



# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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



Donald Paul Hodel, Secretary

David S. Brown, Acting Director

For information call Peter H. Kuck  
Telephone: (202) 634-1023

Iron Ore, Monthly

## IRON ORE IN MAY 1987

U.S. mine production of iron ore in May was 30% more than that of April, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. One-half of the sharp increase in production was due to resumption of operations at USX Corp.'s Minntac Mine in Mountain Iron, MN. Shipments from U.S. loading docks on the Great Lakes totaled 5.6 million long tons and were 47% greater than those of the previous month. A large part of the additional tonnage was used to replenish furnace yard stocks, which had fallen to record-low levels during the winter. Imports rose 36%, with 62% of the material entering through Gulf or mid-Atlantic ports. Consumption of ore and agglomerates continued to improve as a result of the USX labor settlement on January 31, but remained extremely weak. Total consumption through May was only 23.4 million tons, down 13% from the 27.0 million tons for the same period in 1986. On May 31, 45 blast furnaces were in operation, the same number as on April 30.

Operations were resumed at the Minntac Mine and pelletizing plant on May 17. However, USX management cut back the production rate to 9.2 million tons of pellets per year from the previous level of 12.5 million tons. The production cutback was dictated in part by the idling and eventual sale of USX's Geneva Steelworks at Orem, UT. Geneva had been a major user of Minntac pellets since 1983 when the company closed its last western mine at Atlantic City, WY.

Minntac was shut down on August 1, 1986 at the start of the company-wide labor dispute with the United Steelworkers of America. The dispute was settled on January 31, but USX management decided to keep the mining complex closed for an additional 3½ months until excess pellet stocks at the remaining, reopened blast furnaces were drawn down to satisfactory levels. Only four of the grate/kiln lines at the Minntac pelletizing plant were restarted. The facility has a total of 7 grate/kiln lines with an aggregate design capacity of 18.5 million tons. The Minnesota division was in the process of recalling 950 hourly and 200 salaried employees.

Update: At the end of August, USX Corp. sold its Geneva Works to a newly formed subsidiary of Basic Manufacturing and Technologies of Utah Inc. The new subsidiary, Geneva Steel of Utah, will initially operate one blast furnace and two open hearth furnaces. Geneva is the only integrated steel plant operating west of the Mississippi.

# U.S. IRON ORE

## MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

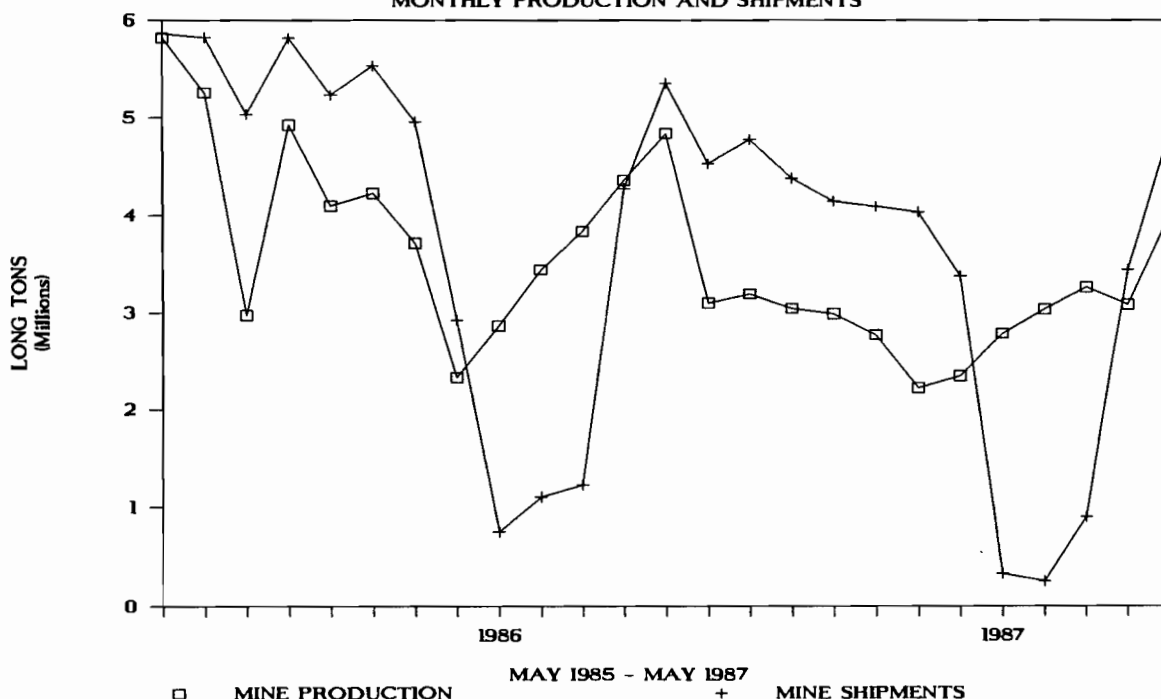


Table 1. - U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)  
(Thousand long tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total <u>2/</u>	
			1987	1986
<b>Production:</b>				
1986 <u>p/</u> -----	38,179	809	--	38,988
1987:				
1st Quarter-----	8,898	171	9,069	10,144
April-----	3,020	56	3,076	4,363
May-----	3,942	58	4,000	4,838
<b>Shipments:</b>				
1986 <u>p/</u> -----	41,225	823	--	42,048
1987:				
1st Quarter-----	1,341	142	1,484	3,087
April-----	3,366	70	3,437	<u>r/</u> 4,277
May-----	4,783	61	4,844	5,354

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Excludes byproduct ore, except where noted.

2/ Includes estimated data. 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)

District	Production May		Shipments May		Mine Stocks May 31	
	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	947	927	1,509	1,187	2,498	3,918
Minnesota-----	2,995	3,849	3,275	4,109	6,522	8,427
Other U.S.-----	58	61	61	59	261	290
Total <u>2/</u> -----	4,000	4,838	4,844	5,354	9,281	12,635

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes estimated data. 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>	
			1987	1986
1986 <u>p/</u> -----	4,478	3	--	4,482
1987:				
1st Quarter-----	92	( <u>2/</u> )	92	156
April-----	440	( <u>2/</u> )	440	218
May-----	911	( <u>2/</u> )	911	533

p/ Preliminary.

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Table 4. - Canada: Shipments of iron ore  
(Thousand dry long tons)

Period	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	1987 Total <u>1/</u>	1986 Total <u>1/</u>
1986 <u>p/</u> -----	20,086	13,285	3,329	26	--	36,724
1987:						
1st Quarter---	2,249	2,977	848	6	6,080	5,648
April-----	1,623	1,225	266	2	3,115	3,769
May-----	1,144	1,654	271	2	3,071	3,874

p/ Preliminary.

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 country  
(Exclusive of ore containing 10% or more manganese)

Country of origin	May 1987		Year to date 1987			Year to date 1986 (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-----	329	5,462	1,666	29,373	17.63	1,705
Canada-----	820	27,406	1,578	55,895	35.42	2,987
Chile-----	--	--	329	5,709	17.33	36
Liberia-----	60	706	373	5,038	13.49	635
Mauritania-----	--	--	66	1,049	15.95	--
Peru-----	--	--	41	823	20.27	38
Spain-----	--	--	1	27	51.76	--
Sweden-----	--	--	55	1,083	19.64	35
Venezuela-----	370	7,274	899	17,973	20.00	1,287
Other-----	( <u>2/</u> )	12	58	1,590	27.20	67
Total <u>3/</u> -----	1,580	40,861	5,066	118,560	23.40	6,791

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

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

Source: 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 May 31	
	May 1987	Year to date		1987	1986
		1987	1986		
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Missouri-----	325	1,581	2,144	812	710
California, Colorado, and Utah- Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia-----	--	--	789	--	177
Illinois and Indiana-----	602	3,106	2,687	1,341	1,596
Michigan and Minnesota-----	2,161	9,140	10,344	4,041	4,221
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Rhode Island-	496	2,391	2,227	1,010	1,289
	1,751	7,207	8,787	1,823	3,380
<b>Total 1/-----</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>23,425</b>	<b>26,979</b>	<b>9,027</b>	<b>11,373</b>

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 716 1,040

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	May 1987	Year to date		May 1987	Year to date	
		1987	1986		1987	1986
Blast furnaces-----	4,788	20,590	23,456	3,800	16,497	19,049
Steel furnaces-----	11	30	118	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 2/--	534	2,791	3,357	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 3/-----	1	13	48	--	--	--
<b>Total 1/-----</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>23,425</b>	<b>26,979</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>16,497</b>	<b>19,049</b>

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	May 1987	Year to date	
		1987	1986
Baltimore-----	243	1,443	2,102
Buffalo-----	--	(1/)	r/(1/)
Charleston-----	24	134	86
Chicago-----	294	515	291
Cleveland-----	261	404	572
Detroit-----	52	78	92
Houston-----	--	(1/)	7
Mobile-----	--	406	1,265
New Orleans-----	234	737	750
New York-----	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia-----	471	1,350	1,627
San Juan, PR-----	--	1	--
Wilmington, NC-----	(1/)	(1/)	--
<b>Total 2/-----</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>5,066</b>	<b>6,791</b>

r/ Revised.

1/ Less than one-half unit.

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