

JUL 26 1971

**MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS**

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



Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary

Elburt F. Osborn, Director

For information call F. L. Klinger
Telephone: 703-557-0621

Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN MAY 1971

With normal shipping operations on the Great Lakes underway for the first full month of 1971, U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore increased sharply in May, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Compared with the previous month, production and shipments from the Lake Superior district increased by 62 percent and 138 percent, respectively. Ore stocks at mines declined by 1.3 million tons but were 6 percent greater than 1 year ago. Imports of iron ore also rose sharply in May, as imports from Canada increased by 1.7 million tons. At consuming centers, stocks and consumption of iron ore increased, and production of pig iron remained about 5 percent more than in the same period of 1970.

In Venezuela, Orinoco Mining Co. announced that it will proceed with a \$40 million washing and screening project, to improve the quality of iron ore exports. The company plans to expand production of iron ore by 30 percent, to a total of 25 million tons annually by 1973. The washing and screening plant will produce 12 million tons annually of ore sized between 3/8" and 1 1/2".

The Export-Import Bank authorized a credit of \$11.25 million, and guarantees of loans totaling an equal amount, to help finance purchase of U.S. equipment by the Brazilian firm, Mineracoes Brasileiras Reunidas, S.A. (MBR). MBR is developing the Aguas Claras and other iron ore deposits of the Paraopeba Valley, and new port facilities at Sepetiba Bay. Also in Brazil, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce loaded a record cargo of 144,442 long tons of iron ore fines on a vessel at Tubarao on May 5; the shipment was destined for Japan.

In blast furnace developments, "D" furnace at the Burns Harbor (Indiana) works of Bethlehem Steel Corp. produced 142,879 net tons of pig iron in May, a new record for 1 month's production from one blast furnace in the Western Hemisphere. In Japan, the No. 4 blast furnace at the Fukuyama works of Nippon Kokan Kabushiki Kaisha began operating in May. The latter furnace has an inner volume of approximately 148,000 cubic feet, and a production capacity of 10,000 metric tons of pig iron daily.

In Nevada, the Minnesota mine of Standard Slag Co. was reported to have ceased production in June due to exhaustion of iron ore reserves. Shipments from stockpile were expected to continue for a few months.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, July 23, 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:						
1st Quarter--	11,904	125	955	3,338	153	16,475
April-----	4,713	38	330	1,205	59	6,345
May-----	7,632	44	334	1,096	52	9,158
Shipments:						
1970 p/-----	70,237	1,212	2,997	13,897	714	89,057
1971:						
1st Quarter--	2,463	166	782	3,375	174	6,960
April-----	3,738	43	290	1,316	52	5,439
May-----	8,918	45	279	1,206	47	10,495

p/ Preliminary.

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 May		Shipments May		Mine Stocks May 31	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,147	1,067	1,567	1,666	4,276	4,495
Minnesota-----	6,408	6,296	7,271	6,912	13,198	11,843
Wisconsin-----	77	72	80	67	6	19
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina (1971)-	44	119	45	95	796	750
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania-	334	324	279	278	4,923	4,438
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	1,096	1,325	1,206	1,223	349	520
Byproduct ore-----	52	61	47	57	453	474
Total <u>1</u> /-----	9,158	9,264	10,495	10,299	24,001	22,538

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 p/------	2,046	3,206	239	5,491
1971:				
1st Quarter-----	9	682	19	710
April-----	17	348	<u>2</u> /	365
May-----	4	347	<u>2</u> /	351

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:					
1st quarter-----	1,953	737	1,681	492	4,862
April-----	1,410	703	655	150	2,918
May-----	2,601	1,604	1,240	165	5,610

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)

	May 1971			January - May 1971		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	86,093	\$1,116,917	\$12.97	538,117	\$6,777,220	\$12.59
Brazil-----	172,134	1,592,624	9.25	982,618	8,627,619	8.78
Canada-----	2,554,917	32,063,816	12.55	4,809,038	64,873,785	13.49
Chile-----	216,521	1,894,702	8.75	810,102	6,600,260	8.15
Germany, West---	----	----	----	22	271	12.32
Liberia-----	162,481	1,231,577	7.58	854,649	7,784,736	9.11
Peru-----	48,496	400,092	8.25	390,068	4,725,577	12.11
Sweden-----	----	----	----	4	1,213	303.25
Venezuela-----	1,402,270	12,258,327	8.74	5,817,795	50,304,031	8.65
Total-----	4,642,912	50,558,055	10.89	14,202,413	149,694,712	10.54

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 May 31, 1971
	May 1971	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			<u>r/</u> 31,490,303
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	943,765	4,543,278	3,648,174
California, Colorado, Utah-----	674,043	3,205,477	532,184
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	927,069	4,642,049	1,922,733
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,834,420	12,834,793	8,137,191
Michigan, Minnesota-----	977,146	4,113,615	3,301,338
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	5,346,330	25,466,640	16,415,007
Total-----	11,702,773	54,805,852	33,956,627

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	May 1971	Year to date	May 1971	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	8,798,150	40,679,325	7,842,374	36,523,979
Steel furnaces-----	203,789	1,023,180	---	---
Agglomerating plants <u>1/</u> ---	2,698,599	13,092,721	---	---
Miscellaneous <u>2/</u> -----	2,235	10,626	---	---
Total-----	11,702,773	54,805,852	7,842,374	36,523,979

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.