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

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Mark Schaefer, Interim Director

Reston, VA 20192

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For information, contact:

William S. Kirk, Iron Ore Specialist

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

E-mail: [wkirk@usgs.gov](mailto:wkirk@usgs.gov)

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

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

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

## IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in September 1997 was 1.5% lower than that of August 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 4.6% and mine

stocks increased by 10.5%. Consumption and trade data for September 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
<b>Production:</b>						
1996:						
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
September	5,511	46,201	25	211	5,536	46,413
<b>Shipments:</b>						
1996:						
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
September	6,351	43,815	27	208	6,378	44,024

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 SEPTEMBER 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996
<b>Lake Superior:</b>						
Michigan	1,512	1,364	1,441	1,283	2,248	2,144
Minnesota	3,999	4,226	4,910	5,058	4,792	4,254
Other U.S.	25	25	27	29	109	109
Total 4/	5,536	5,615	6,378	6,370	7,148	6,508

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:					
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	2,565	1,146	19	8	3,738
September	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	August		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	4,753	4,734	37,989	38,061 t/
Canadian ores	642	641	4,676	5,019
Foreign ores	482	423	4,313	5,144 t/
Total 1/	5,877	5,798	46,979	48,225
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,285	5,364	42,378	43,775
Steel furnaces	6	7	63	54 t/
Agglomerating plants 2/	571	427	4,478	4,372
Miscellaneous 3/	13	--	60	22 t/
Total 1/	5,877	5,798	46,979	48,225
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	August 30			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	16,319	14,368		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,662	2,032		
Total consumer	18,981	16,400		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	August		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,030	4,080	32,512	33,323
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	37	37	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	June	July	August
Canada	470	1,431	343	963	1,030
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	--	(1/)
Other	1	1	1	(1/)	--
Total 2/	472	1,433	344	963	1,030
Pellets	470	1,424	340	958	1,026
Other	2	9	4	5	4
Total 2/	472	1,433	344	963	1,030

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	August 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	--	--	475	4,028	8.48	379
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	186
Brazil	425	11,074	3,498	90,217	25.79	3,704
Canada	1,073	34,199	5,860	186,974	31.91	5,125
Chile	--	--	162	3,366	20.78	97
China	--	--	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	--	--	4	220	55.00	6
Indonesia	--	--	(2/)	2	53.62	--
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	209
Mexico	1	15	12	221	18.42	4
Peru	--	--	183	2,158	11.79	43
South Africa	--	--	13	1,317	101.31	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	11
Sweden	--	--	1	76	76.00	48
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	100	3,951	1,232	48,270	39.18	1,398
Zaire	--	--	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	1,599	49,239	11,480	338,297	29.47 4/	11,233
Concentrates	81	1,280	834	13,345	16.00	696
Coarse ores	83	2,495	1,043	41,353	39.65	643
Fine ores	174	3,348	2,143	36,453	17.01	2,792
Pellets	1,159	39,853	6,664	230,116	34.53	6,746
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	102	2,263	791	16,797	21.24	349
Roasted pyrites	--	--	5	233	46.60	6
Total 3/	1,599	49,239	11,480	338,297	29.47 4/	11,233

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 AUGUST 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	
Brazil	55	83	174	90	24	--	425
Canada	26	--	--	969	77	--	1,073
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Venezuela	--	--	--	100	--	--	100
Total 1/	81	83	174	1,159	102	--	1,599

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.

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

Country of origin	August 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date 1996 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Brazil	90	3,523	1,177	42,999	36.53	1,199
Canada	969	32,379	5,162	174,955	33.89	4,703
Sweden	--	--	1	76	76.00	--
Venezuela	100	3,951	323	12,087	37.42	844
Total 2/	1,159	39,853	6,664	230,116	34.53 3/	6,746

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	August	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	396	2,976	2,968
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	77	505	383
Chicago, IL (39)	309	1,606	1,429
Cleveland, OH (41)	107	396	398
Detroit, MI (38)	231	1,140	1,107
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	42	49
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	263	2,776	2,183
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	952	1,095
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	12	4
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	214	1,075	1,556
Portland, ME (01)	--	--	(1/)
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	11
Savannah, GA (17)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,599	11,480	11,233

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	August	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	145	1,154	1,246
Charleston, SC (16)	53	291	192
Chicago, IL (39)	228	772	835
Cleveland, OH (41)	107	290	346
Detroit, MI (38)	231	1,140	1,084
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	42	41
Mobile, AL (19)	180	2,135	1,678
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	280	287
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	214	559	987
Total 1/	1,159	6,664	6,746

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.