



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 OCTOBER 1972

With the seasonal decline in production of natural ores in Minnesota, U.S. mine production of iron ore in October was about 18 percent less than in the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Shipments remained high, however, and both production and shipments were substantially greater than 1 year ago. Stocks of ore at the mines were reduced by 2.7 million tons. Consumption of ore was about 7 percent more than in September, and production of pig iron in the first 10 months of 1972 was about 5 percent more than in the same period of 1971. Imports of iron ore increased, but the total for the first 10 months of the year was 18 percent less than 1 year ago.

The Coast Guard's heavy icebreaker "Southwind" has been transferred to Milwaukee, Wis., to replace its sister ship "Edisto" which was damaged north of Iceland in October. The transfer assures icebreaking support for plans to extend the ore shipping season on the Great Lakes this winter.

In December, increased prices for natural iron ores and iron ore pellets were announced by The Hanna Mining Co. and subsequently by The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. The Cleveland-Cliffs' increase was effective Dec. 12, 1972, while Hanna's increase will be effective Jan. 1, 1973. Compared with prices published earlier in 1972, the increases amount to 54 cents per gross ton for natural ores and 1.1 cents per long ton unit for pellets. The new prices (rail or vessel, lower lake ports) for natural ores (basis 51.5 percent iron, natural) will range from \$11.71 per gross ton for Mesabi non-Bessemer to \$12.11 for Old Range Bessemer, and the price of pellets will increase to 29.1 cents per long ton unit. Any increase in transportation or handling costs will be borne by the buyer.

In Australia, the first commercial shipment of iron ore from the Robe River project was scheduled to leave Cape Lambert on October 4. The Robe River project, managed by a subsidiary of The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co., was designed to produce 10.3 million tons of iron ore per year, including 6.1 million tons of sinter fines and 4.2 million tons of pellets. The pelletizing plant was reported to be nearing completion, and the first shipment of pellets was expected before the end of the year.

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----- | 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>r/16,791</u> | 122 | 669 | 2,773 | 81 | <u>r/20,434</u> |
| 3rd Quarter--- | 19,514 | 76 | 544 | 2,811 | 27 | 22,972 |
| October----- | 5,351 | 33 | 198 | 950 | 3 | 6,536 |
| 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>r/17,297</u> | 145 | 628 | 2,739 | 80 | <u>r/20,889</u> |
| 3rd Quarter--- | 25,377 | 108 | 468 | 3,180 | 121 | 29,254 |
| October----- | 7,825 | 37 | 176 | 989 | 35 | 9,062 |

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 October | | Shipments October | | Mine Stocks October 31 | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | 1972 | 1971 | 1972 | 1971 | 1972 | 1971 |
| Lake Superior: | | | | | | |
| Michigan----- | 925 | <u>r</u> /996 | 1,360 | <u>r</u> /1,245 | 2,575 | 2,330 |
| Minnesota----- | 4,349 | <u>3</u> ,941 | 6,390 | <u>5</u> ,331 | 8,300 | 7,242 |
| Wisconsin----- | 77 | 78 | 76 | 76 | 3 | 15 |
| Southeastern: | | | | | | |
| Alabama, Georgia, | | | | | | |
| North Carolina----- | 33 | 35 | 37 | 41 | 624 | 769 |
| Northeastern: | | | | | | |
| New York, Pennsylvania- | 198 | 174 | 176 | 185 | 4,924 | 4,885 |
| Western: | | | | | | |
| Arizona, California, | | | | | | |
| Colorado, Missouri, | | | | | | |
| Nevada, Texas, Utah, | | | | | | |
| Wyoming----- | 950 | 886 | 989 | 902 | 225 | <u>e</u> /704 |
| Byproduct ore----- | 3 | 45 | 35 | 36 | 369 | 453 |
| Total <u>1</u> /----- | 6,536 | <u>r</u> /6,155 | 9,062 | <u>r</u> /7,815 | 17,019 | 16,398 |

r/ Revised.

e/ Estimate.

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 |
| 3rd Quarter----- | <u>7</u> 36 | 207 | (<u>2</u> /) | 943 |
| October----- | 190 | 85 | (<u>2</u> /) | 275 |

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----- | 973 | 1,373 | 937 | 221 | 3,504 |
| October----- | 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)

| | October 1972 | | | January-October 1972 | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | Long tons | Value <u>1/</u> | | Long tons | Value <u>1/</u> | |
| | | Total | Per ton | | Total | Per ton |
| Argentina----- | 190 | \$12,292 | \$64.69 | 190 | \$12,292 | \$64.69 |
| Australia----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 495,491 | 6,742,065 | 13.61 |
| Brazil----- | 18,510 | 203,610 | 11.00 | 821,417 | 8,027,257 | 9.77 |
| Canada----- | 2,486,003 | 31,622,132 | 12.72 | 14,330,917 | 197,360,297 | 13.77 |
| Chile----- | 16,020 | 128,801 | 8.04 | 236,728 | 2,326,485 | 9.83 |
| Denmark----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 343 | 14,040 | 40.93 |
| Ivory Coast----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 497 | 2,019 | 4.06 |
| Iran----- | 295 | 12,180 | 41.29 | 295 | 12,180 | 41.29 |
| Liberia----- | 254,348 | 2,491,513 | 9.80 | 2,248,622 | 18,556,009 | 8.25 |
| Mauritania----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 39,515 | 686,618 | 17.38 |
| Nigeria----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 85,118 | 728,734 | 8.56 |
| Peru----- | 29,615 | 425,314 | 14.36 | 1,212,261 | 13,862,976 | 11.44 |
| Philippines----- | 8,000 | 200,000 | 25.00 | 11,000 | 282,500 | 25.68 |
| Spain----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 30 | 267 | 8.90 |
| Sweden----- | 40,733 | 601,467 | 14.86 | 172,585 | 2,433,826 | 14.10 |
| South Africa, Rep. of----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | 25,421 | 237,862 | 9.36 |
| Venezuela----- | 840,930 | 7,770,100 | 9.24 | 8,822,046 | 80,190,232 | 9.09 |
| Total----- | 3,694,653 | 43,471,409 | 11.77 | 28,503,076 | 331,475,659 | 11.63 |

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 October 31, 1972 |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | October 1972 | Year to date | |
| Beginning of month----- | | | <u>r</u> /47,980,225 |
| Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri----- | 785,625 | 8,205,383 | 3,679,570 |
| California, Colorado, Utah---- | 598,161 | 5,433,122 | 781,367 |
| Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia----- | 792,762 | 7,680,514 | 3,046,202 |
| Illinois, Indiana----- | 2,673,412 | 25,708,531 | 13,182,106 |
| Michigan, Minnesota----- | 798,034 | 7,397,493 | 4,682,061 |
| New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---- | 4,646,307 | 44,577,835 | 25,490,821 |
| Total----- | 10,294,301 | 99,002,878 | 50,862,127 |

| | Consumption by process | | Pig iron produced | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | October 1972 | Year to date | October 1972 | Year to date |
| Blast furnaces----- | 7,794,333 | 75,220,035 | 6,791,126 | <u>r</u> /65,639,899 |
| Steel furnaces----- | 114,923 | 1,349,794 | ---- | ---- |
| Agglomerating plants ¹ / | 2,381,614 | 22,401,833 | ---- | ---- |
| Miscellaneous ² /----- | 3,431 | 31,216 | ---- | ---- |
| Total----- | 10,294,301 | 99,002,878 | 6,791,126 | <u>r</u> /65,639,899 |

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 | October 1972 | January - October 1972 |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Baltimore----- | 895,703 | 5,765,948 |
| Buffalo----- | 252,829 | 1,710,766 |
| Chicago----- | 980,544 | 4,338,750 |
| Cleveland----- | 733,210 | 4,061,597 |
| Detroit----- | 124,275 | 731,773 |
| Houston----- | ---- | 334,523 |
| Los Angeles----- | ---- | 36,848 |
| Mobile----- | 89,124 | 3,243,109 |
| New Orleans----- | 78,664 | 633,567 |
| Ogdensburg----- | 286 | 3,405 |
| Philadelphia----- | 495,675 | 7,274,660 |
| Portland, Ore.----- | ---- | 210,350 |
| Wilmington, N.C.----- | 44,343 | 157,056 |
| Other----- | ---- | 724 |
| Total----- | 3,694,653 | 28,503,076 |