



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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



Donald Paul Hodel, Secretary

Robert C. Horton, Director

For information call F. L. Klinger
or William I. Spinrad, Jr.
Telephone: (202) 634-1023 or
(202) 634-1019

Iron Ore, Monthly

IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1985

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore declined by 17% and 10%, respectively, from those of August, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The fall in production was due mainly to temporary closure of the Empire Mine in Michigan, while the decline in shipments took place mostly in Minnesota. Imports of iron ore were reported to be 3 million tons in September, almost twice the volume recorded in August, but the apparent increase was probably due to carry-overs from previous months caused by delays in recording and transmittal of data. Consumption of iron ore declined during September, and the number of blast furnaces operating at monthend was 44, 2 less than a month earlier.

Data for the first 9 months of 1985 indicated declines in production (8%), shipments (8%), imports (6%), exports (8%), and consumption (6%), compared with those for the same period in 1984. Stocks of ore September 30 totaled 31.2 million tons, 1 million tons less than 1 year earlier.

Update.--Repairs to Lock 7 of the Welland Canal were completed and traffic was resumed on November 7. At that time, 118 vessels were reported to be waiting for transit, including 71 westbound and 47 eastbound. Westbound vessels included 12 carrying iron ore. All vessels were locked through by November 12.

Pickands Mather & Co. announced plans to temporarily shut down taconite operations of Erie Mining Co., effective November 30. A reopening date was not announced. About 1,100 employees will be laid off.

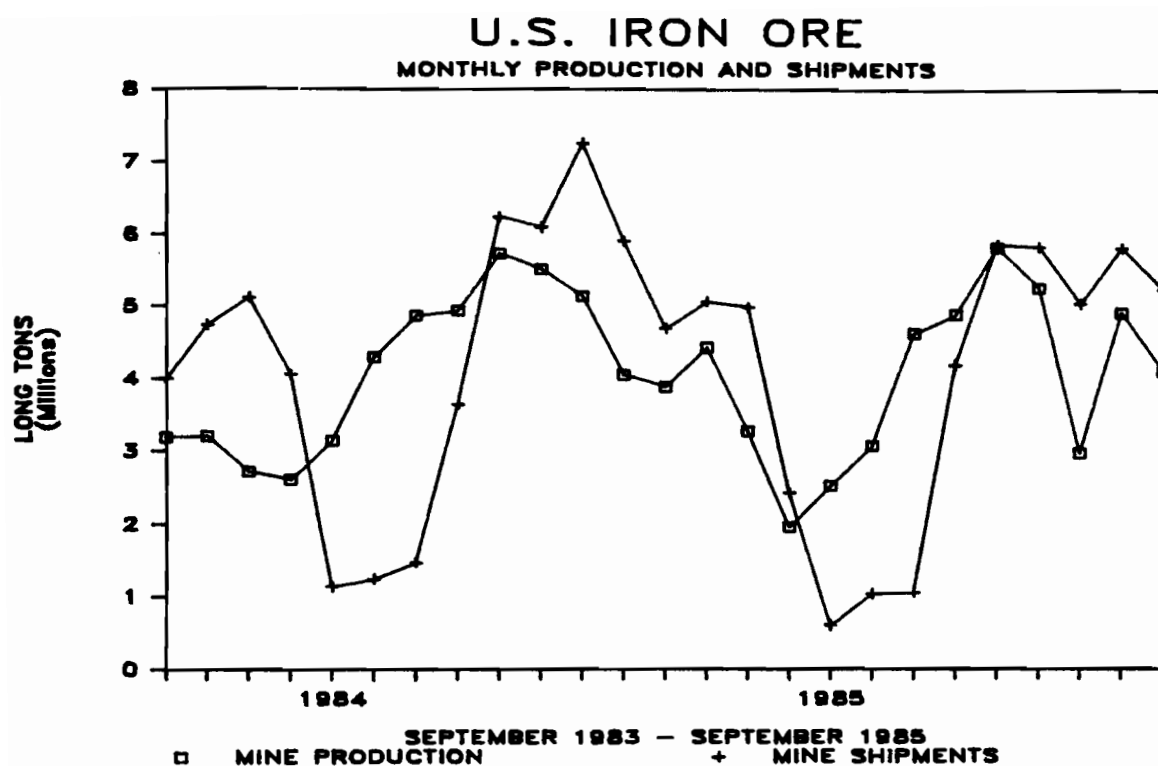


Table 1.--U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts ^{1/}
 (Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
 (Thousand long tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total ^{2/}	
			1985	1984
Production:				
1984-----	49,679	1,590	--	51,269
1985:				
1st Quarter-----	9,955	291	10,246	12,325
2nd Quarter-----	15,786	190	15,976	16,192
July-----	2,873	100	2,974	5,143
August-----	4,817	108	4,925	4,053
September-----	4,003	99	4,102	3,888
Shipments:				
1984 ^{3/} -----	48,865	2,018	--	50,883
1985:				
1st Quarter-----	2,457	263	2,718	3,870
2nd Quarter-----	15,713	182	15,893	15,998
July-----	4,900	137	5,037	7,265
August-----	5,683	136	5,819	5,904
September-----	5,100	134	5,234	4,695

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

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

^{3/} Includes byproduct ore.

Table 2.--U.S. mine production, shipments, and stocks of iron ore 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

District	Production September		Shipments September		Mine Stocks September 30	
	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	707	1,074	1,581	1,200	2,381	2,505
Minnesota-----	3,296	2,709	3,519	3,395	6,119	5,007
Wisconsin-----	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other U.S.-----	99	105	134	100	290	323
Total <u>2/</u> -----	4,102	3,888	5,234	4,695	8,790	7,834

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)

Period	Canada	Other	Total <u>1/</u>	
			1985	1984
1984-----	4,988	4	--	4,993
1985:				
1st Quarter-----	276	(<u>2/</u>)	276	314
2nd Quarter-----	1,412	(<u>2/</u>)	1,412	1,340
July-----	586	(<u>2/</u>)	586	932
August-----	560	(<u>2/</u>)	560	487
September-----	811	(<u>2/</u>)	811	869

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 dry long tons)

Period	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	5,079
2nd Quarter----	7,029	3,970	1,019	8	12,027	10,934
July-----	1,841	1,438	149	4	3,432	4,138
August-----	2,013	1,260	217	3	3,493	<u>r/</u> 3,918
September-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,597

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)

Country of origin	September 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-----	278	5,328	1,807	33,947	18.79	2,089
Canada-----	1,879	58,585	6,745	253,082	37.52	7,659
Chile-----	--	--	84	<u>e/</u> 1,206	<u>e/</u> 14.38	--
Liberia-----	485	6,640	1,402	19,709	14.06	1,439
Peru-----	58	1,228	96	1,955	20.36	7
Sweden-----	--	--	<u>r/</u> 27	<u>r/</u> 564	21.22	27
Venezuela <u>2/</u> ---	265	5,516	1,479	28,440	19.23	1,212
Other-----	26	386	50	750	15.00	5
Total <u>3/</u> ---	2,990	77,684	11,690	339,653	29.08	12,437

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

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

2/ Excludes 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)

State or Region	Consumption			Stocks September 30	
	September 1985	Year to date		1985	1984
		1985	1984		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	461	4,562	4,035	1,316	1,380
California, Colorado, Utah----	141	1,440	1,583	165	188
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	503	4,565	5,263	2,477	2,086
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,053	18,245	18,173	8,055	8,696
Michigan, Minnesota-----	439	4,306	4,642	1,826	2,047
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island----	1,316	15,277	17,696	6,579	7,784
Total 1/-----	4,913	48,396	51,392	20,418	22,181
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				2,007	2,195

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	September 1985	Year to date		September 1985	Year to date	
		1985	1984		1985	1984
Blast furnaces-----	4,188	41,475	42,841	3,467	33,900	36,297
Steel furnaces-----	14	144	334	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/--	693	6,359	8,088	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	18	418	129	--	--	--
Total 1/-----	4,913	48,396	51,392	3,467	33,900	36,297

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 district
(Exclusive of ore containing 10% or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

Customs district	September 1985	Year to date	
		1985	1984
Baltimore-----	834	<u>1</u> /2,556	3,988
Buffalo-----	--	(2/)	1
Charleston-----	81	<u>1</u> 43	5
Chicago-----	1,076	<u>3</u> /1,636	1,989
Cleveland-----	169	<u>1</u> ,301	2,113
Detroit-----	74	396	267
Houston-----	10	164	105
Mobile-----	442	2,219	946
New Orleans-----	119	<u>r</u> /664	440
Philadelphia-----	183	<u>2</u> ,543	2,478
Other-----	--	65	104
Total <u>4</u> /-----	2,990	11,690	12,437

r/ Revised.

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.