



# 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 MAY 1981

U.S. mine shipments of iron ore in May were more than twice the quantity shipped in April, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Exports and imports of iron ore also increased. At the end of May, U.S. consumption of iron ore in 1981 was slightly more than at the corresponding date 1 year earlier, but 1981 mine shipments, exports, and imports remained below those of the previous year.

Two new self-unloading ore carriers began service on the Great Lakes in May. The 1,013-foot William J. DeLancey, operated by Interlake Steamship Co., received its first cargo of iron ore pellets at Silver Bay, Minn. on May 12. The 1,000-foot Columbia Star, of the Columbia Transportation division of Oglebay Norton Co., received its first cargo of pellets at the same port on June 1.

United States Steel Corp. increased the price of Mesabi non-Bessemer ore, basis 51.5% iron, natural, delivered rail-of-vessel at lower lake ports, to \$32.53 per gross ton, effective June 13, 1981. The new price was about 14% higher than that quoted previously.

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Prepared in the Section of Ferrous Metals, August 3, 1981.

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	
			1981	1980
Production:				
1980 <u>p/</u> -----	<u>r/62,282</u>	<u>r/7,331</u>	--	<u>r/69,613</u>
1981:				
1st quarter-----	16,916	1,897	18,812	19,956
April-----	5,756	524	6,280	6,054
May-----	6,647	618	7,265	6,848
Shipments:				
1980 <u>p/</u> -----	<u>r/62,046</u>	<u>r/7,548</u>	--	<u>r/69,594</u>
1981:				
1st quarter-----	4,475	1,898	6,372	6,163
April-----	3,265	672	3,938	6,631
May-----	8,318	588	8,906	9,328

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Includes byproduct ore.

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 May		Shipments May		Mine stocks May 31	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,693	1,823	2,283	2,522	5,556	4,975
Minnesota-----	4,871	4,235	5,944	6,108	15,540	12,511
Wisconsin-----	84	68	91	82	4	2
Other U.S.-----	618	722	588	615	6,600	6,867
Total <u>2/</u> -----	7,265	6,848	8,906	9,328	27,700	24,355

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:				
1st quarter-----	103	6	109	436
April-----	695	4	699	721
May-----	863	3	866	732

NA Not available.

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	1981 Total <u>1/</u>	1980 Total <u>1/</u>
1980-----	24,291	17,235	7,265	589	—	49,381
1981:						
1st quarter-----	2,129	2,707	1,371	<u>r/</u> 104	<u>r/</u> 6,307	6,323
April-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,207
May-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,581

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)

	May 1981		Year to date 1981			Year to date 1980  (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	109	3,388	984	30,058	30.55	962
Canada-----	2,227	88,907	4,575	180,435	39.44	5,727
Chile-----	80	1,569	149	2,607	17.50	139
Liberia-----	152	2,489	1,068	18,342	17.17	458
Peru-----	—	—	27	852	31.56	65
Venezuela-----	333	12,060	1,718	43,538	25.34	1,578
Other-----	<u>2/</u>	4	<u>2/</u>	9	25.59	33
Total <u>3/</u> -----	2,901	108,417	8,519	275,843	32.38	8,962

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/ 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 May 31	
	May 1981	Year to date		May 1981	1980
		May 1981	1980		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	733	3,872	4,611	1,746	1,760
California, Colorado, Utah---	578	3,060	3,299	640	609
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	738	3,494	3,368	1,235	1,474
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,686	13,058	12,062	5,297	6,611
Michigan, Minnesota-----	611	3,113	3,401	2,711	2,395
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	3,494	17,123	16,412	8,257	10,251
Total <u>1/</u> -----	8,841	43,720	43,153	19,885	23,100

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 3,826 3,221

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	May 1981	Year to date		May 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	7,312	36,374	34,981	6,195	29,979	29,158
Steel furnaces-----	35	164	271	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	1,465	7,134	7,884	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	29	49	17	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	8,841	43,720	43,153	6,195	29,979	29,158

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	May 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	663	1,311	1,711
Buffalo-----	74	80	108
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	500	812	832
Cleveland-----	654	1,230	1,152
Detroit-----	48	66	26
Houston-----	<u>2/</u>	286	359
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	264	1,397	1,812
New Orleans-----	--	105	85
Philadelphia-----	612	2,905	2,542
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	39	258	163
Other-----	48	69	65
Total <u>1/</u> -----	2,901	8,519	8,962

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