



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 FEBRUARY 1983

U. S. mine production of iron ore declined in February compared with that of the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The reduction was due mainly to temporary closure of Hibbing Taconite Co. in Minnesota, and to reduced output in Michigan. Consumption of ore increased as some blast furnaces resumed production in the Chicago and Cleveland areas during February. Ore stocks at U.S. furnace yards declined by 4 million tons during the month.

In Minnesota, U.S. Steel Corp. was recalling several hundred employees to start-up a third pelletizing line at Minntac by late February. Hanna Mining Co. also began recalling employees to prepare for startup of production at National Steel Pellet Co. in March. Reserve Mining Co. planned to shorten the work week of about 300 employees early in March, because of excess inventories of crude ore at Babbitt. Later, the company announced that it would close the mine and its plant at Silver Bay for at least 6 months, beginning April 17.

In Missouri, Pea Ridge Iron Ore Co. announced that about 200 employees were being recalled to resume production of pellets on or about March 1.

In Brazil, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce announced a 1-year delay in production plans for the Carajas iron ore project. Production capacity of 35 million tons per year is now scheduled to be developed by 1988.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, April 28, 1983.

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>	
			1983	1982
Production:				
1982 <u>P/</u> -----	31,840	4,656	--	36,495
1983:				
January-----	2,340	123	2,463	5,709
February-----	1,873	97	1,970	<u>r/</u> 5,266
Shipments:				
1982 <u>P/</u> -----	32,583	4,373	--	36,956
1983:				
January-----	187	208	395	1,076
February-----	417	204	622	1,080

P/ Preliminary.

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes byproduct ore in 1982; excludes byproduct ore in 1983. See note under table 2.

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	
	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	626	1,304	45	(<u>2/</u>)	3,971	5,797
Minnesota-----	1,247	3,380	373	<u>590</u>	9,449	13,085
Wisconsin-----	--	60	--	73	--	56
Other U.S.-----	97	<u>r/</u> 522	204	517	925	6,763
Total <u>3/-</u>	1,970	<u>r/</u> 5,266	622	1,180	14,345	25,701

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes byproduct ore in 1982; excludes byproduct ore in 1983. This change, which applies to production and shipments but principally affects mine stocks, is being made because most of the byproduct ore on hand is not likely to be used for manufacture of iron and steel. Retention of this material in statistics for usable ore, particularly those for mine stocks, prevents realistic assessment of usable ore supplies. For proprietary reasons, data for 1982 have not been changed insofar as they apply to byproduct ore.

2/ Less than one-half 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>	
			1983	1982
1982 <u>p/</u> -----	3,173	4	--	3,178
1983:				
January-----	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)	2
February-----	2	(<u>2/</u>)	2	1

p/ Preliminary.

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	1983 total <u>1/</u>	1982 total <u>1/</u>
1982 <u>r/</u> -----	15,628	12,603	3,599	683	--	32,514
1983:						
January-----	150	608	331	49	1,138	<u>r/</u> 2,107
February----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,183

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)

	February 1983		Year to date 1983			Year to date 1982 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value 1/		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	114	2,662	114	2,662	23.35	316
Canada-----	(2/)	37	284	13,913	48.99	1,039
Chile-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Liberia-----	171	3,354	350	6,805	19.44	585
Peru-----	--	--	--	--	--	35
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	--	--	--	52
Sweden-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Venezuela-----	3/ 35	3,491	3/ 35	3,491	3/99.74	623
Other-----	--	--	(2/)	r/ 3	58.00	(2/)
Total 4/-	320	9,544	783	r/26,873	34.32	2,649

r/ Revised.

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ Verification being requested.

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census data reported under item 601.24 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Note: Data on U.S. imports of iron ore, as published by the Bureau of Mines, usually include small quantities of material having relatively high unit values. In data for 1982, however, at least 110,000 tons of material reported as iron ore has been found to have customs values ranging from \$144.00 to \$156.00 per ton. Most of this material is believed to be sponge iron. Verification has been requested from the 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 1983	Year to date		February 28	
		1983	1982	1983	1982
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	167	316	973	2,436	2,937
California, Colorado, Utah---	128	260	699	707	636
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	402	859	968	2,152	2,694
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,493	2,997	3,696	7,406	8,404
Michigan, Minnesota-----	458	959	825	810	2,416
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,329	2,469	3,531	9,394	11,726
Total 1/-----	3,978	7,860	10,693	22,904	28,813
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				5,375	6,380

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	February 1983	Year to date		February 1983	Year to date	
		1983	1982		1983	1982
Blast furnaces-----	3,385	6,616	8,946	2,914	5,764	7,730
Steel furnaces-----	9	20	47	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/--	581	1,219	1,692	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	3	6	7	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	3,978	7,860	10,693	2,914	5,764	7,730

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 1983	Year to date	
		1983	1982
Baltimore-----	171	349	501
Buffalo-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	--	21	z317
Cleveland-----	--	--	--
Detroit-----	--	--	22
Houston-----	10	10	246
Mobile-----	--	--	z408
New Orleans-----	132	132	54
Philadelphia-----	--	263	1,018
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	--	76
Other-----	7	7	z 6
Total <u>1</u> /-----	320	783	2,649

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.