



U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Mines

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

T S Ary, Director

Washington, DC 20241

For more information call:

Iron Ore, Monthly

Peter H. Kuck, Iron Ore Specialist, (202) 634-1023

Cheryl M. Cvetic, Resource Specialist, (202) 634-1023

IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 1989

U.S. mine production of iron ore in October was only slightly less than that of September, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine shipments, on the other hand, increased by more than 5%. Shipments from U.S. loading docks on the upper Great Lakes totaled 5.4 million metric tons and were up 4% from the previous month. Monthly consumption of ore and agglomerates rose 7% to 6.2 million tons. On October 31, 48 blast furnaces were in operation, 1 less than on September 30.

On November 23, NL Chemicals Inc. shut down its magnetite concentrating operation at Tahawus in Essex County, New York. The company and its predecessor, NL Industries, Inc. had been producing heavy-medium quality concentrate from crude magnetite stockpiled at the MacIntyre Mine. There has been no mining at the site since 1982. The bulk of the concentrate was being railed to Eastern coal mines for coal washing.

The MacIntyre Mine was opened by the National Lead Co., the grandparent of NL Chemicals, in July 1942 to provide ilmenite (FeTiO_3) for the titanium dioxide (TiO_2) pigment industry. At the time, the ilmenite was desperately needed to replace supplies of beach sands from India, which had been cut off by the war. Crude magnetite was recovered as a byproduct of the ilmenite operation. During the 40-year period, National Lead recovered 12 million tons of ilmenite and 18 million tons of magnetite from 60 million tons of crude ore. The ilmenite was shipped to National Lead's TiO_2 plants in Sayreville, NJ, and St. Louis, MO. National Lead dominated the titanium pigment market for many years, accounting for as much as 60% of the country's output of TiO_2 , but lost ground when its sulfate process became uncompetitive with the newer, more economical chloride process. Officials of NL Chemicals estimate that 31 million tons of ilmenite and 21 million tons of magnetite still remain in the deposit.

NL Chemicals will maintain an active presence at the mine and has initiated a voluntary reclamation program that goes beyond requirements set by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The company will keep its State mining permit in force, continue to ship concentrate from existing stockpiles, and is planning to sell crushed stone to contractors. In August, NL Chemicals acquired a 72-year lease on the 33-mile long track that runs from the mine to the trunk line of the Delaware & Hudson Railway at North Creek. The lease was obtained at a public auction from the General Services Administration for \$950,000. The rail line was built by the Federal Government in 1943.

Prepared in the Branch of Ferrous Metals, January 19, 1990.

Changes to the Mineral Industry Surveys for Iron Ore: Congress enacted the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 100-418) on August 23, 1988, to enhance the competitiveness of the Nation's industries and to improve the management of U.S. trade strategy. This comprehensive act, included among other items, provisions modifying U.S. customs laws and tariff schedules. Subtitle B of the new law requires that all tariff schedules after January 1, 1989, conform to the nomenclature of the internationally established Harmonized System. All of the iron ore trade statistics collected by the Bureau of the Census are now being compiled and published in metric units. To avoid confusion, the Bureau of Mines has decided to also present all of its iron ore production and consumption statistics in metric units. To convert from metric tons to long tons, multiply the published number by 0.984207.

U.S. IRON ORE

MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

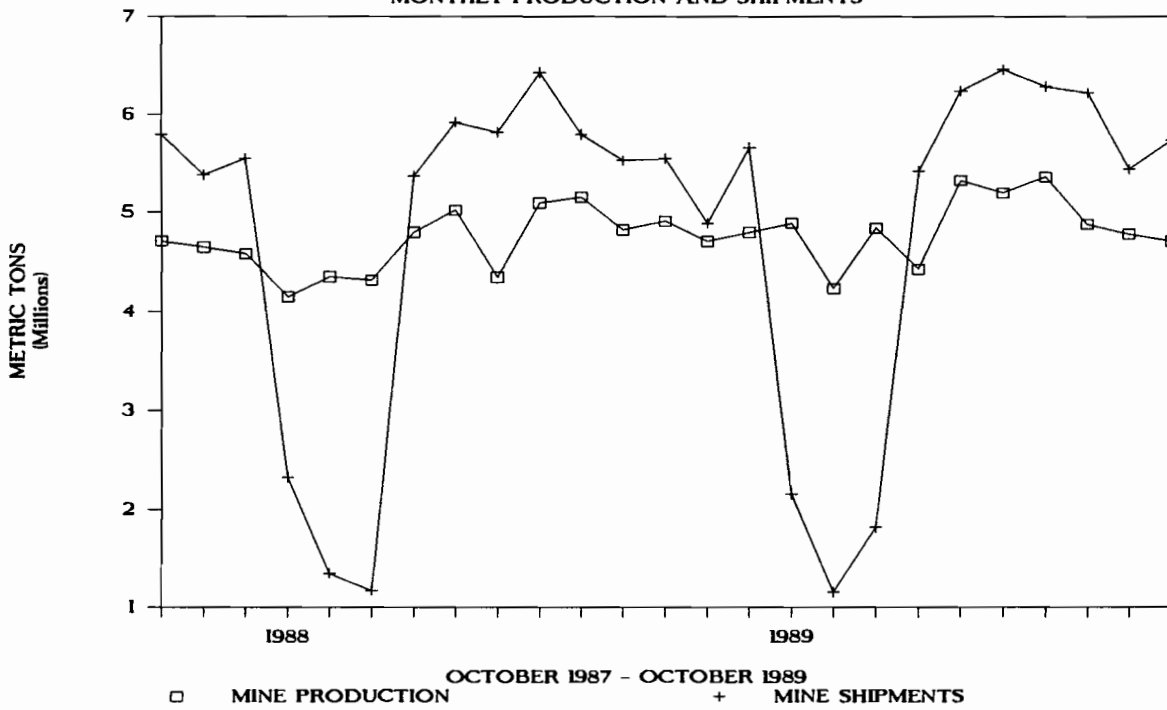


Table 1. - U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total 2/	
			1989	1988
Production:				
1988-----	56,038	1,477	--	57,515
1989:				
1st Quarter-----	13,750	210	13,960	12,809
2nd Quarter-----	14,664	282	14,946	14,156
3rd Quarter-----	14,730	278	15,009	15,069
October-----	4,624	80	4,703	4,910
Shipments:				
1988-----	55,358	1,755	--	57,113
1989:				
1st Quarter-----	4,957	174	5,131	4,846
2nd Quarter-----	17,757	364	18,121	17,100
3rd Quarter-----	17,653	292	17,945	17,755
October-----	5,643	92	5,735	5,551

1/ Excludes byproduct ore, except where noted.

2/ 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 metric tons)

District	Production October		Shipments October		Mine Stocks October 31	
	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988
Lake Superior:						
Michigan-----	997	1,253	1,334	1,493	1,459	871
Minnesota-----	3,627	3,583	4,309	3,976	3,406	3,312
Other U.S.-----	80	75	92	81	110	173
Total <u>2/</u> -----	4,703	4,910	5,735	5,551	4,976	4,356

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

Table 3. - Canada: Shipments of iron ore
(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfound- land	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total <u>1/</u>	
					1989	1988
1988 <u>p/</u> -----	20,395	16,446	2,941	59	--	39,840
1989:						
1st Quarter-----	2,679	2,448	870	11	6,008	7,052
2nd Quarter-----	6,345	3,936	929	20	11,230	10,550
3rd Quarter-----	5,859	4,703	779	15	11,355	10,777
October-----	1,558	1,558	273	7	3,396	3,852

p/ Preliminary.

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

Source: Energy, Mines, and Resources Canada.

Table 4. - U.S. consumption and stocks of iron ore and agglomerates
at consuming plants and production of pig iron
(Thousand metric tons)

State or Region	Consumption			Stocks	
	September 1989	Year to date 1/ 1989	1988	September 30 1989	1988
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Missouri-----	490	4,291	3,080	1,400	1,176
California, Colorado, and Utah- Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia-----	183	1,642	NA	87	NA
Illinois and Indiana-----	458	6,066	6,548	2,255	1,828
Michigan and Minnesota-----	2,317	21,318	21,507	5,564	6,693
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Rhode Island-	601	5,427	4,486	1,993	1,989
	1,715	17,257	17,112	3,482	3,768
Total 2/-	5,764	56,001	52,733	14,781	15,455

Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks----- 1,804 r/2,419

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	September 1989	Year to date 1/ 1989	1988	September 1989	Year to date 1/ 1989	1988
Blast furnaces-----	5,337	49,762	46,629	3,994	38,697	38,150
Steel furnaces-----	13	216	204	--	--	--
Agglomerating plants 3/--	414	6,019	5,878	--	--	--
Miscellaneous 4/-	(5/)	3	21	--	--	--
Total 2/-	5,764	56,001	52,733	3,994	38,697	38,150

NA Not available.

r/ Revised.

1/ May include revisions for previous month.

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

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

5/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore).
American Iron and Steel Institute (production of pig iron).

Table 5. - U.S. exports of iron ore and agglomerates, by country of destination
(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total <u>1/</u>	
				1989	1988
1988 -----	5,277	1	7	--	5,285
1989:					
1st Quarter-----	346	(<u>2/</u>)	2	348	340
2nd Quarter-----	1,990	(<u>2/</u>)	2	1,991	1,613
July-----	393	--	(<u>2/</u>)	393	685
August-----	590	(<u>2/</u>)	1	592	430
September-----	715	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)	715	363

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the export classification system (Schedule B).

Table 6. - U.S. exports of iron ore and agglomerates, by type
(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Pellets	Concentrates	Direct shipping ores	Other	Total <u>1/</u>
1988 -----	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,285
1989:					
1st Quarter-----	1	347	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)	348
2nd Quarter-----	1,158	824	<u>r/1</u>	9	1,991
July-----	341	52	--	(<u>2/</u>)	393
August-----	292	151	144	6	592
September-----	201	514	(<u>2/</u>)	--	715

NA Not Available.

r/ Revised.

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the export classification system (Schedule B).

Table 7. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore and agglomerates, by country
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin	September 1989		Year to date 1989			Year to date 1988 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1</u> / (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1</u> / (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1</u> / (dollars per ton)	
Australia-----	59	664	303	3,912	12.92	719
Brazil-----	486	8,417	4,167	73,880	17.73	4,012
Canada-----	614	20,095	6,156	210,282	34.16	7,083
Chile-----	--	--	61	1,200	19.74	139
India-----	59	1,037	59	1,037	17.58	62
Liberia-----	--	--	200	2,950	14.77	128
Mauritania-----	--	--	460	7,820	16.99	329
Norway-----	--	--	40	693	17.24	--
Peru-----	(<u>2</u> /)	1	104	2,245	21.49	153
Philippines <u>3</u> /--	--	--	66	1,622	24.49	173
Sweden-----	--	--	--	--	--	46
Venezuela-----	302	8,089	3,361	85,818	25.54	2,564
Other-----	(<u>2</u> /)	7	<u>4</u> /2	<u>4</u> /108	61.47	91
Total <u>5</u> /-----	1,520	38,310	14,980	391,569	26.14	15,499

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

3/ Sinter made from raw materials supplied by Australia, Brazil, and other countries.

4/ Part being questioned.

5/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Unit values shown above are calculated from unrounded data.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Table 8. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore and agglomerates, by type
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Type of product	September 1989		Year to date 1989			Year to date 1988 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1</u> / (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1</u> / (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1</u> / (dollars per ton)	
Concentrates-----	27	540	313	6,643	21.22	NA
Coarse ores-----	--	--	462	10,839	23.48	NA
Fine ores-----	908	22,507	8,954	225,075	25.14	NA
Pellets-----	489	13,650	<u>2</u> /4,196	<u>2</u> /128,309	30.58	NA
Briquettes-----	--	--	--	--	--	NA
Other						
agglomerates---	95	1,606	935	18,657	19.95	NA
Roasted pyrites--	(<u>3</u> /)	7	121	2,045	16.97	NA
Total <u>4</u> /-----	1,520	38,310	14,980	391,569	26.14	15,499

NA Not Available.

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

2/ Part being questioned.

3/ Less than one-half unit.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Unit values shown above are calculated from unrounded data.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Table 9. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore and agglomerates in September 1989
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)
(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of Product						Total <u>1/</u>
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Australia---	--	--	59	--	--	--	59
Brazil-----	--	--	366	24	95	--	486
Canada-----	27	--	423	164	--	--	614
India-----	--	--	--	59	--	--	59
Peru-----	--	--	--	--	--	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)
Venezuela----	--	--	59	243	--	--	302
Other-----	(<u>2/</u>)	--	--	--	--	(<u>2/</u>)	(<u>2/</u>)
Total <u>1/</u> ---	27	--	908	489	95	(<u>2/</u>)	1,520

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

2/ Less than one-half unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Table 10. - U.S. imports for consumption of pellets, by country

Country of origin	September 1989		Year to date 1989			Year to date 1988 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <u>1/</u> (thousand dollars)	Value <u>1/</u> (dollars per ton)	
Brazil-----	24	793	355	10,322	29.10	NA
Canada-----	164	4,623	2,187	71,399	32.65	NA
India-----	59	1,037	59	1,037	17.58	NA
Peru-----	--	--	78	1,894	24.18	NA
Venezuela-----	243	7,197	1,515	43,568	28.75	NA
Other-----	--	--	<u>2/2</u>	<u>2/89</u>	54.01	NA
Total <u>3/</u> -----	489	13,650	4,196	128,309	30.58	NA

NA Not Available.

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

2/ Being questioned.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Unit values shown above are calculated from unrounded data.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under item 2601.12.00.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Table 11. - U.S. imports for consumption of iron ore and agglomerates,
by customs district
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)
(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	September 1989	Year to date	
		1989	1988
Baltimore-----	392	4,836	6,089
Charleston, SC-----	24	354	315
Chicago-----	268	2,209	1,356
Cleveland-----	133	1,084	851
Detroit-----	132	478	422
Houston-----	--	(1/)	31
Mobile-----	62	1,455	992
New Orleans-----	208	1,452	1,358
New York-----	(1/)	2/2	1
Philadelphia-----	302	3,037	4,043
San Juan, PR-----	--	(1/)	(1/)
Seattle-----	--	--	26
Other-----	(1/)	2/ 72	16
Total 3/-----	1,520	14,980	15,499

1/ Less than one-half unit.

2/ Part being questioned.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under heading 2601 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Table 12. - U.S. imports for consumption of pellets, by customs district
(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	September 1989	Year to date	
		1989	1988
Baltimore-----	60	628	NA
Charleston, SC-----	24	270	NA
Chicago-----	25	562	NA
Cleveland-----	79	343	NA
Philadelphia-----	302	2,391	NA
Other-----	--	<u>1</u> /2	NA
Total <u>2</u> /-----	489	4,196	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Being questioned.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under item 2601.12.00.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States.