

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in February 2011, on a daily average basis, was 140,000 metric tons (t), 6% greater than that for the prior month and 20% greater than that of February 2010, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Average daily production was 7,600 t greater than that of January 2011.

Average daily shipments in February 2011, at 25,000 t, were

76% less than those of the prior month and 26% less than those of February 2010. Mine stocks at the end of February 2011 were 3.2 million metric tons greater than the stocks held on January 31, a 76% increase. U.S. net exports of iron ore in January 2011 were 626,000 t, with exports more than 3.6 times imports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE ^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010:				
February	3,270	6,300	943	3,340
March	3,630	9,930	2,630	5,970
April	3,780	13,700	4,790	10,800
May	4,560	18,300	5,230	16,000
June	3,700	22,000	4,940	20,900
July	4,630	26,600	5,060	26,000
August	4,550	31,200	5,050	31,000
September	4,430	35,600	4,540	35,600
October	4,600	40,200	4,340	39,900
November	4,640	44,800	4,720	44,600
December	4,660	49,500	4,600	49,200
2011:				
January	4,100	4,100	3,230	3,230
February	3,920	8,010	699	3,930

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY ^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,040	1,070	31	191	2,840	1,560
Minnesota	2,870	2,200	668	752	4,630	4,520
Total	3,920	3,270	699	943	7,470	6,080

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

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes usable (marketable) material at mines, concentrators, pelletizing plants, and loading docks.
Excludes stocks of crude ore at mine and concentrates at agglomerating complexes.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE ^{1,2}

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2010:				
January	1,300	1,090	3	2,390
February	1,130	872	3	2,000
March	1,390	1,100	6	2,500
April	1,500	1,510	7	3,020
May	1,840	1,340	11	3,190
June	1,970	1,710	10	3,690
July	1,630	1,350	12	2,990
August	1,350	1,390	12	2,760
September	1,130	1,830	8	2,970
October	1,490	1,350	7	2,850
November	2,620	1,990	10	4,620
December	1,640	1,440	5	3,090
Year total	19,000	17,000	93	36,100
2011, January	695	1,060	4	1,760

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

²Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE OF
FURNACE ¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Pig iron production, blast furnace		Raw steel production			
	Monthly	Year to date	Basic oxygen furnace		Electric furnace	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2010:						
January	2,350	2,350	1,830	1,830	3,890	3,890
February	2,530	4,870	1,960	3,790	3,720	7,610
March	2,870	7,740	2,560	6,350	4,240	11,800
April	2,030	9,770	2,820	9,170	4,140	16,000
May	2,830	12,600	2,560	11,700	4,440	20,400
June	2,800	15,400	2,530	14,300	4,300	24,700
July	2,450	17,800	2,050	16,300	4,320	29,000
August	2,490	20,300	2,250	18,600	4,130	33,200
September	2,600	22,900	2,370	20,900	4,000	37,200
October	2,150	25,100	2,390	23,300	4,160	41,300
November	2,470	27,500	2,220	25,500	3,950	45,300
December	2,340	29,900	2,580	28,100	4,060	49,300
2011, January	2,400	2,400	2,680	2,680	4,510	4,510

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

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2010						2011
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	December	4th quarter	Total	January
Belgium	1	105	(3)	(3)	1	107	(3)
Canada	918	2,110	3,130	404	1,950	8,110	753
China	--	139	240	112	345	725	108
Finland	--	35	--	--	--	35	--
France	25	211	--	--	--	236	--
Germany	--	341	--	--	(3)	341	--
Mexico	151	19	16	(3)	2	188	(3)
Serbia	--	44	--	--	--	44	--
Singapore	--	--	5	--	--	5	--
Spain	--	131	25	--	(3)	156	--
Other ⁴	4	3	2	2	1	11	1
Total	1,100	3,140	3,420	517	2,300	9,950	862
Concentrates	6	67	195	63	123	391	59
Coarse ores	--	35	100	49	124	259	49
Fine ores	(3)	72	4	(3)	1	78	31
Pellets	1,090	2,960	3,110	404	2,050	9,220	722
Briquettes	--	--	5	--	--	5	(3)
Other agglomerates	(3)	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	--
Roasted pyrites	(3)	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	1	(3)
Total	1,100	3,140	3,420	517	2,300	9,950	862

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes all countries receiving less than 5,000 metric tons in any month during the 2-year period.

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	2011					2010
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	(4)	12	(4)	12	54.19	--
Canada	172	21,200	172	21,200	123.24	384
Chile	49	7,320	49	7,320	149.39	--
Mexico	15	1,590	15	1,590	105.73	--
Total	236	30,100	236	30,100	127.61	384
Concentrates	64	8,910	64	8,910	139.14	--
Coarse ores	(4)	12	(4)	12	54.19	--
Fine ores	71	8,800	71	8,800	123.87	(4)
Pellets	101	12,400	101	12,400	122.80	384
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	236	30,100	236	30,100	127.61	384

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN JANUARY 2011^{1,2}
(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	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)
Canada	--	--	71	101	--	--	172
Chile	49	--	--	--	--	--	49
Mexico	15	--	--	--	--	--	15
Total	64	(3)	71	101	--	--	236

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2011					2010
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Canada, total	101	12,400	101	12,400	122.8	384

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

²Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

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 (code no.)	January	
	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	101	384
El Paso, TX (24)	7	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	(3)	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	129	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	(3)
Total	236	384

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January	
	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	101	384

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.