



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 APRIL 1971

U.S. mine production and stocks continued to increase in April while shipments more than doubled compared with the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Stocks of ore at consuming centers declined by 7 percent but production of pig iron was slightly below the figure for March. Output of pig iron for the first 4 months of the year, however, was 5 percent more than in the corresponding period of 1970.

At the end of April, imports of iron ore during 1971 totaled about 2 percent more than in the same period of 1970, while exports totaled about 9 percent less.

In Minnesota, Reserve Mining Co. announced plans to reduce production of iron ore pellets because of a decline in demand. About 100 employees were expected to be laid off at the company's mining operation near Babbitt.

Midland-Ross Corp. announced in May that commercial production of metalized pellets had begun at the company's new plant at Georgetown, S.C. Production capacity of the plant was reported to be 400,000 tons of pellets per year. The company also announced plans to build a similar plant near Taft, La. The latter facility will consist of two units, each having a production capacity of 400,000 tons of pellets per year; completion of the first unit was expected in early 1973.

In Canada, a \$100 million project to increase iron ore production at Wabush Mines was canceled for economic reasons. Present output capacity at Wabush is 6 million tons of concentrate annually. At Port Cartier, a record cargo of 122,000 tons of iron concentrates was loaded on a French vessel April 21 at the dock of Quebec Cartier Mining Co. The shipment was destined for Japan. At Hamilton, a new blast furnace was brought into production by Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd. The furnace has an output capacity of 3,500 tons of pig iron per day. Iron ore feed will consist primarily of pellets from the Sherman and Wabush mines.

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 <u>p/</u> -----	70,233	1,400	3,495	14,017	691	89,836
1971:						
1st Quarter--	11,904	125	955	3,338	<u>r/</u> 153	16,475
April-----	4,713	38	330	1,205	59	6,345
Shipments:						
1970 <u>p/</u> -----	70,237	1,212	2,997	13,897	714	89,057
1971:						
1st Quarter--	2,463	166	782	3,375	<u>r/</u> 174	6,960
April-----	3,738	43	290	1,316	52	5,439

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 April		Shipments April		Mine Stocks April 30	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,129	1,091	988	793	4,693	5,094
Minnesota-----	3,515	3,747	2,667	2,858	14,041	12,460
Wisconsin-----	69	62	83	56	10	14
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina (1971)	38	137	43	115	797	726
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania	330	347	290	306	4,868	4,393
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	1,205	1,190	1,316	1,148	444	418
Byproduct ore-----	59	59	52	71	448	471
Total <u>1</u> /-----	6,345	6,633	5,439	5,348	25,301	23,576

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:				
1st Quarter-----	9	682	19	710
April-----	17	348	<u>2</u> /	365

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/-----	21,132	13,370	10,575	1,699	46,775
1971:					
January-----	839	187	587	53	1,667
February-----	473	250	472	260	1,454
March-----	641	300	622	179	1,741
April-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary.

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)

	April 1971			January - April 1971		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	123,625	\$1,764,871	\$14.28	452,024	\$5,660,303	\$12.52
Brazil-----	129,864	1,215,853	9.36	810,484	7,034,995	8.68
Canada-----	821,794	11,663,798	14.19	2,254,121	32,809,969	14.56
Chile-----	187,329	1,496,494	7.99	593,581	4,705,558	7.93
Germany, West---	-----	-----	----	22	271	12.32
Liberia-----	218,145	1,809,885	8.30	692,168	6,553,159	9.47
Peru-----	117,820	1,419,268	12.05	341,572	4,325,485	12.66
Sweden-----	-----	-----	----	4	1,213	303.25
Venezuela-----	1,450,057	12,714,886	8.77	4,415,525	38,045,704	8.62
Total-----	3,048,634	32,085,055	10.52	9,559,501	99,136,657	10.37

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 April 30, 1971
	April 1971	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			<u>r</u> /33,859,640
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	903,603	3,599,513	3,400,136
California, Colorado, Utah-----	660,280	2,531,434	578,802
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	920,861	3,714,980	2,085,157
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,568,448	10,000,373	7,082,495
Michigan, Minnesota-----	804,014	3,136,469	2,873,698
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	5,196,387	20,120,310	15,470,072
Total-----	11,053,593	43,103,079	31,490,360

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	April 1971	Year to date	April 1971	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	8,215,331	31,881,175	7,518,791	<u>r</u> /28,681,605
Steel furnaces-----	205,293	819,391	-----	-----
Agglomerating plants <u>1</u> /---	2,632,177	10,394,122	-----	-----
Miscellaneous <u>2</u> /-----	792	8,391	-----	-----
Total-----	11,053,593	43,103,079	7,518,791	<u>r</u> /28,681,605

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.