



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 JANUARY 1972

U.S. mine production of iron ore in January was about 11 percent less than in the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The decline was mainly evident in the Western States, particularly California where output from the Eagle Mountain mine was halted temporarily by Kaiser Steel Corp. U.S. mine shipments, however, were slightly higher than a year ago, with the Lake Superior district shipping nearly 400,000 tons more than in January, 1971. Ore consumption at iron and steel plants continued to rise as production of pig iron increased by 11 percent compared with December. Nationwide, iron ore stocks at the mines increased by 2.6 million tons while stocks at consuming plants declined by 5.2 million tons.

Exports of iron ore fell off sharply, with no shipments reported to Japan. This appeared to be due to cessation of exports by Kaiser Steel Corp. (announced in December), coupled with resumption of the West Coast dock strike on January 17.

On the Mesabi range, The Snyder Mining Co. has stopped all mining operations, including those at the Wanless and Kosmerl mines which were operated under lease. The company had announced closing of the Whiteside mine last November. On the western Mesabi, the Mesaba-Cliffs Mining Co. will not produce ore from the Hill-Trumbull mine in 1972. The mine was returned to the fee owners. On the eastern Mesabi, Reserve Mining Co. announced that 1972 production will be reduced by 8 percent; about 200 men, including 150 at Babbitt, will be affected.

In Alabama, the Woodward Company (division of the Mead Corp.) will reportedly phase out its blast-furnace operations during 1972. Only one of the company's four furnaces has been operating since September. About 420 employees will be affected.

In Japan, cutbacks in iron and steel production have already idled a number of blast furnaces and are expected to cause reductions in imports of iron ore by 10 percent or more in 1972. Japan imported more than 100 million tons of iron ore in 1971, with Australia supplying about 40 percent.

In Peru, the Marcona Corp. recently completed dredging of the harbor at San Nicolas to accommodate berthing of iron ore carriers of up to 175,000 deadweight tons. A record single cargo of 142,377 long tons of sinter feed was loaded at the port on January 8.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, March 27, 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 <u>1</u> /
Production:						
1971 P/ -----	66,243	408	3,047	12,015	589	82,302
1972: January--	3,938	27	208	530	36	4,739
Shipments:						
1971 P/ -----	63,890	493	2,810	11,912	576	79,681
1972: January--	1,109	80	176	804	23	2,192

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 January		Shipments January		Mine Stocks January 31	
	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,109	1,040	550	209	2,625	3,180
Minnesota-----	2,755	2,822	480	453	10,718	7,763
Wisconsin-----	74	73	79	67	5	80
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina-----	27	39	80	59	745	822
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania-	208	315	176	223	4,916	4,749
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	530	1,005	804	1,070	633	473
Byproduct ore-----	36	56	23	56	488	462
Total <u>1/</u> -----	4,739	5,350	2,192	2,137	20,130	17,529

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>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	743
4th Quarter-----	322	241	<u>2/</u>	563
1972:				
January-----	<u>2/</u>	---	20	20

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-----	1,187	561	648	106	2,502
1972:					
January-----	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)

	January 1972		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	42,716	\$ 564,595	\$13.22
Brazil-----	35,687	340,689	9.55
Canada-----	476,393	6,708,570	14.08
Ivory Coast-----	497	2,019	4.06
Liberia-----	85,010	891,713	10.49
Peru-----	140,630	1,721,401	12.24
Venezuela-----	535,646	4,764,232	8.89
Total-----	1,316,579	\$14,993,219	\$11.39

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
	January 1972	Year to date	January 31, 1972
Beginning of month-----			<u>r/</u> 57,738,839
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	782,471	782,471	4,065,745
California, Colorado, Utah-----	310,138	310,138	598,426
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia	748,852	748,852	4,144,096
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,189,200	2,189,200	13,685,016
Michigan, Minnesota-----	765,155	765,155	3,916,380
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	3,871,985	3,871,985	26,140,102
Total-----	8,667,801	8,667,801	52,549,765

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	January 1972	Year to date	January 1972	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	6,649,850	6,649,850	5,908,096	5,908,096
Steel furnaces-----	172,209	172,209	-----	-----
Agglomerating plants <u>1/</u> -	1,844,134	1,844,134	-----	-----
Miscellaneous <u>2/</u> -----	1,608	1,608	-----	-----
Total-----	8,667,801	8,667,801	5,908,096	5,908,096

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.