



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

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

T S Ary, Director

Washington, DC 20241

For more information call:

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

Cheryl M. Cvetic, Commodity Specialist, (202) 634-1019

Robin C. Kaiser, Mineral Data Assistant, (202) 634-1013

IRON ORE IN JULY 1990

U.S. mine production of iron ore in July was 8% higher than that of June, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mine shipments increased 11%, with blast furnace operators in Indiana and Michigan taking advantage of the mild weather to build up stocks for the winter. Shipments from U.S. loading docks on the upper Great Lakes totaled 6.2 million metric tons and were slightly higher than those of the previous month. With more pellets being delivered, mine stocks were down by almost 11%, while stocks at consuming plants were up 16%. Consumption of ore and agglomerates was slightly higher than that of the previous month. On July 31, 48 blast furnaces were in operation, the same number as on June 30.

Pea Ridge Iron Ore Co. Sold to Big River Minerals Corp.

Fluor Corp. has sold the Pea Ridge Iron Ore Co. to Big River Minerals Corp. for \$11.78 million. The principal assets of Pea Ridge are an underground iron mine and an associated pelletizing plant near Sullivan, MO. The sale resulted in a one-time gain of \$8 million for Fluor, an engineering and construction company headquartered in Irvine, CA. Fluor acquired Pea Ridge in the 1981 takeover of St. Joe Minerals Corp. but had been carrying the Missouri company as a discontinued operation since 1987.

Big River is a diversified natural resource company formed by former executives of St. Joe and Fluor in late 1987 and is based in St. Louis. The parent company also has interests in a zinc refinery at Sauget, IL, and seven coal mines in West Virginia and Ohio. According to Big River officials, Pea Ridge's principal product will continue to be olivine-based pellets for the steel industry. However, Pea Ridge plans to increase production of its heavy media grade of magnetite concentrate and hopes to expand its niche in the coal preparation portion of the market. Shares in the heavy media market had to be readjusted after NL Chemicals, Inc. shut down its concentrating operation at Tahawus, NY, in November 1989. (See October 1989 MIS.) Pea Ridge also sells an oxide powder that is used in the manufacturing of ceramic magnets. The company recently began producing a new type of pellet for the magnet industry, which is made with Peridur (a cellulose-based organic binder) and averages 69.7% Fe and only 0.21% SiO₂.

Prepared in the Branch of Ferrous Metals and Branch of Data Collection and Coordination, November 5, 1990.

Pea Ridge is the only active underground iron mine in the United States and has proven reserves of 160 million tons of ore grading 55% magnetic iron. The mine was developed jointly by St. Joe and Bethlehem Steel Corp. between 1957 and 1964 at a cost of about \$52 million. At that time, Pea Ridge was known as the Meramec Mining Co.

The MINES-DATA System

The telephone number for the MINES-DATA computer bulletin board is (202) 634-4637; the computer settings are: 2400, N, 8, and 1. Anyone who needs technical assistance or a copy of the MINES-DATA instruction manual can leave a message with the answering machine by calling (202) 634-9632.

U.S. IRON ORE

MONTHLY PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

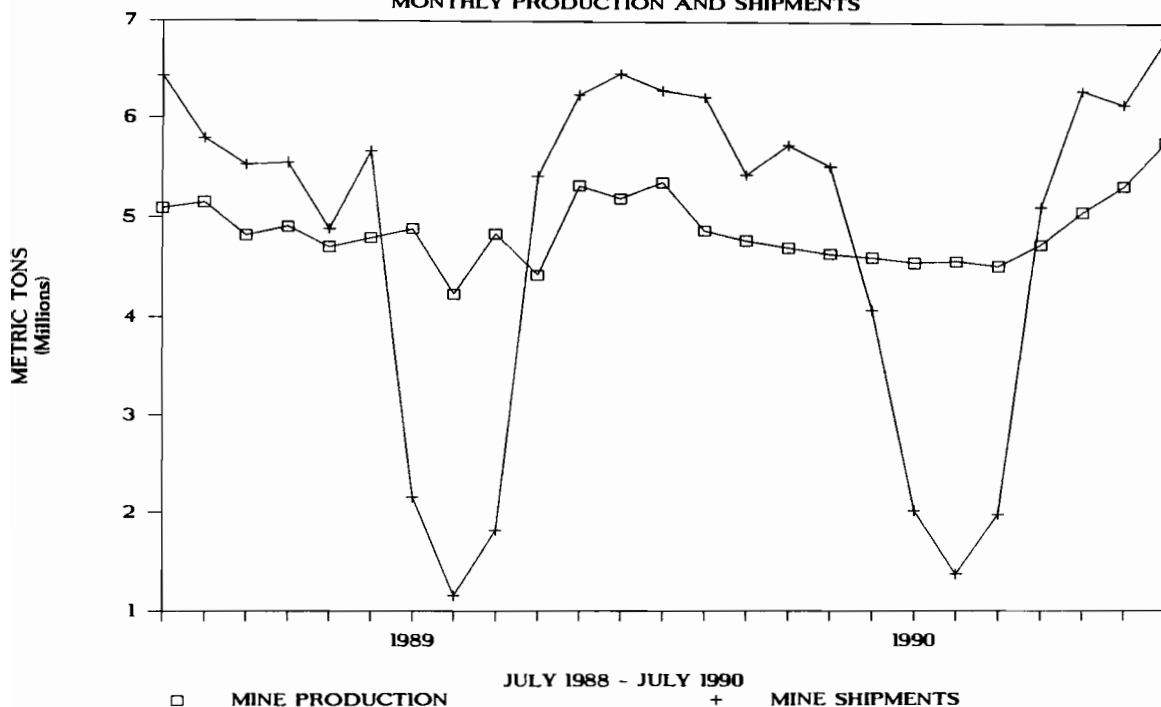


Table 1. - U.S. production and shipments of iron ore, by districts 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)
(thousand metric tons)

Period	Lake Superior	Other U.S.	Total 2/	
			1990	1989
Production:				
1989 p/.....	56,858	1,014	--	57,872
1990:				
1st Quarter.....	13,425	223	13,648	13,960
2nd Quarter.....	14,909	232	15,141	14,946
July.....	5,690	87	5,777	5,357
Shipments:				
1989 p/.....	55,473	1,057	--	56,530
1990:				
1st Quarter.....	5,145	230	5,375	5,131
2nd Quarter.....	17,335	250	17,585	18,121
July.....	6,766	83	6,849	6,289

p/ Preliminary

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 July		Shipments July		Mine Stocks July 31	
	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989
Lake Superior:						
Michigan.....	1,489	1,516	1,961	1,878	1,785	2,325
Minnesota.....	4,201	3,749	4,805	4,307	7,375	5,559
Other U.S.	87	92	83	104	127	124
Total 2/.....	5,777	5,357	6,849	6,289	9,287	8,008

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 1/	
					1990	1989
1989 p/.....	20,662	15,395	3,353	64	--	39,474
1990:						
1st Quarter.....	1,179	1,884	677	9	3,749	6,008
2nd Quarter.....	4,193	4,058	296	r/33	8,580	11,230
July.....	2,624	1,261	112	9	4,006	4,515

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

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	
	June	Year to date 1/		June 30	
	1990	1990	1989	1990	1989
Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Missouri.....	546	3,242	3,067	614	1,126
California, Colorado, and Utah.....	177	1,017	1,073	104	66
Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.....	513	3,182	4,353	1,556	1,717
Illinois and Indiana.....	2,728	14,106	14,418	3,533	4,044
Michigan and Minnesota.....	655	3,786	3,608	904	1,658
New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island.....	1,771	10,845	11,936	2,523	2,391
Total 2/.....	6,390	36,178	38,455	9,235	11,003
Stocks at U.S. receiving/transfer docks.....				1,408	r/1,593

Consuming Sector	Consumption by process			Pig iron produced		
	June	Year to date 1/		June	Year to date 1/	
	1990	1990	1989	1990	1990	1989
Blast furnaces.....	5,850	33,521	33,630	4,110	24,825	26,551
Steel furnaces.....	6	49	173	-- --	-- --	-- --
Agglomerating plants 3/.....	534	2,606	4,649	-- --	-- --	-- --
Miscellaneous 4/.....	(5/)	2	3	-- --	-- --	-- --
Total 2/.....	6,390	36,178	38,455	4,110	24,825	26,551

r/ Revised.

1/ May include revisions for previous months.

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 1/	
				1990	1989
1989 p/.....	5,359	(2/)	6	--	5,365
1990:					
1st Quarter....	352	(2/)	1	353	348
April.....	565	(2/)	(2/)	565	606
May.....	585	1	(2/)	586	605
June.....	662	--	(2/)	662	780

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 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 1/
1989 p/.....	4,852	353	145	16	5,365
1990:					
1st Quarter.....	296	3	2	52	353
April.....	564	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	565
May.....	504	2	6	74	586
June.....	636	(2/)	1	24	662

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 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	June 1990		Year to date 1990			Year to date 1989 (thousand metric tons
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Australia.....	--	--	14	584	42.14	184
Brazil.....	586	12,226	2,267	48,446	21.37	2,652
Canada.....	866	30,800	2,894	103,473	35.76	3,812
Chile.....	--	--	--	--	--	61
Liberia.....	--	--	--	--	--	200
Mauritania.....	61	1,258	217	4,780	22.01	324
Norway.....	--	--	--	--	--	40
Peru.....	2/2	2/9	18	511	27.83	64
Philippines 3/.....	--	--	--	--	--	66
Spain.....	--	--	(4/)	17	54.10	--
Venezuela.....	231	6,351	5/1,574	5/47,960	5/30.46	2,104
Other 6/.....	7/--	7/--	(4/)	7	351.95	(4/)
Total 8/.....	1,743	50,643	6,985	205,777	9/29.46	9,507

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

2/ Being questioned.

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

4/ Less than one-half unit.

5/ Part being questioned.

6/ Census has verified the 20-ton shipment of concentrates from the United Kingdom that was reported in April. The material was found to be siderite and had a value of \$5,592.

7/ Excludes 11,188 kilograms of high-carbon ferrochromium [7202.41.0000] from the Federal Republic of Germany erroneously reported as 118 tons of coarse ore. The ferrochromium had a Customs value of \$4,483.

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

9/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

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

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

Type of product	June 1990		Year to date 1990			Year to date 1989
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric ton)
Concentrates 2/.....	--	--	16	634	40.78	198
Coarse ores.....	3/61	3/1,500	260	6,756	25.96	262
Fine ores.....	1,320	36,096	4,245	115,101	27.11	r/5,767
Pellets.....	362	13,038	2,463	83,166	33.77	2,681
Briquettes.....	--	--	4/1	4/112	4/95.73	--
Other						
agglomerates.....	--	--	--	--	--	r/479
Roasted pyrites.....	4/(5/)	4/9	4/(5/)	4/9	4/4,305.00	121
Total 6/.....	1,743	50,643	6,985	205,777	7/29.46	9,507

r/ Revised.

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

2/ Census has verified the 20-ton shipment reported from the United Kingdom in April.

The material was found to be siderite and had a value of \$5,592.

3/ Excludes 11,188 kilograms of high-carbon ferrochromium [7202.41.0000] from the Federal Republic of Germany erroneously reported as 118 tons of coarse ore.

The ferrochromium had a Customs value of \$4,483.

4/ Being questioned.

5/ Less than one-half unit.

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

7/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

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 for iron ore and agglomerates
in June 1990
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)
(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of Product						Total 1/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil.....	--	--	586	--	--	--	586
Canada.....	--	--	562	304	--	--	866
Mauritania...	--	--	61	--	--	--	61
Peru.....	--	--	--	--	--	2/(3/)	2/(3/)
Venezuela....	--	61	111	58	--	--	231
Other.....	--	4/--	--	--	--	--	4/--
Total 1/.....	--	61	1,320	362	--	2/(3/)	1,743

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

2/ Being questioned.

3/ Less than one-half unit.

4/ Excludes 11,188 kilograms of high-carbon ferrochromium [7202.41.0000] from the Federal Republic of Germany erroneously reported as 118 tons of coarse ore.

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	June 1990		Year to date 1990			Year to date 1989
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Brazil.....	--	--	416	12,354	29.66	307
Canada.....	304	10,957	1,446	51,111	35.35	1,439
Peru.....	--	--	18	503	27.37	37
Venezuela.....	58	2,082	582	19,198	32.96	897
Total 2/.....	362	13,038	2,463	83,166	3/33.77	2,681

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

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

3/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census data reported under item 2601.12.00.30
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	June 1990	Year to date	
		1990	1989
Baltimore (13).....	426	1,663	r/3,217
Charleston, SC (16).....	--	220	195
Chicago (39).....	266	579	1,280
Cleveland (41).....	229	680	664
Detroit (38).....	146	302	231
Houston-Galveston (53)...	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Laredo (23).....	--	10	--
Mobile (19).....	375	1,251	956
New Orleans (20).....	121	714	925
New York (10).....	--	--	(1/)
Ogdensburg, NY (07).....	--	1	2
Philadelphia (11).....	181	1,565	2,038
San Francisco (28).....	--	--	(1/)
San Juan, PR (49).....	--	(1/)	(1/)
Other.....	--	--	r/--
Total 2/.....	1,743	6,985	9,507

r/Revised.

1/Less than one-half unit

2/Data may 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	June 1990	Year to date	
		1990	1989
Baltimore (13).....	--	335	351
Charleston, SC (16).....	--	196	135
Chicago (39).....	48	98	347
Cleveland (41).....	50	128	239
Laredo (23).....	--	10	--
Mobile (19).....	144	392	--
Philadelphia (11).....	120	1,305	1,609
Total 1/.....	362	2,463	2,681

1/ 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.