



# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Iron Ore, Monthly

## IRON ORE IN MARCH 1986

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March was 12% higher than that in February, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine stocks rose from 10.4 to 13.0 million long tons during the month. Low mine shipments and an increase in iron ore consumption, on the other hand, contributed to a 3.6 million ton decrease in ore stocks at U.S. receiving docks and consuming plants over the same period. On March 31, 49 blast furnaces were in operation, 1 less than on February 28.

In Western Europe and Japan, most of the iron ore prices set in the 1986 contracts were unchanged or slightly lower than those of 1985. Prices negotiated under West German contracts with various producers were reported as follows (f.o.b., in U.S. cents per dry metric ton unit of iron):

Producer	Ore type	Prices	
		CY 1986	CY 1985
Iron Ore Co. of Canada	pellets	36.50	36.50
Quebec Cartier Mining Co.	pellets	36.50	36.50
Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD)	pellets	--	36.00
Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD)	fines	26.26	26.56
Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD)	Carajas fines	27.50	--
Mineracoes Brasileiras Reunidas	fines	26.26	26.56
Samarco Mineracao S.A.	pellets	34.00	34.00
Iron & Steel Corp. of South Africa Ltd.	fines	25.20*	25.51*
Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara AB	Kiruna B fines	27.90	28.50

Four of the prices negotiated to date under Japanese contracts for fiscal 1986 are shown below (f.o.b., in U.S. cents per dry metric ton unit of iron):

Producer	Ore type	Prices	
		FY 1986	FY 1985
Cia. de Acero del Pacifico S.A.	Romeral fines	18.11	20.57
National Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	Bailadila fines	24.56	25.82
Hierro Peru	pellet feed	18.03	19.93
Iron & Steel Corp. of South Africa Ltd.	fines	23.05*	24.26*

\* Subject to 2.50 cents penalty for alkali impurities in 1986 and 2.00 cents penalty in 1985.

Prepared in the Division of Ferrous Metals, June 9, 1986.

**LONG TONS (Millions)**

**MINE PRODUCTION** (Squares) **MINE SHIPMENTS** (Plus)

**MARCH 1984 - MARCH 1986**

Month	MINE PRODUCTION (Millions)	MINE SHIPMENTS (Millions)
Mar 84	4.9	1.5
Apr 84	4.9	3.7
May 84	5.7	6.3
Jun 84	5.5	6.1
Jul 84	5.2	7.3
Aug 84	4.1	5.9
Sep 84	3.9	4.7
Oct 84	4.4	5.1
Nov 84	3.3	5.0
Dec 84	2.0	2.4
Jan 85	2.5	0.6
Feb 85	3.1	1.1
Mar 85	4.6	1.1
Apr 85	4.9	4.3
May 85	5.8	5.8
Jun 85	5.3	5.8
Jul 85	3.0	5.1
Aug 85	4.9	5.8
Sep 85	4.2	5.3
Oct 85	4.3	5.5
Nov 85	3.7	5.0
Dec 85	2.4	2.9
Jan 86	2.8	0.8
Feb 86	3.5	1.2
Mar 86	3.8	1.3

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total 2/	
			1986 3/	1985
<b>Production:</b>				
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
March-----	3,755	85	3,840	4,634
<b>Shipments:</b>				
1985 p/-----	46,709	1,408	--	48,114
1986:				
January-----	637	119	755	607
February-----	1,023	83	1,106	1,046
March-----	1,172	55	1,226	1,065

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 March		Shipments March		Mine Stocks March 31	
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	1,041	1,260	179	55	4,134	4,355
Minnesota-----	2,714	3,279	993	944	8,563	7,990
Other U.S.-----	85	96	55	67	302	369
Total <u>2/</u> -----	<u>3/3,840</u>	4,634	<u>3/1,226</u>	1,065	<u>3/12,998</u>	12,714

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> )
March-----	143	( <u>2/</u> )	143	1

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	2,216
February-----	469	1,106	320	2	1,898	<u>r/</u> 2,122
March-----	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,658

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	March 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-----	253	4,982	1,069	21,003	19.65	690
Canada-----	<u>2/</u> 390	<u>2/</u> 13,970	1,132	47,281	41.77	1,009
Liberia-----	130	1,897	322	4,704	14.61	691
Peru-----	18	526	18	526	29.22	19
Venezuela <u>3/</u> --	<u>2/</u> 311	<u>2/</u> 6,337	1,061	21,638	20.39	<u>r/</u> 135
Other-----	<u>2/</u> 67	<u>2/</u> 980	67	980	14.63	( <u>4/</u> )
Total <u>5/</u> ----	1,168	28,693	3,668	96,133	26.21	2,543

r/ Revised.

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 March 31	
	March 1986	Year to date		1986	1985
		1986	1985		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri-----	422	1,454	1,402	658	904
California, Colorado, Utah---	152	468	493	189	215
Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia-----	551	1,550	1,391	1,529	1,902
Illinois, Indiana-----	2,034	6,105	5,723	3,945	4,319
Michigan, Minnesota-----	472	1,335	1,522	1,220	1,369
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island---	1,890	5,294	5,431	3,561	5,072
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,522	16,206	15,962	11,102	13,780
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks-----				1,040	1,558

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	March 1986	Year to date		March 1986	Year to date	
		1986	1985		1986	1985
Blast furnaces-----	4,767	14,121	13,832	3,876	11,331	11,200
Steel furnaces-----	33	65	41	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants <u>2/</u> --	719	2,006	2,076	--	--	--
Miscellaneous <u>3/</u> -----	2	15	13	--	--	--
Total <u>1/</u> -----	5,522	16,206	15,962	3,876	11,331	11,200

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	March 1986	Year to date	
		1986	1985
Baltimore-----	197	978	815
Charleston-----	42	67	20
Chicago-----	--	--	307
Cleveland-----	--	179	70
Detroit-----	(1/)	23	27
Houston-----	--	7	12
Mobile-----	315	827	569
New Orleans-----	185	494	182
Philadelphia-----	430	1,095	534
Other-----	--	--	7
Total <u>2</u> /-----	1,168	3,668	2,543

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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