



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 MAY 1982

U.S. mine production of iron ore declined in May, but shipments continued to increase, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The decline in production was largely due to temporary closing of the Empire and Tilden Mines in Michigan on May 1 and May 15, respectively, as previously scheduled by Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. Mine stocks of ore began to decline in May, as shipments increased, but stocks at consuming plants rose by 1.7 million tons as consumption was practically unchanged compared with that of the previous month. Data for the first 5 months of 1982 indicated declines of 20% in production, 38% in imports, and 40% in consumption of iron ore compared with those of the corresponding period of 1981.

In Minnesota, the Minorca Mine was closed May 30 for a period of 2 months, by Inland Steel Mining Co. On the same date, Hanna Mining Co. suspended operations at the Butler Taconite project for a period of 4 months. Reserve Mining Co. resumed production at Babbitt and Silver Bay on May 16, after a 10-week shutdown, but planned to suspend operations from June 19 to December 5. Oglebay Norton Co. announced plans to reduce production at Eveleth Mines by about 20%, for a period of 25 weeks beginning June 6. U.S. Steel Corp. planned to suspend production at Minntac and at Atlantic City, Wyo., on June 6 for 5 to 6 weeks, but later extended the shutdown period for both mines until August 22. In Wisconsin, the Black River Falls Mine of Inland Steel Co. remained closed.

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 ^{2/}	
			1982	1981
Production:				
1981-----	67,462	5,712	--	73,174
1982:				
1st Quarter---	14,511	1,670	16,180	18,812
April-----	4,794	553	5,347	6,280
May-----	3,807	551	4,358	7,265
Shipments:				
1981-----	65,222	6,959	--	72,181
1982:				
1st Quarter---	2,095	1,594	3,689	6,372
April-----	1,722	543	2,265	3,938
May-----	4,844	462	5,306	8,906

^{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 May		Shipments May		Mine stocks May 31	
	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	418	1,693	1,156	2,283	7,368	5,556
Minnesota-----	3,389	4,871	3,688	5,944	16,768	15,540
Wisconsin-----	--	84	--	91	51	4
Other U.S.-----	551	618	462	588	4,127	6,600
Total <u>2/-</u>	4,358	7,265	5,306	8,906	28,314	27,700

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>	
			1982	1981
1981-----	5,529	17	--	5,546
1982:				
1st Quarter-----	2	2	4	109
April-----	236	(<u>2/</u>)	236	699
May-----	390	(<u>2/</u>)	391	866

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: U.S. Bureau of 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
1982:						
1st Quarter-	<u>r/</u> 1,320	3,273	1,227	<u>r/</u> 171	<u>r/</u> 5,991	<u>r/</u> 6,305
April-----	1,057	1,517	386	50	3,011	<u>r/</u> 4,266
May-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,154

r/ Revised.

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)

	May 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-----	--	--	426	12,859	\$30.19	984
Canada-----	935	39,331	2,343	101,333	43.25	4,575
Chile-----	--	--	--	--	--	149
Liberia-----	218	3,811	1,146	19,838	17.31	1,068
Peru-----	--	--	35	1,057	30.20	27
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	52	1,083	20.83	--
Venezuela----	46	1,159	1,264	38,745	30.65	1,718
Other-----	--	--	(<u>2/</u>)	3	63.56	(<u>2/</u>)
Total <u>3/-</u>	1,199	44,301	5,267	174,920	33.21	8,519

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 May 31	
	May 1982	Year to date		1982	1981
		1982	1981		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	397	2,365	3,872	2,216	1,746
California, Colorado, Utah--- Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	254	1,604	3,060	823	640
Illinois, Indiana-----	399	2,290	3,494	2,270	1,235
Michigan, Minnesota-----	1,793	9,406	13,058	6,774	5,297
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	465	2,203	3,113	1,503	2,711
	1,589	8,280	17,123	10,624	8,257
Total 1/-----	4,896	26,147	43,720	24,209	19,885
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				5,122	3,826

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	May 1982	Year to date		May 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981		1982	1981
Blast furnaces-----	4,238	22,202	7,312	3,486	18,885	29,979
Steel furnaces-----	14	83	35	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/---	642	3,848	1,465	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	2	14	29	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	4,896	26,147	8,841	3,486	18,885	29,979

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	May 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981
Baltimore-----	237	1,044	1,311
Buffalo-----	(2/)	(2/)	80
Charleston-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	251	616	812
Cleveland-----	333	333	1,230
Detroit-----	--	22	66
Houston-----	--	300	286
Los Angeles-----	--	--	--
Mobile-----	39	601	1,397
New Orleans-----	--	81	105
Philadelphia-----	340	2,181	2,905
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	--
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	76	258
Other-----	(2/)	12	69
Total <u>1/</u>-----	1,199	5,267	8,519

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.