



Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN MAY 1998

U.S. mine production of iron ore in May 1998 was 12.4% higher than that of April 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 1.7%. Stocks decreased by 9.4%.

Consumption and trade data for May 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:						
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
May	5,506	24,637	W	W	5,506	24,637
Shipments:						
1997:						
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
May	6,508	19,683	W	W	6,508	19,683

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 MAY 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	1,184	1,169	1,371	1,637	2,836	3,364
Minnesota	4,322	4,243	5,137	5,036	6,860	7,292
Other U.S.	W	24	W	21	W	109
Total 4/	5,506	5,436	6,508	6,695	9,696	10,765

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	Total 1/
				Columbia	
1997:					
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	2,221	1,322	100	10	3,654
May	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	April		Jan.-Apr.	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
United States ores	4,735	4,732	20,324	19,082
Canadian ores	536	550	2,179	2,241
Foreign ores	573	586	2,130	2,281
Total 1/	5,845	5,867	24,634	23,605
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,254	5,321	22,284	21,287
Steel furnaces	5	7	23	33
Agglomerating plants 2/	582	530	2,313	2,246
Miscellaneous 3/	4	8	14	38
Total 1/	5,845	5,867	24,634	23,605
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	April 30			
	1998	1997		
Furnace yards	11,932	11,117		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,616	1,688		
Total consumer	14,549	12,804		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	April		Jan.-Apr.	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
	4,173	4,028	17,123 4/	16,179
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	1st quarter	February	March	April
Canada	2,815	1,619	897	4	141	665
Mexico	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	(1/)	(1/)	1	1	(1/)	(1/)
Total 2/	2,815	1,619	898	5	141	666
Pellets	2,799	1,604	892	--	140	665
Other	16	16	7	5	1	2
Total 2/	2,815	1,619	898	5	141	666

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
	April		Jan.-Apr.			Jan.-Apr.
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	72	558	206	1,603	7.78	269
Brazil	519	13,315	1,898	55,014	28.99	1,450
Canada	1,105	37,162	1,661	57,027	34.33	1,682
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	12
China	--	--	--	--	--	40
Finland	--	--	4	186	46.50	4
Japan	--	--	55	1,916	34.84	--
Madagascar	--	--	(2/)	2	11.04	--
Mexico	--	--	4	61	15.25	7
Peru	--	--	95	1,234	12.99	130
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	4
Sweden	2	72	108	4,198	38.87	--
Venezuela	185	6,816	476	21,288	44.72	605
Total 3/	1,884	57,924	4,506	142,530	31.63 4/	4,202
Concentrates	49	898	49	899	18.35	54
Coarse ores	48	1,418	178	5,892	33.10	529
Fine ores	464	9,514	970	17,543	18.09	990
Pellets	1,225	44,314	3,056	108,983	35.66	2,393
Briquettes	--	--	61	6,054	99.25	--
Other agglomerates	97	1,779	188	2,969	15.79	233
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	190	47.50	4
Total 3/	1,884	57,924	4,506	142,530	31.63 4/	4,202

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 APRIL 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	--	--	72	--	--	--	72
Brazil	--	--	297	222	--	--	519
Canada	49	--	--	959	97	--	1,105
Sweden	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Venezuela	--	48	94	43	--	--	185
Total 1/	49	48	464	1,225	97	--	1,884

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	1998					1997
	April		Jan.-Apr.			Jan.-Apr.
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	222	8,119	1,239	43,200	34.87	645
Canada	959	34,485	1,515	54,349	35.87	1,628
Japan	--	--	(2/)	3	78.95	--
Peru	--	--	7	99	14.14	--
Sweden	--	--	96	3,761	39.18	--
Venezuela	43	1,710	198	7,571	38.24	120
Total 3/	1,225	44,314	3,056	108,983	35.66 4/	2,393

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 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	April	Jan.-Apr.	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	588	1,211	1,179
Buffalo, NY (09)	2	11	--
Charleston, SC (16)	45	100	234
Chicago, IL (39)	182	182	161
Cleveland, OH (41)	161	161	53
Detroit, MI (38)	328	328	311
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	23	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	--
Miami, FL (52)	--	(1/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	340	1,169	1,218
New Orleans, LA (20)	238	1,220	643
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	4	7
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	97	395
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,884	4,506	4,202

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	April	Jan.-Apr.	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	224	487	419
Charleston, SC (16)	45	100	138
Chicago, IL (39)	133	133	107
Cleveland, OH (41)	134	134	53
Detroit, MI (38)	328	328	311
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	23	--
Mobile, AL (19)	292	991	1,026
New Orleans, LA (20)	69	766	280
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	94	59
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,225	3,056	2,393

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.