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OFFICE OF TECHNICAL DATA SERVICES

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 MARCH 1971

Mine production and stocks of iron ore increased in March compared with the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Increases were reported from each of the four producing regions. Ore shipments increased slightly, and stocks of ore at consuming centers dropped sharply as output of pig iron reported in March was the highest in nearly 2 years.

Imports of iron ore for consumption during the first quarter of 1971 were slightly higher than in the corresponding period of 1970. Exports were about 15 percent less. Average value per ton of imported ore was up about 4 percent.

By April 16, the 1971 shipping season had started at most Great Lakes ports. The St. Lawrence Seaway was officially opened on April 15.

In Angola, a shipment of 141,000 tons of iron ore was loaded into a Norwegian vessel at Porto Salazar early in March. Loading time was less than 2 days. The shipment was destined for Japan.

In Liberia, the first shipment of pellets from Bong Mining Co. left Monrovia on April 1. The company's pelletizing plant, completed earlier this year, has a production capacity of 1.8 million tons annually and is the second such plant to be completed in Africa as well as in Liberia. The other is operated by the Liberian American-Swedish Minerals Co. (LAMCO).

In Canada, Denison Mines Ltd. was reported to have joined the Saskatchewan Government, Choiceland Iron Mines Ltd., and Interprovincial Steel & Pipe Corp. for development of an iron deposit 50 miles northeast of Prince Albert. Plans are to annually produce 750,000 to 1 million tons of metallized pellets for use in electric furnaces. Commercial production may start by 1975.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, May 26, 1971.

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 ore	Total <u>1/</u>
Production:						
1970 p/-----	70,233	1,400	3,495	14,017	691	89,836
1971:						
January----	3,935	39	315	1,005	56	5,350
February---	3,743	36	305	<u>r/</u> 1,098	48	<u>r/</u> 5,230
March-----	4,226	50	335	1,235	52	5,898
Shipments:						
1970 p/-----	70,237	1,212	2,997	13,897	714	89,057
1971:						
January----	729	59	223	1,070	56	2,137
February---	765	45	262	<u>r/</u> 1,056	42	<u>r/</u> 2,170
March-----	969	62	297	1,249	69	2,646

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of 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 March		Shipments March		Mine Stocks March 31	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,146	1,059	460	208	4,552	4,797
Minnesota-----	3,007	3,077	440	549	13,193	11,544
Wisconsin-----	73	61	69	61	24	9
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina (1971)	50	117	62	100	802	704
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania	335	343	297	286	4,830	4,352
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	1,235	1,080	1,249	1,044	531	377
Byproduct ore-----	52	51	69	70	440	483
Total <u>1</u> /-----	5,898	5,788	2,646	2,318	24,372	22,265

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

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

	Canada	Japan	Other	Total <u>1</u> /
1970 <u>p</u> /-----	2,046	3,206	239	5,491
1971:				
January-----	1	219	19	239
February-----	3	95	<u>2</u> /	98
March-----	5	368	<u>2</u> /	373

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of 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 <u>1/</u>
1970 p/----- 1971:	21,132	13,370	10,575	1,699	46,775
January-----	839	187	587	53	1,667
February-----	473	250	472	260	1,454
March-----	641	300	622	179	1,741

p/ Preliminary.

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)

	March 1971			January - March 1971		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	148,158	\$1,582,979	\$10.68	328,399	\$3,895,432	\$11.86
Brazil-----	229,851	2,466,754	10.73	680,620	5,819,142	8.55
Canada-----	588,187	8,848,625	15.04	1,432,327	21,146,171	14.76
Chile-----	292,469	2,332,382	7.97	406,252	3,209,064	7.90
Germany, West----	22	271	12.32	22	271	12.32
Liberia-----	211,308	1,836,257	8.69	474,023	4,743,274	10.01
Peru-----	132,978	1,695,424	12.75	223,752	2,906,217	12.99
Sweden-----	-----	-----	-----	4	1,213	303.25
Venezuela-----	2,075,514	17,970,196	8.66	2,965,468	25,330,818	8.54
Total-----	3,678,487	36,732,888	9.99	6,510,867	67,051,602	10.30

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 March 31, 1971
	March 1971	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			<u>r</u> /40,474,914
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	942,117	2,695,910	3,400,090
California, Colorado, Utah-----	678,613	1,871,154	569,671
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	1,002,288	2,794,119	2,303,486
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,689,967	7,431,925	7,912,570
Michigan, Minnesota-----	782,418	2,332,455	3,161,829
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	5,399,643	14,923,923	16,511,941
Total-----	11,495,046	32,049,486	33,859,587

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	March 1971	Year to date	March 1971	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	8,489,709	23,665,844	7,604,917	<u>r</u> /21,163,031
Steel furnaces-----	240,932	614,098	-----	-----
Agglomerating plants <u>1</u> /-	2,763,641	7,761,945	-----	-----
Miscellaneous <u>2</u> /-----	764	7,599	-----	-----
Total-----	11,495,046	32,049,486	7,604,917	<u>r</u> /21,163,031

r/ Revised.

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

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

Source: American Iron Ore Association.
American Iron and Steel Institute.