



# 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 OCTOBER 1981

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in October declined for the third consecutive month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The declines were due to falling demand from the iron and steel industry, where monthly production of pig iron and raw steel has been declining since May. By the end of October, temporary closures and cutbacks in production had reduced output of iron ore pellets in the Lake Superior district to an estimated 55% of total capacity, with more than 3,500 workers laid off.

On the Mesabi Range, the Arcturus natural ore mine was closed by U.S. Steel Corp. on October 22, affecting about 100 employees. The Minorca taconite mine of Inland Steel Co. was scheduled to resume production in November. Reserve Mining Co. announced plans to close the Peter Mitchell mine and Silver Bay plants for 11 weeks during the last half of 1982.

On the Marquette Range, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. announced plans to shut down operations at the Empire Mine for 4 to 5 weeks beginning November 14. This action was expected to affect more than 1,300 employees. The Tilden Mine, where production had been curtailed since September 1, was scheduled to resume normal operations at the end of October but the curtailment was extended into December. The Republic Mine was closed October 3 for the remainder of 1981.

Domestic production, shipments, and consumption of iron ore in the first 10 months of 1981 were 12% to 13% higher than in the corresponding period of 1980. Imports increased by 18% in 1981, while exports declined by 6%. At the end of October, total stocks of ore at U.S. mines and receiving docks were higher than 1 year earlier, but the total of stocks at consuming plants was virtually unchanged at 36 million tons.

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 -----       | 62,282        | 7,332      | --              | 69,613 |
| 1981:            |               |            |                 |        |
| 1st Quarter----- | 16,916        | 1,897      | 18,812          | 19,956 |
| 2nd Quarter----- | 19,285        | 1,785      | 21,070          | 19,317 |
| 3rd Quarter----- | 18,627        | 1,726      | 20,354          | 14,429 |
| October-----     | 5,183         | 547        | 5,731           | 5,024  |
| Shipments:       |               |            |                 |        |
| 1980 -----       | 62,046        | 7,546      | --              | 69,594 |
| 1981:            |               |            |                 |        |
| 1st Quarter----- | 4,475         | 1,898      | 6,372           | 6,163  |
| 2nd Quarter----- | 20,591        | 1,877      | 22,470          | 23,958 |
| 3rd Quarter----- | 25,471        | 1,666      | 27,136          | 19,284 |
| October-----     | 6,431         | 681        | 7,112           | 6,638  |

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<br>October |       | Shipments<br>October |       | Mine stocks<br>October 31 |        |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------|
|                   | 1981                  | 1980  | 1981                 | 1980  | 1981                      | 1980   |
| Lake Superior:    |                       |       |                      |       |                           |        |
| Michigan-----     | 1,169                 | 1,313 | 1,318                | 1,726 | 3,853                     | 2,815  |
| Minnesota----     | 3,942                 | 3,024 | 5,044                | 4,247 | 7,035                     | 6,759  |
| Wisconsin----     | 73                    | 55    | 69                   | 49    | 5                         | 8      |
| Other U.S.-----   | 547                   | 632   | 681                  | 616   | 6,621                     | 6,707  |
| Total <u>2/--</u> | 5,731                 | 5,024 | 7,112                | 6,638 | 17,515                    | 16,289 |

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    | --              | 5,689 |
| 1981:            |        |       |                 |       |
| 1st Quarter----- | 103    | 6     | 109             | 436   |
| 2nd Quarter----- | 2,266  | 9     | 2,276           | 2,071 |
| 3rd Quarter----- | 1,710  | 1     | 1,711           | 1,589 |
| October-----     | 352    | 1     | 353             | 618   |

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-<br>land | Quebec | Ontario | British<br>Columbia | 1981<br>total <u>1/</u> | 1980<br>total <u>1/</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1980-----     | 24,291            | 17,235 | 7,265   | 589                 | --                      | 49,381                  |
| 1981:         |                   |        |         |                     |                         |                         |
| 1st Quarter-- | 2,124             | 2,707  | 1,371   | 104                 | 6,307                   | 6,323                   |
| 2nd Quarter-- | 8,132             | 5,942  | 1,377   | 138                 | 15,590                  | 14,888                  |
| July-----     | 2,897             | 1,969  | 479     | 12                  | 5,356                   | 5,637                   |
| August-----   | 3,270             | 1,242  | 422     | 60                  | 4,995                   | 5,148                   |
| September---- | 2,395             | 1,510  | 409     | 66                  | 4,380                   | 4,091                   |
| October-----  | NA                | NA     | NA      | NA                  | NA                      | 4,367                   |

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)

|                     | October 1981             |  | Year to date 1981        |                     |         | Year to<br>date<br>1980<br>(thousand<br>long tons) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|--|
|                     | Thousand<br>long<br>tons | Value <u>1/</u><br>(thousand<br>dollars) | Thousand<br>long<br>tons | Value <u>1/</u>     |         |  |
|                     |                          |  |                          | Thousand<br>dollars | Per ton |  |
| Brazil-----         | 114                      | 2,908                                    | 1,549                    | 46,883              | 30.27   | 1,622  |
| Canada-----         | 1,955                    | 72,914                                   | 16,171                   | 599,914             | 37.10   | 14,307   |
| Chile-----          | --                       | --                                       | 267                      | 5,207               | 19.50   | 322  |
| Liberia-----        | 59                       | 971                                      | 2,028                    | 33,266              | 16.40   | 1,211  |
| Peru-----           | <u>2/</u>                | 1  | 78                       | 2,402               | 30.80   | 193  |
| Sweden-----         | --                       | --                                       | 87                       | 2,318               | 26.64   | 33   |
| Venezuela-----      | 427                      | 13,377                                   | 4,525                    | 123,949             | 27.39   | 3,201  |
| Other-----          | --                       | --                                       | 8                        | 206                 | 25.75   | 12   |
| Total <u>3/</u> --- | 2,555                    | 90,171                                   | 24,714                   | 814,146             | 32.94   | 20,901   |

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<br>October 31 |        |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
|  | October<br>1981 | Year to date |        | 1981                 | 1980   |
|  |                 | 1981         | 1980   |                      |        |
| Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee,<br>Texas, Missouri-----                      | 618             | 7,273        | 7,142  | 3,122                | 2,518  |
| California, Colorado, Utah---<br>Delaware, Maryland, West<br>Virginia----- | 458             | 5,501        | 5,846  | 626                  | 612    |
| Illinois, Indiana-----   | 606             | 6,936        | 5,966  | 2,803                | 2,904  |
| Michigan, Minnesota-----   | 2,166           | 24,752       | 20,037 | 11,802               | 11,055 |
| New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania,<br>New Jersey, Rhode Island---               | 568             | 6,183        | 5,735  | 2,925                | 3,114  |
|  | 2,497           | 31,905       | 28,449 | 14,858               | 15,929 |
| Total <u>1/</u> -----  | 6,913           | 82,549       | 73,176 | 36,137               | 36,131 |

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 6,735 5,233

|                                    | Consumption by process |              |        | Pig iron produced |              |        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
|                                    | October<br>1981        | Year to date |        | October<br>1981   | Year to date |        |
|                                    |                        | 1981         | 1980   |                   | 1981         | 1980   |
| Blast furnaces-----                | 5,847                  | 68,873       | 59,549 | 4,838             | 57,073       | 50,107 |
| Steel furnaces-----                | 19                     | 295          | 424    | --                | --           | --     |
| Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> --- | 1,041                  | 13,303       | 13,165 | --                | --           | --     |
| Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----      | 6                      | 78           | 39     | --                | --           | --     |
| Total <u>1/</u> -----              | 6,913                  | 82,549       | 73,176 | 4,838             | 57,073       | 50,107 |

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            | October 1981 | Year to date  |               |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             |              | 1981          | 1980          |
| Baltimore-----              | 578          | 4,374         | 4,531         |
| Buffalo-----                | 71           | 606           | 544           |
| Charleston-----             | --           | --            | --            |
| Chicago-----                | 386          | 3,481         | 2,365         |
| Cleveland-----              | 531          | 4,231         | 3,406         |
| Detroit-----                | 117          | 578           | 473           |
| Houston-----                | 72           | 663           | 816           |
| Los Angeles-----            | --           | --            | 107           |
| Mobile-----                 | 193          | 3,239         | 3,001         |
| New Orleans-----            | 37           | 237           | 156           |
| Philadelphia-----           | 567          | 6,832         | 4,945         |
| Portland, Oreg.-----        | --           | --            | --            |
| Wilmington, N.C.-----       | --           | 348           | 329           |
| Other-----                  | 3            | 127           | 228           |
| <b>Total <u>1</u>/-----</b> | <b>2,555</b> | <b>24,714</b> | <b>20,901</b> |

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