



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN MARCH 2003

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March 2003, on a daily average basis, was 14% lower than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 43% compared with those of the previous month. Mine stocks at the end of the month were 29% higher than at the end of the previous month. Consumption and trade data for March 2003 will be included in a subsequent issue.

**Note**

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1, 2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2002:				
March	3,660	10,600	2,200	6,090
April	3,840	14,400	4,360	10,400
May	4,850	19,200	5,320	15,800
June	4,870	24,100	5,810	21,600
July	4,430	28,500	5,720	27,300
August	4,580	33,100	5,530	32,800
September	4,270	37,400	4,910	37,700
October	4,650	42,000	4,790	42,500
November	4,740	46,800	4,480	47,000
December	4,700	51,500	5,040	52,000
2003:				
January	4,310	4,310	2,880	2,880
February	4,290	8,610	1,140	4,030
March	4,080	12,700	1,810	5,830

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes byproduct ores.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks <sup>4</sup>	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
Michigan	1,010	466	457	325	2,570	2,110
Minnesota	3,070	3,190	1,350	1,870	7,500	6,150
Total	4,080	3,660	1,810	2,200	10,100	8,270

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes byproduct ore.

<sup>3</sup>Includes rail and vessel.

<sup>4</sup>Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2002:				
February	355	699	10	1,060
March	1,060	771	5	1,840
April	1,490	913	9	2,410
May	2,390	1,240	8	3,630
June	1,530	828	6	2,370
July	2,290	1,020	7	3,320
August	1,770	940	9	2,720
September	1,970	1,250	7	3,220
October	2,040	1,180	8	3,220
November	2,100	1,390	7	3,500
December	1,100	1,020	5	2,120
Year total	18,900	11,900	91	30,800
2003:				
January	862 <sup>r</sup>	699 <sup>r</sup>	6	1,570 <sup>r</sup>
February	674	580	6	1,260

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

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<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	February		January-February	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
United States ores	3,910	3,690	7,690	7,610
Canadian ores	327	247	756	545
Foreign ores	751	506	1,460	1,040
Total	4,990	4,440	9,900	9,190
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	4,480	4,030	8,840	8,320
Steel furnaces	36	4	75	9
Agglomerating plants <sup>3</sup>	476	415	986	863
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	--	--	--	2
Total	4,990	4,440	9,900	9,190
	Stocks of ores and agglomerates, February 28			
Storage point	2003	2002		
Furnace yards	NA	7,480		
Receiving/transfer docks	NA	1,690		
Total consumer	NA	9,160		
	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	February		January-February <sup>5</sup>	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,630	3,000	7,460	6,170
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	NA	27	XX	XX

NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

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

<sup>4</sup>Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

<sup>5</sup>Includes revisions to previous month's 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, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	2002			2003	
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	December	January	February
Canada	2,440	1,470	672	431	166
Mexico	29	11	4	3	(3)
Other	5	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total	2,480	1,480	676	434	166
Pellets	2,390	1,460	669	430	166
Other	83	26	7	4	(3)
Total	2,480	1,480	676	434	166

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Country of origin and type of product	2003					2002
	February		Year to date			January-February
	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>3</sup> (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	--	--	61	525	8.61	67
Brazil	504	11,600	954	23,900	25.08	583
Canada	197	5,570	338	8,720	25.76	141
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	6
Peru	--	--	(4)	10	4,750.00	(4)
Other	3	140	3	140	47.16	41
Total	704	17,300	1,360	33,300	24.56 <sup>5</sup>	837
Concentrates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Coarse ores	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fine ores	147	2,410	208	2,930	14.13	306
Pellets	456	12,900	980	27,300	27.88	433
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	28
Other agglomerates	98	1,850	166	2,920	17.60	67
Roasted pyrites	3	140	3	149	50.33	3
Total	704	17,300	1,360	33,300	24.56 <sup>5</sup>	837

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other cost, insurance, and freight valuation.

<sup>4</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

<sup>5</sup>Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2003<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	--	--	146	286	72	--	504
Canada	--	--	1	170	26	--	197
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Total	--	--	147	456	98	3	704

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Country of origin	2003					2002
	February		Year to date			January-February
	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>2</sup> (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	286	7,970	735	20,300	\$27.64	292
Canada	170	4,900	244	6,980	28.57	141
Total	456	12,900	980	27,300	27.88 <sup>3</sup>	433

<sup>1</sup>Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other cost, insurance, and freight valuation.

<sup>3</sup>Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	February	January-February	
	2003	2003	2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	365	568	426
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	1	--
Charleston, SC (16)	23	23	--
Chicago, IL (39)	26	26	--
Columbia - Snake, OR (29)	--	--	28
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	37	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)	(3)
Miami, FL (52)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	59	6
New Orleans, LA (20)	286	639	364
Philadelphia, PA (11)	3	3	3
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	10
Total	704	1,360	837

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	February	January-February	
	2003	2003	2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	147	221	141
Charleston, SC (16)	23	23	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	37	--
Mobile, AL (19)	--	59	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	286	639	292
Total	456	980	433

--Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.