



# 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 MARCH 1983

U.S. mine production of iron ore increased in March but remained below the level of January 1983, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Production of pellets was resumed in Missouri and at one plant in Minnesota during the month. Consumption of iron ore rose by 30% compared with that in February as several more blast furnaces were returned to production. Stocks of ore at consuming plants declined to 18.9 million tons at monthend.

Aggregate data for the first 3 months of 1983 indicated mine production and shipments were about 59% less than in the corresponding period of 1982, while imports of ore were 36% lower and consumption was 20% less. Total stocks of ore at consuming plants and receiving docks on March 31, 1983, were 7.3 million tons lower than 1 year earlier.

On the Mesabi Range, limited production was resumed at National Steel Pellet Co. on March 20. About 600 employees were recalled. The mine and plant had been closed for almost 11 months. By monthend, production was resumed at Erie Mining Co. on April 3, at Butler Taconite on April 11, and at Hibbing Taconite Co. on April 17, but Reserve Mining Co. shut down for at least 6 months beginning April 17.

The 1983 ore shipping season on the Great Lakes began on March 31, at Marquette, Mich. Ore shipments began at several other U.S. ports on the upper lakes during the first week in April. About half of the available vessels were reportedly being outfitted for service, including most of the twelve 1,000-foot carriers.

Iron ore prices negotiated in the first 4 months of 1983 by Japanese and West European consumers with producers in Canada, Brazil, and several other countries were reported to be 10% to 18% lower than prices paid in 1982. Price negotiations for Australian, Indian, and South African ores had not yet been completed.

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Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, June 1, 1983.

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-----	15,628	12,603	3,599	683	--	32,514
1983:						
January----	150	608	331	49	1,138	2,107
February----	166	784	361	2	1,314	<u>r/</u> 2,216
March-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,797

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)

	March 1983		Year to date 1983			Year to date 1982 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u>		
				Thousand dollars	Per ton	
Brazil-----	--	--	114	2,662	23.35	398
Canada-----	( <u>2/</u> )	34	284	13,947	49.11	1,130
Chile-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Liberia-----	176	3,540	526	10,345	19.67	697
Peru-----	--	--	--	--	--	35
South Africa, Rep. of-----	--	--	--	--	--	52
Sweden-----	( <u>2/</u> )	5	( <u>2/</u> )	5	100.00	--
Venezuela-----	<u>3/</u> 25	1,783	<u>3/</u> 60	5,274	<u>3/</u> 87.90	984
Other-----	5	98	5	101	20.20	( <u>2/</u> )
Total <u>4/-</u>	206	5,461	989	32,334	32.69	3,295

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	
	March 1983	Year to date		March 31	
		1983	1982	1983	1982
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	235	551	1,472	2,329	2,668
California, Colorado, Utah--	141	401	1,084	672	673
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	461	1,320	1,457	1,973	2,226
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,973	4,970	5,837	5,531	6,517
Michigan, Minnesota-----	517	1,476	1,269	403	1,972
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,874	4,343	5,245	8,001	10,599
Total 1/-----	5,201	13,061	16,362	18,909	24,654
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				4,522	6,110

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	March 1983	Year to date		March 1983	Year to date	
		1983	1982		1983	1982
Blast furnaces-----	4,464	11,080	13,793	3,755	9,520	11,857
Steel furnaces-----	16	36	61	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/--	718	1,936	2,499	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	4	9	11	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	5,201	13,061	16,362	3,755	9,520	11,857

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	March 1983	Year to date	
		1983	1982
Baltimore-----	176	526	557
Buffalo-----	--	--	--
Chicago-----	--	21	317
Cleveland-----	--	--	--
Detroit-----	--	--	22
Houston-----	5	15	284
Mobile-----	--	--	512
New Orleans-----	25	157	74
Philadelphia-----	--	264	1,446
Wilmington, N.C.-----	--	--	76
Other-----	(2/)	7	6
Total <u>1</u> /-----	206	989	3,295

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.