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

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in October 1997 was 3.6% higher than that of September 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 4.5% and mine stocks increased by 4.9%. Consumption and trade data for October

1997 will be included in a subsequent report. Year-to-date production through October was 1.6% higher than that of the same period in 1996. Shipments were 0.2% higher.

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:						
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
October	5,705	51,906	31	242	5,736	52,149
Shipments:						
1996:						
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
October	6,057	49,872	32	240	6,089	50,113

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 OCTOBER 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	1,466	1,331	1,210	1,416	2,503	2,059
Minnesota	4,240	4,016	4,847	4,816	4,184	3,460
Other U.S.	31	26	32	23	107	112
Total 4/	5,736	5,373	6,089	6,256	6,795	5,631

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:					
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	2,553	1,229	54	10	3,846
October	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	September		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	5,074	4,731	43,063	42,792 r/
Canadian ores	563	603	5,253	5,622
Foreign ores	466	476	4,764	5,621 r/
Total 1/	6,102	5,810	53,081	54,033 r/
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,575	5,235	47,953	49,010
Steel furnaces	6	8	69	62 r/
Agglomerating plants 2/	521	556	4,999	4,928
Miscellaneous 3/	--	11	60	35 r/
Total 1/	6,102	5,810	53,081	54,033 r/
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	September 30			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	17,567	15,718		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,847	2,190		
Total consumer	20,414	17,908		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	September		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
	4,178	3,995	36,686	37,321
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	38	36	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	July	August	September
Canada	470	1,431	963	1,030	822
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Other	1	1	(1/)	--	(1/)
Total 2/	472	1,433	963	1,030	822
Pellets	470	1,424	958	1,026	814
Other	2	9	5	4	8
Total 2/	472	1,433	963	1,030	822

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	September 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	70	564	545	4,592	8.43	379
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	186
Brazil	436	10,999	3,934	101,216	25.73	3,934
Canada	942	31,158	6,802	218,132	32.07	6,377
Chile	33	352	195	3,718	19.07	105
China	--	--	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	3	171	8	391	48.88	7
Indonesia	--	--	(2/)	2	53.62	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	209
Mexico	1	15	13	236	18.15	5
Norway	92	3,589	92	3,589	39.01	--
Peru	(2/)	1	183	2,160	11.80	43
South Africa	--	--	13	1,317	101.31	--
Spain	4	107	4	107	26.75	11
Sweden	52	1,898	53	1,974	37.25	48
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	283	10,269	1,515	58,539	38.64	1,516
Zaire	--	--	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	1,918	59,124	13,398	397,421	29.66 4/	12,845
Concentrates	214	4,475	1,048	17,820	17.00	955
Coarse ores	55	1,608	1,098	42,961	39.13	761
Fine ores	180	2,390	2,324	38,842	16.71	2,801
Pellets	1,324	47,330	7,988	277,447	34.73	7,947
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	141	3,149	933	19,946	21.38	372
Roasted pyrites	3	172	8	405	50.63	8
Total 3/	1,918	59,124	13,398	397,421	29.66 4/	12,845

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 SEPTEMBER 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	--	--	70	--	--	--	70
Brazil	108	--	73	141	114	--	436
Canada	54	--	--	862	26	--	942
Chile	--	--	33	--	--	--	33
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Norway	--	--	--	92	--	--	92
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)	(2/)
Spain	--	--	4	--	--	--	4
Sweden	51	--	--	1	--	--	52
Venezuela	--	55	--	229	--	--	283
Total 1/	214	55	180	1,324	141	3	1,918

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	September 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	141	5,290	1,319	48,288	36.61	1,258
Canada	862	29,717	6,024	204,672	33.98	5,845
Norway	92	3,589	92	3,589	39.01	--
Sweden	1	73	2	149	74.50	--
Venezuela	229	8,662	552	20,749	37.59	844
Total 2/	1,324	47,330	7,988	277,447	34.73 3/	7,947

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	September	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	373	3,349	3,114
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	1	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	55	560	428
Chicago, IL (39)	323	1,929	1,921
Cleveland, OH (41)	79	475	543
Detroit, MI (38)	303	1,443	1,465
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Honolulu, HI (32)	--	--	(1/)
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	25	67	49
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	435	3,210	2,530
New Orleans, LA (20)	37	989	1,096
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	13	5
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	285	1,360	1,622
Portland, ME (01)	--	--	(1/)
San Diego, CA (25)	--	--	9
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	11
Savannah, GA (17)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,918	13,398	12,845

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	September	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	145	1,299	1,392
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	1	--
Charleston, SC (16)	26	317	215
Chicago, IL (39)	161	933	1,067
Cleveland, OH (41)	53	343	491
Detroit, MI (38)	303	1,443	1,442
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	25	67	41
Mobile, AL (19)	380	2,516	1,974
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	280	287
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	231	789	987
Total 1/	1,324	7,988	7,947

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.