



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241



William P. Clark, Secretary

Robert C. Horton, Director

For information call F. L. Klinger
or William I. Spinrad, Jr.
Telephone: (202) 634-1023

Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN APRIL 1984

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore continued to rise in April, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Shipments more than doubled compared with the previous month, as lake shipping was underway by mid-April at six of the seven U.S. ports on the upper Great Lakes. Ore consumption also increased as two more blast furnaces were returned to production during the month. Imports and exports of iron ore tripled, compared with quantities reported in March. Most of the increase in imports was reported from the Baltimore and Cleveland districts.

A record accumulation of ice in the St. Clair River caused lengthy delays in lake shipping during the last 2 weeks of April. By April 28, more than 80 vessels were waiting to transit the 39-mile channel between Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair, and stocks of ore were running low at some furnace yards. The ice jam was cleared by May 1. On Lake Superior, heavy ice conditions at the port of Marquette, MI, delayed ore shipping until May 2.

In Michigan, full production was resumed by Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. at the Empire Mine in the early part of April. About 70 employees were recalled. An additional 85 employees were recalled by the company on May 1, to resume full production at the Tilden Mine.

In Minnesota, taconite tax legislation enacted in the last week of April provided for return by the State of \$17.9 million in production taxes to taconite producers. The repayment is to be made over a period of 5 years. The legislation also provides for elimination of a tax of up to 12 cents per ton on the iron content of pellets, freezes the current production tax on pellets for 2 years, and requires the State to base production taxes on the annual average of 3 years production. Previously, the State could base the production tax on the latest year's production, or on the average of 3 years, whichever was higher. Enactment of the legislation was contingent upon signing of an agreement by the State's taconite producers to suspend for 3 years all lawsuits challenging production taxes levied by the State.

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>	
			1984	1983
Production:				
1983 p/-----				
1984:				
1st Quarter-----	36,257	1,715	--	37,969
April-----	11,838	487	12,325	6,747
	4,827	119	4,946	3,165
Shipments:				
1983 p/-----	42,269	2,479	--	44,748
1984:				
1st Quarter-----	3,331	539	3,870	1,494
April-----	3,533	122	3,655	2,876

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Excludes 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 April		Shipments April		Mine Stocks April 30	
	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,104	871	1,155	661	3,934	4,756
Minnesota-----	3,723	2,172	2,378	1,991	9,409	10,953
Wisconsin-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	119	122	122	225	354	787
Total <u>2/</u> -----	4,946	3,165	3,655	2,876	13,697	16,495

1/ Excludes 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>	
			1984	1983
1983 p/-----	3,780	2	--	3,781
1984:				
1st Quarter-----	314	(<u>2/</u>)	314	3
April-----	169	(<u>2/</u>)	169	304

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	1984 Total <u>1/</u>	1983 Total <u>1/</u>
1983-----	14,869	9,299	47	389	--	24,604
1984:						
January-----	399	660	--	48	1,107	806
February-----	410	660	354	46	1,470	1,294
March-----	727	952	436	--	2,115	1,089
April-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,254

NA Not Available.

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

Source: Statistics Canada - Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

Table 5.--U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore by countries
(Exclusive of ore containing 10% or more manganese)

	April 1984		Year to date 1984			Year to date 1983 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1/</u> Dollars Per Ton	
Brazil-----	438	9,246	764	17,133	22.43	160
Canada-----	755	30,536	1,315	56,597	43.04	619
Liberia-----	--	--	517	8,341	16.13	711
Peru-----	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Sweden-----	27	405	27	405	15.00	(2/)
Venezuela <u>3/</u> ---	17	1,164	443	12,648	28.55	60
Other-----	--	--	(2/)	(2/)	--	5
Total <u>4/</u> ----	1,238	41,352	3,067	95,125	31.02	1,556

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ Data for Venezuela in 1984 and 1983 may include some shipments of direct-reduced iron reported as iron ore. Verification has been 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.

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 April 30	
	April 1984	Year to date		1984	1983
		1984	1983		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	529	1,590	826	814	2,183
California, Colorado, Utah---	175	754	533	243	621
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	647	2,232	1,828	1,285	1,747
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,235	8,670	6,963	3,518	4,772
Michigan, Minnesota-----	589	2,083	1,978	1,017	645
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	2,239	8,665	6,340	4,073	7,323
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,415	23,993	18,467	10,949	17,292
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				1,574	3,711

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	April 1984	Year to date		April 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983		April 1984	April 1983
Blast furnaces-----	5,415	20,090	15,731	4,533	17,022	13,389
Steel furnaces-----	28	214	46	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	961	3,605	2,675	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	11	85	16	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,415	23,993	18,467	4,533	17,022	13,389

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 (consumption of iron ore).
American Iron and Steel Institute (production of pig iron).

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	April 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983
Baltimore-----	470	1,002	758
Buffalo-----	(1/)	(1/)	--
Charleston-----	--	5	--
Chicago-----	84	347	21
Cleveland-----	278	334	273
Detroit-----	--	(1/)	1
Houston-----	43	61	15
Mobile-----	60	120	--
New Orleans-----	100	179	157
Philadelphia-----	202	940	324
Other-----	(1/)	78	7
Total 2/-----	1,238	3,067	1,556

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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