



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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



James G. Watt, Secretary

For information call E. C. Peterson
Telephone: 202-634-1020

Iron Ore Monthly

IRON ORE IN MARCH 1981

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March was 12% more than in February and shipments were up 32%, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine stocks of ore were up by 4.7 million tons, while stocks at consuming plants and receiving docks declined by 7.1 million tons. Domestic mine output during the first 3 months of 1981 was 6% less than production in the comparable period of 1980, while shipments were up 4%, consumption down slightly, and imports were 7% less.

On April 16 about 1,500 members of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) struck about a dozen Great Lakes domestic shipping companies, halting about 90% of the intralake shipments of iron ore. After 10 days of negotiations, a settlement was reached and a new three year contract was approved.

The 1,013.5-foot, self-unloading iron ore carrier "William J. DeLancey," owned by the Interlake Steamship Co., a subsidiary of Moore McCormack Resources, Inc., was christened on April 25. The new vessel is expected to enter service in early May and will be the largest ever to operate on the Great Lakes.

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	6,877
February----	5,455	597	6,052	6,392
March-----	6,118	633	6,751	<u>r/</u> 6,687
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
March-----	1,394	641	2,035	2,100

r/ 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 March		Shipments March		Mine stocks March 31	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	{6,039}	{5,940}	{1,296}	{1,372}	{20,266}	{20,661}
Minnesota-----						
Wisconsin-----	80	58	98	57	8	18
Other U.S.-----	633	<u>r/</u> 689	641	671	6,462	<u>r/</u> 6,731
Total ^{2/} ---	6,751	<u>r/</u> 6,687	2,035	2,100	26,736	<u>r/</u> 27,410

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
March-----	NA	NA	NA	266

NA Not available.

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-----	<u>r/</u> 24,291	17,235	<u>r/</u> 7,265	<u>r/</u> 589	--	<u>r/</u> 49,381
1981:						
January-----	931	1,260	462	51	2,704	1,650
February-----	527	728	431	51	1,737	2,526
March-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,146

NA Not available.

r/ Revised.

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)

	March 1981		Year to date 1981			Year to date 1980 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value 1/		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	105	3,371	658	19,884	\$30.22	612
Canada-----	312	11,342	1,186	46,886	39.54	1,959
Chile-----	--	--	68	1,038	15.25	98
Liberia-----	425	7,355	815	14,078	17.27	343
Peru-----	27	852	27	852	32.10	65
Sweden-----	--	--	--	--	--	33
Venezuela-----	296	5,816	1,071	25,295	23.62	999
Other-----	<u>2/</u>	3	<u>2/</u>	5	13.48	<u>2/</u>
Total <u>3/--</u>	1,165	28,740	3,825	108,037	28.25	4,110

1/ The market price of the merchandise in the principal market place 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/ 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 March 31	
	March 1981	Year to date			
		1981	1980	1981	1980
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	818	2,417	2,794	1,525	1,770
California, Colorado, Utah---	639	1,861	2,080	563	632
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	748	1,999	2,051	1,494	1,124
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,769	7,905	7,363	5,280	5,630
Michigan, Minnesota-----	661	1,890	2,110	2,490	2,144
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	3,658	10,016	9,889	8,621	10,345
Total <u>1/</u> -----	9,293	26,087	26,287	19,972	21,645

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 4,078 2,236

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	March 1981	Year to date		March 1981	Year to date	
		1981	19780		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	7,723	21,722	21,493	6,422	17,769	17,909
Steel furnaces-----	40	100	199	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	1,523	4,250	4,585	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	8	14	11	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	9,293	26,087	26,287	6,422	17,769	17,909

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	March 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	--	648	806
Buffalo-----	2	5	54
Chicago-----	--	90	141
Cleveland-----	--	--	24
Houston-----	90	265	220
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	191	748	1,104
New Orleans-----	17	86	54
Philadelphia-----	794	1,810	1,421
Wilmington, N.C.-----	70	152	130
Other-----	<u>1/</u>	21	48
Total <u>1/</u> -----	1,165	3,825	4,110

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