



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 JUNE 1981

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore continued to increase in June, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine stocks declined by 2 million tons while total stocks at U.S. docks and consuming plants rose by 4.4 million tons. Consumption in June was about 8% less than in May. Data for the first 6 months of the year, compared with those for the same period in 1980, showed the following pattern in 1981: mine production, up 2%; mine shipments, down 4%; imports, up 7%; exports, down 5%; and consumption, up 6%.

Production of iron ore in the Iron Springs district of Utah has been suspended indefinitely, owing to low demand. Mines and concentrators owned by Utah International, Inc. have been idle for almost 1 year, and the company planned to cease operations permanently unless market conditions improve by the fall of 1981. Production at the Comstock mine, operated by Utah International for CF & I Steel Corp., was suspended in January 1981. U.S. Steel Corp. stopped production at the Mountain Lion mine, but continues to ship ore from stockpiles. The Iron Springs district accounts for all production of iron ore in Utah, and has been an important supplier of ore to steelworks at Provo, Utah and Pueblo, Colorado.

Prepared in the Section of Ferrous Metals, September 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 <u>2/</u>	
			1981	1980
Production:				
1980 p/-----	62,282	7,331	--	69,613
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
June-----	6,882	643	7,525	6,415
Shipments:				
1980 p/-----	62,046	7,548	--	69,594
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
June-----	9,008	617	9,625	7,999

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 June		Shipments June		Mine stocks June 30	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,778	1,771	1,979	1,757	5,355	4,989
Minnesota-----	5,022	3,892	6,951	5,599	13,612	10,804
Wisconsin-----	82	51	79	53	7	<u>2/</u>
Other U.S.-----	643	702	617	591	6,627	6,978
Total <u>3/-</u>	7,525	6,415	9,625	7,999	25,601	22,771

1/ Includes byproduct ore.

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ 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
June-----	709	1	710	618

NA Not available.

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

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-----	24,291	17,235	7,265	589	--	49,381
1981:						
1st Quarter-	2,129	2,707	1,371	104	6,307	6,323
April-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,207
May-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,581
June-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,100

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)

	June 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-----	168	5,459	1,151	35,517	\$30.86	1,133
Canada-----	2,484	90,094	7,059	270,529	38.32	7,589
Chile-----	32	404	180	3,011	16.73	206
Liberia-----	310	4,919	1,378	23,262	16.88	524
Peru-----	20	598	46	1,450	31.52	97
Venezuela-----	865	21,456	2,583	64,994	25.16	2,018
Other-----	--	--	<u>2/</u>	9	25.59	33
Total <u>3/</u> ---	3,879	122,930	12,398	398,773	32.16	11,600

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 June 30	
	June 1981	Year to date			
		1981	1980	1981	1980
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	692	4,564	5,328	2,287	1,898
California, Colorado, Utah---	522	3,582	3,760	630	630
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	692	4,186	3,959	1,642	1,806
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,510	15,568	13,341	6,694	8,458
Michigan, Minnesota-----	598	3,711	3,783	2,652	2,999
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	3,149	20,271	18,750	9,576	11,452
Total <u>1</u> /-----	8,162	51,882	48,921	23,480	27,242
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				4,663	3,509

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	June 1981	Year to date		June 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	6,922	43,295	39,420	5,722	35,701	33,323
Steel furnaces-----	28	192	311	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/-	1,208	8,342	9,168	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	4	53	22	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	8,162	51,882	48,921	5,722	35,701	33,323

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	June 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	643	1,953	2,327
Buffalo-----	109	189	184
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	641	1,453	1,165
Cleveland-----	722	1,952	1,512
Detroit-----	73	139	98
Houston-----	44	330	471
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	544	1,941	2,220
New Orleans-----	--	105	106
Philadelphia-----	1,045	3,950	3,089
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	20	278	197
Other-----	39	108	126
Total <u>1</u> /-----	3,879	12,398	11,600

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