



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 FEBRUARY 1982

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore remained low in February as consumption declined for the ninth consecutive month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Stocks of ore at mines increased by 4.1 million tons during February, while stocks at consuming plants declined by 3.5 million tons. Consumption of ore in the first two months of 1982 was 36% less than in the corresponding period of 1981.

On February 15, Hanna Mining Co. raised its price for iron ore pellets to 88 cents per long ton unit of contained iron, natural, delivered rail-of-vessel at lower lake ports. Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. raised its price for pellets to 86.9 cents, effective February 26. The price previously quoted by both companies was 80.5 cents. In March, Hanna revised its pellet price down to 86.9 cents, effective February 26. As no price changes were announced by other producers, the price of Lake Superior iron ore pellets ranged from 80.5 to 86.9 cents per long ton unit of iron.

National Steel Corp. purchased the 15% interest held by Hanna Mining Co. in the National Steel Pellet Co. and Hanna Ore Mining Co. The latter two companies are now owned 100% by National Steel but both will continue to be managed by Hanna Mining.

Due to the low demand for iron ore, Reserve Mining Co. planned to close its production facilities at Babbitt and Silver Bay, Minn. for a period of 8 weeks beginning March 7, and for another 3 weeks in July. The company had previously planned both temporary closures for the latter half of 1982. By mid-April, several other companies had announced plans for temporary closing of mines and plants, as follows:

Temporary Closure

<u>Operating Co.</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Approximate Period</u>
Inland Steel Co.	Black River Falls (WI)	April 9	1 month
Hanna Mining Co.	National Steel Pellet Co. (MN)	April 25	3 months
Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co.	Empire (MI)	May 1	Indefinite
Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co.	Tilden (MI)	May 15	3 to 4 months
Inland Steel Co.	Minorca (MN)	May 30	2 months
U.S. Steel Corp.	Minntac (MN)	June 6	3 weeks
Erie Mining Co.	Erie Commercial (MN)	July 4	5 weeks
Pickands Mather & Co.	Hibbing Taconite (MN)	July 4	2 weeks

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, April 29, 1982.

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>	
			1982	1981
Production:				
1981 <u>p/</u> -----	67,478	6,829	--	74,307
1982:				
January-----	5,207	479	<u>r/</u> 5,687	5,979
February-----	4,744	500	5,244	6,067
Shipments:				
1981 <u>p/</u> -----	64,596	7,048	--	71,645
1982:				
January-----	584	<u>r/</u> 492	1,076	2,798
February-----	663	517	1,180	1,542

r/ Revised.

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 February		Shipments February		Mine stocks February 28	
	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	3,380	3,862	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	5,797	4,355
Minnesota-----	1,304	1,526	590	851	13,085	11,167
Wisconsin-----	60	68	73	56	57	26
Other U.S.-----	500	612	517	635	6,763	6,710
Total <u>3/-</u>	5,244	6,067	1,180	1,542	25,701	22,259

1/ Includes byproduct ore.

2/ Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ 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>	
			1982	1981
1981-----	5,529	17	--	5,546
1982:				
January-----	1	1	2	37
February-----	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	1	2

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 4. - Canada: Shipments of iron ore
(Thousand long tons)

	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	1982 total <u>1/</u>	1981 total <u>1/</u>
1981-----	25,363	17,667	5,297	585	--	48,912
1981:						
1st Quarter-	2,124	2,707	1,371	104	--	6,307
2nd Quarter-	8,132	5,942	1,377	138	--	15,590
3rd Quarter-	8,562	4,721	1,310	138	--	14,731
October-----	2,533	1,678	413	57	--	4,681
November-----	2,011	1,142	422	26	--	3,601
December-----	1,830	1,678	441	45	--	3,994
1982:						
January-----	415	1,259	379	52	2,105	2,656
February-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,737

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)

	February 1982		Year to date 1982			Year to date 1981 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	207	7,581	316	10,422	\$32.98	553
Canada-----	379	16,645	1,039	45,741	44.02	874
Chile-----	--	--	--	--	--	68
Liberia-----	227	3,916	585	10,152	17.35	390
Peru-----	--	--	35	1,057	30.20	--
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	52	1,083	20.83	--
Venezuela-----	207	7,195	623	21,677	34.80	774
Other-----	--	--	<u>2/</u>	3	63.56	<u>2/</u>
Total <u>3/</u> -----	1,018	35,337	2,649	90,136	34.03	2,660

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 February 28	
	February 1982	Year to date		1982	1981
		1982	1981		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	478	973	1,599	2,937	1,833
California, Colorado, Utah--	335	699	1,221	636	549
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	467	968	1,251	2,694	2,057
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,883	3,696	5,136	8,404	7,815
Michigan, Minnesota-----	393	825	1,228	2,416	2,675
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island--	1,619	3,531	6,358	11,726	10,626
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,175	10,693	16,794	28,813	25,555

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 6,380 5,610

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	February 1982	Year to date		February 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981		1982	1981
Blast furnaces-----	4,303	8,946	13,999	3,722	7,730	11,349
Steel furnaces-----	28	47	60	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> -	840	1,692	2,728	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	4	7	7	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,175	10,693	16,794	3,722	7,730	11,349

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	February 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981
Baltimore-----	219	501	648
Buffalo-----	--	--	3
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	44	317	90
Cleveland-----	--	--	--
Detroit-----	--	22	--
Houston-----	204	246	175
Los Angeles-----	--	--	--
Mobile-----	120	408	557
New Orleans-----	7	54	69
Philadelphia-----	419	1,018	1,016
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	76	81
Other-----	6	6	21
Total 1/-----	1,018	2,649	2,660

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