MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1984

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore decreased 21% and 19%, respectively, in August compared with those of the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Stocks of ore at mines and U.S. receiving and transfer docks decreased 18% and 7%, respectively, while stocks at consuming plants increased 15%. Monthend stocks totaled 31.6 million tons, an increase of 2% from that of July. Consumption of ore declined for the third consecutive month with 48 blast furnaces reported to be operating at monthend, 4 less than in the previous month.

In Michigan, Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. (CCI) resumed production at the Tilden Mine on August 13, operating one of two pelletizing lines. The mine had been shut down since July 21. At monthend, CCI announced a cutback in the operating rate at the Empire Mine. The production goal for 1984 was reduced to 7.2 million tons of pellets, from 7.8 million tons as previously planned. About 80 employees were to be laid off in September, reducing total employment by CCI on the Marquette Range to about 2,400 with 1,000 on layoff.

In Minnesota, Inland Steel Mining Co. resumed production at the Minorca Mine on August 11. The mine had been shut down since July 22. U.S. Steel Corp.'s Minntac facility was shut down for 7 weeks, effective August 5, because of reduced steel orders. Hanna Mining Co. permanently closed the Whitney natural ore mine, located in Hibbing, MN, on August 10.

In Malaysia and the Republic of South Africa, direct reduction plants were reportedly completed in July and August. On Labuan Island, off North Borneo, a Midrex plant having a production capacity of about 600,000 tonnes per year was completed for Sabah Gas Industries. In South Africa, two of four SL/RN kilns being built for Iscor Ltd. were also completed at Vanderbijlpark. Each kiln has a production capacity of about 150,000 tonnes per year.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, October 25, 1984.

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 2/ 1984	Total 2/ 1983
Production:				
1983 3/	35,594	1,968	--	37,562
1984:				
1st Quarter	11,838	487	12,325	6,747
2nd Quarter	15,835	356	16,192	11,416
July	5,017	126	5,143	4,034
August	3,950	102	4,053	4,034
Shipments:				
1983 3/	41,412	3,184	--	44,596
1984:				
1st Quarter	3,331	539	3,870	1,494
2nd Quarter	15,567	430	15,998	13,791
July	7,165	100	7,265	5,986
August	5,798	106	5,904	5,542

1/Excludes byproduct ore, except where noted.
2/Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.
3/Final figure. Includes byproduct ore to avoid disclosing proprietary data.

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 August		Shipments August		Mine Stocks August 31	
	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	947	892	1,267	1,528	2,631	2,532
Minnesota-----	3,003	2,960	4,531	3,738	5,693	7,099
Wisconsin----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	102	182	106	276	304	462
Total 2/-----	4,053	4,034	5,904	5,542	8,628	10,093

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 1/	
			1984	1983
1983----------	3,780	2	--	3,781
1984:				
1st Quarter----------	314	(2/)	314	3
2nd Quarter----------	1,340	(2/)	1,340	1,266
July----------	932	(2/)	932	313
August----------	487	(2/)	487	516

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 1/	1983 Total 1/
1983	14,869	9,299	47	389	--	24,604
1984:						
1st Quarter	1,536	2,272	790	94	4,692	3,189
2nd Quarter	6,828	2,807	1,283	9	10,928	9,209
July	2,524	1,415	197	3	4,138	r/2,762
August	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,807

r/Revised. NA Not available.
1/Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: 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)

	August 1984		Year to date 1984			Year to date 1983
	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand long tons)
Brazil	260	4,762	1,937	43,397	22.40	794
Canada	989	31,817	6,219	238,291	38.32	4,612
Liberia	242	3,219	1,198	17,736	14.80	1,190
Peru	(2/)	5	7	76	10.86	(2/)
Sweden	--	--	27	405	15.00	22
Venezuela 3/	53	922	834	21,935	26.30	594
Other	(2/)	9	(2/)	10	158.23	5
Total 4/	1,545	40,734	10,222	321,850	31.49	7,217

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 includes 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 August 31	
	August 1984	Year to date			
		1984	1983	1984	1983
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri	489	3,592	1,877	1,495	1,774
California, Colorado, Utah	138	1,422	1,100	247	442
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia	620	4,768	3,640	1,837	2,007
Illinois, Indiana	1,906	16,800	15,514	8,040	8,451
Michigan, Minnesota	499	4,149	3,878	2,040	1,781
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island	1,570	16,106	14,006	7,222	8,732
Total 1/	5,222	46,837	40,016	20,880	23,187
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks				2,056	3,032

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	August 1984	Year to date		August 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983		1984	1983
Blast furnaces	4,319	39,072	33,536	3,622	33,196	28,648
Steel furnaces	13	313	107	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/	867	7,333	6,236	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/	23	120	137	--	--	--
Total 1/	5,222	46,837	40,016	3,622	33,196	28,648

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	August 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983
Baltimore	421	3,504	1,977
Buffalo	--	1	167
Charleston	--	5	869
Chicago	351	1,299	1,924
Cleveland	364	1,893	133
Detroit	25	125	27
Houston	39	101	161
Mobile	238	822	376
New Orleans	44	440	1,538
Philadelphia	53	1,938	22
Portland, Oreg.	--	--	--
Other	10	95	22
Total 1/	1,545	10,222	7,217

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