



# 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 DECEMBER 1972

Domestic production of iron ore in December was unchanged from the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The seasonal decline in mine shipments continued but the drop in volume on the Great Lakes was much less than usual owing to extension of the shipping season at several lake ports, principally Two Harbors and Silver Bay, Minn.; Superior, Wis.; and Escanaba, Mich. Shipments from the Lake Superior district in December totaled 4.7 million tons and were the largest ever recorded for the month. At yearend, stocks of ore at U.S. mines totaled 14.3 million tons, and those at consuming plants totaled 50 million tons, substantially less than 1 year ago.

Preliminary (12-month) totals for U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in 1972 (including byproduct ore) were 75.3 million tons and 78.2 million tons, respectively. Exports totaled 2.1 million tons, down 34 percent from 1971, and imports totaled 35.8 million tons, down about 11 percent from 1971. Imports from Canada and Venezuela in 1972 were each 2 million tons less than in 1971. U.S. consumption of ore and production of pig iron increased 9 to 10 percent compared with 1971.

On December 5, U.S. Steel Corp.'s new lake carrier MV Roger Blough completed shipment of its millionth ton of iron pellets in 1972. Also, Moore and McCormack Co., Inc. was negotiating to purchase Pickands Mather & Co. from Diamond Shamrock Corp.

In Alabama, the Woodward Iron division of Mead Corp. announced that its blast furnace in the Birmingham district will be shut down early in 1973. Approximately 265 jobs were expected to be affected.

In Missouri, installation of a fine screening circuit in the Pea Ridge concentrator of Meramec Mining Co. was reported to have lowered the silica content of pellets produced by the company to a monthly average of 2.55 percent by December. Average silica content of pellets to be produced in 1973 was expected to be less than 2.7 percent.

In Canada, Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. announced that its nickel-iron pellet refining plant at Sudbury, Ont. would be closed early in 1973. The plant was designed to produce about 300,000 tons of metallized pellets per year, from pyrrhotite concentrate.

In the Netherlands, a new blast furnace was commissioned about November 30 by Royal Dutch Steelworks (Hoogovens) at IJmuiden. Initial production capacity for pig iron was 7,500 tons daily.

Elsewhere, record cargoes of iron ore were loaded at Tubarao, Brazil (166,076 long tons) and Dampier, Australia (159,281 long tons). In Japan, Marcona Corp. discharged 80,000 dry long tons of iron ore concentrates in slurry form at the Hirohata works of Nippon Steel Corp. The ore will be pelletized in a new, 2.5-million-ton-per-year plant scheduled to begin full production in January.

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Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, February 22, 1973.

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-----	16,791	122	669	2,773	81	20,434
3rd Quarter-----	19,514	76	544	2,811	27	22,972
October-----	5,351	33	198	950	3	6,536
November-----	4,402	31	206	928	1	5,569
December-----	4,458	28	206	860	1	5,553
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-----	17,297	145	628	2,739	80	20,889
3rd Quarter-----	25,377	108	468	3,180	121	29,254
October-----	7,825	37	176	989	35	9,062
November-----	6,563	31	193	850	41	7,677
December-----	4,708	28	193	922	32	5,883

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 December		Shipments December		Mine Stocks December 31	
	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,038	<u>r</u> /928	1,166	<u>r</u> /975	1,953	2,065
Minnesota-----	3,345	<u>3</u> ,027	3,475	<u>1</u> ,516	6,260	8,443
Wisconsin-----	75	77	67	76	10	10
Southeastern:						
Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina-----	28	25	28	33	609	757
Northeastern:						
New York, Pennsylvania-	206	169	193	176	4,919	4,884
Western:						
Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Wyoming-----	860	934	922	941	241	919
Byproduct ore-----	1	45	32	19	297	474
Total <u>1</u> /-----	5,553	<u>r</u> /5,204	5,883	<u>r</u> /3,737	14,289	17,552

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
3rd Quarter-----	736	207	( <u>2</u> /)	943
October-----	190	85	( <u>2</u> /)	275
November-----	90	( <u>2</u> /)	( <u>2</u> /)	90
December-----	147	66	( <u>2</u> /)	213

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 <sup>1/</sup>
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
3rd Quarter-----	4,885	2,058	3,166	358	10,468
October-----	1,140	2,304	926	59	4,429
November-----	1,822	1,464	898	197	4,381
December-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary.

NA Not available.

<sup>1/</sup> 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)

	December 1972			January-December 1972		
	Long tons	Value <sup>1/</sup>		Long tons	Value <sup>1/</sup>	
		Total	Per ton		Total	Per ton
Argentina-----	----	----	----	190	\$12,292	\$64.69
Australia-----	84,764	\$1,103,568	\$13.02	687,077	9,245,353	13.46
Brazil-----	171,970	1,985,806	11.55	1,114,458	11,989,713	10.76
Canada-----	1,465,011	20,777,772	14.18	18,168,198	247,756,867	13.64
Chile-----	58,266	446,702	7.67	307,849	2,877,154	9.35
Denmark-----	----	----	----	491	18,419	37.51
Iran-----	----	----	----	295	12,180	41.29
Ivory Coast-----	----	----	----	497	2,019	4.06
Japan-----	----	----	----	41,950	387,618	9.24
Liberia-----	136,345	1,112,603	8.16	2,761,091	22,740,217	8.24
Mauritania-----	----	----	----	39,515	686,618	17.38
Nigeria-----	----	----	----	85,118	728,734	8.56
Norway-----	----	----	----	84	6,104	72.67
Peru-----	----	----	----	1,318,410	15,047,689	11.41
Philippines-----	----	----	----	11,000	282,500	25.68
South Africa, Republic of-----	----	----	----	25,421	237,862	9.36
Spain-----	----	----	----	30	267	8.90
Sweden-----	45,020	680,607	15.12	272,870	3,951,767	14.48
Venezuela-----	795,564	7,712,338	9.69	10,926,074	\$9,951,068	9.15
Total-----	2,756,940	33,819,396	12.27	35,760,618	415,934,441	11.63

<sup>1/</sup> 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 December 31, 1972
	December 1972	Year to date	
Beginning of month-----			r/ 51,752,698
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	806,153	9,763,454	3,253,106
California, Colorado, Utah----	577,699	6,565,010	829,499
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	885,527	9,345,576	3,621,939
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,630,761	30,973,707	13,339,614
Michigan, Minnesota-----	828,562	9,101,899	4,290,232
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island----	5,000,576	54,187,745	24,726,150
Total-----	10,729,278	119,937,391	50,060,540

	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	December 1972	Year to date	December 1972	Year to date
Blast furnaces-----	8,370,087	91,539,491	7,107,402	79,421,682
Steel furnaces-----	127,025	1,753,397	----	----
Agglomerating plants <u>1</u> /	2,227,619	26,607,253	----	----
Miscellaneous <u>2</u> /-----	4,547	37,250	----	----
Total-----	10,729,278	119,937,391	7,107,402	79,421,682

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	December 1972	January - December 1972
Baltimore-----	525,507	7,514,923
Buffalo-----	144,080	2,059,315
Chicago-----	379,917	5,530,251
Cleveland-----	451,886	5,153,389
Detroit-----	37,557	953,904
Houston-----	65,364	477,770
Los Angeles-----	---	36,848
Mobile-----	143,030	3,488,403
New Orleans-----	66,869	838,028
Ogdensburg-----	249	4,019
Philadelphia-----	897,398	9,157,220
Portland, Ore.-----	---	288,350
Wilmington, N. C.-----	45,020	257,341
Other-----	63	857
<b>Total-----</b>	<b>2,756,940</b>	<b>35,760,618</b>