



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240



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Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1970

Domestic production of iron ore in September was 5.1 percent below the previous month while shipments were down by 8.7 percent, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Output and shipments from the Lake Superior district declined by 465,000 tons and 1 million tons, respectively. Regionally, the pattern of production and shipments from April through September showed little change from the corresponding period of 1969. The level of mine stocks on September 30, 1970 was 1.9 million tons less than a year earlier, while stocks of ore and agglomerates at consuming plants were 5.6 million tons higher.

U.S. imports of iron ore for consumption were slightly less than in August but the 9-month total of 34.4 million tons was nearly 29 percent more than in the same period of 1969. The rise in imports was primarily due to a 6-million-ton increase from Canada. At the end of September, however, the level of imports from Canada was still 2.2 million tons less than in the first 9 months of 1968.

At Hoyt Lakes, Minn., Erie Mining Company produced its 100-millionth ton of iron ore pellets in September. Since production of pellets began in 1957, the company mined 298 million tons of crude taconite ore. The plant produced 10.7 million tons of pellets in 1968, a world record.

Midland-Ross Corp. of Cleveland, Ohio has purchased a site north of New Orleans for a proposed plant for production of metallized pellets. The company already operates one such plant at Portland, Ore. and has two others under construction: one at Georgetown, S.C. and the other at Hamburg, West Germany. Recently, Midland-Ross formed a joint company with a Japanese firm for production of metallized pellets in Japan.

TABLE 1. - U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts
(Exclusive of ore containing 5 percent or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

	Lake Superior	South-eastern	North-eastern	Western	Byproduct	Total ¹
Production:						
1969-----	68,730	1,437	3,800	13,632	661	88,260
1970:						
1st Quarter--	11,484	348	966	3,266	166	16,230
2nd Quarter--	20,110	379	976	3,771	182	25,417
July-----	8,115	123	216	1,138	59	9,651
August-----	7,803	102	292	1,128	57	9,382
September----	7,338	106	260	1,179	16	8,899
Shipments:						
1969-----	71,051	1,375	3,404	14,013	727	90,570
1970:						
1st Quarter--	3,017	298	773	3,303	169	7,559
2nd Quarter--	21,484	310	857	3,568	192	26,411
July-----	10,107	96	188	1,256	51	11,698
August-----	10,379	94	227	1,249	53	12,003
September----	9,371	100	242	1,168	72	10,952

¹/ Data may not add to totals due to independent rounding.

TABLE 2. - U.S. mine production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore
(Exclusive of ore containing 5 percent or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

	Production		Shipments		Mine Stocks ¹	
	September		September		September 30	
	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,096	988	1,578	2,203	1,929	<u>r</u> / 3,795
Minnesota-----	6,177	6,362	7,718	7,215	6,472	<u>r</u> / 7,300
Wisconsin-----	65	---	75	---	1	---
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina (1970)	106	102	100	90	813	626
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania	260	330	242	308	4,581	4,081
Western:						
California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming	1,179	1,071	1,168	1,237	351	<u>r</u> / 247
Byproduct ore-----	16	41	72	63	467	494
Total ¹ -----	8,899	8,893	10,952	11,116	14,615	16,544

r/ Revised

¹/ Data may not add to totals due to independent rounding.

TABLE 3. - U.S. exports of iron ore
(Thousand long tons)

	Canada	Japan	Other	Total ¹
1969-----	2,085	3,009	66	5,160
1970:				
1st Quarter-----	5	840	1	846
2nd Quarter-----	482	805	111	1,399
July-----	278	371	50	700
August-----	373	227	27	627
September-----	313	303	51	667

^{1/} Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 4. - Canada: Shipments of iron ore
(Thousand long tons)

	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British- Columbia	Total ¹
1969-----	13,018	11,162	8,301	1,820	34,302
1970:					
1st Quarter-----	3,084	948	1,230	263	5,525
2nd Quarter-----	5,965	4,389	3,162	396	13,913
July-----	2,541	1,430	928	274	5,174
August-----	2,408	1,589	1,076	227	5,300
September-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

^{1/} Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Bureau of Trade and Commerce.

TABLE 5. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore, by countries
(Exclusive of ore containing 10 percent or more manganese)

	September 1970			January - September 1970		
	Long tons	Value ¹		Long tons	Value ¹	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	---	---	---	495,489	\$5,494,874	\$11.09
Brazil-----	139,190	\$1,320,492	\$ 9.49	1,664,192	14,892,835	8.95
Canada-----	2,883,678	35,899,080	12.45	17,473,065	217,321,832	12.44
Chile-----	100,432	786,995	7.84	1,309,706	10,625,813	8.11
Denmark-----	---	---	---	527	21,455	40.71
Iran-----	---	---	---	250	10,167	40.67
Liberia-----	225,004	2,312,474	10.28	1,549,473	14,193,118	9.16
Libya-----	---	---	---	102,640	789,302	7.69
Mauritania---	---	---	---	71,600	663,409	9.26
Mexico-----	20,000	16,240	.81	20,000	16,240	.81
New Zealand---	---	---	---	52	548	10.54
Nigeria-----	---	---	---	29,812	151,594	5.08
Norway-----	---	---	---	48,933	355,809	7.27
Peru-----	222,948	2,142,683	9.61	941,517	9,427,488	10.01
Philippines---	---	---	---	7,300	260,500	35.68
Sweden-----	34,377	379,964	11.05	87,517	1,034,104	11.82
United Kingdom	---	---	---	38	5,133	135.08
Uruguay-----	---	---	---	49,334	444,006	9.00
Venezuela-----	1,596,583	13,430,034	8.41	10,599,737	87,975,158	8.30
Total----	5,222,212	56,287,962	10.78	34,451,182	363,683,385	10.56

^{1/} The market price of the merchandise in the principal marketplace of the foreign country at the time of exportation in terms of United States dollars, and excludes inland freight, ocean freight, and other charges incurred after the merchandise leaves the principal marketplace. This market price is either the market price of the export to the United States or the market price for domestic consumption, whichever is higher. Certain unusually high prices are believed paid for iron ore for use in paints or for research purposes.

TABLE 6. - U.S. consumption and stocks of iron ore and agglomerates
at consuming plants and production of pig iron
(Long tons)

	Consumption		Stocks September 30, 1970
	September 1970	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			r/ 48,177,642
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	829,890	8,333,857	4,457,873
California, Colorado, Utah----	610,714	5,624,883	536,440
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	927,954	8,461,478	2,450,384
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,362,204	20,732,964	13,540,321
Michigan, Minnesota-----	831,748	7,544,146	5,413,447
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island----	4,493,643	42,584,232	26,205,842
Total-----	10,056,153	93,281,560	52,604,307

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced ¹	
	September 1970	Year to date	September 1970	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	7,375,515	68,206,079	6,619,254	61,741,371
Steel furnaces-----	194,092	1,893,746	---	---
Agglomerating plants ² --	2,483,335	23,150,065	---	---
Miscellaneous ³ -----	3,211	31,670	---	---
Total-----	10,056,153	93,281,560	6,619,254	61,741,371

R/ Revised.

1/ August pig iron produced should have been 6,766,238, and the year to date should have been 55,122,211.

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

3/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Source: American Iron Ore Association
American Iron and Steel Institute