



Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN APRIL 1999

U.S. mine production of iron ore in April 1999 was 6% lower than that of March 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 139% and mine stocks decreased by 10%.

Consumption and trade data for April 1999 will be included in a subsequent issue.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1998:				
April	4,900	19,132	6,401	13,176
May	5,506	24,637	6,508	19,683
June	5,636	30,273	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	62,591	5,733	61,354
1999:				
January	4,891	4,891	2,181	2,181
February	4,587	9,479	900	3,081
March	5,145	14,624	2,619	5,699
April	4,846	19,470	6,265	11,965

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN APRIL 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,460	1,115	1,695	1,635	4,662	3,023
Minnesota	3,386	3,784	4,570	4,766	8,860	7,679
Total 4/	4,846	4,900	6,265	6,401	13,522	10,702

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	
1998:					
March	727	806	108	7	1,648
April	2,221	1,054	100	10	3,386
May	2,327	1,585	102	12	4,026
June	2,734	932	119	8	3,793
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
December	1,651	923	--	8	2,583
Year total	21,628	13,232	651	110	35,621
1999:					
January	569	1,674	--	8	2,251
February	459	528	--	6	992
March	455	642	--	5	1,101

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			
	March		January-March	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,745	5,232	13,545	15,589
Canadian ores	447	585	1,382	1,643
Foreign ores	411	624	1,352	1,557
Total 1/	5,603	6,441	16,279	18,789
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,073	5,872	14,695	17,030
Steel furnaces	6	5	16	18
Agglomerating plants 2/	521	563	1,566	1,730
Miscellaneous 3/	2	1	2	10
Total 1/	5,603	6,441	16,279	18,789
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	March 31			
	1999	1998		
Furnace yards	11,512	10,354		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,158	1,474		
Total consumer	13,670	11,828		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	March		January-March	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,862	4,428	11,059	12,950
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	32	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 or plant 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	1998		1999		
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March
Canada	1,482	5,988	137	242	121
Mexico	(1/)	2	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	2	14	2	2	3
Total 2/	1,484	6,003	139	245	124
Pellets	1,450	5,911	137	242	116
Other	34	91	2	3	8
Total 2/	1,484	6,003	139	245	124

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	1999					1998
	March		January-March			January-March
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	87	736	210	3,172	15.10	134
Brazil	366	7,750	922	21,718	23.56	1,379
Canada	93	1,900	388	11,337	29.22	555
Finland	--	--	3	152	50.67	4
Mexico	2	26	2	39	20	4
Peru	--	--	(2/)	15	251	95
Spain	--	--	(2/)	43	250	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	106
Venezuela	30	902	102	5,413	53	291
Other	--	--	--	--	--	55
Total 3/	578	11,314	1,628	41,890	25.73 4/	2,623
Concentrates	26	272	106	1,697	16.01	(2/)
Coarse ores	--	--	--	--	--	130
Fine ores	427	8,213	1,026	21,954	21.40	506
Pellets	55	1,715	388	13,842	35.68	1,831
Briquettes	--	--	35	3,061	87	61
Other agglomerates	69	1,114	70	1,127	16	91
Roasted pyrites	--	--	3	209	69.67	4
Total 3/	578	11,314	1,628	41,890	25.73 4/	2,623

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 1999
(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	20	--	67	--	--	--	87
Brazil	6	--	360	--	--	--	366
Canada	--	--	--	25	68	--	93
Mexico	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Venezuela	--	--	--	30	--	--	30
Total 1/	26	--	427	55	69	--	578

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	1999					1998
	March		January-March			January-March
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	--	--	163	5,911	36.26	1,017
Canada	25	813	158	5,579	35.31	555
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	7
Venezuela	30	902	67	2,352	35.10	155
Other	--	--	--	--	--	96
Total 2/	55	1,715	388	13,842	35.68 3/	1,831

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	January-March	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	284	741	622
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	9
Charleston, SC (16)	25	25	55
Chicago, IL (39)	26	106	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	26	23
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Miami, FL (52)	--	--	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	30	67	829
New Orleans, LA (20)	210	658	983
Nogales, AZ (26)	2	2	4
Ogdensburg, NJ (07)	--	--	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	3	97
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	--	(1/)
Total 2/	578	1,628	2,623

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	January-March	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	133	263
Charleston, SC (16)	25	25	55
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	26	23
Mobile, AL (19)	30	67	699
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	137	697
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	94
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	--	(1/)
Total 2/	55	388	1,831

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

Source: Bureau of the Census.