



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 MAY 1985

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore continued to increase in May, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine production was at about the same levels as that in May 1984, while mine shipments were 7% less than those 1 year earlier. Stocks of iron ore at mines, docks, and consuming plants increased 4% from the previous month to 29 million tons. Consumption increased 7% and at monthend 52 blast furnaces were in operation, 1 less than on April 30.

In Minnesota, Oglebay Norton Co. announced it would close Eveleth Mines for 15 weeks beginning June 30. Around 750 employees will be laid off. M. A. Hanna Co. announced in June that its planned permanent closure of the Butler Taconite project would become effective on June 28. About 450 employees will be affected.

The countervailing duty investigation by the U.S. Department of Commerce, concerning U.S. imports of iron ore pellets from Brazil, was suspended May 29, following agreement by Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) and the Brazilian Government to eliminate all benefits determined by Commerce to constitute subsidies on exports of pellets to the United States.

Update: The suspension agreement would have eliminated imposition of countervailing duty, as well as any further action on the matter by Commerce or the International Trade Commission (ITC). In mid-June, however, the investigation was reopened at the request of CVRD. Commerce is now required to make a final recommendation for countervailing duty, and the ITC is required to determine whether material injury, or threat thereof, has been caused to the U.S. petitioners. On June 21, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives, proposing to eliminate the requirement that material injury be determined before countervailing duty can be imposed on U.S. imports of products from Brazil.

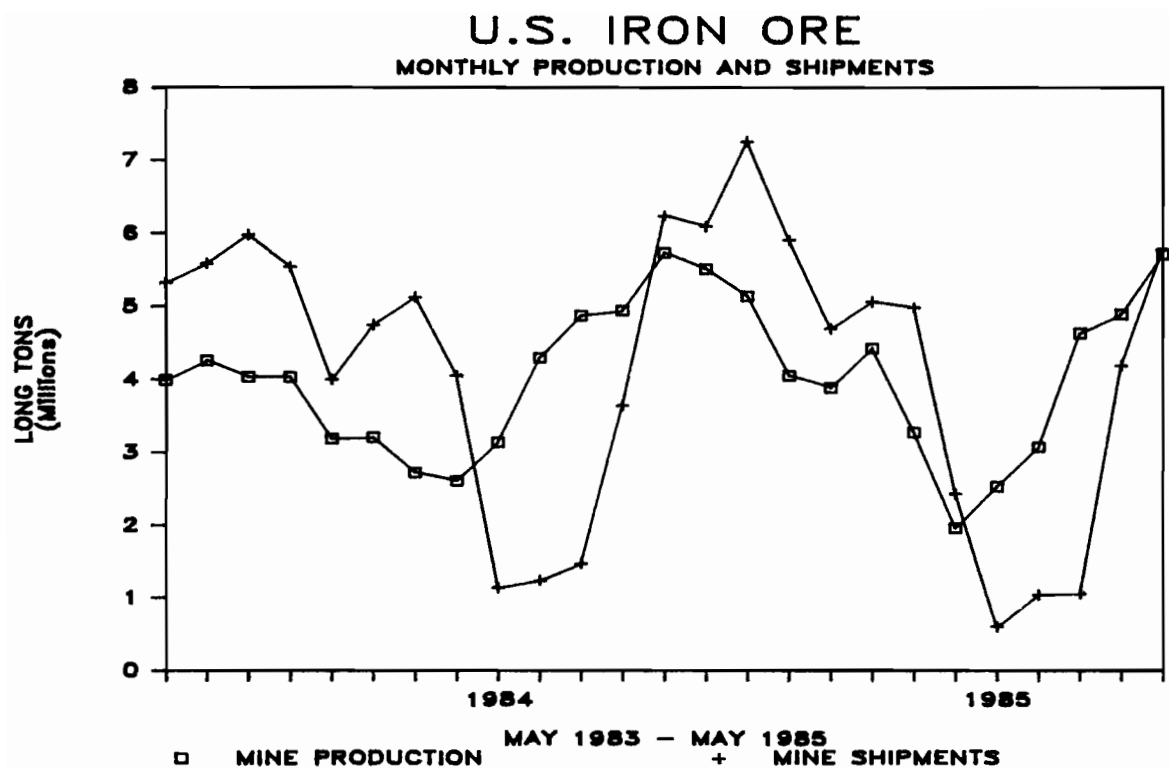


Table 1.--U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/
 (Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
 (Thousand long tons)

	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total <u>2/</u>	
			1985	1984
Production:				
1984 <u>p/</u> -----	49,780	1,494	--	51,274
1985:				
1st Quarter-----	9,955	291	10,246	12,325
April-----	4,845	49	4,894	4,946
May-----	5,676	34	5,711	5,733
Shipments:				
1984 <u>p/</u> -----	48,648	1,574	--	50,222
1985:				
1st Quarter-----	2,457	263	2,718	3,870
April-----	4,180	18	4,197	3,655
May-----	5,751	42	5,792	6,248

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 May		Shipments May		Mine Stocks May 31	
	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,473	1,497	1,524	1,677	4,398	3,753
Minnesota-----	4,203	4,113	4,226	4,433	8,537	9,088
Wisconsin-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	34	124	42	137	393	346
Total <u>2/</u> -----	5,711	5,733	5,792	6,248	13,328	13,187

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:				
1st Quarter-----	276	(<u>2/</u>)	276	314
April-----	198	(<u>2/</u>)	198	169
May-----	545	--	545	701

^{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	1985 Total <u>1/</u>	1984 Total <u>1/</u>
1984-----	20,854	14,419	4,557	153	---	39,983
1985:						
1st Quarter-----	1,602	3,157	1,230	---	5,988	<u>r/</u> 5,079
April-----	1,644	1,379	350	2	3,375	2,718
May-----	2,715	1,493	373	3	4,585	<u>r/</u> 4,237

r/ Revised.

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)

	May 1985		Year to date 1985			Year to date 1984 (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-----	67	1,519	943	18,002	19.09	1,055
Canada-----	640	28,009	2,196	100,264	45.66	2,227
Chile-----	30	450	84	<u>e/</u> 1,206	14.36	---
Liberia-----	74	1,070	823	11,690	14.20	691
Sweden-----	---	---	---	---	---	27
Venezuela <u>2/</u> ---	42	985	298	5,031	16.88	517
Other-----	19	370	38	735	19.34	7
Total <u>3/</u> ----	872	32,403	4,383	136,928	31.24	4,524

e/ Part estimated. Verification requested.

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

2/ Excludes, where possible, shipments of direct-reduced iron reported as iron ore.

3/ 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 May 31	
	May 1985	Year to date		1985	1984
		1985	1984		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	602	2,555	2,118	958	964
California, Colorado, Utah---	161	794	933	179	231
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	641	2,524	2,863	1,465	1,442
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,237	9,998	11,034	4,863	3,966
Michigan, Minnesota-----	478	2,520	2,649	1,245	1,402
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,926	9,259	10,885	5,697	4,386
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,046	27,650	30,483	14,406	12,391

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 1,277 1,817

	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	May 1985	Year to date		May 1985	Year to date	
		1985	1984		1985	1984
Blast furnaces-----	5,080	23,807	25,520	4,065	19,300	21,635
Steel furnaces-----	18	75	270	---	---	---
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	755	3,518	4,602	---	---	---
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	193	251	90	---	---	---
Total <u>1/</u> -----	6,046	27,650	30,483	4,065	19,300	21,635

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	May 1985	Year to date	
		1985	1984
Baltimore-----	137	<u>1</u> /1,069	1,910
Buffalo-----	(<u>2</u> /)	(<u>2</u> /)	1
Charleston-----	<u>19</u>	<u>38</u>	5
Chicago-----	47	<u>3</u> /354	347
Cleveland-----	284	<u>457</u>	530
Detroit-----	49	<u>77</u>	(<u>2</u> /)
Houston-----	33	<u>105</u>	<u>61</u>
Mobile-----	197	1,059	290
New Orleans-----	6	<u>1</u> /254	224
Philadelphia-----	42	<u>908</u>	1,071
Other-----	58	<u>64</u>	<u>85</u>
Total <u>4</u> /-----	872	4,383	4,524

1/ Excludes shipments of direct-reduced iron reported as iron ore.

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ Probably includes more than 250,000 tons received in late 1984 but not recorded until January 1985.

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