



# 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 NOVEMBER 1981

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore in November declined about 30% compared with the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The reductions were due to declining demand for iron and steel and consequent cutbacks in production at many taconite operations in the Lake Superior district. Stocks of ore continued to fall at the mines while stocks at consuming plants increased. Consumption of ore declined for the fifth consecutive month. Imports of ore also declined during November, but total imports for the first 11 months of 1981 were about 15% more than in the corresponding period of 1980.

In Minnesota, the Minorca Mine and plants of Inland Steel Co. resumed normal production on November 14, after being shut down since October 4. The Butler and National taconite projects, operated by Hanna Mining Co., were expected to resume production December 13 after being closed since October 18. Pickands Mather & Co. announced plans to shut down operations of Hibbing Taconite Co. for about 10 days in December.

In Michigan, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. suspended production at the Empire Mine on November 14 for a period of several weeks, idling more than 1,300 workers. The Tilden project continued to produce pellets at a reduced level of capacity through November, and the Republic Mine remained closed.

In Wisconsin, the Black River Falls facility operated by Jackson County Iron Co. was shut down from November 8 to December 6.

In California, Kaiser Steel Corp. planned to close the Eagle Mountain Mine by yearend 1983, and its blast furnaces at Fontana by the same date.

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
November-----	3,374	536	3,910	4,686
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
November-----	4,589	459	5,048	6,587

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 November		Shipments November		Mine stocks November 30	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	681	1,281	995	1,793	3,539	2,303
Minnesota-----	2,675	2,860	3,577	4,124	6,134	5,481
Wisconsin-----	19	77	18	65	6	21
Other U.S.-----	536	468	459	606	6,750	6,569
Total <u>2/--</u>	3,910	4,686	5,048	6,587	16,429	14,374

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
November-----	330	<u>2/</u>	330	346

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

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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--	2,124	2,707	1,371	104	6,307	6,323
2nd Quarter--	8,132	5,942	1,377	138	15,590	14,888
3rd Quarter--	8,562	4,721	1,310	138	14,731	14,876
October-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	<u>r/</u> 4,792
November-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,905

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)

	November 1981		Year to date 1981			Year to date 1980
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		(thousand long tons)
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	111	3,117	1,660	50,000	30.12	1,790
Canada-----	1,626	64,997	17,797	664,911	37.36	16,190
Chile-----	35	587	302	5,794	19.19	322
Liberia-----	28	473	2,056	33,739	16.41	1,283
Peru-----	--	--	78	2,402	30.80	193
Sweden-----	--	--	87	2,318	26.64	33
Venezuela-----	229	8,641	4,754	132,590	27.89	3,427
Other-----	<u>2/</u>	25	8	231	28.88	12
Total <u>3/</u> ---	2,029	77,840	26,743	891,986	33.35	23,249

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 November 30	
	November 1981	Year to date		1981	1980
		1981	1980		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	552	7,825	7,656	3,302	2,636
California, Colorado, Utah----	375	5,875	6,387	523	598
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	552	7,488	6,648	3,110	2,868
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,028	26,780	22,563	11,984	11,037
Michigan, Minnesota-----	484	6,667	6,367	2,947	3,278
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island----	2,379	34,284	31,450	15,072	16,082
Total <u>1</u> /-----	6,370	88,920	81,071	36,939	36,499
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				6,776	5,748

  

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	November 1981	Year to date		November 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	5,128	74,001	66,362	4,269	61,344	55,583
Steel furnaces-----	20	315	456	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2</u> /-	1,220	14,523	14,209	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3</u> /-----	3	82	44	--	--	--
Total <u>1</u> /-----	6,370	88,920	81,071	4,269	61,344	55,583

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	November 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	591	4,965	5,015
Buffalo-----	23	629	591
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	232	3,713	2,663
Cleveland-----	453	4,684	4,117
Detroit-----	167	745	522
Houston-----	113	776	866
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	296	3,535	3,334
New Orleans-----	--	237	156
Philadelphia-----	119	6,951	5,289
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	348	360
Other-----	35	162	228
Total <u>1/</u> -----	2,029	26,743	23,249

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