



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 DECEMBER 1982

U.S. mine production of iron ore continued to rise in December, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The increase was due mainly to output from the Tilden and Empire mines in Michigan, where production of pellets was resumed late in November by Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. In Missouri, production of pellets was temporarily suspended on December 31 by Pea Ridge Iron Ore Co. and about 220 employees were laid off. In Minnesota, Reserve Mining Co. was recalling 1,000 employees to resume limited production on January 2, 1983, and U.S. Steel Corp. planned to recall about 1,500 employees to resume limited production at its Minntac facility in the latter part of January. Erie Mining Co. announced tentative plans to resume limited production on April 3, 1983 and to recall about 1,200 employees.

U.S. mine shipments of iron ore continued to decline as the 1982 shipping season ended at five U.S. ports on the upper Great Lakes. Final cargoes were shipped from Duluth on December 4, from Superior and Marquette on December 13, from Escanaba on December 21, and from Two Harbors on December 24. Shipments from Silver Bay and Taconite Harbor had ended on October 22 and November 28, respectively. From eastern Canada, ore shipping to Great Lakes ports ended at Sept-Îles on December 9, at Port Cartier on December 12, and at Pointe Noire on December 13.

Preliminary data for 12 months of 1982 indicated that U.S. mine production of iron ore totaled 36.5 million tons, 51% less than in 1981. Mine shipments totaled 37 million tons. Imports of iron ore for consumption totaled 14.7 million tons, the lowest since 1954. Exports totaled 3.2 million tons, 43% less than in 1981. Consumption of iron ore by the iron and steel industry was only about 55 million tons, 42% less than in 1981 and was the lowest since 1939. Stocks of ore on December 31 at U.S. furnace yards and receiving docks totaled 35.7 million tons, about 7 million tons less than the total 1 year earlier.

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.	Totals <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
3rd Quarter-----	1,737	784	2,522	20,354
October-----	1,271	199	1,470	5,731
November-----	1,416	312	1,728	3,910
December-----	2,201	164	2,365	<u>r/4,431</u>
Shipments:				
1981-----	65,222	6,959	--	72,181
1982:				
1st Quarter-----	2,095	1,594	3,689	6,372
2nd Quarter-----	11,131	1,410	12,541	22,470
3rd Quarter-----	12,073	858	12,931	27,136
October-----	3,005	156	3,161	7,112
November-----	2,857	208	3,065	5,048
December-----	1,422	147	1,569	<u>r/3,509</u>

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 December		Shipments December		Mine Stocks December 31	
	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,041	546	965	713	2,601	3,372
Minnesota-----	1,161	3,481	440	2,274	7,210	7,391
Wisconsin-----	--	66	17	51	--	21
Other U.S.-----	164	<u>r/338</u>	147	<u>r/470</u>	7,136	6,684
Total <u>2/</u> -----	2,365	<u>r/4,431</u>	1,569	<u>r/3,509</u>	16,948	17,469

r/ Revised.

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
2nd Quarter-----	1,230	1	1,231	2,276
3rd Quarter-----	881	1	882	1,711
October-----	339	(<u>2/</u>)	339	353
November-----	486	(<u>2/</u>)	486	330
December-----	235	--	235	767

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
1982:						
1st Quarter-----	4,449	3,273	1,227	170	9,119	6,307
2nd Quarter-----	4,701	4,484	1,017	167	10,369	15,590
3rd Quarter-----	5,922	2,571	551	183	9,227	14,731
October-----	1,265	1,068	258	74	2,666	4,681
November-----	1,274	520	265	5	2,063	3,601
December-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,994

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 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-----	79	1,827	972	26,339	27.10	1,738
Canada-----	598	23,551	9,282	360,352	38.82	18,845
Chile-----	--	--	47	673	14.32	342
Liberia-----	127	2,429	2,399	43,036	17.94	2,160
Peru-----	--	--	35	1,057	30.20	78
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	52	1,083	20.83	--
Sweden-----	--	--	71	2,171	30.58	87
Venezuela-----	22	3,051	1,819	61,202	33.65	5,071
Other-----	--	--	(<u>2/</u>)	11	42.92	8
Total <u>3/</u>--	826	30,858	14,679	495,926	33.78	28,328

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 1982	Year to date		December 31	
		1982	1981	1982	1981
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	90	3,482	8,389	2,718	3,267
California, Colorado, Utah-----	132	2,757	6,244	754	544
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	548	5,355	7,959	2,530	3,170
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,443	19,264	28,571	10,212	11,846
Michigan, Minnesota-----	458	5,869	7,190	1,942	2,753
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	894	18,505	36,604	11,767	14,622
Total <u>1/</u> -----	3,565	55,233	94,958	29,923	36,203
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				5,750	6,571

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	December 1982	Year to date		December 1982	Year to date	
		1982	1981		1982	1981
Blast furnaces-----	2,765	45,173	78,758	2,422	38,514	r/65,687
Steel furnaces-----	13	244	338	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> -----	676	8,919	15,775	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	112	897	86	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	3,565	55,233	94,958	2,422	38,514	r/65,687

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.