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

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in November 1997 was 7.3% lower than that of October 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 2.1% and mine stocks decreased by 13.7%. Consumption and trade data for

November 1997 will be included in a subsequent report. Year-to-date production through November was 1.1% higher than that of the same period in 1996. Shipments were also 1.1% 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:						
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
November	5,289	57,195	26	268	5,316	57,464
Shipments:						
1996:						
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
November	6,189	56,061	27	267	6,215	56,329

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 NOVEMBER 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	1,242	1,562	1,280	1,186	2,465	2,435
Minnesota	4,047	3,941	4,909	4,488	3,289	2,914
Other U.S.	26	24	27	31	107	105
Total 4/	5,316	5,527	6,215	5,705	5,861	5,454

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:					
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	1,783	1,692	112	8	3,596
November	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	October		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	5,145	4,523	48,208	47,315 t/
Canadian ores	464	646	5,717	6,267 t/
Foreign ores	473	661	5,238	6,282 t/
Total 1/	6,082	5,831	59,163	59,865 t/
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,522	5,209	53,475	54,219
Steel furnaces	5	9	75	71 t/
Agglomerating plants 2/	552	613	5,551	5,541
Miscellaneous 3/	3	--	63	35 t/
Total 1/	6,082	5,831	59,163	59,865 t/
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	October 31			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	18,653	17,241		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,582	1,993		
Total consumer 1/	21,234	19,235		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	October		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,229	4,030	40,916	41,351
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	38	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				
	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	August	September	October
Canada	1,431	2,815	1,030	822	946
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	1	(1/)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Total 2/	1,433	2,815	1,030	822	946
Pellets	1,424	2,799	1,026	814	937
Other	9	16	4	8	9
Total 2/	1,433	2,815	1,030	822	946

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	October 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	1996 (thousand metric tons)
Australia	67	\$536	611	\$5,128	\$8.39	444
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	186
Brazil	325	9,845	4,259	111,061	26.08	4,593
Canada	1,017	32,381	7,819	250,513	32.04	7,309
Chile	--	--	195	3,718	19.07	164
China	--	--	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	--	--	8	391	48.88	9
Indonesia	--	--	(2/)	2	53.62	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	275
Mexico	1	15	14	251	17.93	6
Norway	--	--	92	3,589	39.01	--
Peru	--	--	183	2,160	11.80	43
South Africa	--	--	13	1,317	101.31	--
Spain	--	--	4	107	26.75	11
Sweden	1	73	54	2,046	37.89	48
United Kingdom	23	271	23	271	11.78	(2/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	258	10,155	1,773	68,694	38.74	1,743
Zaire	--	--	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	1,691	53,277	15,089	450,698	29.87 4/	14,856
Concentrates	164	2,765	1,212	20,585	16.98	1,200
Coarse ores	106	4,183	1,204	47,144	39.16	1,017
Fine ores	162	2,164	2,486	41,007	16.50	3,107
Pellets	1,207	42,349	9,195	319,796	34.78	9,006
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	51	1,815	984	21,761	22.11	517
Roasted pyrites	--	--	8	405	50.63	10
Total 3/	1,691	53,277	15,089	450,698	29.87 4/	14,856

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 OCTOBER 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	--	--	67	--	--	--	67
Brazil	54	--	73	148	50	--	325
Canada	110	--	--	907	--	--	1,017
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Sweden	--	--	--	1	--	--	1
United Kingdom	--	--	23	--	--	--	23
Venezuela	--	106	--	151	--	--	258
Total 1/	164	106	162	1,207	51	--	1,691

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	October 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	148	\$5,882	1,467	\$54,171	\$36.93	1,534
Canada	907	30,423	6,931	235,095	33.92	6,572
Norway	--	--	92	3,589	39.01	--
Sweden	1	73	3	222	74.00	--
Venezuela	151	5,971	703	26,720	38.01	899
Total 2/	1,207	42,349	9,195	319,796	34.78 3/	9,006

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	October	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	214	3,563	3,472
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	2	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	101	661	504
Chicago, IL (39)	318	2,247	2,374
Cleveland, OH (41)	54	529	668
Detroit, MI (38)	308	1,751	1,570
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
El Paso, TX (24)	--	--	(1/)
Honolulu, HI (32)	--	--	(1/)
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	67	51
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	462	3,672	2,995
New Orleans, LA (20)	73	1,062	1,225
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	14	6
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	5
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	159	1,519	1,915
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/	1,691	15,089	14,856

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	October	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	148	1,447	1,392
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	2	--
Charleston, SC (16)	51	368	266
Chicago, IL (39)	154	1,087	1,344
Cleveland, OH (41)	54	396	589
Detroit, MI (38)	308	1,751	1,547
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	67	41
Mobile, AL (19)	333	2,848	2,439
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	280	287
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	159	948	1,050
Total 1/	1,207	9,195	9,006

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.