



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

Jason T. Collins (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7978

Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

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

IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 2000

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December 2000 was 5% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 3% and mine stocks

changed by less than 1%. Consumption and trade data for December 2000 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 of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1999:				
December	5,295	57,410	6,046	57,871
2000:				
January	4,955	4,955	3,822	3,822
February	4,986	9,940	962	4,784
March	5,028	14,968	2,846	7,630
April	5,010	19,978	5,978	13,607
May	5,637	25,615	6,347	19,954
June	5,638	31,253	5,881	25,835
July	5,577	36,830	6,468	32,303
August	5,843	42,673	6,048	38,351
September	5,392	48,065	5,509	43,860
October	5,037	53,102	5,568	49,428
November	4,811	57,913	5,203	54,630
December	5,071	62,983	5,052	59,682

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 3/		Stocks 4/	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,152	1,347 r/	1,322	1,667	2,744	2,395
Minnesota	3,918	3,948	3,730	4,378	6,401	3,319
Total	5,071	5,295	5,052	6,046	9,146	5,714

r/ Revised.

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

3/ Includes rail and vessel.

4/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British	Total
			Columbia	
1999:				
November	2,485	1,387	9	3,881
December	1,515	1,468	8	2,991
Year total	18,112	15,036	85	33,232
2000:				
January	857	1,131	9	1,997
February	1,475	716	7	2,197
March	726	1,022	7	1,756
April	1,785	1,122	9	2,915
May	2,535	1,333	9	3,877
June	1,704	1,330	8	3,042
July	3,414	1,478	8	4,900
August	2,160	1,006	7	3,173
September	2,153	1,299	8	3,460
October	1,727	1,291	10	3,029
November	2,226	1,297	10	3,533

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
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	November		January-November	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ores	4,174	4,798	53,640	51,912
Canadian ores	325	517	5,884	5,078
Foreign ores	451	582	6,078	4,832 r/
Total	4,950	5,897	65,602	61,822 r/
Consumption by process	November 30		January-November	
Blast furnaces	4,526	5,341 r/	59,770	56,498 r/
Steel furnaces	2	5	46	52
Agglomerating plants 3/	422	551	5,786	5,270
Miscellaneous 4/	--	--	--	2
Total	4,950	5,897	65,602	61,822 r/
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	November 30		January-November	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Furnace yards	16,403	16,324 r/		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,457	2,510		
Total consumer	18,860	18,834		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	November		January-November	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,334	4,034	44,471	42,072
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	34	35	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

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

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ 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, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	2000				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	October	November
Canada	724	1,862	2,086	675	496
Mexico	(3/)	3	2	1 r/	(3/)
Other	9	(3/)	2	3 r/	(3/)
Total	734	1,865	2,090	679	496
Pellets	722	1,794	1,934	643	493
Other	12	71	156	36	3
Total	734	1,865	2,090	679	496

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

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

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/ 2/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2000					1999
	November		January-November			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Value 3/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	74	610	749	6,135	8.19	640
Brazil	198	4,300	5,623	141,327	25.14	4,972
Canada	885	24,392	7,574	226,000	29.84	6,009
Chile	54	1,073	135	2,624	19.38	69
Mexico	1	22	13	226	17.85	10
Norway	--	--	11	318	28.76	--
Peru	14	183	40	590	14.71	63
Sweden	--	--	250	7,928	31.71	324
Venezuela	--	--	349	11,221	32.18	283
Other	--	--	54	3,056	56.59	244 r/
Total	1,226	30,579	14,798	399,426	26.99 4/	12,614
Concentrates	127	2,308	311	6,626	21.32	1,329
Coarse ore	--	--	3	104	34.97	318
Fine ores	363	7,327	4,616	88,228	19.12	3,060 r/
Pellets	712	19,946	9,339	291,929	31.26	7,028
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	195
Other agglomerates	24	979	523	12,230	23.40	675
Roasted pyrites	(5/)	19	6	309	48.60	10
Total	1,226	30,579	14,798	399,426	26.99 4/	12,615

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

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

3/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2000
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese) 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Australia	--	--	74	--	--	--	74
Brazil	--	--	165	33	--	--	198
Canada	73	--	124	665	23	--	885
Chile	54	--	--	--	--	--	54
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Peru	--	--	--	13	--	(3/)	14
Total	127	--	363	712	24	(3/)	1,226

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

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

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY 1/

Country of origin	2000					1999
	November		January-November			January-November Thousand metric tons
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	7
Brazil	33	794	2,056	63,468	30.87	1,695
Canada	665	18,988	6,674	208,255	31.20	4,989
Peru	13	164	38	526	13.67	--
Sweden	--	--	197	6,176	31.34	270
Venezuela	--	--	349	11,221	32.18	67
Other	--	--	25	2,282	90.96	--
Total	712	19,946	9,339	291,929	31.26 3/	7,028

-- Zero.

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

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/ 2/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	November	January-November	
	2000	2000	1999
Baltimore, MD (13)	348	3,859	2,816
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	1
Charleston, SC (16)	104	202	363
Chicago, IL (39)	269	1,964	2,207
Cleveland, OH (41)	27	830	647
Detroit, MI (38)	233	1,460	1,063
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	33	64	69
Laredo, TX (23)	--	5	16
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	1	(3)
Miami, FL (52)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	3,394	2,302
New Orleans, LA (20)	209	2,891	3,009
New York City, NY (10)	--	1	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	13	10
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	16
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	114	84
San Diego, CA (25)	--	--	10
Total	1,226	14,798	12,614

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

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

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
 BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	November	January-November	
	2000	2000	1999
Baltimore, MD (13)	214	1,505	1,100
Charleston, SC (16)	104	201	258
Chicago, IL (39)	109	1,009	1,053
Cleveland, OH (41)	27	682	431
Detroit, MI (38)	211	1,415	993
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	33	64	45
Laredo, TX (23)	--	--	16
Mobile, AL (19)	--	3,289	2,296
New Orleans, LA (20)	13	1,175	837
Total	712	9,339	7,028

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.