

# VALE

## 2Q25 Operational Preview: Decoupling from seasonality

LatAm Metals & Mining

### Main takeaways:

**(i) Production of iron ore fines at 81.9Mt Genial Est.** (+21.0% q/q; +1.6% y/y), driven by reduced rainfall in the southeast system after severe restrictions in 1Q25; **(ii) Shipments of fines at 66.6Mt Genial Est.** (+17.3% q/q; -2.8% y/y), with the gap widening to ~19% (+2.4 p.p. y/y), due to a higher concentration of volumes in China; **(iii) Realized price of fines at US\$83.8/t Genial Est.** (-7.7% q/q; -14.7% y/y); **(iv) Fines premium** should remain at **-US\$1.3/t Genial Est.** (flat vs. 1Q25), reflecting a stable commercial mix and a market less inclined to pay for quality; **(v) Pellet production of 8.1Mt Genial Est.** (+13.1% q/q; -9.3% y/y), after lowering the annual guidance to ~33Mt; **(vi) Pellet shipments** should total **7.5Mt Genial Est.** (+0.5% q/q; -15.1% y/y); **(vii) Realized pellet price** projected at **US\$135.6/t Genial Est.** (-3.7% q/q; -13.8% y/y), pressured by the decline in the 65% Fe curve and lower commercial attractiveness of sinter contracts; **(viii) Net revenue of US\$8.7bn Genial Est.** (+7.2% q/q; -12.2% y/y), sustained by stronger shipments of fines in the sequential movement, although pressured by lower realized prices for the main products; **(ix) C1/t at US\$23.1/t Genial Est.** (+10.0% q/q; -7.1% y/y), with an annual decline reflecting an 8% drop in CPP, while the q/q increase comes from lower fixed dilution and operational recompositing; **(x) Pro forma EBITDA at US\$3.2bn Genial Est.** (+0.3% q/q; -23.3% y/y), affected by the compression of fines prices; **(xi) Net income of US\$1.5bn Genial Est.** (+3.4% q/q; -47.9% y/y); **(xii) Shares** are trading at **3.8x EV/EBITDA 25E** (vs. historical average of 5.0x), with **FCF yield 25E of ~13%** (-1.0 p.p.) and **25E dividend yield of ~8%** (-1.0p.p.), maintaining the attractiveness of the thesis amid strategic reconfiguration and greater commercial transparency; we reiterate our **BUY** rating, raising our **12M Target Price to R\$64.00** (vs. R\$61.50 previously) **VALE3-B3** and **US\$11.60** (vs. US\$10.50 previously) ADRs-NYSE, representing **upside of +16%**.

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### Company

**VALE US Equity**  
**Buy**

**Price:** US\$ 9.96 (10-Jul-2025)  
**Target Price 12M:** US\$ 11.60 (NYSE)

**VALE3 BZ Equity**  
**Target Price 12M:** R\$ 64.00 (B3)

Vale will release its **Production and Sales Report** for **2Q25** on **July 22**, after the market closes. We believe that the result should be marked by a **sequential flattish EBITDA**, since the **decline in realized prices** should basically **offset the seasonal increase in shipments**. Therefore, a priori, 2Q25 could be **classified as “weak”** in our perception.

**Table 1. Operational Summary (2Q25 Genial Est.)**

(Thousand Tonnes - kt)	Genial Est.	Reported		Reported	
Summary	2Q25E	1Q25	% q/q	2Q24	% y/y
Iron Ore Production	81.894	67.663	21,0%	80.598	1,6%
Iron Ore Fines Shipments	66.594	56.762	17,3%	68.512	-2,8%
Pellets Production	8.123	7.184	13,1%	8.955	-9,3%
Pellets Shipments	7.529	7.493	0,5%	8.864	-15,1%

Source: Genial Investimentos, Vale

For now, we project **Net revenue of US\$8.7bn Genial Est.** (+7.2% q/q; -12.2% y/y), driven on a sequential basis by **iron ore fines shipments of 66.6Mt Genial Est.** (+17.3% q/q; -2.8% y/y), due to lower rainfall in the southeastern system compared to the previous quarter, but with a widening of the production vs. sales gap to ~19% (+2.4p.p. y/y), due to the higher volumes concentration in Chinese ports not counted as sales in the year-on-year view, in addition to mass losses.

Our projection for **C1/t ex. third parties is US\$23.1/t Genial Est.** (+10.0% q/q; -7.1% y/y), aided on an annual basis by a +10.5% y/y increase in the BRL/USD FX rate. We expect **Proforma EBITDA to clock in at US\$3.2bn Genial Est.** (+0.3% q/q; -23.3% y/y), which even with the sequential increase in shipments will be pressured by a high single digit drop in the **realized price of iron ore fines**, which we project at **US\$83.8/t Genial Est.** (-7.7% q/q; -14.7% y/y). Within this price composition, we estimate a **sequentially stable premium** — still in negative territory — of **-US\$1.3/t Genial Est.**

## 2Q25 Operational Preview: Production and sales in detail

**Iron Ore: y/y decline in sales due to change in concentration strategy.** We project that iron ore fines production will total 81.9Mt Genial Est. (+21.0% q/q; +1.6% y/y), supported by improved seasonality in the Southeast System, after last quarter was marked by heavy rains (mainly in the northern system) and logistical restrictions. Despite the expansion in production, we estimate that shipments of iron ore fines should reach 66.6Mt Genial Est. (+17.3% q/q; -2.8% y/y), with a contraction on an annual basis. The gap between production and sales is justified on three fronts: **(i)** strategy of concentrating volumes in ports in China, with longer lead times and the need to build up inventories at destination before the company can record them as sales; **(ii)** more significant mass losses, especially in products such as PFC1, whose processing can result in differences of up to ~35% of the gross volume handled; and **(iii)** usual losses related to moisture and palletization, which are natural in the logistics chain.

**Iron Ore Fines: Price dropping by high single digit.** We estimate that the realized price of iron ore fines will reach US\$83.8/t Genial Est. (-7.7% q/q; -14.7% y/y), reflecting more intense pressure than suggested by the decline in the 62% Fe reference curve, which fell -US\$6/t q/q (-5.5% q/q) to ~US\$97/t. In addition to moisture and FOB adjustments, the discount relative to the curve is due to **(i)** the shipment composition mix and **(ii)** the effect of provisional sales, which should compress the realized price during the quarter. We estimate that ~25% of shipments were priced on a provisional basis, with the forward price at the end of the quarter standing at almost -US\$4/t vs. the 62% Fe curve average. This factor should have an impact on the company's realized price of -US\$1/t.

We believe that the product mix will not undergo major sequential changes, remaining focused on medium quality grades, prioritizing blends such as BRBF (~63% Fe) and less high silica, but without significant progress in products with higher iron content. This is because a more considerable volume of IOCJ (Carajás fines ~65% Fe) should only enter the portfolio with a little more momentum during 2H25, and even then, we believe there will be a year-on-year reduction in 3Q25, due to current market conditions.

**Table 2. Production and Shipments Summary Vale (2Q25 Genial Est.)**

	2Q25E	1Q25		2Q24	
<b>Production Summary (Kt)</b>	<b>Genial Est.</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>% q/q</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>% y/y</b>
Iron Ore <sup>1</sup>	81.894	67.663	21,0%	80.598	1,6%
Pellets	8.123	7.184	13,1%	8.955	-9,3%
Nickel	30	44	-31,5%	25	20,7%
Copper	83	91	-9,2%	79	5,0%

<sup>1</sup> Including third-party purchases, run-of-mine and feed of other pelletization plants.

	2Q25E	1Q25		2Q24	
<b>Shipments Summary (Kt)</b>	<b>Genial Est.</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>% q/q</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>% y/y</b>
Iron ore fines	66.594	56.762	17,3%	68.512	-2,8%
Pellets	7.529	7.493	0,5%	8.864	-15,1%
ROM	2.416	1.886	28,1%	2.416	0,0%
Nickel	39	39	-1,0%	34	12,4%
Copper	82	82	0,2%	76	7,8%

<sup>1</sup> Including third-party purchases

Source: Genial Investimentos, Vale

Furthermore, considering the weaker price environment throughout June — a month in which there is traditionally higher shipments level in 2Q — we believe that there was a limitation on premiums gains in the quarterly average. We project the premium for fines at -US\$1.3/t Genial Est.

**Pellets: Cut in production guidance and 65% Fe curve contraction.** We project pellet production to reach 8.1Mt Genial Est. (+13.1% q/q; -9.3% y/y), reflecting a significant strategic change. The company decided to redirect part of the pellet feed, previously destined for palletization, to the iron ore fines market, moving volume away from plants that had compressed margins and were operating close to break even. This ultimately led to a reduction in production guidance, updating to ~33Mtpy in middle range (-17.5% vs. previous).

Sales are expected to total 7.5Mt Genial Est. (+0.5% q/q; -15.1% y/y), with a slight sequential increase, but a significant year-on-year decline, still influenced by an exceptionally strong 2Q24. We project a realized price of US\$135.6/t Genial Est. (-3.7% q/q; -13.8% y/y), with a decline in both sequential and annual comparisons. Although the contractual premium remained flat sequentially (~US\$23/t), weaker demand for sinter and high-quality iron ore, and the less attractive scenario for contracts in 2Q25 put pressure on the profitability of high-cost pellet plants, also driven by a -US\$5/t q/q (-4.4% q/q) drop in the 65% Fe reference curve to ~US\$113/t.

**Nickel: Lower prices on the LME and early maintenance at Sudbury.** We project nickel production to reach 30Kt Genial Est. (-31.5% q/q; +20.7% y/y), reflecting the impact of maintenance in Sudbury (ON), originally scheduled for 3Q25 but brought forward to the current period because of a market oversupply and low profitability. Despite reduced production, sales should remain relatively resilient, totaling 39Kt Genial Est. (-1.0% q/q, +12.4% y/y), with the possible inventories release of previously accumulations in 1Q25.

The realized price, in turn, should decline to US\$15,342/t Genial Est. (-4.7% q/q, -17% y/y) distressed by the LME reference curve correction of -2.8% q/q (US\$15,352/t vs. US\$15,794/t in 1Q25), which should have a negative impact on the segment's revenues.

**Copper: Slightly better volumes and prices.** We expect copper production to clock in at 83Kt Genial Est. (-9.2% q/q; +5.0% y/y), reflecting the dual impact of maintenance at plants in Canada and higher production from Sossego (PA). We believe that shipments should total 82Kt Genial Est. (+0.2% q/q, +7.8% y/y), in line with the previous quarter. We estimate that the realized price will reach US\$8,953/t Genial Est. (+0.7% q/q, -2.7% y/y), in line with the slight recovery of +0.6% q/q in the LME reference curve (US\$9,472/t vs. US\$9,419/t in 1Q25). Despite the price gain, it is worth noting that copper costs should come under slight pressure, reflecting the higher COGS/t in Sossego (PA) compared to Salobo (PA).

**Table 3. Income Statement Vale (2Q25 Genial Est.)**

(US\$ millions)	2Q25E	1Q25	% q/q	2Q24	% y/y
	Genial Est.	Reported		Reported	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>8.706</b>	<b>8.119</b>	<b>7,2%</b>	<b>9.920</b>	<b>-12,2%</b>
COGS	(5.875)	(5.451)	7,8%	(6.349)	-7,5%
<b>Proforma EBITDA</b>	<b>3.221</b>	<b>3.212</b>	<b>0,3%</b>	<b>4.198</b>	<b>-23,3%</b>
EBITDA Margin (%)	37,0%	39,6%	-2,6p.p	42,3%	-5,3p.p
<b>Adjusted EBIT</b>	<b>2.102</b>	<b>2.411</b>	<b>-12,8%</b>	<b>3.405</b>	<b>-38,3%</b>
EBIT Margin (%)	24,1%	29,7%	-5,6p.p	34,3%	-10,2p.p
D&A	(769)	(704)	9,3%	(793)	-3,0%
Financial Result	(460)	185	-	(1.252)	-63,2%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1.443</b>	<b>1.396</b>	<b>3,4%</b>	<b>2.769</b>	<b>-47,9%</b>
Net Margin (%)	16,6%	17,2%	-0,6p.p	27,9%	-11,3p.p

Source: Genial Investimentos, Vale

## Our Take on Vale

**With seasonal effects decoupled, EBITDA should remain flat q/q.** Consolidated **Net revenue** is projected at **US\$8.7bn Genial Est.** (+7.2% q/q; -12.2% y/y), rising sequentially as a result of iron ore fines sales (+17.3% q/q), driven by seasonal factors due to lower rainfall in the southeast, and copper operations, via a slight price increase (+0.7% q/q). In the year-on-year comparison, the considerable decline in net revenue can be explained by the poor shipments performance in the ferrous division, due to **(i)** longer lead times and the need to build up inventories of iron ore fines in Chinese ports, with a change in strategy compared to the same period last year, in addition to **(ii)** the downgrade in pellet guidance due to the low commercial viability of some pelletizing plants.

**C1/t ex. third-party** is projected at **US\$23.1/t Genial Est.** (+10.0% q/q; -7.1% y/y). We believe that the annual decline will be mainly explained by the -8% y/y reduction in production costs and the +10.5% y/y increase in the BRL/USD FX rate, which helps to lower the conversion of BRL expenses into USD. For freight, even though the Tubarão-Qingdao (SSY) benchmark accelerated +6% q/q, we believe the dynamics will remain basically stable, reaching **US\$18.7/t Genial Est.** (+1.0% q/q), softening the rise in spot prices due to long-term contracts with shipowners.

As for **Proforma EBITDA**, we expect it to reach **US\$3.2bn Genial Est.** (+0.3% q/q; -23.3% y/y), with a margin of **37.0%** (-2.6p.p. q/q; -5.3p.p. y/y). Even with positive seasonality for the southeast system, the sequential drop in iron ore fines prices (-7.7% q/q) should have a more counterproductive effect on EBITDA gains from shipments (+21% q/q), with results likely to be impacted by both the profitability of the ferrous division, which should decline both q/q and y/y, due to low revenues and higher costs. Finally, we project **net income** of **US\$1.5bn Genial Est.** (+3.4% q/q; -47.9% y/y). We remind you that these figures are provisional, as we will update the estimates as soon as Vale reports its Production and Sales report on July 22, after the market closes.

**Portfolio reconfiguration in the face of an unfavorable market.** As mentioned in our last report, Vale has been reconfiguring its portfolio, **intensifying the production of medium-grade fines** (62–63% Fe) while **reducing the sales volume of high-silica products in its portfolio**, thereby increasing the company's **commercial flexibility**. In addition, we believe that the move should contribute to strengthening cost competitiveness, with **C1/t ex. third parties close of the guidance bottom of US\$20.5-22.0/t**. Even so, we made a **slight adjustment to US\$21/t 25E** (+2.5% vs. previously), reflecting a less intense annual decline than initially expected for 2Q25 (-7.1% y/y Genial Est. vs. -14% y/y previously).

Despite the still unfavorable scenario for iron ore, with prices fluctuating between **US\$93–108/t in 1H25** and our expectations of a drop to **US\$91,5/t 2H25E** (average) and going down to **~US\$80/t in 27E** (average), we continue to view the company as discounted according to intrinsic and/or relative valuation metrics. While we agree that the **outlook is not positive**, we believe that the **shares have been penalized beyond what is fair**. The stock trades at **3.8x EV/EBITDA 25E** and **3.6x 26E**, well below its historical average of 5.0x, which indicates an excessive penalty relative to fundamentals.

**Slight decline in 25E FCF yield.** With a **2Q25 that is expected to be weak**, we have softened our **25E FCF yield** forecast to **~13%** (-1.0p.p. vs. previously), implying a **25E dividend yield** of **~8%** (-0.8p.p. vs. previously), adjusted to reflect the **+2.5% increase in C1/t 25E** (US\$21/t vs. US\$20.5/t previously). **For 2026**, we project an upward in the **dividend yield** to **~10%**. Although there is room for a more significant increase, management has signaled a preference for **expanding the share buyback program** over additional dividend distributions. In our view, the company's **equity story still lacks short-term catalysts** to support a more consistent shares repricing. Still, our view remains anchored in an attractive valuation and the company's ability to adapt to market cycle transitions. Macroeconomic turbulence in China, as well as uncertainties related to the trade war with the US, continue to discourage investors.

On the micro side, we remain confident in the **ongoing strategic repositioning** process and in the **company's growing transparency** towards the market — especially regarding commercial management, which was the target of our criticism under the previous administration (with specific reference to this issue). This theme may lead to **further medium-term gains**. We also highlight as a point of reinforcement in the investment thesis that there will be a significant reduction in cash expenditure downpayments of Mariana agreement (-39% y/y in 26E), which will **boost the FCF yield to 15% in 26E**. In this context, we maintain our **BUY rating**, with a **12M Target Price** adjusted to **R\$64.00** (vs. R\$61.50 previously) for **VALE3-B3** and **US\$11.60** (vs. US\$10.50 previously) for **ADRs-NYSE**, implying an **upside of +16%**.

## Appendix: Vale

**Figure 1. Vale – Income Statement in US\$ Millions (Genial Est. 2025-2029)**

Income Statement	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>26.082</b>	<b>38.348</b>	<b>38.821</b>	<b>39.690</b>	<b>40.484</b>
(-) COGS	(17.302)	(24.348)	(25.679)	(26.997)	(28.370)
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>8.780</b>	<b>14.001</b>	<b>13.142</b>	<b>12.693</b>	<b>12.114</b>
(-) Expenses	(1.542)	(1.798)	(2.427)	(2.099)	(1.675)
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>13.764</b>	<b>15.904</b>	<b>15.075</b>	<b>14.665</b>	<b>14.121</b>
(-) D&A	(2.165)	(2.965)	(3.019)	(3.084)	(3.149)
<b>EBIT</b>	<b>11.600</b>	<b>12.939</b>	<b>12.055</b>	<b>11.581</b>	<b>10.972</b>
(+/-) Financial Result		(661)	(249)		
(-) Taxes	(2.231)	(2.425)	(2.237)	(2.327)	(2.424)
<b>Net income</b>	<b>10.624</b>	<b>9.853</b>	<b>9.569</b>	<b>9.410</b>	<b>9.237</b>
<b>Profitability</b>					
Net margin (%)	40,7%	25,7%	24,6%	23,7%	22,8%

**Figure 2. Vale– Cash Flow in US\$ Millions (Genial Est. 2024-2029)**

Cash Flow (FCFF)	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>26.082</b>	<b>38.348</b>	<b>38.821</b>	<b>39.690</b>	<b>40.484</b>
(-) COGS	(17.302)	(24.348)	(25.679)	(26.997)	(28.370)
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>13.764</b>	<b>15.904</b>	<b>15.075</b>	<b>14.665</b>	<b>14.121</b>
<b>Adjusted EBIT</b>	<b>11.600</b>	<b>12.939</b>	<b>12.055</b>	<b>11.581</b>	<b>10.972</b>
(-) Taxes	(2.231)	(2.425)	(2.237)	(2.327)	(2.424)
(+) D&A	2.165	2.965	3.019	3.084	3.149
(+/-) Brumadinho and Samarco	(531)	(989)	(661)	(831)	(199)
(+/-) Δ WK	424	1.139	(506)	372	(220)
(-) Capex	(4.162)	(3.910)	(4.223)	(4.382)	(4.382)
<b>FCFF</b>	<b>7.265</b>	<b>9.718</b>	<b>7.448</b>	<b>7.497</b>	<b>6.896</b>



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under Review	Under review	5%

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