

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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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.

Table of Contents*Iron ore*

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

The production of 27.5 Mt in Carajás was the best performance ever for a first quarter, 4.2 Mt higher than in 1Q14 mostly due to ramp-ups of Plant 2 and Serra Leste. Output was 7.3 Mt lower than in 4Q14 as a result of the previously mentioned seasonally worse weather conditions.

In December 2014, we started the operation of the N4WS mine, mining and processing the first ore layer (canga) with 64.7% of Fe content and higher than normal phosphorus levels. In 2H15 we expect to be mining higher Fe content ores with lower contaminant levels.

Southeastern System

The Southeastern System, which encompasses the Itabira, Minas Centrais and Mariana mining hubs,

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produced 25.9 Mt in 1Q15, just 2.2% lower than in 4Q14 despite seasonality, and in line with 1Q14.

Production in the Itabira mining hub was 7.3 Mt, 2.3 Mt and 0.5 Mt lower than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14, respectively, as a result of the stoppage of Cauê's existing operations for its connection with the new process stages of the Cauê Itabirito project which shall start-up by the end of 2015.

Production in the Minas Centrais mining hub was 8.9 Mt in 1Q15, 23.2% and 5.5% higher than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively, as a result of the recovery from the scheduled maintenance stoppage for the implementation of Brucutu's 5th production line, carried out in 4Q14. Brucutu's 5th production line started up in January and will produce 4.9 Mt in 2015 compared with its nominal capacity of 6.5 Mt.

Output from the Mariana mining hub reached 9.7 Mt, in line with production in 4Q14 and in 1Q14.

Southern System

The Southern System, composed of the Paraopeba, Vargem Grande and Minas Itabirito mining hubs, produced 19.8 Mt in 1Q15, 1.6% and 3.9% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively. Output was down due to rain falls which affected the Vargem Grande mine and interrupted production at the Jangada plant.

Production at the Paraopeba mining hub was 8.2% and 18.2% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively, mostly due to the interruption of the Jangada plant. This production loss will be compensated by production in other mines without any impact on our target for the year.

Production at the Vargem Grande mining hub was 7.6% higher than in 1Q14, but 4.4% lower than in 4Q14 due to strong rainfalls in 1Q15.

Production at the Minas Itabirito mining hub was 5.8% and 0.6% higher than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively, recovering from the preventive maintenance stoppage carried out in the last quarter and as a result of the good operational performance of the Pico and Fábrica beneficiation plants.

Midwestern System

The Midwestern System, comprising the Urucum and the Corumbá mining hubs, produced 1.3 Mt in 1Q15, 13.4% lower than in 4Q14, due to the lower physical availability of equipment, but 3.9% higher than in 1Q14.

Samarco

In 1Q15 Samarco's pellet feed production (mostly dedicated to the production of Samarco's pellets) was 3.6 Mt, 6.4% lower than in 4Q14 due to maintenance stoppages in the concentration plants.

Table of Contents*Pellets*

000 metric tons	1Q15	4Q14	1Q14	1Q15/4Q14 % Change	1Q15/1Q14 % Change
Southeastern System	7,121	7,058	5,809	0.9%	22.6%
Tubarão VIII	1,614	1,257	0	28.4%	n.m.
Nibrasco	2,241	2,382	2,402	-5.9%	-6.7%
Kobrasco	1,088	1,200	1,170	-9.3%	-7.0%
Hispanobras(1)	1,053	1,115	1,119	-5.5%	-5.9%
Itabrasco	1,125	1,105	1,118	1.9%	0.6%
Southern System	2,372	2,193	2,278	8.2%	4.1%
Fabrica	855	780	802	9.7%	6.6%
Vargem Grande	1,517	1,413	1,476	7.4%	2.8%
Oman	1,895	2,391	1,842	-20.8%	2.9%
TOTAL PELLETS	11,388	11,642	9,928	-2.2%	14.7%
Samarco(2)	3,497	3,529	2,219	-0.9%	57.6%

(1) Production attributable to Vale on a pro forma basis. In July 2012, we entered into a leasing contract for the Hispanobras pelletizing operation. As a consequence, their production is being consolidated 100% on a pro forma basis.

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

Production overview

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.

Southeastern System

Production volumes at the Tubarão pellet plants Nibrasco, Kobrasco, Hispanobras, Itabrasco and Tubarão VIII was 7.1 Mt in 1Q15, 0.9% higher than in 4Q14 and 22.6% higher than in 1Q14, mostly due to the ramp-up of the Tubarão VIII pellet plant and the good operational performance of Itabrasco.

The production of Nibrasco was 2.2 Mt, 5.9% and 6.7% lower than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14, respectively, due to a maintenance stoppage in the mill.

The production of Kobrasco and Hispanobras was 9.3% and 5.5% lower than in 4Q14, respectively, due to scheduled maintenance stoppage.

Southern System

The Fábrica pellet plant produced 0.9 Mt of pellets in 1Q15, 9.7% and 6.6% higher than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14 respectively, given the better availability of pellet feed.

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The Vargem Grande pellet output was 1.5 Mt, 7.4% and 2.8% higher than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14 respectively, due to the recovery from a maintenance stoppage carried out in the last quarter.

Oman operations

The Oman operation produced 1.9 Mt of direct reduction pellets in 1Q15, 20.8% lower than in 4Q14, due to a scheduled maintenance stoppage in the pellet plant.

Samarco

In 1Q15 Samarco's attributable production was 3.5 Mt, in line with 4Q14, but 57.6% higher than in 1Q14, due to the ramp-up of pellet plant IV.

Table of Contents*Manganese ore and ferroalloys*

000 metric tons	1Q15	4Q14	1Q14	1Q15/4Q14 % Change	1Q15/1Q14 % Change
MANGANESE ORE	592	723	470	-18.2%	25.9%
Azul	407	513	332	-20.6%	22.8%
Urucum	184	177	130	4.2%	41.6%
Other mines	0	33	8	n.m.	n.m.
FERROALLOYS	27	41	46	-33.5%	-40.6%
Brazil	27	41	46	-33.5%	-40.6%

Production overview

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

Manganese ore production

Output from the Carajás Azul manganese mine decreased by 20.6% when compared to 4Q14, reaching 407,000 t in 1Q15. This decrease was driven by the good performance in 4Q14 which resulted from the recovery of ore from the tailing dams which no longer occurred in 1Q15.

In 1Q15, output from the Urucum mine reached the record of 184,000 t, 4.2% higher than in 4Q14 and 41.6% higher than in 1Q14, mostly driven by better productivity and higher physical availability of equipment.

Ferroalloys production

As previously mentioned, ferroalloys production was affected by the stoppage of the ferroalloy plants Barbacena and Ouro Preto in Minas Gerais state.

Ferroalloys quarterly production was comprised of 12,000 t of ferrosilicon manganese alloys (FeSiMn), 9,000 t of high-carbon manganese alloys (FeMnHc) and 5,000 t of medium-carbon manganese alloys (FeMnMC).

Table of Contents*Nickel***Finished production by source**

000 metric tons	1Q15	4Q14	1Q14	1Q15/4Q14 % Change	1Q15/1Q14 % Change
Canada	38.6	42.1	41.6	-8.4%	-7.2%
Sudbury	11.4	15.1	17.6	-24.2%	-35.4%
Thompson	5.8	6.5	7.6	-10.8%	-24.0%
Voisey's Bay	13.5	12.6	14.5	6.6%	-6.9%
Ore from third parties(1)	7.9	8.0	1.9	-0.3%	326.8%
Indonesia	18.0	20.3	16.4	-11.2%	9.5%
New Caledonia(2)	6.5	6.2	4.1	4.8%	58.9%
Brazil	6.1	5.0	5.4	21.3%	12.7%
TOTAL NICKEL	69.2	73.6	67.5	-6.0%	2.5%

(1) External feed purchased from third parties and processed into finished nickel in our operations.

(2) On site production of 7,300 t in 1Q15.

Production overview

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

Canadian operations

In 1Q15, production from the Sudbury mine was 11,400 t, 24.2% and 35.4% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively. Severe storms and heavy ice build-up in Canada's Atlantic seaports delayed several shipments of feed from our Sudbury smelter to our refinery in Clydach, Wales. As a result, the Clydach refinery anticipated the maintenance shutdown previously planned for 2Q15. Feed inventories increased throughout this period and will be processed in Clydach in 2Q15 as the refinery returned to full operation.

Production from the Thompson mine was 5,800 t in 1Q15, 10.8% and 24.0% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively. The Thompson refinery experienced supply and quality problems with major reagent suppliers that resulted in outages. The refinery returned to full production and will run at an above-normal rate to consume the excess inventory that was built up between the smelter and the refinery during the above mentioned outages.

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Voisey's Bay mine production amounted to 13,500 t in 1Q15, 6.6% higher than in 4Q14 and 6.9% lower than in 1Q14. The Voisey's Bay mill executed unplanned maintenance in January to repair the SAG mill. The operation returned to full production.

The ramp-up of the Long Harbour Processing Plant is underway with the plant producing over 500 tonnes of finished nickel in 1Q15. The plant is currently operating on a blend of PTVI matte and Voisey's Bay concentrate and will process only Voisey's Bay concentrate as of the end of 2015.

Indonesian operation (PTVI)

In 1Q15, production of nickel in matte from our Indonesian operations at Sorowako totaled 17,500 t, 15.1% and 4.5% lower than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively. During the month of March, furnace #4 was taken offline to complete roof repairs originally planned for 4Q14 and furnace #3 was also down for unplanned roof repairs. Both furnaces returned to normal operations by the end of March.

The production of finished nickel from matte sourced from PTVI reached 18,000 t, 11.2% lower than in 4Q14 and 9.5% higher than in 1Q14, respectively, as the unscheduled repair to furnace #4 limited the feed to the downstream refineries.

New Caledonia operations (VNC)

VNC production of NiO and NHC was 7,300 t in 1Q15, achieving records for nickel oxide (3,500 t) and total nickel production. Production of finished products (NHC and Utility Nickel) from VNC totaled 6,500 t in 1Q15. In June of 2015 VNC will execute a previously scheduled maintenance shutdown for approximately three weeks. The major works to be completed during this period are the permanent repairs to the ocean outfall pipeline stemming from the November 2013 pipeline incident and the regularly scheduled maintenance at the acid plant.

Brazilian operation (Onça Puma)

The output from the Onça Puma operation was 6,100 t in 1Q15, 21.3% and 12.7% higher than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively, achieving a quarter production record for an one single furnace operation.

Table of Contents*Copper***Finished production by source**

000 metric tons	1Q15	4Q14	1Q14	1Q15/4Q14 % Change	1Q15/1Q14 % Change
Brazil	62.4	58.4	47.3	6.8%	31.9%
Sossego	27.1	26.9	26.3	1.0%	3.3%
Salobo	35.3	31.6	21.1	11.7%	67.4%
Canada	42.2	44.6	38.6	-5.4%	9.3%
Sudbury	25.3	23.3	24.5	8.7%	3.3%
Thompson	0.1	0.4	0.3	-74.6%	-67.0%
Voisey's Bay	7.5	11.4	6.9	-34.4%	8.3%
Ore from third parties	9.3	9.5	6.8	-2.4%	35.3%
Total	104.6	103.0	85.9	1.5%	21.7%
Lubambe (attributable production)	2.6	2.4	2.5	7.7%	1.8%
TOTAL COPPER	107.2	105.4	88.4	1.6%	21.1%

Production overview

In 1Q15, copper output was 104,600 t, 1.5% and 21.7% higher than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14, respectively, reaching a historical production record.

Brazilian operations

Production of copper in 1Q15 at the Sossego mine totaled 27,100 t in the form of copper in concentrates, 1.0% and 3.3% higher than in 4Q14 and 1Q14, respectively.

Production of copper in 1Q15 at Salobo totaled 35,300 t, a new record for that operation as a result of the ongoing ramp-up of Salobo II. Despite a lower production in January and February of this year, Salobo's output in March reached 14,200 t, supporting the achievement of our production forecast for the year.

Canadian operations

Copper produced from the Sudbury mine reached 25,300 t, 8.7% and 3.3% higher than in 4Q14 and in 1Q14 respectively.

Production from the Voisey's Bay mine was 7,500 t of copper in concentrate, 34.4% lower than in

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4Q14 and 8.3% higher than in 1Q14. As previously mentioned, the Voisey's Bay mill underwent unplanned maintenance in January to repair its SAG mill, thus reducing its production in 1Q15.

African Operation (Lubambe)

Lubambe, our Zambian JV, is ramping up and delivering 6,400 t of copper in concentrates on a 100% basis (attributable production of 2,600 t). Lubambe has a nominal capacity of 45,000 t per year.

Table of Contents*Nickel and copper by-products***Finished production by source**

	1Q15	4Q14	1Q14	1Q15/4Q14 % Change	1Q15/1Q14 % Change
COBALT (metric tons)	970	1,266	857	-23.4%	13.2%
Sudbury	212	226	173	-6.4%	22.3%
Thompson	41	160	103	-74.1%	-60.0%
Voisey's Bay	128	242	282	-47.1%	-54.6%
VNC	559	629	287	-11.1%	94.8%
Others	29	9	11	229.0%	173.1%
PLATINUM (000 oz troy)	42	52	49	-20.7%	-15.6%
Sudbury	42	52	49	-20.7%	-15.6%
PALLADIUM (000 oz troy)	97	112	109	-12.6%	-10.7%
Sudbury	97	112	109	-12.6%	-10.7%
GOLD (000 oz troy)	103	94	74	9.7%	39.3%
Sudbury	27	24	20	12.2%	34.8%
Sossego	21	20	18	4.0%	17.9%
Salobo	54	49	36	10.9%	52.6%
SILVER (000 oz troy)	482	717	433	-32.8%	11.3%
Sudbury	482	717	433	-32.8%	11.3%

Gold

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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.