



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 FEBRUARY 1972

U.S. mine production of iron ore in February was unchanged from the previous month, but production and shipments from the Lake Superior district were greater than 1 year ago, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Ore stocked at U.S. mines increased by 3 million tons during the month, while stocks at consuming plants declined by nearly 6 million tons. Consumption of ore continued to show a rising trend although reported production of pig iron was essentially unchanged from the previous month. Exports of iron ore remained small, and imports during the first 2 months of 1972 were slightly higher than in the same period a year ago.

In Alabama, the Woodward Company was reportedly planning to continue production of pig iron into 1973. Earlier reports had indicated plans to phase out blast furnace operations by the end of 1972. In Franklin County, production of brown iron ore at the Russellville mine was halted for an indefinite period by U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co.

In Nevada, the Minnesota mine northwest of Yerington was expected to be closed by March 31, 1972. Production reportedly ceased last summer, and the final shipment of ore for Japan was scheduled to be shipped from Pittsburg, Calif. early in March. The mine has been operated by the Standard Slag Co. since 1952.

On the Great Lakes, two shipping companies announced increases in bulk vessel freight rates for iron ore and coal, effective in February. The increase for iron ore amounts to 12 cents per gross ton from the head of the lakes to lower lake ports, raising the base rate for this haul to \$2.37 per gross ton. The companies were the Interlake Steamship division of Pickands Mather & Co., and Wilson Marine Transit Co.

In Mexico, Arthur G. McKee & Co. of Cleveland signed a contract with a subsidiary of Altos Hornos de Mexico, S.A., for design and construction of a circular-grate iron ore pelletizing plant. The plant will be built at the La Perla mine in Chihuahua; it will have a production capacity of 600,000 metric tons of pellets per year and is to be completed by the spring of 1974.

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 <u>P</u> /-----	<u>r</u> / 64,759	408	3,047	12,015	589	<u>r</u> / 80,818
1972:						
January--	<u>r</u> / 3,784	27	208	530	36	<u>r</u> / 4,585
February	3,723	29	201	598	35	4,586
Shipments:						
1971 <u>P</u> /-----	<u>r</u> / 62,405	493	2,810	11,912	576	<u>r</u> / 78,196
1972:						
January--	<u>r</u> / 954	80	176	804	23	<u>r</u> / 2,037
February	712	99	178	640	20	1,649

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 February		Shipments February		Mine Stocks February 29	
	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971
Lake Superior:						
Michigan <u>1</u> /-----	947	<u>r</u> / 908	151	<u>r</u> / 222	3,421	3,866
Minnesota-----	2,707	2,633	491	353	12,934	10,626
Wisconsin-----	69	64	70	52	4	20
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia,						
North Carolina-----	29	36	99	45	717	813
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania--	201	305	178	262	4,938	4,792
Western:						
Arizona, California,						
Colorado, Missouri,						
Nevada, Texas, Utah,						
Wyoming-----	598	1,096	640	1,054	639	510
Byproduct ore-----	35	48	20	42	503	457
Total <u>2</u> /-----	4,586	<u>r</u> /5,090	1,649	<u>r</u> /2,030	23,156	21,084

r/ Revised.

1/ Revised figures for January 1972: Production 955; shipments 395.

2/ 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> /
1971 <u>p</u> /-----	1,244	1,794	23	3,061
1972:				
January-----	<u>2</u> /	--	20	20
February-----	<u>14</u>	--	--	14

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>
1971 p/-----	19,827	11,054	9,933	1,783	42,597
1972:					
January-----	676	304	586	42	1,608
February-----	122	124	593	70	908

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)

	February 1972			January - February 1972		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	97,236	\$1,282,292	\$13.19	139,952	\$1,846,887	\$13.20
Brazil-----	132,941	1,098,446	8.26	168,628	1,439,135	8.53
Canada-----	322,513	4,699,341	14.57	798,906	11,407,911	14.28
Chile-----	8,030	64,561	8.04	8,030	64,561	8.04
Ivory Coast-----	--	--	--	497	2,019	4.06
Liberia-----	296,296	2,019,342	6.82	381,306	2,911,055	7.63
Nigeria-----	49,963	384,215	7.69	49,963	384,215	7.69
Peru-----	43,495	522,310	12.01	184,125	2,243,711	12.19
Venezuela-----	751,024	6,654,984	8.86	1,286,670	11,419,216	8.88
Total-----	1,701,498	16,725,491	9.83	3,018,077	31,718,710	10.51

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
	February 1972	Year to date	February 29, 1972
Beginning of month-----			r/ 52,540,412
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	746,963	1,529,434	3,864,864
California, Colorado, Utah-----	335,219	645,357	587,058
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	711,510	1,460,362	3,731,738
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,297,266	4,486,466	11,758,104
Michigan, Minnesota-----	716,777	1,481,932	3,624,690
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	4,193,044	8,065,029	23,163,261
Total-----	9,000,779	17,668,580	46,729,715

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	February 1972	Year to date	February 1972	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	6,848,326	13,498,176	5,890,802	11,798,898
Steel furnaces-----	109,924	282,133	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>1</u> /-----	2,041,326	3,885,460	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>2</u> /-----	1,203	2,811	--	--
Total	9,000,779	17,668,580	5,890,802	11,798,898

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.