

Vale S.A.
Form 6-K
April 22, 2015
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United States
Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16

of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of

April 2015

Vale S.A.

**Avenida Graça Aranha, No. 26
20030-900 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil**

(Address of principal executive office)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

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(Check One) Form 20-F Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1))

(Check One) Yes No

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(Check One) Yes No

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

(Check One) Yes No

(If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b). 82- .)

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1Q15 Production Report

Production Highlights

Rio de Janeiro, April 22, 2015 – Vale S.A. (Vale) production in 1Q15 was marked by a strong operational performance in iron ore of 74.5 Mt excluding iron ore acquired from third parties and Samarco's attributable production – achieving the best performance for a first quarter, in particular for Carajás, which produced 27.5 Mt and also reached a new record for a first quarter.

In December 2014, we started the operation of the N4WS mine which will not only lead to further production increases but will also lead to a reduction in strip ratios and in average haulage distances in Carajás. N4WS is part of the N4W ore body, a world-class asset, with 1.346 billion metric tons of proven and probable reserves and an average Fe content of 66.5%.

Excluding Samarco's attributable production of 3.5 Mt, Vale's pellet production reached 11.4 Mt in 1Q15, in line with 4Q14 and 1.5 Mt higher than in 1Q14 due to the ramp up of the Tubarão VIII pellet plant.

In 1Q15, we shut down our ferroalloys plants in Minas Gerais as existing energy contracts expired and higher energy prices impaired the economic viability of the plants. Consequently, the production of our manganese ore operations in Morro da Mina was affected.

Production of nickel reached 69,200 t in 1Q15, the best performance for a first quarter. The quarter was marked by a record in nickel oxide and total nickel production at Vale New Caledonia (VNC), a record production from a single-furnace at Onça Puma and the positive progress in the ramp-up at Long Harbour.

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In 1Q15, copper output was 107,200 t(1), 1.6% and 21.1% higher than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14, respectively, reaching a historical production record.

Gold production amounted to 103,000 oz in 1Q15, 9.7% higher than in 4Q14, reaching the best performance ever, due to the ramp-up of Salobo.

Total coal output in 1Q15 was 1.7 Mt, 26.6% and 5.1% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively, due to the stoppage of the Integra Coal and Isaac Plains mines and an abnormal rainy season in Moatize.

(1) Including Lubambe s attributable production.

Production Summary

| 000 metric tons | 1Q15 | 4Q14 | 1Q14 | 1Q15/4Q14 % change | 1Q15/1Q14 % change |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Iron ore(1) | | | | | |
| Own production | 74,523 | 82,973 | 71,064 | -10.2% | 4.9% |
| Third parties Purchases | 2,894 | 3,324 | 2,997 | -12.9% | -3.4% |
| Total | 77,417 | 86,297 | 74,061 | -10.3% | 4.5% |
| Pellets(1) | 11,388 | 11,642 | 9,928 | -2.2% | 14.7% |
| Manganese | 592 | 723 | 470 | -18.2% | 25.9% |
| Coal | 1,695 | 2,310 | 1,785 | -26.6% | -5.1% |
| Nickel | 69.2 | 73.6 | 67.5 | -6.0% | 2.5% |
| Copper(2) | 107.2 | 105.4 | 88.4 | 1.6% | 21.1% |
| Potash | 108 | 147 | 109 | -26.5% | -1.2% |
| Phosphate rock | 1,992 | 2,209 | 1,932 | -9.8% | 3.1% |

(1) Excluding Samarco s attributable production.

(2) Including Lubambe s attributable production.

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| 000 metric tons | 1Q15 | 4Q14 | 1Q14 | 1Q15/4Q14 % Change | 1Q15/1Q14 % Change |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Northern System | 27,521 | 34,858 | 23,365 | -21,0% | 17,8% |
| Carajás | 27,521 | 34,858 | 23,365 | -21,0% | 17,8% |
| Southeastern System | 25,869 | 26,448 | 25,822 | -2,2% | 0,2% |
| Itabira | 7,305 | 9,628 | 7,827 | -24,1% | -6,7% |
| Minas Centrais | 8,899 | 7,225 | 8,434 | 23,2% | 5,5% |
| Mariana | 9,665 | 9,595 | 9,561 | 0,7% | 1,1% |
| Southern System | 19,798 | 20,125 | 20,592 | -1,6% | -3,9% |
| Paraopeba | 5,659 | 6,165 | 6,916 | -8,2% | -18,2% |
| Vargem Grande | 5,888 | 6,159 | 5,474 | -4,4% | 7,6% |
| Minas Itabirito | 8,252 | 7,802 | 8,202 | 5,8% | 0,6% |
| Midwestern System | 1,335 | 1,542 | 1,285 | -13,4% | 3,9% |
| Corumbá | 893 | 1,015 | 774 | -12,0% | 15,4% |
| Urucum | 442 | 527 | 511 | -16,2% | -13,5% |
| TOTAL IRON ORE | 74,523 | 82,973 | 71,064 | -10,2% | 4,9% |
| Third Parties Purchase (TPP) | 2,894 | 3,324 | 2,997 | -12,9% | -3,4% |
| TOTAL IRON ORE + TPP | 77,417 | 86,297 | 74,061 | -10,3% | 4,5% |
| Samarco(1) | 3,578 | 3,823 | 2,414 | -6,4% | 48,3% |

(1) Vale's attributable production capacity of 50%.

Production overview

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Vale's own iron ore production, excluding iron ore acquired from third parties and Samarco's attributable production, reached a record for a first quarter of 74.5 Mt in 1Q15, 8.5 Mt lower than in 4Q14 due to the weather-related seasonality, but 3.5 Mt higher than in 1Q14.

Northern System