



# 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 AUGUST 1971

Mine production and shipments of iron ore in August were approximately 20 percent less than in the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Principal causes of the decline were reduced demand for iron and steel, and strikes which affected some iron ore producers as well as some major ore-hauling railroads during the early part of the month. At consuming centers, total stocks of iron ore increased 13 percent while consumption of ore for production of pig iron was down about 45 percent compared with July. Figures for the first 8 months of 1971 indicated that mine production and shipments of ore were 6 to 8 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1970, and that blast-furnace production of pig iron was 3.5 percent less.

Exports of iron ore continued to decline, as the dock strike at West Coast ports remained in effect. Imports of iron ore were down 22 percent compared with July. Quantity of imports for the first 8 months of 1971 was about 2 percent less than in the same period of 1970 but the total value was about 3 percent greater.

The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. (CCI) announced preliminary plans to build a new mining, concentrating, and pelletizing complex southeast of Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Known as the Tilden Project, the proposed operation would produce 4 million tons of pelletized concentrate per year beginning in mid-1974. The concentrating process would include a procedure for selective flocculation-desliming and flotation, developed by the Bureau of Mines in cooperation with CCI. Estimated cost of the project, which would be shared by CCI and several steel companies, was reported to be \$150 million.

In Canada, a record cargo of 135,070 long tons of iron ore concentrates was loaded on a German ore carrier at Port Cartier, Quebec, on August 27. Destined for Rotterdam, the shipment was the largest dry bulk cargo to be loaded at a North American port.

In Japan, the No. 3 blast furnace at the Kimitsu works of Nippon Steel Corp. was started up in September. The new furnace has four tap holes and a working volume of more than 143,000 cubic feet.

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
2nd Quarter-	19,957	106	980	3,370	161	24,574
July-----	7,856	13	194	900	48	9,011
August-----	5,691	33	217	751	45	6,737
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
2nd Quarter-	22,158	113	894	3,645	171	26,981
July-----	9,547	21	211	792	52	10,623
August-----	7,347	37	196	648	36	8,264

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 August		Shipments August		Mine Stocks August 31	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,091	1,090	1,597	1,843	2,660	2,412
Minnesota-----	4,561	6,634	5,712	8,443	9,241	8,013
Wisconsin-----	39	79	38	93	8	11
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina-----	33	102	37	94	783	807
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania	217	292	196	227	4,915	4,564
Western:						
Arizona, California Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	751	1,128	648	1,249	561	339
Byproduct ore-----	45	57	36	53	437	484
Total <u>1</u> /-----	6,737	9,382	8,264	12,003	18,605	16,629

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
2nd Quarter-----	170	871	<u>2</u> /	1,041
July-----	354	-	<u>2</u> /	355
August-----	187	-	<u>2</u> /	187

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
2nd Quarter-----	6,345	3,642	3,167	465	13,619
July-----	2,324	1,317	1,147	85	4,873
August-----	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)

	August 1971			January - August 1971		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	91,273	\$1,202,310	\$13.17	764,176	\$9,570,589	\$12.52
Brazil -----	107,172	1,046,456	9.76	1,398,712	12,932,986	9.25
Canada -----	2,302,155	28,835,984	12.53	13,504,175	177,145,920	13.12
Chile-----	23,060	184,036	7.98	844,662	6,885,936	8.15
Germany, West--	-----	-----	-----	22	271	12.32
Liberia-----	193,340	1,684,271	8.71	1,389,259	12,730,677	9.16
Mexico-----	-----	-----	-----	20,760	473,328	22.80
Nigeria-----	51,930	399,342	7.69	51,930	399,342	7.69
Peru-----	141,248	1,739,916	12.32	699,387	7,998,026	11.44
Philippines----	7,000	141,000	20.14	19,300	367,300	19.03
Sweden-----	62,540	761,543	12.18	127,678	1,572,011	12.31
United Kingdom-	16	1,958	122.38	16	1,958	122.38
Venezuela-----	989,502	8,872,679	8.97	9,860,841	86,393,896	8.76
Total-----	3,969,236	\$44,869,495	\$11.30	28,680,918	\$316,472,240	\$11.03

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
	August 1971	Year to date	August 31, 1971
Beginning of month-----			<u>r/</u> 45,085,242
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	543,060	6,742,096	4,253,628
California, Colorado, Utah-----	383,833	4,702,604	514,321
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	307,420	6,658,691	2,833,460
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,087,730	18,619,530	13,059,103
Michigan, Minnesota-----	724,270	6,584,564	4,984,638
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	1,994,495	36,232,193	25,552,097
Total-----	5,040,808	79,539,678	51,197,247

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	August 1971	Year to date	August 1971	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	3,720,796	59,358,424	3,304,538	53,026,207
Steel furnaces-----	43,094	1,405,382	---	---
Agglomerating plants <u>1/</u> -----	1,276,448	18,761,922	---	---
Miscellaneous <u>2/</u> -----	470	13,950	---	---
Total-----	5,040,808	79,539,678	3,304,538	53,026,207

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.