

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 2012

U.S. mine production of iron ore in September 2012 was 4.34 million metric tons (Mt), nearly equal to that in August. Production was 145,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis, 3% greater than that of August and slightly less than that of September 2011. Average daily production in September 2012 was 4,500 t more than that of August. U.S. iron ore shipments were 4.67 Mt in September 2012, 11% less than those in August.

Shipments were 156,000 t on a daily average basis, 8% less than those of August and 17% less than those of September 2011. Mine stocks at the end of September 2012 were 330,000 t less than those held on August 30, a 11% decrease. U.S. exports of iron ore were 793,000 t and U.S. imports were 423,000 t.

### Domestic Production

Contract negotiations were completed and ratified between United Steelworkers and United States Steel Corp. (Pittsburgh, PA) to extend contracts for 16,000 workers for 3 years (Hufnagel, 2012).

ArcelorMittal S.A. (Luxembourg, Luxembourg) reported fiscal year 2012 iron ore shipments were expected to surpass those of fiscal year 2011 by approximately 10%, despite decreases in iron ore prices. In the third quarter of 2012, ArcelorMittal produced an estimated 2.4 Mt of iron ore in North America, 11% less than that in the second quarter of 2012 and 25% more than that in the third quarter of 2011 (ArcelorMittal S.A., 2012).

Revenues for Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. (Cleveland, OH) were \$110.51 per metric ton during the third quarter of 2012, 20% less than that in the third quarter of 2011. Sales volumes of iron ore pellets were 6.6 Mt in the third quarter in 2012, down from 7.9 Mt in the third quarter of 2011 (Cliffs Natural Resources, 2012).

### World Production

India's Supreme Court lifted bans on 18 mines in the State of Karnataka in early September, allowing nearly 5 Mt of domestic production to resume (Serapio, 2012). The Central Empowered Committee of India announced September 28 that after organizing the leases for iron ore mines into levels, based on

reported irregularities, 63 additional iron ore leases in Karnataka could conditionally resume production if they completed reclamation and compensated the State for ecological loss (Malhotra, 2012).

New Millennium Iron Corp. announced that iron ore production began in Schefferville, Quebec, Canada, a joint venture with Tata Steel Minerals Canada Ltd. (20% ownership), which will direct ship 20 to 25 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (American Metal Market, 2012).

Estimated annual production for 2012 at African Minerals Ltd.'s (London, United Kingdom) Tonkolili iron ore project was revised to 5 to 6 Mt from the original estimate of 10 Mt owing to severe weather impacts. The company expected to resume production at a rate of 20 Mt/yr by June of 2013 (Mining Journal, 2012a). Reserve estimates at Zanaga Iron Ore Company Ltd.'s (Road Town, Tortola) Zanaga iron ore project, located in Congo (Brazzaville), were revised to 6,800 Mt at 32% Fe (Mining Journal, 2012b).

### References Cited

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Reuters, September 3. (Accessed September 4, 2012, at

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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
2011:				
September	4,400 <sup>r</sup>	40,000	5,630	38,200
October	4,440	44,400	4,910	43,100
November	4,600	49,000	5,010	48,100
December	4,630	53,600	6,040	54,200
2012:				
January	4,170	4,170	3,840	3,840
February	4,270	8,450	725	4,560
March	4,290	12,700	2,130	6,690
April	3,980	16,700	5,150	11,800
May	4,430	21,100	5,750	17,600
June	4,200	25,300	5,270	22,900
July	4,250	29,600	5,730	28,600
August	4,350	33,900	5,220	33,800
September	4,340	38,300	4,670	38,500

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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 SEPTEMBER<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks <sup>4</sup>	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Michigan	961	776	1,190	661	2,640	1,170
Minnesota	3,430 <sup>r</sup>	3,570	4,450	4,010	2,500 <sup>r</sup>	1,480
Total	4,400 <sup>r</sup>	4,340	5,630	4,670	5,140 <sup>r</sup>	2,660

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2011:				
September	1,650	1,610	6	3,260
October	1,390	1,460	6	2,850
November	1,210	2,340	5	3,550
December	1,340	2,200	1	3,540
January–December	15,800	19,800	59	35,700
2012:				
January	1,240	1,420	1	2,650
February	1,400	1,150	1	2,550
March	1,030	1,880	(3)	2,910
April	1,460	1,450	4	2,900
May	1,320	1,780	3	3,100
June	1,320	2,290	3	3,620
July	1,390	1,550	3	2,940
August	1,410	1,620	2	3,030
September	1,280	2,040	4	3,330

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Uqwtg:P cwtcrTgqwtgEpcfc.

TABLE 4  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL, BY TYPE OF FURNACE<sup>1</sup>

(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
2011:						
September	2,540	23,600	3,080	23,600	4,150	39,600
October	3,010	26,600	2,630	26,200	4,140	43,800
November	2,990	29,600	2,680	28,900	4,040	47,800
December	3,190	32,800	2,840	31,700	4,290	52,100
2012:						
January	3,080	3,080	2,780	2,780	4,630	4,630
February	3,050	6,130	2,660	5,440	4,490	9,120
March	3,430	9,560	3,060	8,500	4,530	13,700
April	2,920	12,500	3,190	11,700	4,640	18,300
May	3,320	15,800	2,900	14,600	4,590	22,900
June	2,970	18,800	2,570	17,200	4,270	27,200
July	2,930	21,700	2,580	19,700	4,390	31,500
August	2,860	24,600	3,180	22,900	4,450	36,000
September	2,440	27,000	2,720	25,600	4,090	40,100

<sup>1</sup>Data 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<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2011	2012				
		1st quarter	2nd quarter	July	August	September
Canada	7,050	1,290	1,850	650	603	340
China	3,190	814	1,820	313	351	359
Colombia	16	1	--	--	--	--
France	430	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	81	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	51	48	98	74	71	94
Spain	187	--	--	--	(3)	--
Switzerland	46	--	--	--	--	--
Other	8	5	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total	11,100	2,160	3,770	1,040	1,030	793
Concentrates	628	148	449	78	189	144
Coarse ores	1,740	554	499	72	51	--
Fine ores	208	114	10	54	32	(3)
Pellets	8,470	1,340	2,810	832	753	649
Briquettes	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	--	--
Other agglomerates	1	(3)	1	(3)	--	--
Roasted pyrites	3	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total	11,100	2,160	3,770	1,040	1,030	793

-- 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 ½ 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	2011	2012		2012		
	January–September	September		January–September		
	Thousand metric tons	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)
Argentina	74	41	5,440	81	11,400	140.43
Brazil	153	102	14,100	728	93,600	128.59
Canada	3,040	281	36,600	2,850	446,000	156.47
Chile	121	--	--	96	14,400	150.29
China	(4)	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Finland	4	--	--	4	278	69.50
France	--	(4)	3	(4)	9	453.45
Germany	--	(4)	2	(4)	11	134.88
Latvia	--	--	--	(4)	3	3,150.00
Mexico	27	--	--	47	5,630	119.74
Norway	(4)	(4)	28	(4)	58	299.66
Peru	14	--	--	8	956	119.50
Russia	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
South Africa	147	--	--	39	6,360	163.00
Sweden	42	(4)	7	66	7,920	119.94
Ukraine	(4)	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
United Kingdom	--	--	--	76	10,100	132.87
Venezuela	187	--	--	33	4,280	129.67
Total	3,810	423	56,100	4,030	601,000	149.24
Concentrates	477	88	9,240	731	86,900	118.90
Coarse ores	36	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
Fine ores	598	95	14,400	327	45,500	139.20
Pellets	2,650	240	32,500	2,960	468,000	157.92
Briquettes	8	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	34	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Roasted pyrites	4	(4)	23	4	301	75.25
Total	3,810	423	56,100	4,030	601,000	149.24

-- 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 and insurance charges.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 2012<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	
Argentina	--	--	41	--	--	--	41
Brazil	58	--	44	--	--	--	102
Canada	31	--	11	240	--	(3)	281
France	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)
Germany	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Sweden	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Total	88	--	95	240	--	(3)	423

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Country of origin	2011	2012				
	January–September	September		January–September		
	Thousand metric tons	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)
Brazil	--	--	--	284	40,700	143.27
Canada	2,650	240	32,500	2,600	417,000	160.25
United Kingdom	--	--	--	76	10,100	132.87
Total	2,650	240	32,500	2,960	468,000	157.92

-- 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>Customs 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<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January–September		September
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,090	1,440	--
Buffalo, NY (09)	(3)	--	--
Charleston, SC (16)	--	(3)	(3)
Chicago, IL (39)	370	559	112
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,710	1,310	227
Detroit, MI (38)	11	(3)	--
El Paso, TX (24)	18	--	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	20	54	44
Laredo, TX (23)	1	--	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	(3)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	5	22	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	571	601	41
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	1	--	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	1	(3)	(3)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	4	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	--	27	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	5	--	--
Seattle, WA (30)	--	(3)	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	1	--	--
Tampa, FL (18)	10	3	--
Total	3,810	4,030	423

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January–September		September
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	878	1,260	--
Buffalo, NY (09)	(2)	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	41	13
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,710	1,310	227
New Orleans, LA (20)	70	345	--
Total	2,650	2,960	240

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.