



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241



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Iron Ore Monthly

IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 1981

U.S. mine production rose slightly but mine shipments continued their seasonal decline in February, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Stocks at mines, plants, and docks were down 3% from January levels. Consumption of iron ore and production of pig iron fell 6% and 7%, respectively. Imports rose 6% from those of the previous month.

Increases in lake freight rates for iron ore for the 1981 shipping season were announced by Interlake Steamship Co., a subsidiary of Moore McCormack Resources, Inc. According to company officials, the new rates include all previous fuel surcharges and contribute to coverage of the increases in vessel operating costs that have occurred over the past year, especially labor and ship repairs. The new basic rates per long ton are as follows: from the head of the lakes to lower lake ports, \$7.13; Marquette to lower lake ports, \$5.88; Escanaba to Lake Erie ports, \$5.41; and Escanaba to lower Lake Michigan ports, \$4.28.

The 1981 Great Lakes iron ore shipping season began March 28 at Marquette, Michigan. Subsequent harbor openings were on April 1 at Duluth, Minnesota; April 3 at Escanaba, Michigan and Two Harbors, Minnesota; April 8 at Silver Bay, Minnesota; and April 13 at Taconite Harbor, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin.

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>	
			1981	1980
Production:				
1980 <u>P/</u> -----	62,157	7,168	---	69,325
1981:				
January----	5,342	622	5,964	<u>1/</u> 6,877
February----	5,455	597	6,052	<u>1/</u> 6,392
Shipments:				
1980 <u>P/</u> -----	61,452	7,183	---	68,639
1981:				
January----	2,173	627	2,800	2,279
February----	907	637	1,545	1,784

1/ Revised.

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 February		Shipments February		Mine stocks February 28	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	{ 5,387 }	{ 5,590 }	{ 851 }	{ 1,134 }	15,522	4,668
Minnesota-----						11,425
Wisconsin-----	68	57	56	48	26	17
Other U.S.-----	597	<u>r/</u> 745	637	601	6,441	<u>r/</u> 6,713
Total ^{2/} ----	6,052	<u>r/</u> 6,392	1,545	1,784	21,990	<u>r/</u> 22,824

r/ Revised.

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>	
			1981	1980
1980-----	5,652	38	--	5,691
1981:				
January-----	36	2	37	167
February	<u>2/</u>	2	2	3

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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

	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	1981 total <u>1/</u>	1980 total <u>1/</u>
1980-----	24,846	17,235	7,266	513	--	49,862
1981:						
January-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,650
February-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,526

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)

	February 1981		Year to date 1981			Year to 1980 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Australia-----	--	--	--	--	--	<u>2/</u>
Brazil-----	403	11,086	553	16,513	\$29.86	570
Canada-----	348	13,392	874	35,544	40.67	1,477
Chile-----	--	--	68	1,038	15.26	56
Liberia-----	267	4,595	390	6,723	17.24	172
Peru-----	--	--	--	--	--	65
Sweden-----	--	--	--	--	--	33
Venezuela-----	350	8,170	774	19,479	25.17	650
Other-----	<u>2/</u>	1	<u>2/</u>	2	18.68	--
Total <u>3/--</u>	1,368	37,245	2,660	79,298	29.81	3,023

1/ The market price of the merchandise in the principal market place of the foreign country at the time of exploration 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/ Less than one-half unit.

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the 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 February 28	
	February 1981	Year to date			
		1981	1980	1981	1980
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	743	1,599	1,796	1,833	2,257
California, Colorado, Utah---	613	1,221	1,393	549	688
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	649	1,251	1,358	2,057	1,505
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,406	5,136	4,668	7,815	8,104
Michigan, Minnesota-----	587	1,228	1,433	2,675	2,461
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	3,127	6,358	6,308	10,626	13,095
Total 1/-----	8,126	16,794	16,956	25,555	28,109
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				5,610	3,086

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	February 1981	Year to date		February 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	6,748	13,999	13,793	5,453	11,349	11,553
Steel furnaces-----	29	60	147	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/-	1,344	2,728	3,010	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	5	7	6	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	8,126	16,794	16,956	5,453	11,349	11,553

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	February 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	220	648	694
Buffalo-----	1	3	52
Chicago-----	28	90	141
Houston-----	175	175	101
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	288	557	674
New Orleans-----	33	69	54
Philadelphia-----	569	1,016	1,022
Wilmington, N.C.-----	43	81	130
Other-----	11	21	48
Total <u>1/</u> -----	1,368	2,660	3,023

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