



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 1986

U.S. mine production of iron ore increased 23% in January while shipments and exports decreased sharply compared with those of the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. January imports of iron ore were slightly higher than those of December. Monthend stocks of iron ore at mines increased 35% to 8.1 million long tons, while combined stocks at U.S. receiving/-transfer docks and consuming plants decreased 19% to 19.2 million tons. Iron ore consumption and pig iron production were 8% and 9% higher, respectively, than December levels. At monthend, the number of blast furnaces in operation remained unchanged at 47.

In Minnesota, Hibbing Taconite Co. resumed mine and plant operations on January 13 and 19, respectively, at less than full capacity. About 650 of the 800 employees laid off on October 26 were recalled, with two fewer grinding mills in operation. U.S. Steel Corp.'s Minntac Mine also resumed operations on January 13 after having been shut down since early December. Approximately 1,700 employees reported for work. Minntac's 1986 annual production goal was reportedly set at 10.9 million long tons of iron ore.

Update: Inland Steel Co. announced in February that it would reopen the Minorca Mine on March 16 at a reduced production rate of 1.6 million long tons per year, following a 4-month shutdown. However, 115 of the 405 employees will remain on lay off. In March, Erie Mining Co. announced that it would resume operations at Hoyt Lakes on April 7, calling back its 1,100 workers as needed. Erie has been shut down since November 30. All seven taconite operations on the Mesabi Range will be in production when these two startups take effect. Also in March, it was announced that Pickands Mather & Co. was assuming management of Reserve Mining Co.'s operations at Babbitt and Silver Bay. The Reserve organization will lose 105 white-collar positions as a result of the management change.

U.S. IRON ORE MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

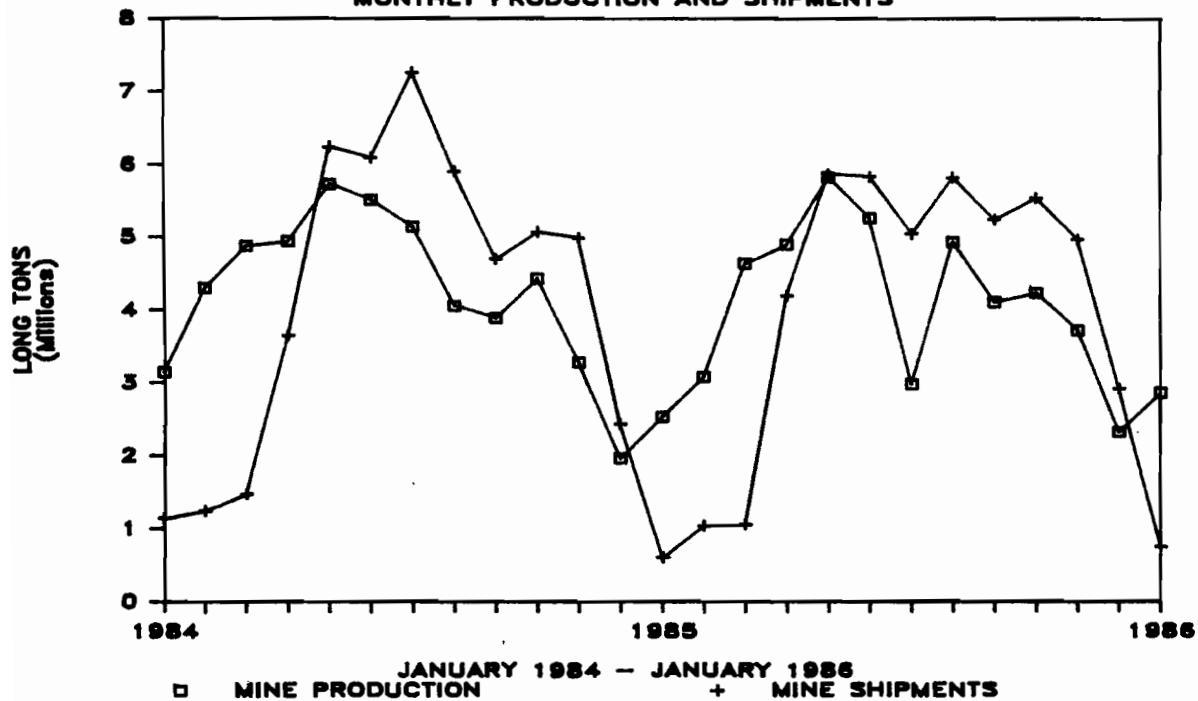


Table 1.--U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts ^{1/}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
(Thousand long tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total ^{2/}	
			1986 ^{3/}	1985
Production:				
1985 p/-----	47,394	1,105	--	48,499
1986:				
January-----	2,756	105	2,861	2,535
Shipments:				
1985 p/-----	46,709	1,408	--	48,114
1986:				
January-----	637	119	755	607

p/ Preliminary.

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

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

^{3/} Includes estimated 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)

District	Production January		Shipments January		Mine Stocks January 31	
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,071	1,007	60	--	2,237	2,005
Minnesota-----	1,685	1,423	576	501	5,591	4,771
Other U.S.-----	105	105	119	107	245	339
Total <u>2/</u> -----	<u>3/2,861</u>	2,535	<u>3/755</u>	607	<u>3/8,073</u>	7,115

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

3/ Includes estimated data.

Table 3.--U.S. exports of iron ore
 (Thousand long tons)

Period	Canada	Other	Total <u>1/</u>	
			1986	1985
1985 <u>p/</u> -----	5,034	1	--	5,034
1986: January-----	13	(<u>2/</u>)	13	275

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 dry long tons)

Period	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	1986 Total <u>1/</u>	1985 Total <u>1/</u>
1985-----	20,229	14,723	4,220	42	--	39,215
1986: January-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,482

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	January 1986			Year to date 1985 (thousand long tons)
	Thousand long tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1/</u> (dollars per ton)	
Brazil-----	362	7,311	20.20	415
Canada-----	<u>2/</u> 573	<u>2/</u> 25,775	44.98	317
Liberia-----	72	1,052	14.61	223
Venezuela <u>3/</u> -----	285	5,043	17.69	111
Other-----	--	--	--	(<u>4/</u>)
Total <u>5/</u> -----	1,292	39,181	30.33	1,066

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

2/ Being questioned.

3/ Data for Venezuela in 1985 includes some shipments of direct-reduced iron reported as iron ore. Verification has been requested.

4/ Less than one-half unit.

5/ 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	
	January 1986	January 1985	January 31 1986	January 31 1985
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	570	423	764	1,457
California, Colorado, Utah-----	165	155	147	198
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	532	432	1,842	2,117
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,138	1,852	7,239	7,651
Michigan, Minnesota-----	443	524	1,328	1,878
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island-----	1,628	1,622	5,745	7,173
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,476	5,009	17,065	20,473
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----			2,122	2,823

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process		Pig iron produced	
	January 1986	January 1985	January 1986	January 1985
Blast furnaces-----	4,790	4,336	3,837	3,544
Steel furnaces-----	11	10	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> -----	664	658	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	10	5	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,476	5,009	3,837	3,544

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 1986	January 1985
Baltimore-----	365	104
Chicago-----	(1/)	282
Cleveland-----	179	47
Detroit-----	23	27
Houston-----	7	12
Mobile-----	212	178
New Orleans-----	185	75
Philadelphia-----	321	335
Other-----	--	6
Total <u>2/</u> -----	1,292	1,066

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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