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Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN APRIL 1979

U.S. mine shipments of iron ore increased sharply in April, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Exports also rose significantly with the resumption of shipping at all Great Lakes ports by April 21. Mine production and imports also increased, but consumption of iron ore and production of pig iron were down by 3%. Stocks at U.S. mines, docks, and consuming plants were 1 million long tons lower than those of the previous month.

Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company announced price increases for its Lake Superior natural iron ores (basis 51.5% Fe natural, delivered rail-of-vessel at lower lake ports, per long ton). The company's new prices are \$24.60 for Mesabi non-Bessemer ore and \$24.85 for Old Range non-Bessemer ore. These prices were based upon transportation and handling charges in effect on May 14, 1979, with any further increases in transportation charges to be borne by the buyer. The price increase for Jones & Laughlin Corp.'s Mesabi non-Bessemer ore was incorrectly reported in the March 1979 issue of this publication. J&L's new price is \$24.54 per long ton, basis 51.5% Fe natural, effective May 21, 1979, instead of \$24.56 as previously reported.

In June, Kaiser Steel Corp. announced an agreement in principle to sell its interest in the Australian iron mining and exporting firm, Hamersley Holdings Ltd. Conzinc Riotinto of Australia Ltd. (C.R.A.), which owns 54% of Hamersley Holdings at present, reportedly will purchase Kaiser's 28.3% share for U.S. \$207.5 million. Hamersley, one of the world's major iron ore producers, began in 1962 as a joint venture of Kaiser and C.R.A. with start of construction of the Mt. Tom Price mine. The venture also included construction of the port of Dampier in 1965.

Table 1. - U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/
 (Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
 (Thousand long tons)

	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total <u>2/</u>	
			1979	1978
Production				
1978 p/-----	72,578	8,141	--	80,718
1979:				
1st Quarter--	16,625	1,835	18,459	16,349
April-----	6,309	759	7,069	6,034
Shipments:				
1978 p/-----	73,935	8,603	--	82,539
1979:				
1st Quarter--	6,505	2,068	8,574	8,835
April-----	4,369	674	5,043	5,299

p/ Preliminary.
1/ Includes byproduct ore.
2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Table 2. - U.S. mine production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore 1/
 (Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
 (Thousand long tons)

	Production April		Shipments April		Mine stocks April 30	
	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,347	1,320	1,704	1,648	4,408	4,619
Minnesota-----	4,919	3,970	2,560	2,871	15,117	12,919
Wisconsin-----	44	44	105	78	5	23
Other U.S.-----	759	700	674	703	4,381	4,848
Total <u>2/</u> -----	7,069	6,034	5,043	5,299	23,912	22,411

1/ Includes byproduct ore.

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

Table 3. - U.S. exports of iron ore
 (Thousand long tons)

	Canada	Other	Total <u>1/</u>	
			1979	1978
1978-----	4,205	9	--	4,213
1979:				
1st Quarter-----	244	18	262	102
April-----	371	13	384	437

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

Table 4. - Canada: Shipments of iron ore
(Thousand long tons)

	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	1979 total <u>1/</u>	1978 total <u>1/</u>
1978-----	18,480	13,786	9,493	603	-----	42,263
1979:						
January-----	1,068	644	538	11	2,262	1,841
February-----	618	449	512	3	1,581	1,321
March-----	903	1,115	555	51	2,625	1,177
April-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,815

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% or more manganese)

	April 1979		Year to date 1979			Year to date 1978 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Argentina-----	--	--	--	--	--	23
Australia-----	64	1,041	140	2,264	\$16.17	77
Brazil-----	110	3,187	740	20,038	27.08	825
Canada-----	1,890	57,827	3,823	120,509	31.52	2,399
Chile-----	57	1,370	110	1,934	17.58	95
Liberia-----	116	2,104	871	15,447	17.73	737
Norway-----	--	--	--	--	--	121
Peru-----	42	1,389	99	3,021	30.52	166
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	45	912	20.27	48
Sweden-----	43	1,241	43	1,241	28.86	--
Venezuela-----	496	9,844	1,389	27,294	19.65	1,135
Total <u>2/--</u>	2,819	78,003	7,261	192,659	26.53	5,624

1/ The market price of the merchandise in the principal marketplace of the foreign country at the time of exportation in terms of U.S. 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.

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

Table 6. U.S. consumption and stocks of iron ore and agglomerates
at consuming plants and production of pig iron
(Thousand long tons)

	Consumption			Stocks April 30	
	April 1979	Year to date		1979	1978
		1979	1978		
Beginning of month-----				22,751	29,215
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	758	3,240	2,881	1,480	2,619
California, Colorado, Utah----	898	3,216	2,803	839	775
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	909	3,348	2,738	1,700	1,497
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,845	10,837	10,173	3,990	5,921
Michigan, Minnesota-----	797	3,117	2,711	1,704	1,184
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island----	4,044	15,477	14,177	10,230	14,203
Total <u>1</u> /-----	10,251	39,235	35,484	19,943	26,199

Stocks at U.S. docks----- 2,890 1,750

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	April 1979	Year to date		April 1979	Year to date	
		1979	1978		1979	1978
Blast furnaces-----	8,283	31,769	27,782	6,898	26,208	23,611
Steel furnaces-----	143	315	222	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2</u> /-	1,783	7,007	7,336	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3</u> /-----	43	144	144	--	--	--
Total <u>1</u> /-----	10,251	39,235	35,484	6,898	26,208	23,611

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

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

3/ 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% or more manganese)
 (Thousand long tons)

Customs district	April 1979	Year to date	
		1979	1978
Baltimore-----	497	2,136	1,890
Buffalo-----	<u>1/</u>	52	4
Chicago-----	230	565	391
Cleveland-----	497	661	284
Detroit-----	87	87	17
Houston-----	145	401	158
Los Angeles-----	126	202	77
Mobile-----	453	1,157	891
New Orleans-----	43	172	403
Philadelphia-----	698	1,642	1,389
Wilmington, N.C.-----	43	186	119
Other-----	--	<u>1/</u>	1
Total <u>2/</u> -----	2,819	7,261	5,624

1/ Less than ½ unit.

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.