



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 APRIL 1972

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore rose sharply in April but were below the levels of 1 year ago, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Ore shipping on the Great Lakes was commenced by most companies, but due to heavy ice conditions, shipments from U.S. ports began 1 to 2 weeks later than in 1971 and some vessel movements were still being delayed at the end of the month. Mine stocks of ore increased during April by 3 million tons while stocks at consuming plants decreased by 5 million tons. Exports and imports of ore remained well below the levels of 1 year ago. Ore consumption and output of pig iron were essentially unchanged from the previous month.

In Michigan, The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. announced plans to increase the production capacity for iron ore pellets at its Empire operation to 5.2 million tons annually, by mid-1974. Cost of the expansion was estimated at \$65 million. Present capacity of the mine and plant is rated at 3.4 million tons per year.

Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s new 1,000-foot ore carrier, the Stewart J. Cort, was expected to begin service early in May, carrying iron ore pellets from Taconite Harbor, Minn. to the company's steelworks at Burns Harbor, Indiana. The vessel has a gross cargo capacity of 51,500 tons. At the Burns Harbor works, the second new blast furnace was brought into production in March.

In New York, the Tonawanda Iron Division of American Standard, Inc. was expected to close down its plant on June 16. About 160 employees will be affected. The company's blast furnace at Tonawanda has been producing about 210,000 short tons of pig iron per year, principally from Mesabi hematite ores, for processing into 86 grades of malleable, Bessemer, and foundry iron.

In Panama, production of iron ore concentrates from beach sands on the West Coast has recently begun. The first shipment of about 20,000 tons was reportedly made in February. The operating company, Panama Iron Sand Development Co., is jointly owned by Sumitomo Kaisha Ltd. of Japan and Minera Chanu of Panama. A contract for import of 1.6 million tons of the concentrate over a 6-year period was negotiated by Sumitomo in 1970. Reserves of concentrate were estimated at 2.5 million tons, averaging 62-63 percent Fe and 7 percent TiO_2 .

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/-----	64,759	408	3,047	12,015	589	80,818
1972:						
1st Quarter--	11,436	108	649	1,919	110	14,222
April-----	4,666	51	259	922	35	5,933
Shipments:						
1971 p/-----	62,405	493	2,810	11,912	576	78,196
1972:						
1st Quarter---	• 2,266	239	568	2,271	91	5,435
April-----	1,712	58	221	955	26	2,972

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 April		Shipments April		Mine Stocks April 30	
	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	964	<u>r</u> /1,007	422	<u>r</u> /866	4,971	4,693
Minnesota-----	3,633	3,515	1,219	2,667	17,669	14,041
Wisconsin-----	69	69	71	83	2	10
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina-----	51	38	58	43	690	797
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania--	259	330	221	290	4,945	4,868
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	922	1,205	955	1,316	634	444
Byproduct ore-----	35	59	26	52	503	448
Total <u>1</u> /-----	5,933	<u>r</u> /6,223	2,972	<u>r</u> /5,317	29,414	25,301

r/ Revised.

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> /
1971 p/-----	1,244	1,794	23	3,061
1972:				
1st Quarter-----	14	149	20	183
April-----	1	55	<u>2</u> /	56

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
March-----	148	90	603	137	978
April-----	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)

	April 1972			January-April 1972		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	51,028	\$ 827,990	\$16.23	281,735	\$ 3,885,257	\$13.79
Brazil-----	91,699	1,006,503	10.98	352,982	3,465,045	9.82
Canada-----	338,324	5,402,441	15.97	1,316,600	19,522,058	14.83
Chile-----	11,000	88,440	8.04	60,399	527,929	8.74
Ivory Coast-----	--	--	--	497	2,019	4.06
Liberia-----	152,305	1,396,043	9.17	790,364	6,328,724	8.01
Nigeria-----	35,155	344,519	9.80	85,118	728,734	8.56
Peru-----	199,946	1,727,369	8.64	573,011	6,350,348	11.08
Philippines-----	--	--	--	3,000	82,500	27.50
Venezuela-----	896,009	8,167,345	9.12	3,062,303	27,428,420	8.96
Total-----	1,775,466	18,960,650	10.68	6,526,009	68,321,034	10.47

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
	April 1972	Year to date	April 30, 1972
Beginning of month-----			40,412,195
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	871,555	3,265,445	3,264,954
California, Colorado, Utah-----	566,763	1,642,079	617,025
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	802,020	3,081,232	2,846,384
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,729,022	9,995,818	7,337,418
Michigan, Minnesota-----	789,152	3,058,757	2,842,902
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	4,723,224	17,612,288	18,090,381
Total-----	10,481,736	38,655,619	34,999,064

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	April 1972	Year to date	April 1972	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	7,871,704	29,346,897	6,898,176	25,579,566
Steel furnaces-----	129,979	554,116	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>1</u> /-----	2,478,372	8,747,093	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>2</u> /-----	1,681	7,513	--	--
Total-----	10,481,736	38,655,619	6,898,176	25,579,566

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.