



# 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 FEBRUARY 1986

U.S. mine production and shipments of iron ore increased 20% and 46%, respectively, from those of January, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The increase in production was due mainly to resumption of operations in mid-January at United States Steel Corp.'s Minntac Mine and the Hibbing Taconite Co. U.S. imports of iron ore decreased slightly from January levels to 1.2 million long tons, while exports were minimal because of the closure of loading ports on the upper Great Lakes for the winter. Daily consumption of iron ore and production of pig iron remained unchanged from the previous month, although the monthly totals decreased 5% and 7%, respectively, because of the fewer days in February. On February 28, 50 blast furnaces were in operation, 3 more than on January 31.

Inland Steel Co. announced that it would resume pellet production at its Minorca Mine in Virginia, MN, on March 16 at a reduced rate of 1.6 million tons per year (tpy). Only 290 of the former 405 employees will be recalled as a result of the downsizing of operating capacity from 2.6 million tpy to 2.0 million tpy. Operations were suspended at the mine on November 17 because of reduced pellet demand from Inland's Indiana Harbor Works in East Chicago, IN, which is also being downsized. Only five of the nine blast furnaces at Indiana Harbor were running at the end of December 1985.

Update: The Head-of-the-Lakes iron ore shipping season began on April 1 with the opening of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, MI. United States Steel Corp.'s mv. Edwin H. Gott loaded 52,360 gross tons of taconite pellets at Two Harbors, MN, on April 1 for delivery to the terminal at Conneaut, OH. Six days later, the M. A. Hanna Co.'s mv. George A. Stinson left Toledo bound for Superior to load its first cargo of pellets of the season.

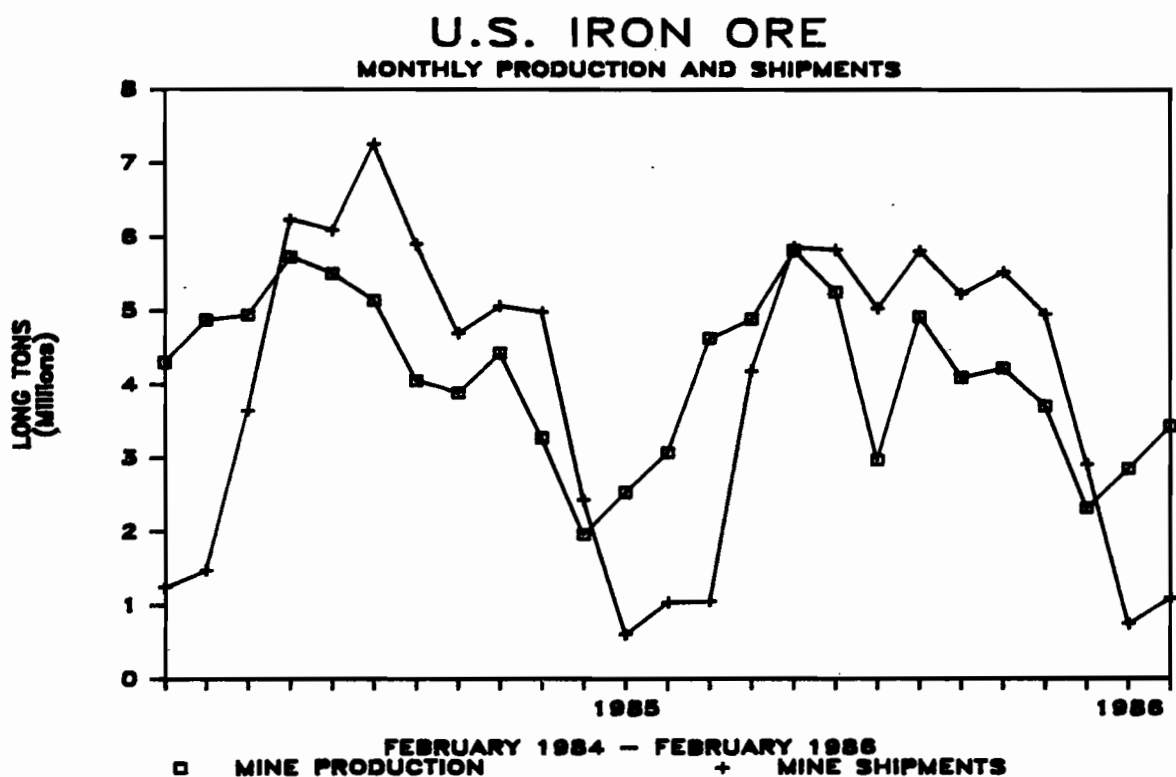


Table 1.--U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/  
 (Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)  
 (Thousand long tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total <u>2/</u>	
			1986 <u>3/</u>	1985
Production:				
1985 p/-----	47,394	1,105	--	48,499
1986:				
January-----	2,756	105	2,861	2,535
February-----	3,342	102	3,443	3,077
Shipments:				
1985 p/-----	46,709	1,408	--	48,114
1986:				
January-----	637	119	755	607
February-----	1,023	83	1,106	1,046

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 February		Shipments February		Mine Stocks February 28	
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,034	1,145	--	--	3,271	3,150
Minnesota-----	2,308	1,841	1,023	957	6,872	5,655
Other U.S.-----	102	90	83	89	264	341
Total <u>2/</u> -----	<u>3/3,443</u>	3,077	<u>3/1,106</u>	1,046	<u>3/10,407</u>	9,146

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 p/-----	5,034	1	--	5,034
1986:				
January-----	13	( <u>2/</u> )	13	275
February-----	( <u>2/</u> )	( <u>2/</u> )	( <u>2/</u> )	( <u>2/</u> )

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-----	456	1,222	363	4	2,045	<u>r/</u> 2,216
February-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,118

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	February 1986		Year to date 1986			Year to date 1985 (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-----	454	8,710	816	16,021	19.63	471
Canada-----	<u>2/</u> 169	<u>2/</u> 7,535	742	33,310	44.89	728
Liberia-----	120	1,756	192	2,808	14.63	284
Venezuela <u>3/</u> ---	466	10,258	751	15,301	20.37	150
Other-----	--	--	--	--	--	( <u>4/</u> )
Total <u>5/</u> ---	1,209	28,259	2,500	67,440	26.98	1,634

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

2/ Being questioned.

3/ Data for Venezuela 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	
	February 1986	Year to date		February 28	
		1986	1985	1986	1985
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	462	1,032	820	673	1,244
California, Colorado, Utah---	152	316	313	141	192
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	467	999	867	1,824	1,891
Illinois, Indiana-----	1,933	4,071	3,611	5,545	6,131
Michigan, Minnesota-----	421	863	1,017	1,172	1,655
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,775	3,403	3,412	4,581	6,142
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,209	10,685	10,040	13,936	17,254

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 1,841 2,524

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	February 1986	Year to date		February 1986	Year to date	
		1986	1985		1986	1985
Blast furnaces-----	4,564	9,354	8,713	3,573	<u>r/</u> 7,455	7,021
Steel furnaces-----	20	31	24	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> ---	622	1,287	1,293	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	3	13	10	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,209	10,685	10,040	3,573	<u>r/</u> 7,455	7,021

r/ Revised.

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	February 1986	Year to date	
		1986	1985
Baltimore-----	416	781	204
Charleston-----	25	25	--
Chicago-----	(1/)	(1/)	282
Cleveland-----	--	179	70
Detroit-----	(1/)	23	27
Houston-----	--	7	12
Mobile-----	299	511	496
New Orleans-----	124	309	131
Philadelphia-----	344	666	404
Other-----	--	--	7
Total <u>2</u> /-----	1,209	2,500	1,634

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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