



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 JANUARY 1985

U.S. mine production of iron ore in January rose by 31% compared with that of December, as production of taconite was resumed at the Reserve and Minntac operations in Minnesota, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine shipments of ore declined sharply as all seven U.S. loading ports on the upper Great Lakes had closed for the winter by December 28. The St. Lawrence Seaway was closed on January 2. Total exports and imports of iron ore continued to decline in January, but exports reported by the Bureau of the Census from the Duluth and Detroit customs districts, as well as imports reported for the Chicago district, were too high considering the termination of ore shipping on the Great Lakes; much of the tonnage reported for these districts in January was probably shipped or received prior to January 1. Mine stocks of ore continued to rise, while stocks at consuming plants and lower lake docks declined by 3.7 million tons during the month. Consumption of iron ore increased slightly to 5 million tons, and the number of operating blast furnaces increased to 49 as of January 31.

On the Mesabi Range, Reserve Mining Co. resumed production of pellets on January 6. Production at Minntac was resumed by U.S. Steel Corp. during the week of January 13. Subsequent announcements by Pickands Mather & Co., Inland Steel Mining Co., and Hanna Mining Co. indicated that taconite production would be resumed in March at the Erie, Hibbing, Minorca, and Butler operations. All of Minnesota's producers were therefore expected to be operating by March 18.

In Japan, iron ore prices negotiated in January with Canadian and Indian producers for fiscal 1985 (April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986) were unchanged from fiscal 1984 levels. Prices (f.o.b., per dry long ton unit of iron) remain at 23.37 cents for Carol concentrates (Iron Ore Co. of Canada); and for Bailadila ores (Minerals and Metals Trading Corp. of India), 25.86 cents for fines and 30.06 cents for lump ore.

U.S. IRON ORE MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

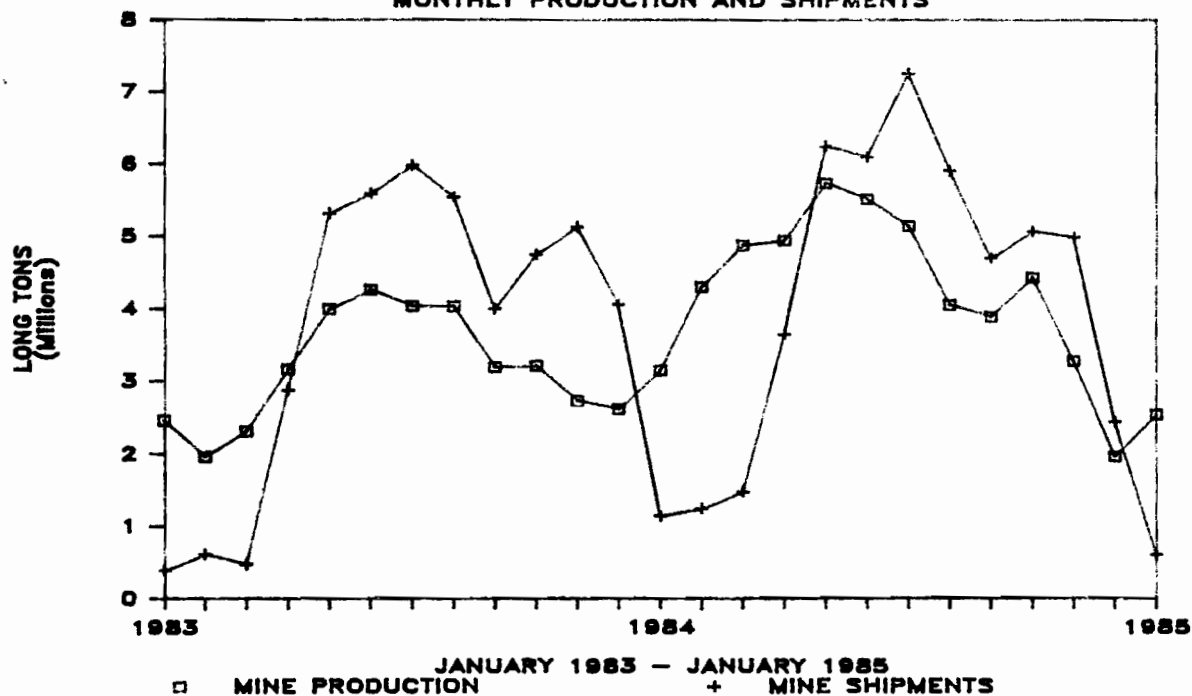


Table 1.--U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts ^{1/}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total ^{2/}	
			1985	1984
Production:				
1984 ^{p/} -----	49,780	1,494	--	51,274
1985:				
January-----	2,430	105	2,535	3,145
Shipments:				
1984 ^{p/} -----	48,648	1,574	--	50,222
1985:				
January-----	501	107	607	1,142

^{p/} Preliminary.

^{1/} Excludes byproduct ore, except where noted.

^{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 January		Shipments January		Mine Stocks January 31	
	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,007	1,094	--	174	2,005	2,328
Minnesota-----	1,423	1,917	501	830	4,771	3,220
Wisconsin-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	105	134	107	138	339	396
Total <u>2/</u> -----	2,535	3,145	607	1,142	7,115	5,944

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>	
			1985	1984
1984 ^{p/} -----	4,988	(<u>2/</u>)	--	4,989
1985: January-----	<u>3/</u> 275	(<u>2/</u>)	<u>3/</u> 275	154

^{p/} Preliminary.

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ Believed to be too high; verification requested.

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>
1983r/----- 1984:	18,114	10,085	3,750	489	--	32,438
1st Quarter---	1,536	2,272	r/1,164	94	5,065	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	3,576
November-----	2,148	1,753	366	5	4,272	3,667
December-----	1,124	2,131	365	3	3,623	r/2,548
1985:					1985 total	1984 total
January-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,107

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)

	January 1985			Year to date 1984 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1/</u> dollars per ton	
Brazil-----	415	9,025	21.75	55
Canada-----	317	13,237	41.76	234
Liberia-----	223	2,984	13.38	92
Venezuela ^{2/} -----	111	2,635	23.74	220
Other-----	(<u>3/</u>)	1	--	--
Total <u>4/</u> -----	1,066	27,883	26.16	600

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

2/ Data for Venezuela in 1984 includes some shipments of direct-reduced iron reported as iron ore. Verification has been requested.

3/ Less than one-half unit.

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	
	January 1985	January 1984	January 31 1985	January 31 1984
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	423	255	1,457	1,681
California, Colorado, Utah-----	155	187	198	238
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	432	486	2,117	2,042
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,852	2,081	7,651	7,377
Michigan, Minnesota-----	524	477	1,878	1,676
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	1,622	2,032	7,173	8,033
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,009	5,517	20,473	21,047
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----			2,823	3,127
	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	January 1985	January 1984	January 1985	January 1984
Blast furnaces-----	4,336	4,576	3,544	3,848
Steel furnaces-----	10	74	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> -----	658	864	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	5	3	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,009	5,517	3,544	3,848

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	January 1985	January 1984
Baltimore-----	104	183
Charleston-----	--	5
Chicago-----	<u>1/282</u>	30
Cleveland-----	47	56
Detroit-----	27	--
Houston-----	12	--
Mobile-----	178	--
New Orleans-----	75	55
Philadelphia-----	335	271
Other-----	6	(<u>2/</u>)
Total <u>3/</u> -----	1,066	600

1/ Believed to be too high; verification requested.

2/ Less than one-half unit.

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