



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 MARCH 2001

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March 2001 was 17% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 160%, as the

shipping season on the Great Lakes began March 25th. Mine stocks rose by 11%. Consumption and trade data for March 2001 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
2000:				
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
2001:				
January	4,023	4,023	2,457	2,457
February	3,423	7,446	959	3,415
March	3,996	11,442	2,492	5,907

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 3/		Stocks 4/	
	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,153	1,048	575	807	4,871	3,731
Minnesota	2,843	3,979	1,917	2,039	9,810	9,478
Total	3,996	5,028	2,492	2,846	14,681	13,209

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 Columbia	Total
2000:				
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	2,568	1,478	8	4,054
August	2,160	1,006	7	3,174
September	2,153	1,299	8	3,460
October	1,727	1,291	10	3,029
November	2,226	1,297	10	3,533
December	1,174	1,032	7	2,213
Year total	21,092	12,926	99	35,248
2001:				
January	979	633	8 r/	1,619
February	879	485	5	1,368

r/ Revised.

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			
	February		January-February	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
United States ores	4,065	4,679	8,247	9,806
Canadian ores	338	605	733	1,250
Foreign ores	612	600	1,085	1,215
Total	5,015	5,884	10,065	12,271
Consumption by process	February		January-February	
Blast furnaces	4,631	5,342	9,253	11,141
Steel furnaces	2	4	4	9
Agglomerating plants 3/	382	537	808	1,121
Miscellaneous 4/	--	--	--	--
Total	5,015	5,884	10,065	12,271
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	February 28	February 29		
	2001	2000		
Furnace yards	10,900	11,547		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,983	2,235		
Total consumer	12,883	13,783		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	February		January-February	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
	3,348	3,923	6,780	8,262
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	33	36	XX	XX

-- 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			2001	
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	December	January	February
Canada	2,086	1,452	281	551	107
Mexico	2	1	(3/)	(3/)	1
Other	2	6	3	(3/)	38
Total	2,090	1,459	284	551	146
Pellets	1,934	1,418	282	551	144
Other	156	41	2	(3/)	2
Total	2,090	1,459	284	551	146

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	2001					2000
	February		January-February			January-February
	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Value 3/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	--	--	133	1,054	7.90	54
Brazil	352	10,868	851	22,402	26.34	969
Canada	133	4,288	287	9,145	31.90	652
Chile	--	--	16	622	38.15	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	1
Netherlands	--	--	3	143	50.01	--
Norway	--	--	2	61	38.00	1
Venezuela	24	2,375	24	2,375	97.54	47
Other	(4/)	13	47	4,988	106.00	148
Total	510	17,544	1,363	40,792	29.93 5/	1,872
Concentrates 6/	(4/)	4	(4/)	4	255.18	--
Coarse ores	--	--	3	143	50.01	--
Fine ores	352	10,868	846	19,085	22.57	505
Pellets	66	2,133	406	16,397	40.37	1,341
Briquettes	24	2,375	24	2,375	97.54	--
Other agglomerates	67	2,155	84	2,777	33.14	26
Roasted pyrites 6/	(4/)	9	(4/)	9	1798.20	--
Total	510	17,544	1,363	40,792	29.93 5/	1,872

-- 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/ Less than 1/2 unit.

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

6/ These data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2001
(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	
Brazil	--	--	352	--	--	--	352
Canada	--	--	--	66	67	--	133
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	24	--	24
Other	(3/)	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)
Total	(3/)	--	352	66	92	(3/)	510

-- 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	2001					2000
	February		January-February			January-February Thousand metric tons
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	
Brazil	--	--	140	4,432	31.65	494
Canada	66	2,133	219	6,990	31.88	652
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	47
Other	--	--	47	4,975	106.00	148
Total	66	2,133	406	16,397	40.37 3/	1,341

-- 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	February	January-February	
	2001	2001	2000
Baltimore, MD (13)	133	475	486
Chicago, IL (39)	--	91	27
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	(3/)	16	31
Mobile, AL (19)	24	73	646
New Orleans, LA (20)	352	708	682
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	--	1
Philadelphia, PA (11)	(3/)	(3/)	--
Total	510	1,363	1,872

-- 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	February	January-February	
	2001	2001	2000
Baltimore, MD (13)	66	203	230
Chicago, IL (39)	--	16	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	31
Mobile, AL (19)	--	47	620
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	140	461
Total	66	406	1,341

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.