



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 1998

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December 1998 was 3.1% higher than that of December 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 1.3% while stocks

decreased by 5.5%. Consumption and trade data for December 1998 will be included in a subsequent issue.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1997:				
December	5,285	62,750	6,408	62,737
1998:				
January	5,013	5,000	2,822	2,822
February	4,496	9,496	900	3,722
March	4,736	14,231	3,053	6,775
April	4,900	19,131	6,401	13,176
May	5,506	24,637	6,508	19,683
June	5,636	30,272	6,302	25,986
July	5,433	35,706	6,392	32,378
August	5,839	41,545	6,297	38,674
September	5,384	46,929	5,613	44,288
October	5,279	52,208	5,626	49,913
November	5,113	57,321	5,707	55,621
December	5,269	62,590	5,632	61,252

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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/	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,365	1,119	1,864	1,408	2,587	2,176
Minnesota	3,904	4,166	3,768	5,000	3,534	2,586
Total 4/	5,269	5,285	5,632	6,408	6,121	4,762

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	British Columbia	Total 1/
1997:				
November	2,194	1,255	7	3,567
December	1,941	1,078	9	3,146
Year total	21,848	13,914	102	36,663
1998:				
January	1,400	989	8	2,509
February	1,036	1,090	9	2,247
March	727	806	7	1,648
April	2,221	1,054	10	3,386
May	2,327	1,585	12	4,026
June	2,734	932	8	3,777
July	2,562	922	6	3,490
August	2,299	946	8	3,253
September	1,709	1,187	11	2,907
October	1,747	1,379	9	3,135
November	1,215	1,418	13	2,645

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 by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	November		January-November	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
U.S. ores	4,320	5,203	53,214	53,412
Canadian ores	464	504	6,041	6,221
Foreign ores	356	540	5,255	5,777
Total 1/	5,140	6,247	64,512	65,410
Consumption by process	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	November 30			
	1998	1997		
Blast furnaces	4,639	5,618	58,547	59,093
Steel furnaces	6	5	91	80
Agglomerating plants 2/	480	545	5,826	6,095
Miscellaneous 3/	17	79	48	141
Total 1/	5,140	6,247	64,512	65,410
Storage point	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	November		January-November	
	1998	1997	1998 4/	1997
Furnace yards	20,124	19,581		
Receiving/transfer docks	3,595	2,611		
Total consumer 1/	23,719	22,192		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,481	4,279	44,501	45,195
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	37	39	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.

4/ May include revisions to previous 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	1998				
	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	September	October	November
Canada	1,792	1,482	447	403	538
Mexico	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	1	(2/)
Other	6	2	1	2	(2/)
Total 2/	1,799	1,484	447	405	538
Pellets	1,763	1,450	428	395	537
Other	36	34	19	10	1
Total 2/	1,799	1,484	447	405	538

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
	November		January-November			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	72	600	629	5,178	8.23	674
Brazil	345	10,874	5,657	159,595	28.21	4,693
Canada	496	15,971	8,027	270,012	33.64	8,965
Chile	--	--	48	1,232	26	228
China	--	--	(2/)	9	4,500	40
Finland	--	--	10	484	48.40	11
Indonesia	(2/)	21	(2/)	21	--	(2/)
Japan	--	--	55	1,916	34.84	--
Madagascar	--	--	(2/)	2	11.04	--
Mexico	1	13	10	168	16.80	15
Norway	--	--	97	3,761	38.77	92
Peru	--	--	126	1,720	13.65	198
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	13
Spain	--	--	21	464	22	4
Sweden	--	--	276	10,543	38.20	54
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	23
Venezuela	88	3,040	1,059	45,383	42.85	1,915
Zaire	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Total 3/	1,001	30,519	16,016	500,487	31.25 4/	16,926
Concentrates	50	920	1,012	18,241	18.01	1,320
Coarse ores	118	3,595	465	15,089	32.45	1,296
Fine ores	150	2,006	2,965	53,203	17.94	2,830
Pellets	562	20,793	10,468	376,630	35.98	10,368
Briquettes	--	--	217	15,197	70.30	--
Other agglomerates	122	3,205	881	21,754	24.69	1,101
Roasted pyrites	--	--	7	372	53.14	11
Total 3/	1,001	30,519	16,016	500,487	31.25 4/	16,926

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 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	--	75	78	137	55	--	345
Canada	50	--	--	380	67	--	496
Indonesia	--	(2/)	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Venezuela	--	43	--	45	--	--	88
Total 1/	50	118	150	562	122	--	1,001

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
	November		January-November			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	137	5,193	2,680	94,558	35.28	1,587
Canada	380	13,834	6,979	251,241	36.00	7,932
Japan	--	--	(2/)	3	78.95	--
Norway	--	--	97	3,761	38.77	92
Peru	--	--	7	99	14.14	--
Sweden	--	--	197	7,765	39.42	3
Venezuela	45	1,766	508	19,204	37.80	754
Total 3/	562	20,793	10,468	376,630	35.98 4/	10,368

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	November	January-November	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	301	3,936	3,916
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	22	2
Charleston, SC (16)	78	663	711
Chicago, IL (39)	55	1,570	2,593
Cleveland, OH (41)	129	1,164	611
Detroit, MI (38)	103	1,772	1,959
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	124	67
Laredo, TX (23)	--	13	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	16	(1/)
Miami, FL (52)	--	(1/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	122	3,951	4,131
New Orleans, LA (20)	212	2,596	1,202
New York City (10)	--	--	1
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	10	15
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	179	1,703
San Diego, CA (25)	--	--	15
San Francisco, CA (28)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Savannah, GA (17)	--	--	(1/)
Total 2/	1,001	16,016	16,926

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	January-November	
	1998	1998	1997
Baltimore, MD (13)	84	1,529	1,511
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	2
Charleston, SC (16)	24	364	393
Chicago, IL (39)	29	896	1,325
Cleveland, OH (41)	106	851	451
Detroit, MI (38)	105	1,772	1,958
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	49	67
Laredo, TX (23)	--	13	--
Mobile, AL (19)	80	3,608	3,182
New Orleans, LA (20)	137	1,293	347
New York City	--	--	1
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	94	1,132
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	(1/)	--
Total 2/	562	10,468	10,368

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.