

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN APRIL 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in April 2011, on a daily average basis, was 145,000 metric tons (t), 4% greater than that for the prior month and 15% greater than that of April 2010, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Average daily production was 5,100 t greater than that of March 2011.

Average daily shipments in April 2011, at 162,000 t, were

greater than 2.4 times those of the prior month and slightly greater than those of April 2010. Mine stocks at the end of April 2011 were 502,000 t less than the stocks held on March 31, a 5% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in March 2011 were 79,000 t, with exports 72% greater than 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:				
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
March	4,350	12,400	2,070	6,000
April	4,360	16,700	4,870	10,900

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 APRIL ^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,110	1,020	1,020	1,050	3,240	1,550
Minnesota	3,260	2,760	3,850	3,740	6,010	4,530 ^r
Total	4,360	3,780	4,870	4,790	9,250	6,070 ^r

¹Revised.

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:				
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	19,000	17,000	93	36,100
2011:				
January	695	1,060	4	1,760
February	1,220	890	2	2,110
March	1,340	1,600	4	2,950

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
2010:						
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
February	2,490	4,890	2,200	4,880	4,200	8,710
March	2,790	7,680	2,490	7,360	4,580	13,300

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			
	4th quarter	Year	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	1	107	(3)	--	1	1
Canada	1,950	8,110	753	32	86	871
China	345	725	108	51	100	259
Finland	--	35	--	--	--	--
France	--	236	--	--	--	--
Germany	(3)	341	--	--	--	--
Mexico	2	188	(3)	(3)	(3)	1
Serbia	--	44	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	5	--	--	--	--
Spain	(3)	156	--	--	--	--
Other ⁴	1	11	1	1	3	5
Total	2,300	9,950	862	84	189	1,140
Concentrates	123	391	59	1	4	64
Coarse ores	124	259	49	51	30	130
Fine ores	1	78	31	1	19	51
Pellets	2,050	9,220	722	31	136	890
Briquettes	--	5	(3)	--	--	(3)
Other agglomerates	(3)	(3)	--	--	--	--
Roasted pyrites	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	--	1
Total	2,300	9,950	862	84	189	1,140

-- 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
	March		Year to date			January-March
	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	54.19	37
Canada	92	10,500	568	69,900	123.04	1,030
Chile	--	--	49	7,320	149.39	--
Mexico	12	656	27	2,240	83.04	--
Norway	--	--	(4)	13	301.79	1
Peru	5	268	5	268	53.60	7
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	260
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	2
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	21
Total	110	11,400	649	79,700	122.87	1,360
Concentrates	17	924	81	9,830	121.36	(4)
Coarse ores	--	--	(4)	12	54.19	--
Fine ores	(4)	33	279	34,500	123.65	151
Pellets	92	10,400	289	35,400	122.50	1,210
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	2
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	110	11,400	649	79,700	122.87	1,360

-- 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 MARCH 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	
Canada	--	--	(3)	92	--	--	92
Mexico	12	--	--	--	--	--	12
Peru	5	--	--	--	--	--	5
Total	17	--	(3)	92	--	--	110

-- 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
	March		Year to date			January-March
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	37
Canada	92	10,400	289	35,400	122.50	889
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	260
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	21
Total	92	10,400	289	35,400	122.50	1,210

-- 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.

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.)	March	January-March	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	66	263	1,040
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	26	26	52
El Paso, TX (24)	11	18	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	(3)	37
Laredo, TX (23)	1	1	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	336	224
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	(3)	2
San Francisco, CA (28)	5	5	--
Total	110	649	1,360

-- 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.)	March	January-March	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	66	263	1,040
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	26	26	51
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	37
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	--	76
Total	92	289	1,210

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.