

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact

William S. Kirk, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist

U.S. Geological Survey

989 National Center

Reston, VA 20192

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

E-mail: wkirk@usgs.gov

David Mann (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7978

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

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

IRON ORE IN APRIL 1998

U.S. mine production of iron ore in April 1998 was 3.5% higher than that of March 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 109.7%. Stocks decreased by 12.4%.

Consumption and trade data for April 1998 will be included in a subsequent issue.

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:						
1997:						
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
1998:						
January	5,000	5,000	W	W	5,000	5,000
February	4,496	9,496	W	W	4,496	9,496
March	4,736	14,232	W	W	4,736	14,232
April	4,900	19,132	W	W	4,900	19,132
Shipments:						
1997:						
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
1998:						
January	2,822	2,822	W	W	2,822	2,822
February	900	3,722	W	W	900	3,722
March	3,053	6,775	W	W	3,053	6,775
April	6,401	13,176	W	W	6,401	13,176

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

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,115	1,115	1,635	1,496	3,023	3,833
Minnesota	3,784	3,604	4,766	4,485	7,679	8,069
Other U.S.	W	25	W	27	W	106
Total 4/	4,900	4,745	6,401	6,008	10,702	12,008

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/
1997:					
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	3,597
November	2,194	1,255	112	7	3,567
December	1,941	1,078	118	9	3,146
Year total	21,848	13,914	799	102	36,663
1998:					
January	1,400	989	111	8	2,509
February	1,036	1,090	112	9	2,247
March	727	806	108	7	1,648
April	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	March		Jan.-Mar.	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
United States ores	5,232	5,055	15,589	14,351
Canadian ores	585	575	1,643	1,692
Foreign ores	624	586	1,557	1,695
Total 1/	6,441	6,216	18,789	17,738
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,872	5,616	17,030	15,967
Steel furnaces	5	7	18	25
Agglomerating plants 2/	563	592	1,730	1,716
Miscellaneous 3/	1	1	10	29
Total 1/	6,441	6,216	18,789	17,738
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	March 31			
	1998	1997		
Furnace yards	10,354	10,275		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,474	1,215		
Total consumer	11,828	11,490		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	March		Jan.-Mar.	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
	4,428	4,276	12,950 4/	12,151
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	38	38	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.

4/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

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		1998		
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March
Canada	2,815	1,619	752	4	141
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	1	(1/)
Total 2/	2,815	1,619	752	5	141
Pellets	2,799	1,604	752	--	140
Other	16	16	1	5	1
Total 2/	2,815	1,619	752	5	141

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	1998					1997
	March		Jan.-Mar.			Jan.-Mar.
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	67	517	134	1,045	7.80	201
Brazil	435	12,817	1,379	41,699	30.24	1,209
Canada	244	8,807	555	19,865	35.79	656
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	12
Finland	--	--	4	186	46.50	4
Japan	(2/)	3	55	1,916	34.84	--
Madagascar	(2/)	2	(2/)	2	11.04	--
Mexico	2	32	4	61	15.25	6
Peru	54	763	95	1,234	12.99	130
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	4
Sweden	100	3,906	106	4,126	38.92	--
Venezuela	146	9,032	291	14,472	49.73	479
Total 3/	1,047	35,879	2,623	84,606	32.26 4/	2,700
Concentrates	--	--	(2/)	1	41.50	(2/)
Coarse ores	40	1,174	130	4,474	34.42	363
Fine ores	212	3,388	506	8,029	15.87	848
Pellets	679	24,470	1,831	64,668	35.32	1,276
Briquettes	61	6,054	61	6,054	99.25	--
Other agglomerates	55	793	91	1,189	13.07	208
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	190	47.50	4
Total 3/	1,047	35,879	2,623	84,606	32.26 4/	2,700

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 MARCH 1998
(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	--	--	142	294	--	--	435
Canada	--	--	--	244	--	--	244
Japan	--	--	--	(2/)	--	--	(2/)
Madagascar	--	--	(2/)	--	--	--	(2/)
Mexico	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Peru	--	(2/)	--	--	54	--	54
Sweden	--	--	4	96	--	--	100
Venezuela	--	40	--	46	61	--	146
Total 1/	--	40	212	679	116	--	1,047

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	1998					1997
	March		Jan.-Mar.			Jan.-Mar.
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	294	10,093	1,017	35,081	34.49	501
Canada	244	8,807	555	19,864	35.79	655
Japan	(2/)	3	(2/)	3	78.95	--
Peru	--	--	7	99	14.14	--
Sweden	96	3,761	96	3,761	39.18	--
Venezuela	46	1,806	155	5,860	37.81	120
Total 2/	679	24,470	1,831	64,668	35.32 3/	1,276

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	March	Jan.-Mar.	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	212	622	825
Buffalo, NY (09)	4	9	--
Charleston, SC (16)	27	55	137
Detroit, MI (38)	--	--	(1/)
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	(1/)	23	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	--
Miami, FL (52)	(1/)	(1/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	300	829	874
New Orleans, LA (20)	450	983	643
Nogales, AZ (26)	2	4	6
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	53	97	214
San Francisco, CA (28)	(1/)	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,047	2,623	2,700

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	March	Jan.-Mar.	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	68	263	206
Charleston, SC (16)	27	55	65
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	23	--
Mobile, AL (19)	261	699	725
New Orleans, LA (20)	271	697	280
Philadelphia, PA (11)	53	94	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	(1/)	(1/)	--
Total 2/	679	1,831	1,276

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.