
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Mark Schaefer, Interim Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

William S. Kirk, Iron Ore Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4962, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: wkirk@usgs.gov

David Mann (Data), (703) 648-7978

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in August 1997 was 9.4% higher than that of July 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 5.9% and mine stocks decrea-

sed by 11.8%. Consumption and trade data for August 1997 will be included in a subsequent report.

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/	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
Production:						
1996:						
August	5,752	40,048	119	288	5,871	40,336
September	5,590	45,638	25	313	5,615	45,952
October	5,347	50,985	26	339	5,373	51,325
November	5,503	56,488	24	363	5,527	56,852
December	5,260	61,748	20	383	5,280	62,132
1997:						
January	4,773	4,773	16	16	4,788	4,788
February	4,719	9,492	25	40	4,744	9,532
March	5,149	14,641	27	67	5,176	14,708
April	4,720	19,361	25	92	4,745	19,453
May	5,412	24,773	24	116	5,436	24,889
June	5,215	29,988	21	137	5,237	30,126
July	5,109	35,097	24	161	5,133	35,259
August	5,593	40,690	25	186	5,618	40,877
Shipments:						
1996:						
August	6,230	37,193	29	174	6,259	37,367
September	6,341	43,534	29	203	6,370	43,737
October	6,232	49,766	23	226	6,256	49,993
November	5,674	55,440	31	257	5,705	55,698
December	6,036	61,476	19	276	6,055	61,753
1997:						
January	2,693	2,693	16	16	2,708	2,708
February	1,036	3,729	27	43	1,063	3,771
March	2,310	6,038	23	65	2,333	6,104
April	5,981	12,019	27	92	6,008	12,112
May	6,673	18,692	21	113	6,695	18,806
June	5,828	24,520	21	134	5,849	24,655
July	6,287	30,807	21	155	6,308	30,964
August	6,657	37,464	26	181	6,683	37,646

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,299	1,340	1,593	1,262	2,177	2,063
Minnesota	4,294	4,412	5,064	4,968	5,702	5,086
Other U.S.	25	119	26	29	111	113
Total 4/	5,618	5,871	6,683	6,259	7,990	7,263

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

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

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1996:					
August	2,132	867	40	6	3,045
September	2,755	906	58	8	3,726
October	2,400	1,551	114	9	4,074
November	2,620	1,165	111	8	3,905
December	2,056	1,145	111	8	3,320
Year total	19,959	12,059	733	88	32,839
1997:					
January	924	639	114	8	1,685
February	568	1,045	100	11	1,723
March	293	712	87	8	1,099
April	2,282	889	42	7	3,219
May	2,188	1,182	41	8	3,419
June	2,464	1,544	--	9	4,017
July	2,093	1,504	--	11	3,608
August	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

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

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES AND
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption of ores and agglomerates				
Consumption by source	July		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	4,798	4,857	33,236	33,327 r/
Canadian ores	657	574	4,034	4,378
Foreign ores	464	560	3,833	4,722 r/
Total 1/	5,918	5,991	41,102	42,427
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,327	5,464	37,093	38,412 r/
Steel furnaces	8	6	56	47 r/
Agglomerating plants 2/	580	506 r/	3,907	3,945 r/
Miscellaneous 3/	3	13	47	22 r/
Total 1/	5,918	5,991	41,102	42,427
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	July 31			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	14,845	12,865		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,175	1,724		
Total consumer	17,021	14,589		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	July		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	4,010	4,104	28,481	29,242
	35	39	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

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.

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

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES, BY COUNTRY
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1997				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	May	June	July
Canada	470	1,431	749	343	NA
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	NA
Other	1	1	(1/)	1	NA
Total 2/	472	1,433	750	344	NA
Pellets	470	1,424	746	340	NA
Other	2	9	4	4	NA
Total 2/	472	1,433	750	344	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES,
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	July 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date 1996
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Australia	66	481	475	4,028	8.48	379
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	186
Brazil	559	14,186	3,073	79,143	25.75	2,858
Canada	1,273	36,945	4,787	152,775	31.91	4,159
Chile	36	520	162	3,366	20.78	39
China	--	--	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	1	37	4	220	55.00	3
Indonesia	--	--	(2/)	2	53.62	--
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	209
Mexico	2	29	11	206	18.73	3
Peru	(2/)	2	183	2,158	11.79	43
South Africa	9	928	13	1,317	101.31	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	11
Sweden	1	76	1	76	76.00	--
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	183	5,895	1,132	44,319	39.15	1,254
Zaire	--	--	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	2,130	59,100	9,881	289,058	29.25 4/	9,170
Concentrates	325	5,221	753	12,066	16.02	473
Coarse ores	140	4,793	960	38,858	40.48	512
Fine ores	290	4,671	1,970	33,105	16.80	2,268
Pellets	1,147	39,578	5,504	190,263	34.57	5,614
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	226	4,798	689	14,533	21.09	299
Roasted pyrites	1	39	5	233	46.60	3
Total 3/	2,130	59,100	9,881	289,058	29.25 4/	9,170

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

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES IN JULY 1997
(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	
Australia	--	--	66	--	--	--	66
Brazil	135	--	224	152	48	--	559
Canada	190	--	--	943	140	--	1,273
Chile	--	--	--	--	36	--	36
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Mexico	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)	(2/)
South Africa	--	9	--	--	--	--	9
Sweden	--	--	--	1	--	--	1
Venezuela	--	132	--	52	--	--	183
Total 1/	325	140	290	1,147	226	1	2,130

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

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	July 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date 1996
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Brazil	152	5,999	1,087	39,475	36.32	1,044
Canada	943	31,473	4,193	142,576	34.00	3,794
Sweden	1	76	1	76	76.00	--
Venezuela	52	2,030	223	8,136	36.48	775
Total 2/	1,147	39,578	5,504	190,263	34.57 3/	5,614

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.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9
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	July	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	453	2,579	2,428
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	122	428	287
Chicago, IL (39)	486	1,297	1,127
Cleveland, OH (41)	81	289	220
Detroit, MI (38)	199	908	921
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	42	21
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	496	2,513	2,002
New Orleans, LA (20)	155	952	912
New York City, NY (10)	1	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	2	11	3
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	134	860	1,186
Portland, ME (01)	--	--	(1/)
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	11
Savannah, GA (17)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	2,130	9,881	9,170

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	July	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	223	1,009	1,047
Charleston, SC (16)	74	237	146
Chicago, IL (39)	160	544	680
Cleveland, OH (41)	27	182	195
Detroit, MI (38)	199	908	899
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	42	13
Mobile, AL (19)	349	1,955	1,497
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	280	287
New York City, NY (10)	1	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	114	345	799
Total 1/	1,147	5,504	5,614

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.