

# 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 DECEMBER 1971

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in December were close to the levels of 1 year ago, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Although preliminary totals for the Nation in 1971 indicated declines of about 8 percent in production and 9 percent in shipments compared with 1970, consumption of iron ore increased about 12 percent in December and ore stocks at consuming plants dropped by more than 2 million tons during the month. Total ore stocked at mines and consuming plants was about 8 million tons more than 1 year ago.

Imports of iron ore for consumption in 1971 were about 4.7 million tons less than in 1970. The decline was mainly due to a reduction of 3.5 million tons in shipments from Canada, but imports from Chile, Peru, and Brazil also declined. Imports from Australia increased more than 50 percent, passing the 1-million-ton mark in 1971.

Final ore shipments for the 1971 season were recorded at all U.S. ports on the Great Lakes by December 23, except at Two Harbors, Minn. Shipments from Two Harbors were planned to continue through January.

On December 20, Kaiser Steel Corp. announced that exports of iron ore and pellets from its Eagle Mountain, Calif., facility had been stopped. The company also said that starting January 3, 1972, all mining and production at Eagle Mountain would be halted for 4 to 6 weeks, to allow reduction of stockpiles and to reduce the level of production by 50 percent. It was stated that exports of Eagle Mountain ore products had become uneconomic, partly because of the availability of high-grade foreign ores on world markets at relatively low prices. The mine will continue to provide ore for the Kaiser steelworks at Fontana, Calif. The number of Eagle Mountain employees to be affected was not announced.

The Midland-Ross Corp. was reported to have sold most of its 49-percent interest in Georgetown Steel Corp. of Georgetown, S.C., while retaining ownership of the prerduced pellet facility which supplies ore for the steelworks. The company also disposed of its interest in Korf Industrie and Handel G.m.b.H. of Hamburg, West Germany, where a similar pellet facility was completed during 1971.

---

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, February 24, 1972.

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 <sup>1/</sup>
Production:						
1970-----	69,636	1,484	3,491	14,314	835	89,760
1971:						
1st Quarter-	11,904	125	955	3,338	153	16,475
2nd Quarter-	19,957	106	980	3,370	161	24,574
3rd Quarter-	20,780	83	587	2,484	139	24,073
October-----	5,169	35	174	886	45	6,309
November-----	4,245	31	183	1,004	44	5,507
December-----	4,187	25	169	934	45	5,360
Shipments:						
1970-----	68,697	1,293	2,998	14,188	715	87,891
1971:						
1st Quarter-	2,463	166	782	3,375	174	6,960
2nd Quarter-	22,158	113	894	3,645	171	26,981
3rd Quarter-	24,815	106	602	2,239	126	27,888
October-----	6,805	41	185	902	36	7,969
November-----	4,923	34	171	812	49	5,989
December-----	2,722	33	176	941	19	3,891

<sup>1/</sup> 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 December		Shipments December		Mine Stocks December 31	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,083	1,146	1,130	796	2,065	2,349
Minnesota-----	3,027	3,087	1,516	1,543	8,443	5,454
Wisconsin-----	77	67	76	73	10	2
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina-----	25	101	33	93	757	843
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania-	169	301	176	292	4,884	4,657
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	934	1,200	941	1,113	919	538
Byproduct ore-----	45	59	19	56	474	461
<b>Total <u>1</u>-----</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>3,966</b>	<b>17,552</b>	<b>14,304</b>

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-----	2,045	3,206	241	5,492
1971:				
1st Quarter-----	9	682	19	710
2nd Quarter-----	170	871	<u>2/</u>	1,041
3rd Quarter-----	743	<u>r/</u> <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>r/</u> 743
October-----	199	82	<u>2/</u>	281
November-----	105	14	<u>2/</u>	119
December-----	18	145	<u>2/</u>	163

r/ Revised.

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-----	22,219	13,079	10,493	1,718	47,509
1971:					
1st Quarter-----	1,953	737	1,681	492	4,862
2nd Quarter-----	6,345	3,642	3,167	465	13,619
3rd Quarter-----	6,105	3,772	2,714	495	13,085
October-----	2,219	1,303	946	62	4,530
November-----	1,934	1,039	778	163	3,914
December-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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)

	December 1971			January - December 1971		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	100,992	\$1,237,241	\$12.25	1,007,329	\$12,692,011	\$12.60
Brazil-----	66,449	762,053	11.47	1,772,791	16,546,042	9.33
Canada-----	1,211,649	17,933,067	14.80	20,341,999	267,423,776	13.15
Chile-----	-----	-----	-----	877,870	7,152,361	8.15
Germany, West---	-----	-----	-----	22	271	12.32
Liberia-----	104,630	929,201	8.88	1,838,140	16,768,161	9.12
Mexico-----	-----	-----	-----	20,760	473,328	22.80
Nigeria-----	-----	-----	-----	51,930	399,342	7.69
Peru-----	96,636	1,098,401	11.37	1,062,450	12,443,494	11.71
Philippines----	-----	-----	-----	19,300	367,300	19.03
Sweden-----	-----	-----	-----	177,965	2,200,042	12.36
United Kingdom--	-----	-----	-----	16	1,958	122.38
Venezuela-----	580,243	5,173,090	8.92	12,977,123	114,382,836	8.81
Total-----	2,160,599	27,133,053	12.56	40,147,695	450,850,922	11.23

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 December 31, 1971
	December 1971	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			±/ 59,865,423
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	651,886	9,070,843	4,452,894
California, Colorado, Utah-----	489,484	6,570,897	638,574
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	781,046	9,617,030	4,190,733
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,936,423	25,768,352	15,112,326
Michigan, Minnesota-----	782,371	9,689,898	4,618,075
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	3,365,168	48,249,028	28,725,646
Total-----	8,006,378	108,966,048	57,738,248

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	December 1971	Year to date	December 1971	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	6,088,832	81,299,047	5,294,471	±/ 72,593,749
Steel furnaces-----	93,096	1,814,522	-----	-----
Agglomerating plants 1/-----	1,822,974	25,828,963	-----	-----
Miscellaneous 2/-----	1,476	23,516	-----	-----
Total-----	8,006,378	108,966,048	5,294,471	±/ 72,593,749

±/ 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.