



# 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 NOVEMBER 1984

U.S. mine production of iron ore decreased 26% from that of the previous month, but increased 20% compared with that of November 1983, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine shipments decreased 2% from those of October and decreased 3% from the level reported a year ago. U.S. imports of iron ore increased 8% while exports decreased 24% compared with those of October. Monthend mine stocks decreased 23% to 5.5 million tons, while stocks at docks and consuming plants increased 8% to 2.6 and 25.5 million tons, respectively. Consumption of iron ore in November was 3% higher than that of the previous month and, at monthend, 47 blast furnaces were in operation.

In Minnesota, several iron ore mines and pelletizing plants were temporarily closed because of reduced demand from the iron and steel industry. Pickands Mather & Co. suspended operations of Hibbing Taconite Co. by mid-November, and announced that Erie Mining Co. would shut down December 2; both closures were for indefinite periods. About 900 employees were laid off at Hibbing and approximately 940 employees were to be laid off at Erie. On November 10, Inland Steel Mining Co. closed the Minorca mine for 3 months, and Butler Taconite was closed by Hanna Mining Co. for an indefinite period. About 300 employees were laid off by Inland and about 350 were laid off by Hanna. U.S. Steel Corp.'s Minntac operation was closed on November 18 for an indefinite period, with 1,600 employees laid off.

The St. Lawrence Seaway near Montreal was to be reopened on December 11, after being closed since November 21, by mechanical failure of a bridge at Valleyfield, Quebec. It was reported that 140 ships, carrying iron ore, grain, and other cargo, were waiting to pass through the channel and this would require at least 1 week.

# U.S. IRON ORE

## MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

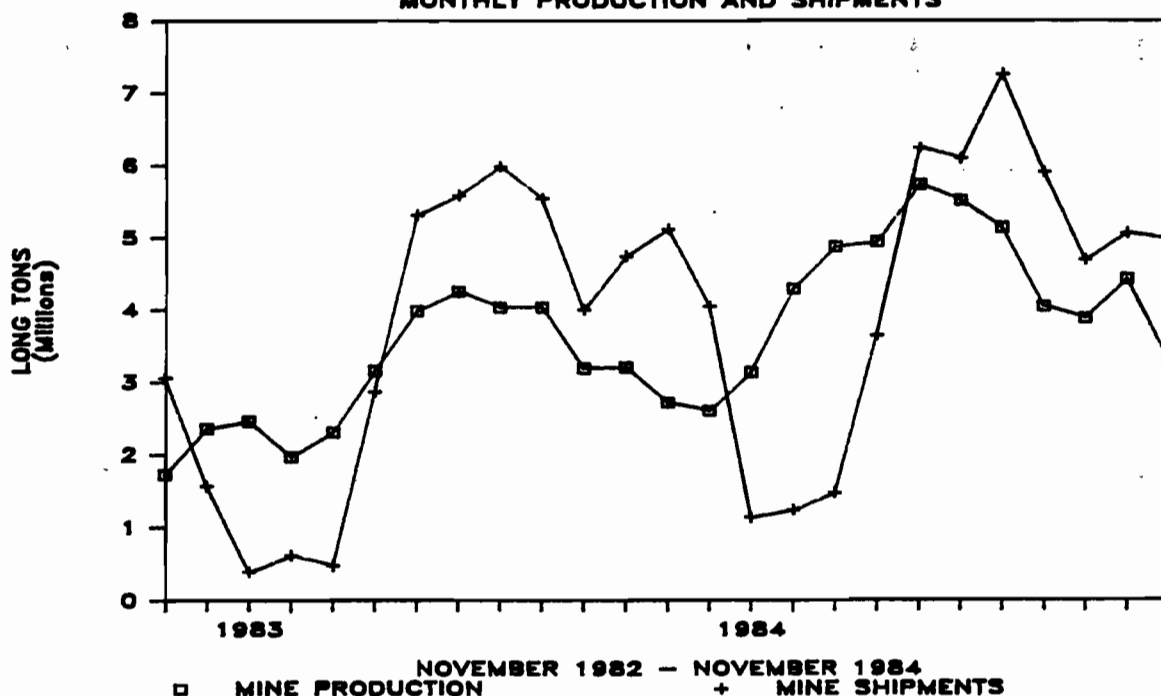


Table 1.—U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)  
(Thousand long tons)

	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total <u>2/</u>	
			1984	1983
Production:				
1983 <u>3/</u> -----	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
3rd Quarter-----	12,750	335	13,085	11,257
October-----	4,323	107	4,430	3,207
November-----	3,178	99	3,277	2,729
Shipments:				
1983 <u>3/</u> -----	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
3rd Quarter-----	17,558	308	17,866	15,530
October-----	4,951	120	5,071	4,749
November-----	4,892	93	4,985	5,131

1/Excludes byproduct ore, except where noted.

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

3/Final figures. 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 November		Shipments November		Mine Stocks November 30	
	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	842	553	1,308	1,117	1,308	2,107
Minnesota-----	2,336	2,083	3,584	3,927	3,895	2,909
Wisconsin-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	99	94	93	87	315	353
Total <u>2/</u> -----	3,277	2,729	4,985	5,131	5,518	5,369

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-----	3,780	2	--	3,781
1984:				
1st Quarter-----	314	( <u>2/</u> )	314	3
2nd Quarter-----	1,340	( <u>2/</u> )	1,340	1,266
3rd Quarter-----	2,288	( <u>2/</u> )	2,288	1,303
October-----	382	( <u>2/</u> )	382	218
November-----	289	( <u>2/</u> )	289	310

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-----	18,252	10,079	3,558	461	—	32,350
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
3rd Quarter-----	7,113	3,857	984	18	11,969	9,942
October-----	2,106	1,599	417	8	4,130	r/3,576
November-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,718

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)

	November 1984		Year to date 1984			Year to date 1983 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand long tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Brazil-----	109	1,950	2,211	49,104	22.21	1,104
Canada-----	1,319	45,909	10,347	381,921	36.91	7,770
Liberia-----	106	1,369	1,640	23,541	14.35	1,586
Peru-----	—	—	7	76	10.86	(2/)
Sweden-----	57	1,253	84	1,659	19.75	68
Venezuela 3/--	54	931	1,334	30,002	22.49	1,263
Other-----	29	731	34	837	24.62	5
Total 4/-----	1,675	52,143	15,657	487,140	31.11	11,796

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	
	November 1984	Year to date		November 30	
		1984	1983	1984	1983
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	439	4,928	2,620	1,435	1,740
California, Colorado, Utah-----	129	1,847	1,497	212	275
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	499	6,173	4,946	2,416	2,380
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,823	21,635	22,081	10,400	9,225
Michigan, Minnesota-----	528	5,728	5,153	2,398	2,083
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	1,517	20,790	19,797	8,656	9,358
Total <u>1/</u> -----	4,935	61,102	56,095	25,517	25,061
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				2,633	3,401

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	November 1984	Year to date		November 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983		1984	1983
Blast furnaces-----	4,129	51,078	46,622	3,408	43,044	39,893
Steel furnaces-----	14	362	149	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> -----	735	9,447	9,097	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	57	215	227	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	4,935	61,102	56,095	3,408	43,044	39,893

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	November 1984	Year to date	
		1984	1983
Baltimore-----	193	4,428	2,777
Buffalo-----	--	1	195
Charleston-----	--	5	--
Chicago-----	285	2,534	1,504
Cleveland-----	741	3,429	3,719
Detroit-----	26	318	164
Houston-----	--	105	27
Los Angeles-----	--	(1/)	--
Mobile-----	72	1,258	466
New Orleans-----	109	550	587
Philadelphia-----	249	2,912	2,312
Portland, Oreg.-----	--	--	22
Other-----	--	116	23
Total <u>2/</u> -----	1,675	15,657	11,796

1/Less than one-half unit.

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