



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 JULY 1982

U.S. mine production of iron ore declined further in July, to the lowest level since 1959, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The decline in July was due primarily to temporary closure of the Hibbing Taconite and Erie Commercial mining operations on the Mesabi Range, both operated by Pickands Mather & Co. Both operations were closed by July 4. Hibbing Taconite was scheduled to resume production September 12, but Erie was expected to remain closed for the rest of the year. Closure of these facilities left only one taconite producer--Eveleth Mines--still operating in the Lake Superior district. Domestic output of iron ore in July was less than 10% of estimated production capacity.

Mine shipments of iron ore in July totaled 4.8 million tons, slightly less than in June. Mine stocks of ore declined by about 4 million tons during the month, but stocks at consuming plants rose by 2 million tons. Imports and exports declined, as did production of pig iron.

During the first 7 months of 1982, U.S. output of iron ore was 38% less than in the corresponding period of 1981; there were also declines in mine shipments (45%), imports (44%), exports (48%), and in consumption (41%).

On the eastern Mesabi Range, U.S. Steel Corp. leased the Stephens and Donora natural ore properties to Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. (J & L). J & L plans to produce concentrates from the ore, using the concentrating plant presently located near the McKinley Mine. The Stephens and Donora mines will be renamed the McKinley Extension.

On the Marquette Range, J & L increased its share of the Marquette Iron Mining Partnership to about 56.5% by acquiring the 10% share formerly held by International Harvester Co. The partnership includes the Republic Mine, which has a production capacity of about 2.7 million tons of pellets per year.

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-----	67,462	5,712	--	73,174
1982:				
1st Quarter----	14,511	1,670	16,180	18,812
2nd Quarter----	10,704	1,526	12,230	21,070
July-----	601	268	869	7,112
Shipments:				
1981-----	65,222	6,959	--	72,181
1982:				
1st Quarter----	2,095	1,594	3,689	6,372
2nd Quarter----	11,131	<u>r/1,410</u>	<u>r/12,541</u>	22,470
July-----	4,446	350	4,795	9,703

r/ Revised.

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 July		Shipments July		Mine stocks July 31	
	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	--	1,290	934	1,586	5,552	5,059
Minnesota-----	601	5,258	3,512	7,544	12,779	11,328
Wisconsin-----	--	79	--	83	51	2
Other U.S.-----	268	485	350	491	6,915	6,629
Total <u>2/-</u>	869	7,112	4,795	9,703	25,297	23,019

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	
			1982	1981
1981-----	5,529	17	--	5,546
1982:				
1st Quarter-----	2	2	4	109
2nd Quarter-----	1,230	1	1,231	2,276
July-----	323	(<u>1/</u>)	324	318

1/ 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
1982:						
1st Quarter-	<u>1</u> /4,449	3,273	1,227	<u>1</u> /170	<u>1</u> /9,119	6,305
April-----	1,057	1,517	386	50	3,011	4,266
May-----	1,722	1,503	359	103	3,687	5,961
June-----	1,922	1,464	272	14	3,671	<u>1</u> /5,365

1/ Revised.

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

Source: Statistics of 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)

	July 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-----	57	1,285	511	15,115	\$29.58	1,313
Canada-----	922	34,421	4,778	188,296	39.41	9,456
Chile-----	--	--	47	673	14.32	214
Liberia-----	235	4,149	1,586	27,539	17.36	1,577
Peru-----	--	--	35	1,057	30.20	46
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	52	1,083	20.83	--
Sweden-----	43	1,325	43	1,325	30.81	--
Venezuela-----	249	5,191	1,586	48,373	30.50	2,850
Other-----	(2/)	8	(2/)	11	42.92	(2/)
Total <u>3</u> /--	1,508	46,378	8,639	283,472	32.81	15,457

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 July 31	
	July 1982	Year to date		1982	1981
		1982	1981		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee					
Texas, Missouri-----	245	2,920	5,263	2,295	2,662
California, Colorado, Utah---	198	2,040	4,101	807	542
Delaware, Maryland, West					
Virginia-----	456	3,125	4,942	2,978	2,051
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,495	11,738	17,887	9,426	8,202
Michigan, Minnesota-----	468	3,672	4,332	1,539	2,896
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania,					
New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,842	11,698	23,379	11,816	11,551
Total <u>1</u> /-----	4,705	35,194	59,904	28,860	27,904
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				4,908	5,433

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	July 1982	Year to date		July 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981		1982	1981
Blast furnaces-----	3,750	29,692	50,087	3,139	25,234	41,299
Steel furnaces-----	53	186	218	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2</u> /-	658	5,003	9,538	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3</u> /-----	243	313	63	--	--	--
Total <u>1</u> /-----	4,705	35,194	59,904	3,139	25,234	41,299

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	July 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981
Baltimore-----	539	2,079	2,367
Buffalo-----	52	150	285
Chicago-----	189	1,207	1,914
Cleveland-----	219	986	2,684
Detroit-----	25	70	235
Houston-----	--	314	425
Mobile-----	--	794	2,396
New Orleans-----	57	138	138
Philadelphia-----	425	2,773	4,626
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	76	278
Other-----	1	53	108
Total <u>1/</u> -----	1,508	8,639	15,457

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