



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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



James G. Watt, Secretary

Robert C. Horton, Director

For information call F. L. Klinger
Telephone: 202-634-1023

Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 1981

U.S. mine production of iron ore increased in December although mine shipments continued to decline, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine stocks of ore rose by 1 million tons during December and at monthend totaled 17.5 million tons, 3 million tons more than on December 31, 1980. Stocks at consuming plants began to decline and at yearend totaled 36.2 million tons, 0.5 million tons more than at the same date one year earlier.

In Minnesota, production at the Butler and National Steel taconite projects was resumed December 13 after being suspended for 8 weeks; however, full production was resumed only at Butler. Production at Hibbing Taconite was suspended December 19 and was resumed during the first week of January 1982.

In Michigan, full production was resumed at the Tilden plant December 21 after being at a reduced level since September 1. In California, Kaiser Steel Corp. shut down operations at Eagle Mountain for 2 weeks; production was resumed January 4 but one of three pits remained closed and about 150 employees were laid off.

All 7 iron ore shipping ports on the U.S. Great Lakes were closed by the end of December. The Soo locks were closed December 31. The Montreal-Welland Canal section of the St. Lawrence Seaway was officially closed December 15 and the last eastbound passage was completed December 22. Seaway tolls were scheduled to increase at the start of the 1982 shipping season by an average of 18% (cargo-ton basis) for the Montreal-Welland Canal route. A further increase of 10% was scheduled for 1983.

Preliminary data for 12 months of 1981 indicated that U.S. mine production of iron ore totaled 74.3 million long tons, 6% more than in 1980. Mine shipments totaled 71.6 million tons, and consumption totaled 95 million tons. Imports of iron ore for consumption rose 13% to 28.3 million tons, and exports declined 3% to 5.5 million tons.

Hanna Mining Co. raised the price of iron ore pellets to 88.0 cents per long ton unit of contained iron, delivered rail-of-vessel at lower lake ports, effective February 15, 1982. The price increase, which was the first for pellets since January 1980, was stated to be due to increased costs of energy, labor and supplies.

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
December-----	4,093	337	4,430	5,913
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
December-----	3,039	468	3,507	6,009

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 December		Shipments December		Mine stocks December 31	
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	546	1,657	713	1,949	3,372	2,011
Minnesota----	3,481	3,643	2,274	3,311	7,391	5,800
Wisconsin----	66	75	51	75	21	21
Other U.S.-----	337	538	468	673	6,684	6,433
Total <u>2/--</u>	4,430	5,913	3,507	6,009	17,469	14,265

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
December-----	767	<u>2/</u>	767	631

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 1/	1980 total 1/
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-----	2,533	1,678	413	57	4,681	4,792
November-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,905
December-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,078

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)

	December 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-----	77	2,267	1,738	52,267	30.07	1,995
Canada-----	1,048	43,063	18,845	707,974	37.57	17,311
Chile-----	40	536	342	6,329	18.51	322
Liberia-----	103	1,766	2,160	35,505	16.44	1,590
Peru-----	--	--	78	2,402	30.80	193
Sweden-----	--	--	87	2,318	26.64	33
Venezuela-----	316	8,341	5,071	140,931	27.79	3,602
Other-----	<u>2/</u>	19	8	251	31.38	12
Total <u>3/</u> ---	1,585	55,992	28,328	947,977	33.46	25,058

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 December 31	
	December 1981	Year to date		1981	1980
		1981	1980		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	564	8,389	8,494	3,267	2,649
California, Colorado, Utah---	369	6,244	6,980	544	612
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	471	7,959	7,277	3,170	2,837
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,791	28,571	25,039	11,846	11,526
Michigan, Minnesota-----	524	7,190	6,953	2,753	3,060
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	2,320	36,604	34,654	14,622	15,022
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,038	94,958	89,397	36,203	35,706

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 6,571 6,095

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	December 1981	Year to date		December 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980		1981	1980
Blast furnaces-----	4,757	78,758	73,416	4,241	65,586	<u>r/</u> 61,358
Steel furnaces-----	23	338	484	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	1,253	15,775	15,370	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	5	86	128	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,038	94,958	89,397	4,241	65,586	<u>r/</u> 61,358

r/ Revised.

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	December 1981	Year to date	
		1981	1980
Baltimore-----	457	5,421	5,230
Buffalo-----	<u>1</u> /	629	592
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	141	3,854	2,811
Cleveland-----	311	4,995	4,333
Detroit-----	21	765	547
Houston-----	--	775	944
Los Angeles-----	--	--	107
Mobile-----	312	3,847	3,675
New Orleans-----	--	237	180
Philadelphia-----	267	7,218	6,005
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	77	425	406
Other-----	<u>1</u> /	161	228
Total <u>2</u> /-----	1,585	28,328	25,058

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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