



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 NOVEMBER 1970

Domestic production and shipments of iron ore in November declined by 27.5 percent and 29.4 percent, respectively, compared with the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The declines were generated mainly by a seasonal drop of about 33 percent in output and shipments from the Lake Superior region. Total stocks of iron ore at the Nation's mines declined 6.1 percent during November, while total stocks at consuming centers were virtually unchanged from the previous month.

Imports of iron ore for consumption were about 400,000 tons less than in October. Imports for the first 11 months of 1970 totaled 41.7 million tons, an increase of 5 million tons over the corresponding period of 1969. Fifty-three percent of 1970 imports came from Canada.

In December, a Lake County, Minn. district court ruled in favor of Reserve Mining Co. in its suit contesting the validity of an allegation by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MCPA) that the company's Silver Bay concentrator was causing excessive pollution of Lake Superior by fine taconite tailings. The decision made no ruling on whether the tailings were polluting the lake, but it called for the company and MCPA to agree on an alternative method of tailings disposal by May 15, 1971, and for the company to install approved modifications of its disposal system by May 15, 1973. The Silver Bay plant's discharge of tailings was reported to be about 60,000 tons daily.

Closing of the Tracy underground mine at Negaunee, Michigan by the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. was reported on January 13, 1971. Reasons for the closure were stated to be rising costs of underground mining, and difficulties in blending Tracy ore with other ores used by the company. The mine produced a soft hematite ore, graded as low-phosphorus non-bessemer, at the rate of more than 500,000 tons annually. About 275 miners will be affected by the shutdown, which leaves only one underground mine -- the Mather mine of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. -- still operating on the Marquette Range.

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
3rd Quarter--	23,256	331	768	3,445	132	27,932
October-----	6,636	129	259	1,179	57	8,260
November-----	4,447	111	224	1,153	56	5,991
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
3rd Quarter--	29,856	290	657	3,674	176	34,654
October-----	8,045	118	239	1,204	52	9,658
November-----	5,422	103	179	1,040	71	6,815

^{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/}	
	November		November		November 30	
	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,121	1,110	975	1,450	1,998	2,709
Minnesota-----	3,259	3,025	4,379	4,520	4,034	4,818
Wisconsin-----	67	---	68	---	8	---
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia,						
North Carolina (1970)	111	102	103	91	833	657
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania	224	304	179	258	4,647	r/4,146
Western:						
California, Colorado,						
Missouri, Nevada,						
Texas, Utah, Wyoming	1,153	1,118	1,040	1,114	440	r/330
Byproduct ore-----	56	54	71	57	457	488
Total ^{1/} -----	5,991	5,712	6,815	7,490	12,416	r/13,149

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
3rd Quarter-----	964	901	128	1,994
October-----	388	173	2/	561
November-----	187	235	2/	423

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

^{2/} Less than 500 long tons.

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
3rd Quarter-----	7,142	4,321	3,140	648	15,252
October-----	2,161	1,678	1,150	85	5,074
November-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

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

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