



# 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 SEPTEMBER 1972

U.S. mine production of iron ore continued to increase in September although shipments were less than in the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Cumulative production and shipments in 1972 still lagged behind the levels of 1971, but difference between the 2 years in September was considerably less than in June. By the end of September, consumption of iron ore was 2.6 percent more than in the first 9 months of 1971. Stocks of ore at the mines were about 1.8 million tons greater than 1 year ago, but stocks at consuming plants were about 8 million tons less. Imports of iron ore during the first 9 months were 21.5 percent less than in 1971.

In Minnesota, expansion of the Minntac taconite facility by U.S. Steel Corp. was essentially completed and production of pellets in the new agglomerator sections was underway. The expansion increased productive capacity at Minntac to 12 million tons of pellets per year. Elsewhere on the Mesabi range, Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. completed production and shipments of natural ores for the 1972 season on September 18, and began winter stripping operations at the McKinley, Hill Annex, and Lind-Greenway mines.

On the Great Lakes, six companies were planning to continue ore shipments beyond normal closing dates for the season. U.S. Steel Corp. announced plans to continue shipping into February, if possible.

In Canada, iron ore production and shipments from Labrador and northern Quebec were returning to normal as the strike affecting Iron Ore Co. of Canada operations at Labrador City and Schefferville was settled on September 12. Earlier, settlements had been reached by Quebec Cartier Mining Co. at Gagnon and by Wabush Mines at Wabush. In British Columbia, production of iron ore from the Wesfrob mine, owned by Falconbridge Nickel Mines, Ltd., was expected to resume; production had been stopped in July due to full stockpiles resulting from the Japanese shipping strike.

---

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, November 22, 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 1/
Production:						
1971-----	64,034	527	3,158	12,328	715	80,762
1972:						
1st Quarter----	11,436	108	649	1,919	110	14,222
2nd Quarter----	<u>16,791</u>	122	669	2,773	81	<u>20,434</u>
July-----	6,057	17	171	847	8	7,101
August-----	6,681	34	187	971	13	7,886
September-----	6,776	25	186	993	6	7,985
Shipments:						
1971-----	61,710	592	2,849	11,955	586	77,692
1972:						
1st Quarter----	2,266	239	568	2,271	91	5,435
2nd Quarter----	<u>17,297</u>	145	628	2,739	80	<u>20,889</u>
July-----	8,184	21	118	1,064	55	9,442
August-----	9,203	50	183	1,062	37	10,535
September-----	7,990	37	167	1,054	29	9,277

1/ 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 September		Shipments September		Mine Stocks September 30	
	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	974	<u>r</u> /1,092	1,213	<u>r</u> /1,174	3,010	2,578
Minnesota-----	5,730	6,008	6,705	6,618	10,339	8,632
Wisconsin-----	71	76	72	72	1	13
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia,						
North Carolina-----	25	37	37	48	635	774
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania--	186	176	167	195	4,923	4,896
Western:						
Arizona, California,						
Colorado, Missouri,						
Nevada, Texas, Utah,						
Wyoming-----	993	833	1,054	799	422	608
Byproduct ore-----	6	46	29	38	400	444
Total <u>1</u> /-----	7,985	<u>r</u> /8,268	9,277	<u>r</u> /8,944	19,731	17,945

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-----	1,245	1,794	22	3,061
1972:				
1st Quarter-----	14	149	20	183
2nd Quarter-----	263	102	24	389
July-----	185	104	( <u>2</u> /)	289
August-----	283	46	( <u>2</u> /)	329
September-----	268	57	( <u>2</u> /)	325

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:					
1st Quarter-----	946	518	1,782	249	3,494
2nd Quarter-----	5,459	3,309	3,147	232	12,146
July-----	2,239	389	1,100	106	3,835
August-----	1,673	296	1,129	31	3,129
September-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary.

NA Not available.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada - Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Table 5. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore, by countries  
(Exclusive of ore containing 10 percent or more manganese)

	September 1972			January - September 1972		
	Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		Long tons	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Australia-----	51,060	\$670,714	\$13.14	495,491	\$6,742,065	\$13.61
Brazil-----	170,437	1,802,130	10.57	802,907	7,823,647	9.74
Canada-----	1,737,340	24,669,522	14.20	11,844,914	165,738,165	13.99
Chile-----	53,949	434,516	8.05	220,708	2,197,684	9.96
Denmark-----	----	----	----	343	14,040	40.93
Ivory Coast-----	----	----	----	497	2,019	4.06
Liberia-----	144,399	1,594,838	11.04	1,994,274	16,064,496	8.06
Mauritania-----	----	----	----	39,515	686,618	17.38
Nigeria-----	----	----	----	85,118	728,734	8.56
Peru-----	255,529	2,616,475	10.24	1,182,646	13,437,662	11.36
Philippines-----	----	----	----	3,000	82,500	27.50
Spain-----	----	----	----	30	267	8.90
Sweden-----	14,950	210,318	14.07	131,852	1,828,359	13.87
South Africa, Rep. of-----	25,421	237,862	9.36	25,421	237,862	9.36
Venezuela-----	804,266	7,394,089	9.19	7,981,707	72,420,132	9.07
Total-----	3,257,351	39,630,464	12.17	24,808,423	288,004,250	11.61

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 September 30, 1972
	September 1972	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			r/45,071,420
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	763,741	7,419,758	3,742,161
California, Colorado, Utah-----	600,866	4,834,961	735,148
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	757,634	6,887,752	2,801,689
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,503,255	23,035,119	12,307,033
Michigan, Minnesota-----	633,898	6,599,459	4,167,292
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	4,372,496	39,931,528	24,226,904
Total-----	9,631,890	88,708,577	47,980,227

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	September 1972	Year to date	September 1972	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	7,320,677	67,425,702	6,353,535	58,848,766
Steel furnaces-----	114,509	1,234,871	----	----
Agglomerating plants 1/-----	2,193,487	20,020,219	----	----
Miscellaneous 2/-----	3,217	27,785	----	----
Total-----	9,631,890	88,708,577	6,353,535	58,848,766

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.

Table 7. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore, by customs districts  
(Exclusive of ore containing 10 percent or more manganese)  
(Long tons)

Customs district	September 1972	January - September 1972
Baltimore-----	578,564	4,870,245
Buffalo-----	286,929	1,457,937
Chicago-----	565,667	3,358,206
Cleveland-----	332,525	3,328,387
Detroit-----	187,158	607,498
Houston-----	48,074	334,523
Los Angeles-----	----	36,848
Mobile-----	359,512	3,153,985
New Orleans-----	66,922	554,903
Ogdensburg-----	403	3,119
Philadelphia-----	792,464	6,778,985
Portland, Ore.-----	39,093	210,350
Wilmington, N.C.-----	----	112,713
Other-----	40	724
Total-----	3,257,351	24,808,423