet price hike, and some even reduced operating rates, with capacities halted for maintenance. However, prices remained stable due to weak demand. Some of Platts' contacts mentioned that they expected Chinese HRC prices to continue to drop, and with iron ore prices dropping, that could pressure Brazilian HRC prices. With a high import parity premium, players are incentivized to increase steel imports, according to Platts' contacts. As for rebar, prices were steady for the 12th straight week, mainly due to weak construction demand. Mills were not going to attempt to hike prices in the current scenarios, unless there is some development in terms of steel supply, according to Platts' contacts. The 2H23 outlook was bearish, as most market participants were expecting developments in the new fiscal framework and the start of a monetary easing cycle to see a boost in consumption and, therefore, steel demand.



# **Exhibit 2: Summary of steel price movements** Steel prices down w/w in China last week

| Steel Price Reference | Current Price (USD/t) | w/w Change (USD/t) | w/w Change (%) | m/m Change (%) | y/y Change (%) | Last Change |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| China Domestic        |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 535.1                 | -19.66             | -3.54%         | -6.91%         | -23.95%        | 26-May-23   |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 0.4                   | -3.03              | -89.64%        | n.m.           | n.m.           | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 491.2                 | -32.17             | -6.15%         | -15.14%        | -31.21%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | -8.0                  | -0.45              | -5.94%         | 78.50%         | 51.83%         | 26-May-23   |
| China Export          |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 529.0                 | -20.00             | -3.64%         | -11.54%        | -28.61%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 542.0                 | -18.00             | -3.21%         | -8.60%         | -24.09%        | 26-May-23   |
| Brazil Domestic*      |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 4,800.0               | 0.00               | 0.00%          | 0.00%          | -28.36%        | 20-Apr-23   |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 3,322.4               | 55.40              | 1.70%          | 4.75%          | -23.47%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 3,900.0               | 0.00               | 0.00%          | 0.00%          | -23.53%        | 10-Feb-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 2,750.1               | 20.10              | 0.74%          | -1.97%         | -10.89%        | 26-May-23   |
| Mexico Domestic       |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 1,200.6               | -1.39              | -0.12%         | -5.26%         | -9.73%         | 26-May-23   |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 738.0                 | -1.39              | -0.19%         | -3.57%         | -8.71%         | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 1,094.3               | -17.62             | -1.58%         | -6.25%         | -17.72%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 631.7                 | -17.62             | -2.71%         | -5.05%         | -21.86%        | 26-May-23   |
| Argentina Domestic    |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 889.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | 0.00%          | 0.00%          | 1-Mar-18    |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 593.2                 | 10.88              | 1.87%          | 4.75%          | 50.37%         | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 790.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -5.95%         | -24.76%        | 12-May-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 494.2                 | 10.88              | 2.25%          | -4.47%         | -11.04%        | 26-May-23   |
| US Domestic           |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 1,135.4               | -22.04             | -1.90%         | -11.97%        | -16.94%        | 25-May-23   |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 672.8                 | -22.04             | -3.17%         | -14.59%        | -20.40%        | 25-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 925.0                 | -10.00             | -1.07%         | -3.65%         | -21.28%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 462.4                 | -10.00             | -2.12%         | 0.95%          | -29.23%        | 26-May-23   |
| Turkey Domestic       |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 690.0                 | -10.00             | -1.43%         | -9.21%         | -22.47%        | 26-May-23   |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 305.0                 | -19.50             | -6.01%         | -13.48%        | -29.56%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 791.3                 | 16.40              | 2.12%          | -1.26%         | -8.71%         | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 406.3                 | 6.90               | 1.73%          | 3.14%          | -0.85%         | 26-May-23   |
| Turkey Export         |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 680.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -8.72%         | -21.84%        | 19-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 622.5                 | 2.00               | 0.32%          | -4.23%         | -18.36%        | 25-May-23   |
| Russia Domestic       |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 431.8                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -3.30%         | -21.20%        | 3-May-23    |
| HRC Cash Margin       | 136.0                 | 10.88              | 8.69%          | 9.81%          | 154.25%        | 26-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 387.6                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -0.54%         | -5.36%         | 3-May-23    |
| Rebar Cash Margin     | 91.7                  | 10.88              | 13.45%         | 37.03%         | n.m.           | 26-May-23   |
| Black Sea Export      |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HRC                   | 605.0                 | -10.00             | -1.63%         | -3.97%         | -21.43%        | 24-May-23   |
| Rebar                 | 565.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -5.44%         | -19.29%        | 2-May-23    |

Source: BofA Global Research, Platts (\*) Brazilian prices in BRL



# **Exhibit 3: Summary of raw materials price movements** Raw material prices were down last week

| Steel Price Reference                | Current Price (USD/t) | w/w Change (USD/t) | w/w Change (%) | m/m Change (%) | y/y Change (%) | Last Change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Raw Materials                        |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| HCC Australia                        | 222.0                 | -2.50              | -1.11%         | -11.20%        | -53.26%        | 23-May-23   |
| HCC China                            | 223.0                 | 1.00               | 0.45%          | -15.37%        | -46.78%        | 22-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 62 Kallanish                | 101.6                 | -5.86              | -5.45%         | -5.85%         | -22.38%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 58                          | 87.7                  | -5.30              | -5.70%         | -3.78%         | -16.71%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 62                          | 102.5                 | -5.95              | -5.49%         | -4.83%         | -21.94%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 65                          | 113.8                 | -8.65              | -7.07%         | -6.07%         | -26.78%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 58 Discount to 62           | 14.8                  | -0.65              | -4.22%         | -10.61%        | -43.16%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 65 Premium to 62            | 11.3                  | -2.70              | -19.29%        | -15.99%        | -53.11%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore 62 Lump                     | 113.1                 | -3.48              | -2.99%         | -5.40%         | -33.27%        | 26-May-23   |
| Iron Ore Pellet                      | 130.7                 | -2.94              | -2.20%         | -5.21%         | -29.15%        | 26-May-23   |
| Brazil Pig Iron                      | 480.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -10.28%        | -45.14%        | 19-May-23   |
| Black Sea Pig Iron                   | 375.0                 | 5.00               | 1.35%          | -2.60%         | -25.00%        | 26-May-23   |
| Scrap                                |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| US                                   | 462.6                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -7.84%         | -11.32%        | 8-May-23    |
| Brazil                               | 230.2                 | -3.86              | -1.65%         | 6.13%          | -45.47%        | 26-May-23   |
| Turkey                               | 385.0                 | 9.50               | 2.53%          | -5.52%         | -15.75%        | 26-May-23   |
| Semi-Finished                        |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| Turkey Billet                        | 580.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -7.57%         | -21.62%        | 1-May-23    |
| Black Sea Billet                     | 522.5                 | -5.00              | -0.95%         | -2.79%         | -13.99%        | 24-May-23   |
| Southeast Asia Billet                | 518.0                 | -4.00              | -0.77%         | -3.18%         | -19.81%        | 22-May-23   |
| Latin America Billet                 | 550.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | 0.00%          | -25.68%        | 14-Apr-23   |
| Black Sea Slab                       | 530.0                 | -10.00             | -1.85%         | -7.83%         | -11.67%        | 24-May-23   |
| Southeast Asia Slab                  | 595.0                 | 0.00               | 0.00%          | -3.41%         | -21.71%        | 1-May-23    |
| Brazil Slab                          | 700.0                 | -35.00             | -4.76%         | -17.16%        | -17.16%        | 26-May-23   |
| Futures                              |                       |                    |                |                |                |             |
| Iron Ore Active Contract             | 95.7                  | -0.72              | -0.74%         | -1.93%         | -4.61%         | 26-May-23   |
| China HRC Active Contract            | 504.2                 | -27.73             | -5.21%         | -7.20%         | N/A            | 26-May-23   |
| China Rebar Active Contract          | 793.3                 | -5.94              | -0.74%         | -1.93%         | -4.61%         | 26-May-23   |
| China HRC Simplified Cash Margin**   | 351.1                 | -26.59             | -7.04%         | -9.32%         | n.m.           | 26-May-23   |
| China Rebar Simplified Cash Margin** | * 640.2               | -4.79              | -0.74%         | -1.93%         | -4.61%         | 26-May-23   |

**Source:** BofA Global Research, Platts, MySteel, Bloomberg

 $(^{\star\star})$  Simplified cash margins calculated based on steel futures prices - iron ore futures

Exhibit 4: Steel price period comparison

Most prices have been above their historical averages

| Steel Price Reference    | Current Price | Last Week Price | Last Month Price | Last Year Price | 12M Average             | 5Y Average        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| hina Domestic            |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| IRC                      | 535           | 555             | 575              | 704             | 594                     | 640               |
| RC Cash Margin           | 0             | 3               | -33              | -44             | -17                     | 46                |
| ebar                     | 491           | 523             | 579              | 714             | 588                     | 625               |
| ebar Cash Margin         | -8            | -8              | -37              | -17             | -3                      | 55                |
| hina Export              |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| IRC                      | 529           | 549             | 598              | 741             | 610                     | 615               |
| Rebar                    | 542           | 560             | 593              | 714             | 604                     | 575               |
| Brazil Domestic*         |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| IRC                      | 4,800         | 4,800           | 4,800            | 6,700           | 4,947                   | 4,163             |
| IRC Cash Margin          | 3,322         | 3,267           | 3,172            | 4,341           | 3,109                   | 2,602             |
| Rebar                    | 3,900         | 3,900           | 3,900            | 5,100           | 4,307                   | 3,613             |
| Rebar Cash Margin        | 2,750         | 2,730           | 2,805            | 3,086           | 3,184                   | 2,525             |
| Mexico Domestic          | 2,730         | 2,730           | 2,003            | 3,000           | 2,104                   | 2,323             |
|                          | 1 201         | 1 202           | 1 267            | 1 220           | 061                     | 000               |
| IRC                      | 1,201         | 1,202           | 1,267            | 1,330           | 961                     | 989               |
| HRC Cash Margin          | 738           | 739             | 765              | 808             | 528                     | 615               |
| ebar                     | 1,094         | 1,112           | 1,167            | 1,330           | 1,073                   | 827               |
| ebar Cash Margin         | 632           | 649             | 665              | 808             | 639                     | 453               |
| rgentina Domestic        |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| IRC                      | 889           | 889             | 889              | 889             | 889                     | 889               |
| HRC Cash Margin          | 593           | 582             | 566              | 394             | 533                     | 570               |
| Rebar                    | 790           | 790             | 840              | 1,050           | 823                     | 894               |
| ebar Cash Margin         | 494           | 483             | 517              | 555             | 468                     | 575               |
| JS Domestic              |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| HRC                      | 1,135         | 1,157           | 1,290            | 1,367           | 983                     | 1,040             |
| HRC Cash Margin          | 673           | 695             | 788              | 845             | 550                     | 666               |
| Rebar                    | 925           | 935             | 960              | 1,175           | 992                     | 872               |
| Rebar Cash Margin        | 462           | 472             | 458              | 653             | 559                     | 494               |
| Turkey Domestic          | 402           | 7/ 4            | UCT              | 000             | JJJ                     | 7,77              |
| HRC                      | 690           | 700             | 760              | 890             | 721                     | 688               |
|                          | 305           | 325             | 353              | 433             | 327                     | 319               |
| HRC Cash Margin          |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| Rebar                    | 791           | 775             | 801              | 867             | 808                     | 683               |
| Rebar Cash Margin        | 406           | 399             | 394              | 410             | 413                     | 313               |
| Turkey Export            | 2             |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| HRC .                    | 680           | 680             | 745              | 870             | 709                     | 676               |
| Rebar                    | 623           | 621             | 650              | 763             | 676                     | 578               |
| Russia Domestic          |               |                 |                  |                 |                         |                   |
| HRC                      | 432           | 432             | 447              | 548             | 424                     | 590               |
| HRC Cash Margin          | 136           | 125             | 124              | 53              | 68                      | 271               |
| Rebar                    | 388           | 388             | 390              | 410             | 361                     | 500               |
| Rebar Cash Margin        | 92            | 81              | 67               | -85             | 6                       | 181               |
| Black Sea Export         | <del>-</del>  |                 |                  | <del>-</del>    |                         |                   |
| HRC                      | 605           | 615             | 630              | 770             | 625                     | 618               |
| Rebar                    | 565           | 565             | 598              | 700             | 584                     | 548               |
| Raw Materials            | 202           | JUJ             | 330              | 700             | <i>3</i> 0 <del>1</del> | J+0               |
| HCC Australia            | 222           | 225             | 250              | 475             | 293                     | 227               |
|                          | 222 223       |                 |                  |                 |                         | <u>227</u><br>257 |
| HCC China                |               | 222             | 264              | 419             | 316                     |                   |
| ron Ore 62 Kallanish     | 102           | 108             | 108              | 131             | 112                     | 114               |
| ron Ore 58               | 88            | 93              | 91               | 105             | 96                      | 89                |
| on Ore 62                | 102           | 108             | 108              | 131             | 112                     | 114               |
| on Ore 65                | 114           | 122             | 121              | 155             | 126                     | 132               |
| on Ore 58 Discount to 62 | 15            | 15              | 17               | 26              | 16                      | 25                |
| on Ore 65 Premium to 62  | 11            | 14              | 13               | 24              | 14                      | 18                |
| on Ore 62 Lump           | 113           | 117             | 120              | 169             | 123                     | 134               |
| ron Ore Pellet           | 131           | 134             | 138              | 184             | 148                     | 164               |
| Brazil Pig Iron          | 480           | 480             | 535              | 875             | 516                     | 443               |
| Black Sea Pig Iron       | 375           | 370             | 385              | 500             | 392                     | 414               |
| ocrap                    |               | <del></del>     |                  |                 | <del></del>             |                   |
| JS                       | 463           | 463             | 502              | 522             | 433                     | 374               |
| Brazil                   | 230           | 234             | 217              | 422             | 218                     | 224               |
| HULH                     | 230           | ZJ4             | ∠   /            | 722             | ∠10                     | <b>ZZ</b> 4       |

Exhibit 4: Steel price period comparison

Most prices have been above their historical averages

| Steel Price Reference                | Current Price | Last Week Price | Last Month Price | Last Year Price | 12M Average | 5Y Average |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Semi-Finished                        |               |                 |                  |                 |             |            |
| Turkey Billet                        | 580           | 580             | 628              | 740             | 625         | 537        |
| Black Sea Billet                     | 523           | 528             | 538              | 608             | 538         | 503        |
| Southeast Asia Billet                | 518           | 522             | 535              | 646             | 565         | 540        |
| Latin America Billet                 | 550           | 550             | 550              | 740             | 548         | 503        |
| Black Sea Slab                       | 530           | 540             | 575              | 600             | 515         | 533        |
| Southeast Asia Slab                  | 595           | 595             | 616              | 760             | 582         | 562        |
| Brazil Slab                          | 700           | 735             | 845              | 845             | 675         | 605        |
| Futures                              |               |                 |                  |                 |             |            |
| Iron Ore Active Contract             | 96            | 96              | 98               | 100             | 98          | 118        |
| China HRC Active Contract            | 504           | 532             | 543              | 0               | 566         | 566        |
| China Rebar Active Contract          | 793           | 799             | 809              | 832             | 811         | 677        |
| China HRC Simplified Cash Margin**   | 351           | 378             | 387              |                 | 411         | 411        |
| China Rebar Simplified Cash Margin** | 640           | 645             | 653              | 671             | 655         | 624        |

Source: BofA Global Research, Platts, MySteel, Bloomberg



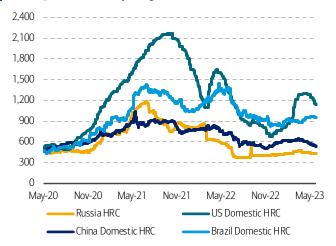
<sup>(\*)</sup> All prices are quoted in USD per metric ton, except Brazil Domestic prices and margins which are quoted in BRL per metric ton. (\*\*) Simplified cash margins calculated based on steel futures prices – iron ore futures BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# **Key charts**

# Main global steel references

### Exhibit 5: HRC price comparison around the globe (US\$/t)

US HRC prices are currently rising

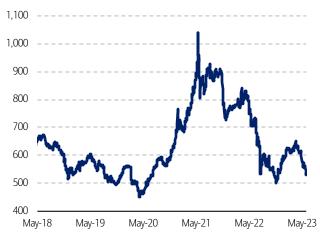


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 7: China HRC domestic prices (US\$/t)

HRC prices are declining again after increasing in the last months

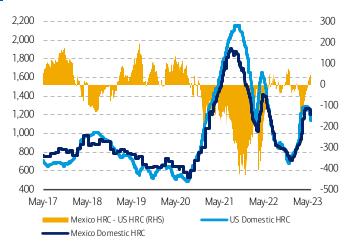


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 6: Mexico HRC and US HRC prices (US\$/t)

Mexican HRC historically follows US prices and is \$1,200/t, while US HRC is \$1,279/t

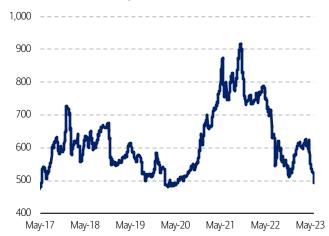


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 8: China rebar domestic prices (US\$/t)

Prices remain below recent peaks, close to 2019 levels

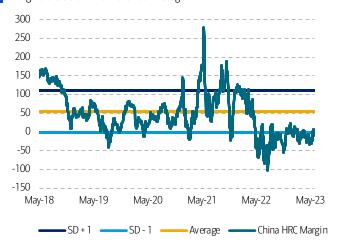


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts



### Exhibit 9: China HRC margins (US\$/t)

Margins are below the historical average

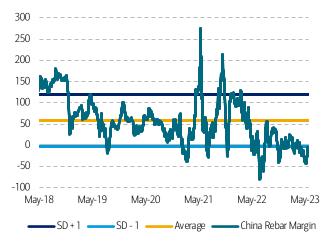


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 10: China rebar margins (US\$/t)

Margins are below the historical average



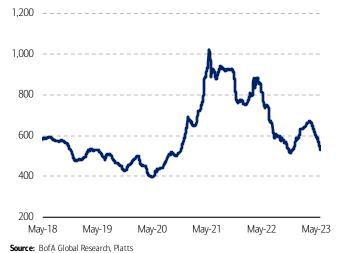
Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# **China Exports**

## Exhibit 11: China HRC export prices (US\$/t)

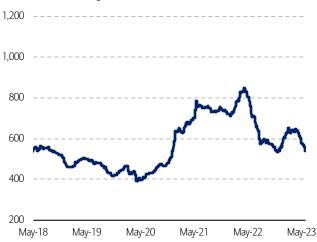
HRC prices are rising but continue below recent peaks in 2021



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# Exhibit 12: China rebar export prices (US\$/t)

Prices have been rising in 2023



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Platts



#### **Brazil**

#### Exhibit 13: Brazil HRC domestic prices (R\$/t)

HRC prices stopped dropping and are now flat

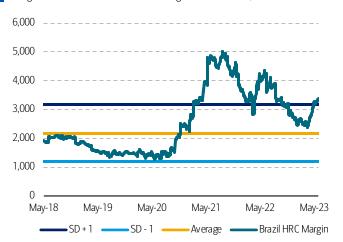


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 15: Brazil HRC margins (R\$/t)

Margins remain above historical average of around R\$2,150/t

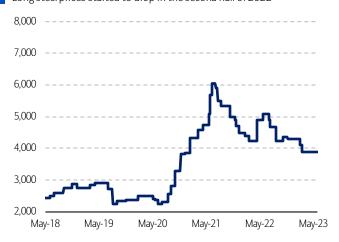


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 14: Brazil rebar domestic prices (R\$/t)

Long steel prices started to drop in the second half of 2022



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 16: Brazil rebar margins (R\$/t)

Margins are still above average



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Exhibit 17: Brazil HRC parity premium/discount calculation

We estimate Brazilian HRC at an 28.8% premium, considering a \$85/t freight

| Brazilian HRC import parity calculation |       |  |  |  |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| Chinese HRC price (US\$/t)              | 529   |  |  |  |
| Freight (US\$/t)                        | 85    |  |  |  |
| Insurance rate (%)                      | 0.5%  |  |  |  |
| Insurance (US\$/t)                      | 3.1   |  |  |  |
| Import tariff rate (%)                  | 9.6%  |  |  |  |
| Import tariff (US\$/t)                  | 59.2  |  |  |  |
| Other costs (US\$/t)                    | 70    |  |  |  |
| Total (US\$/t)                          | 746   |  |  |  |
| USDBRL                                  | 4.99  |  |  |  |
| Imported HRC price (R\$/t)              | 3,728 |  |  |  |
| Brazilian HRC price (R\$/t)             | 4,800 |  |  |  |
| Premium/discount                        | 28.8% |  |  |  |

Source: BofA Global Research, Platts, Bloomberg



### Exhibit 18: Brazil Rebar parity premium/discount calculation

We estimate Brazilian Rebar at an 3.2% discount, considering a \$55/t freight

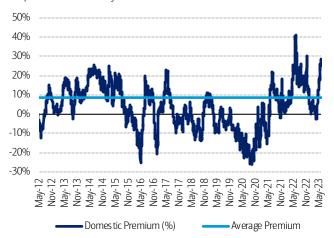
| Brazilian rebar import parity calculation |       |  |  |  |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| Turkish Rebar price (US\$/t)              | 623   |  |  |  |
| Freight (US\$/t)                          | 55    |  |  |  |
| Insurance rate (%)                        | 0.5%  |  |  |  |
| Insurance (US\$/t)                        | 3.39  |  |  |  |
| Import tariff rate (%)                    | 9.6%  |  |  |  |
| Import tariff (US\$/t)                    | 65    |  |  |  |
| Other costs (US\$/t)                      | 60    |  |  |  |
| Total (US\$/t)                            | 806   |  |  |  |
| USDBRL                                    | 4.99  |  |  |  |
| Imported rebar price (R\$/t)              | 4,027 |  |  |  |
| Brazilian rebar price (R\$/t)             | 3,900 |  |  |  |
| Premium/discount                          | -3.2% |  |  |  |

Source: BofA Global Research, Platts, Bloomberg

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# Exhibit 19: Brazilian historical premium/discount to Chinese HRC landed prices (%)

The premium is currently ~28.8%

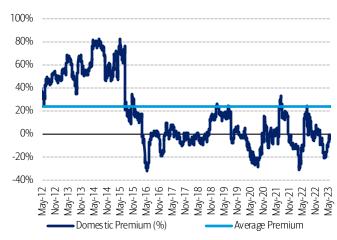


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts, Bloomberg

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# Exhibit 20: Brazilian historical premium/discount to Turkish rebar landed prices (%)

The discount is currently 3.2%



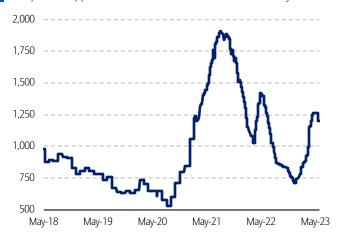
Source: BofA Global Research, Platts, Bloomberg



#### Mexico

#### Exhibit 21: Mexico HRC prices (US\$/t)

HRC prices dropped ~46% in 2022 and started to increase this year



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 23: Mexico HRC margins (US\$/t)

Margins are now above the historical average

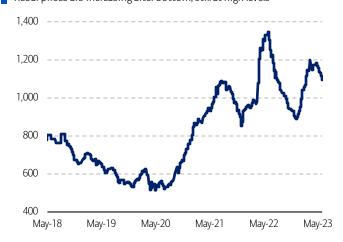


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 22: Mexico rebar prices (US\$/t)

Rebar prices are increasing after bottom, still at high levels

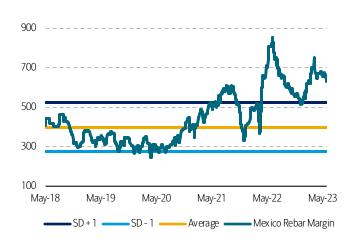


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 24: Mexico rebar margins (US\$/t)

Rebar margins are rising since December 2022

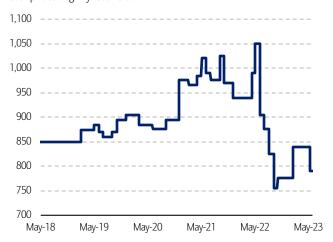


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

## **Argentina**

### Exhibit 25: Argentina rebar prices (US\$/t)

Rebar prices slightly recovered



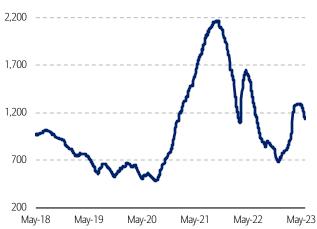
Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### US

#### Exhibit 27: US HRC prices (US\$/t)

US HRC are rising after a downward trend



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Exhibit 29: CRU - US monthly steel prices

Prices were flat m/m in the US

|                      | May-23 | Apr-23 | m/m% | y/y%  |
|----------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|
| U.S.                 |        |        |      |       |
| Rebar prices (\$/st) | 940    | 940    | 0.0% | -6.0% |
| Beam price (\$/st)   | 1,370  | 1,370  | 0.0% | -2.8% |
| M. bar price (\$/st) | 1,166  | 1,166  | 0.0% | -4.1% |

Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

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### Exhibit 26: Argentina rebar margins (US\$/t)

Margins are below historical average in Argentina

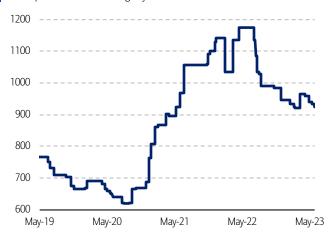


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 28: US rebar prices (US\$/t)

Rebar prices rebounded slightly in the US



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Exhibit 30: CRU - US weekly prices

Prices down w/w in the US

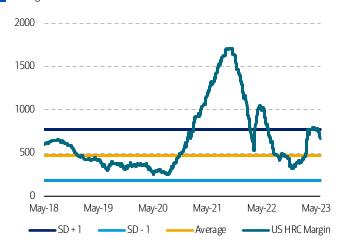
|                        | 24-May-23 | w/w%  | m/m%   | y/y%   |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Flat steel weekly |           |       |        |        |
| HRC price (\$/st)      | 1,076     | -1.2% | -7.9%  | -18.4% |
| CRC price (\$/gt)      | 1,230     | -5.3% | -10.2% | -30.2% |
| HDG (\$/st)            | 1,315     | -1.4% | -8.5%  | -28.5% |
| Plate (\$/gt)          | 1,560     | -1.5% | 1.5%   | -15.4% |

Source: BofA Global Research, CRU



#### Exhibit 31: US HRC margins (US\$/t)

Margins have followed price's movements and are above the historical average  $\,$ 

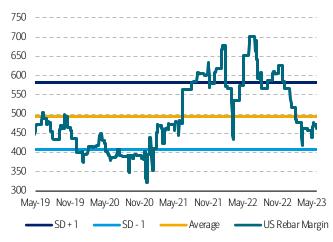


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 32: US rebar margins (US\$/t)

Margins are below the historical average



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 33: US rebar prices (US\$/short ton)

Rebar prices are currently above the historical average



Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

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#### Exhibit 34: US beam prices (US\$/short ton)

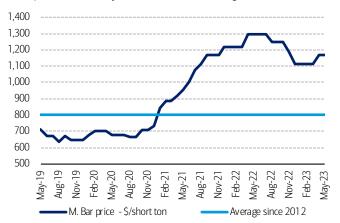
Beam prices are currently above the historical average



Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

#### Exhibit 35: US M. bar prices (US\$/short ton)

M. bar prices are currently above the historical average



Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

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#### Exhibit 37: US scrap prices (US\$/gross ton)

US scrap prices are above the historical average

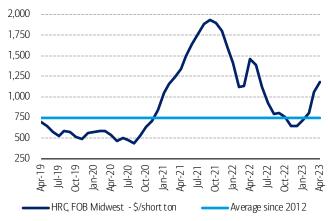


Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

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#### Exhibit 36: US HRC prices (US\$/short ton)

US HRC prices are above the historical average

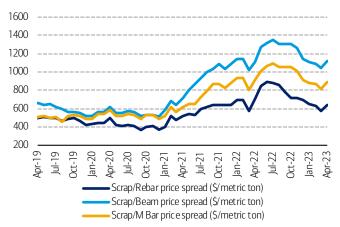


Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

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#### Exhibit 38: Long steel metal spreads (US\$/t)

Spreads are at high levels but correcting

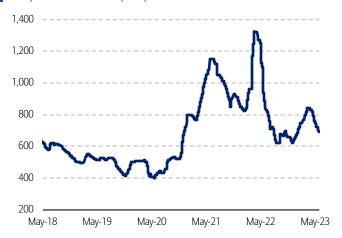


Source: BofA Global Research, CRU

### Türkiye

#### Exhibit 39: Turkey HRC prices (US\$/t)

HRC prices declined after peak post the Russian invasion in Ukraine

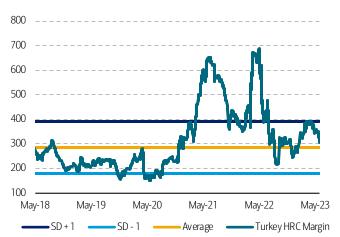


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 41: Türkiye HRC margins (US\$/t)

Margins are currently above the historical level

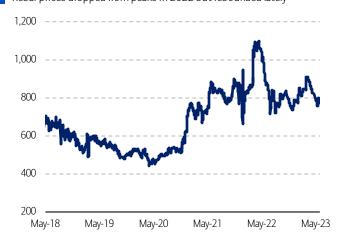


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 40: Türkiye rebar prices (US\$/t)

Rebar prices dropped from peaks in 2022 but rebounded lately

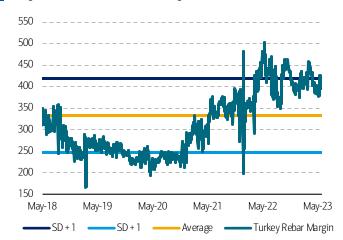


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 42: Türkiye rebar margins (US\$/t)

Margins are above the historical average

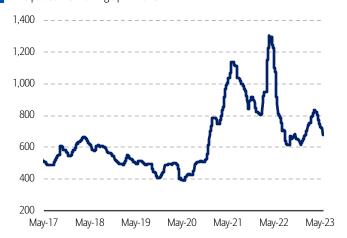


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

# Türkiye & Black Sea exports

## Exhibit 43: Türkiye HRC export prices (US\$/t)

HRC prices are moving up in 2023

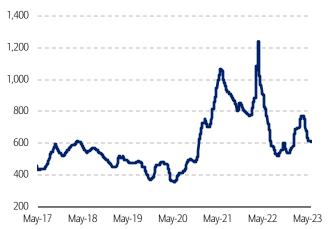


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Exhibit 45: Black Sea HRC export prices (US\$/t)

Prices for Black Sea HRC are rising

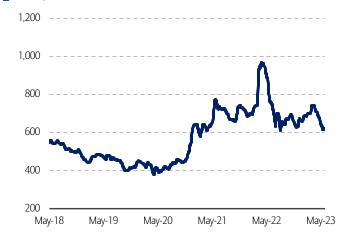


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 44: Türkiye rebar export prices (US\$/t)

Rebar prices declined and are closer to 2021 levels



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 46: Black Sea rebar export prices (US\$/t)

Prices for Black Sea's rebar have corrected but remain above past years

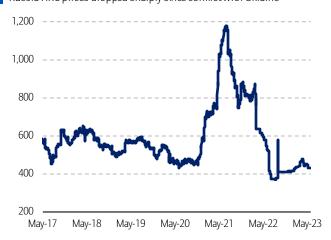


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

#### Russia

#### Exhibit 47: Russia HRC prices (US\$/t)

Russia HRC prices dropped sharply since conflict with Ukraine



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 49: Russia HRC margins (US\$/t)

HRC margin levels have bottomed and are now way below historical average

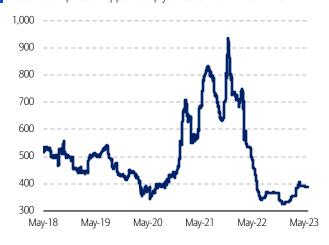


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 48: Russia rebar prices (US\$/t)

Russia rebar prices dropped sharply since conflict with Ukraine



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 50: Russia rebar margins (US\$/t)

Margins have dropped strongly and are now below historical average

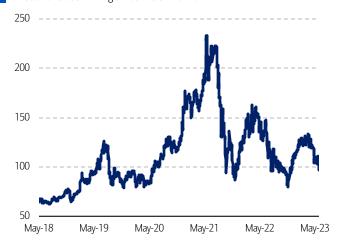


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

### **Raw Materials**

### Exhibit 51: Iron ore 62% CFR China prices (US\$/t)

Prices have been rising since the end of 2022



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 52: Iron ore grade discount/premium to 62% Fe content benchmark product (US\$/t)

Discounts dropped from higher levels last year



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Exhibit 53: Iron ore prices by grade (US\$/t)

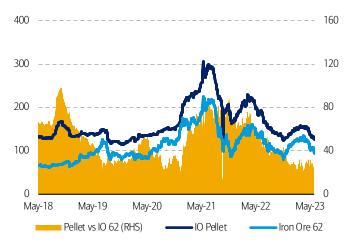
Prices have been increasing since the end of 2022



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

#### Exhibit 54: Iron ore pellets (US\$/t)

Iron ore pellet prices increased in 2022, with premium still high

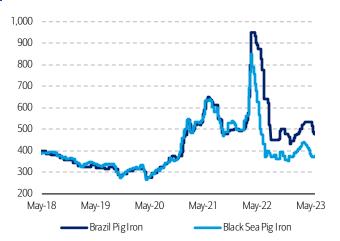


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 56: Pig iron prices (US\$/t)

Pigiron decreasing after March's peak close to \$900/t

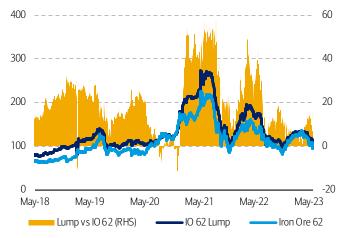


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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#### Exhibit 55: Iron ore 62% lump (US\$/t)

Iron ore lump premium showing positive recover after bottom by the end of  $2021\,$ 

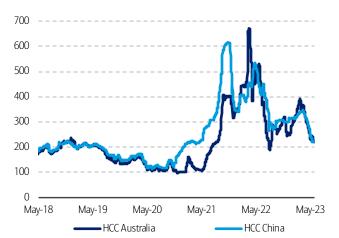


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 57: Hard cooking coal (HCC) prices (US\$/t)

After reaching peak in March due to tight supply, prices began to normalize, especially from Australia



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

### Exhibit 58: Scrap prices (US\$/t)

Scrap prices remain at elevated levels, especially for Türkiye and the US, while Brazilian scrap has started to correct



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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### Semi-Finished

#### Exhibit 59: Türkiye billet prices (US\$/t)

Türkiye billet prices have started to normalize after the peak in 2021 but are still at high levels



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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# Exhibit 60: Black Sea billet prices (US\$/t)

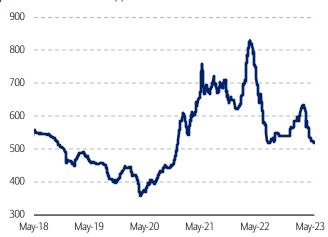
Black Sea billet prices dropped during 2022



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

### Exhibit 61: Southeast Asia billet prices (US\$/t)

Southeast Asia billet dropped in 2022

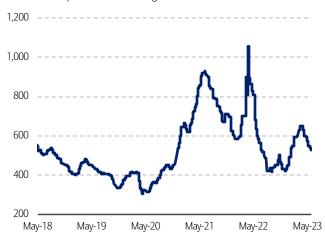


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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## Exhibit 63: Black Sea slab prices (US\$/t)

Black Sea slab prices are increasing

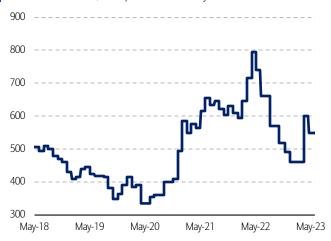


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

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## Exhibit 62: Latin America billet prices (US\$/t)

As for Latin America, billet prices are currently below US\$500/t

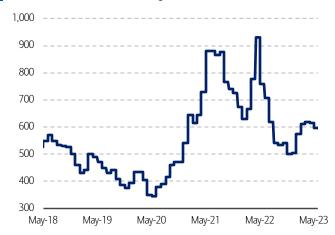


Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

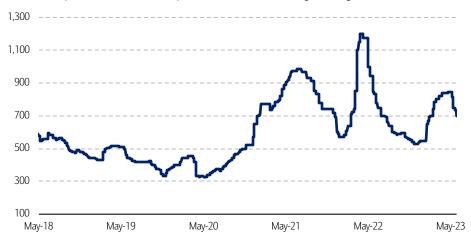
## Exhibit 64: Southeast Asia slab prices (US\$/t)

Southeast Asian slab started rising at the end of 2022  $\,$ 



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts

**Exhibit 65: Brazil slab prices (US\$/t)**Brazilian slab prices declined after new peak in March and are starting to rise again



Source: BofA Global Research, Platts



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