

Vale S.A.  
Form 6-K  
April 24, 2012  
Table of Contents

**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 2012**

**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.)

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

Edgar Filing: Vale S.A. - Form 6-K

(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

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7))

(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- .)

---

Table of Contents

Table of Contents:

Press Release  
Signature Page

---

Table of Contents

*Production Report*

**Vale 1Q12 Production Report**

**DEALING WITH SEASONALITY**

Rio de Janeiro, April 17, 2012 Vale S.A. (Vale) had a good operational performance in 1Q12, despite the challenges posed by severe weather conditions.

The summer season in the Southern Hemisphere was extremely rainy, hitting Brazilian mining districts such as the Iron Quadrangle in the southeast and Carajás in the north of the country, where our iron ore operations are concentrated.

We continued to ramp-up a group of new operations diversified by business bulk materials, base metals and fertilizers and by geography South America, the Middle East and Africa which includes Moatize, Oman, Tres Valles, Onça Puma and Bayóvar, new platforms of value creation.

For instance, Moatize, a world-class asset, produced 501,000 t(1) of high quality hard coking coal and 193,000 t of thermal coal in 1Q12.

The ramping up of these operations was instrumental in reaching quarterly record output levels for pellets, metallurgical coal and phosphate rock.

The tests conducted at VNC through integrated refinery operations were successful and we were able to produce 1,100 t of nickel oxide. An important by-product was the knowledge provided by this experience, which will be very useful to further improve the production process.

Despite the risks ahead of us, the production of nickel oxide at VNC is a major achievement, to the extent that it is an important step towards the operation of a large nickel limonite lateritic project for the first time in the industry.

Edgar Filing: Vale S.A. - Form 6-K

Quarterly production

000 metric tons	1Q11	4Q11	1Q12
Iron ore(a)	71,540	82,944	69,994
Pellets(b)	12,516	11,936	12,692
Manganese	498	757	484
Coal	1,421	2,698	2,350
Nickel	59	69	63
Copper	70	85	73
Potash	134	180	118
Phosphate rock	1,743	1,833	1,826

---

(a) Including Samarco's attributable production.

(b) Including Samarco's and Hispanobras's attributable production.

(1) Mt = million metric tons

t = metric tons

Table of Contents**BULK MATERIALS**

- *Iron ore*

000 metric tons	1Q11	4Q11	1Q12	% Change 1Q12/4Q11	% Change 1Q12/1Q11
<b>IRON ORE</b>	<b>71,540</b>	<b>82,944</b>	<b>69,994</b>	<b>-15.6%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Northern System</b>	<b>22,651</b>	<b>30,232</b>	<b>21,711</b>	<b>-28.2%</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>
Carajás	22,651	30,232	21,711	-28.2%	-4.2%
<b>Southeastern System</b>	<b>28,694</b>	<b>29,635</b>	<b>26,759</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>
Itabira	9,081	9,508	8,154	-14.2%	-10.2%
Mariana	9,374	9,838	9,340	-5.1%	-0.4%
Minas Centrais	10,239	10,289	9,265	-9.9%	-9.5%
<b>Southern System</b>	<b>16,779</b>	<b>18,778</b>	<b>17,667</b>	<b>-5.9%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
Minas Itabirito	7,177	7,635	7,345	-3.8%	2.3%
Vargem Grande	4,459	5,015	4,800	-4.3%	7.7%
Paraopebas	5,144	6,128	5,521	-9.9%	7.3%
<b>Midwestern System</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>-19.1%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>
Corumbá	609	1,234	975	-21.0%	60.2%
Urucum	305	376	327	-13.2%	7.0%
<b>Samarco(1)</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

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

Vale's iron ore production reached 70.0 Mt in 1Q12, slightly below 1Q11 and a decrease of 15.6% quarter-over-quarter, basically due to the intense rainy season in Brazil.

The production of Carajás and the Southeastern System fell in relation to 1Q11, while the Southern and Midwestern Systems and Samarco had a better performance than the same quarter of last year.

Rainfall at Carajás was even heavier than last summer. Precipitation levels were 57% higher than in 1Q11, reaching a peak in January, when it reached 966.6 mm.

Due to the weather challenges, we produced 21.7 Mt at the Carajás mining site in 1Q12, which was 28.2% and 4.2%, respectively, below the previous quarter and 1Q11. In addition to the heavy rainfall, we experienced operational issues due to the low availability of loading equipment.

## Edgar Filing: Vale S.A. - Form 6-K

As mentioned in a release on January 11, 2012, we declared force majeure because of heavy rainfall, which caused negative effects on the Southeastern and Southern Systems as it led to stoppages on mining and railroad operations.

The accident with a structure at the Carajás railway bridge, which happened on March 16, affected shipments but had no effect on output.

The Southeastern System, which encompasses the Itabira, Mariana and Minas Centrais mining sites, produced 26.8 Mt, 9.7% lower than 4Q11 and 6.7% less than 1Q11. The severe rainfall mainly affected the Itabira site. At Minas Centrais, output decreased influenced by the performance of the Gongo Soco mine. Due to the impoverishment of its resources, Gongo Soco production has been declining.

Table of Contents

Iron ore output from the Southern System reached 17.7 Mt, 5.9% below 4Q11, but 5.3% higher than 1Q11 due to operational improvements, related to preventive maintenance actions to mitigate the damage caused by the rainy season.

The Midwestern System, comprised of Urucum and Corumbá, produced 1.3 Mt, 19.1% lower than 4Q11 but 42.4% higher than 1Q11. Alongside seasonal underperformance of the plant operation, delays in the arrival of mine equipment contributed to the decrease in production vis-à-vis 4Q11.

- *Pellets*

000 metric tons	1Q11	4Q11	1Q12	% Change 1Q12/4Q11	% Change 1Q12/1Q11
<b>PELLETS</b>	<b>12,516</b>	<b>11,936</b>	<b>12,692</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Tubarão I and II	1,336	1,393	1,062	-23.8%	-20.6%
Fábrica	947	971	907	-6.6%	-4.2%
São Luís	1,337	1,046	962	-8.1%	-28.0%
Vargem Grande	1,276	504	823	63.1%	-35.5%
Oman	0	607	1,415	133.2%	n.m.
Nibrasco	2,408	2,123	2,257	6.3%	-6.3%
Kobrasco	1,222	1,168	1,139	-2.5%	-6.8%
Hispanobras(1)	542	423	540	27.6%	-0.4%
Itabrasco	1,020	974	1,019	4.7%	-0.1%
Samarco(2)	2,428	2,726	2,570	-5.7%	