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

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December 1997 was slightly lower than that of November 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 3.1% and mine stocks decreased by 17.1%. Consumption and trade data for December 1997 will be included in a subsequent report.

Year-to-date production through December was 1.0% higher than that of the same period in 1996. Shipments were 1.6% higher. Based solely on monthly data, 1997 consumption, at 71.8 million metric tons, was slightly greater than that of the previous year.

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:						
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
December	5,285	62,480	W	W	5,285	62,750
Shipments:						
1996:						
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
December	6,408	62,469	W	W	6,408	62,737

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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 DECEMBER 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	1,119	1,199	1,408	1,460	2,176	2,174
Minnesota	4,166	4,061	5,000	4,576	2,586	2,370
Other U.S.	W	20	W	19	94	106
Total 4/	5,285	5,280	6,408	6,055	4,856	4,650

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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:					
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	2,194	1,255	112	7	3,567
December	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	November		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	5,203	4,533	53,412	51,848
Canadian ores	504	615	6,221	6,883
Foreign ores	540	591	5,777	6,874
Total 1/	6,247	5,740	65,410	65,604
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,618	5,182	59,093	59,400
Steel furnaces	6	7	80	78
Agglomerating plants 2/	545	543	6,095	6,082
Miscellaneous 3/	79	8	141	43
Total 1/	6,247	5,740	65,410	65,604
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	November 30			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	19,581	17,816		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,611	2,195		
Total consumer	22,192	20,011		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	November		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,279	3,908	45,195	45,259
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	39	37	XX	XX

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	September	October	November
Canada	1,431	2,815	822	946	447
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	--
Other	1	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Total 2/	1,433	2,815	822	946	447
Pellets	1,424	2,799	814	937	442
Other	9	16	8	9	6
Total 2/	1,433	2,815	822	946	447

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	November 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)	
Australia	62	543	674	5,671	8.41	511
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	186
Brazil	434	11,302	4,693	122,363	26.07	4,863
Canada	1,146	33,196	8,965	283,709	31.65	8,601
Chile	33	396	228	4,114	18.04	164
China	--	--	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	3	139	11	530	48.18	9
Indonesia	--	--	(2/)	2	53.62	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	275
Mexico	1	16	15	267	17.80	7
Norway	--	--	92	3,589	39.01	--
Peru	15	199	198	2,359	11.91	43
South Africa	--	--	13	1,317	101.31	--
Spain	--	--	4	107	26.75	11
Sweden	--	--	54	2,046	37.89	48
United Kingdom	--	--	23	271	11.78	(2/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	143	5,176	1,915	73,870	38.57	1,903
Zaire	--	--	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	1,837	50,967	16,926	501,665	29.64 4/	16,645
Concentrates	108	1,816	1,320	22,401	16.97	1,325
Coarse ores	92	3,162	1,296	50,306	38.82	1,177
Fine ores	345	6,208	2,830	47,215	16.68	3,236
Pellets	1,173	37,134	10,368	356,931	34.43	10,233
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	117	2,507	1,101	24,267	22.04	665
Roasted pyrites	3	139	11	544	49.45	10
Total 3/	1,837	50,967	16,926	501,665	29.64 4/	16,645

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 NOVEMBER 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	--	--	62	--	--	--	62
Brazil	55	--	234	120	25	--	434
Canada	54	--	--	1,002	91	--	1,146
Chile	--	--	33	--	--	--	33
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Peru	--	--	15	--	--	--	15
Venezuela	--	92	--	51	--	--	143
Total 1/	108	92	345	1,173	117	3	1,837

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	November 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)	
Brazil	120	4,444	1,587	58,615	36.93	1,644
Canada	1,002	30,676	7,932	265,771	33.51	7,689
Norway	--	--	92	3,589	39.01	--
Sweden	--	--	3	222	74.00	--
Venezuela	51	2,014	754	28,734	38.11	899
Total 2/	1,173	37,134	10,368	356,931	34.43 3/	10,233

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	November	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	353	3,916	3,834
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	2	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	50	711	551
Chicago, IL (39)	346	2,593	2,776
Cleveland, OH (41)	82	611	749
Detroit, MI (38)	208	1,959	1,771
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)	459	4,131	3,511
New Orleans, LA (20)	141	1,202	1,288
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	15	7
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	5
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	184	1,703	2,033
Portland, ME (01)	--	--	(1/)
San Diego, CA (25)	15	15	9
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	11
Savannah, GA (17)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,837	16,926	16,645

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	November	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	64	1,511	1,541
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	2	--
Charleston, SC (16)	25	393	313
Chicago, IL (39)	238	1,325	1,650
Cleveland, OH (41)	54	451	643
Detroit, MI (38)	207	1,958	1,747
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	67	41
Mobile, AL (19)	334	3,182	2,854
New Orleans, LA (20)	67	347	287
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	184	1,132	1,107
Total 1/	1,173	10,368	10,233

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.