

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Candice C. Tuck, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4912, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: ctuck@usgs.gov

Michelle B. Blackwell (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7943
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mblackwell@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN JANUARY 2013

U.S. mine production of iron ore was 4.20 million metric tons (Mt) in January 2013, averaging 135,000 metric tons (t) on a daily basis, which was 10% less than that of December 2012 and slightly higher than that of January 2012.

U.S. iron ore shipments were 3.11 Mt in January 2013, averaging 100,000 t on a daily basis, which were 43% less than those of December 2012 and 19% less than those of January 2012. Mine stocks at the end of January 2013 were 1.09 Mt more than those held on December 31. U.S. exports of iron ore were 1.02 Mt and U.S. imports were 81,000 t.

Research by the University of Minnesota Duluth's Labovitz School of Business and Economics reported that Minnesota's iron ore industry was responsible for an annual economic impact in excess of \$3 billion. Mining, processing, and shipping were, according to the study, directly responsible for 11,500 jobs in the State in 2010 and accounted for 5% of the State's economy and 30% of the gross regional product in northeastern Minnesota (Steel Guru, 2013).

China's average import prices for iron ore fines at 62% iron content spot price (cost and freight Tianjin port) rose to \$150.49 per dry metric ton in January 2013, a 16.8% increase from that of December 2012 (Index Mundi, 2012). Prices continued to recover from September's low of \$99.47 per ton of fines, the lowest price since November 2009.

ArcelorMittal S.A. sold a 15% stake in ArcelorMittal Mines Canada Inc., valued at \$1.1 billion, to Taiwan's China Steel Corp. and South Korea's Posco. Activity in Canada was expected to increase as ArcelorMittal planned to double output at the Mont-Wright (Quebec) complex from 15 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr), made progress on the Mary River project (Baffin Island) in a joint venture with Nunavut Iron Ore Acquisition Inc., and continued development at Mont-Reed and Fire Lake in the Labrador Trough. Iron ore deposits in Quebec and Labrador were also being reviewed for development by Champion Iron Ore Mines Ltd., Alderon Iron Ore Corp., and a

joint venture between Tata Steels Ltd. and New Millennium Capital Corp. (Donville and others, 2013).

Australia announced Government interest in beginning an expansion of the Esperance Port in Yilgarn, Western Australia, by finding private sector assistance to complete a multiuser iron ore shipping facility by 2015. Currently, the Yilgarn Iron Producers Association estimates that it would be financially viable to double the capacity of 11.5 Mt/yr. Raising shipping capacity at the Esperance Port would allow for increased production in Yilgarn (Wilson-Chapman, 2013).

Restrictions on mining in the Indian States of Goa and Karnataka were expected to reduce India's iron ore exports from an annual average of 100 Mt/yr to an estimated 27 to 30 Mt in 2013. An estimated \$15 billion worth of iron ore exports have been lost to overseas competitors. Sesa Goa expected to produce 4 Mt of iron ore per year beginning in early 2014 from its Liberian iron ore mining project (Mayenkar, 2013).

References Cited

- Donville, Christopher, Elmquist, Sonja, and Lam, Eric, 2013, ArcelorMittal deal fuels iron-ore rally: Bloomberg L.P., January 3. (Accessed January 14, 2013, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-03/arcelormittal-deal-fuels-iron-ore-rally-corporate-canada.html>.)
- Index Mundi, [undated], Iron ore monthly price: Index Mundi. (Accessed March 21, 2013, at <http://www.indexmundi.com/commodities/?commodity=iron-ore&months=120>.)
- Mayenkar, Siddesh, 2013, Sesa Goa to start Liberia iron ore output early 2014: Reuters, January 25. (Accessed January 25, 2013, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/01/25/sesagoa-liberia-idINDEE9008Y20130125>.)
- Steel Guru, 2013, Iron ore mining has usd 3 billion impact in Minnesota: Steel Guru, February 9. (Accessed February 12, 2013, at http://www.steelguru.com/raw_material_news/Iron_ore_mining_has_a_USD_3_billion_impact_in_Minnesota/301168.html.)
- Wilson-Chapman, Amy, 2013, Esperance expansion good news for Yilgarn iron ore miners: Perth Now, January 31. (Accessed January 31, 2013, at <http://www.perthnow.com.au/business/esperance-expansion-good-news-for-yilgarn-iron-ore-miners/story-e6frg2qc-1226565971007>.)

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 |
| 2012: | | | | |
| January | 4,170 ^r | 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 |
| October | 4,750 | 43,000 | 4,460 | 42,900 |
| November | 4,580 | 47,600 | 4,530 | 47,500 |
| December | 4,650 | 52,200 | 5,500 | 53,000 |
| 2013, January | 4,200 | 4,200 | 3,110 | 3,110 |

^rRevised.

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 JANUARY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

| State | Production | | Shipments ³ | | Stocks ⁴ | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Michigan | 830 | 867 | 1,640 | 798 | 671 | 1,430 |
| Minnesota | 3,340 ^r | 3,330 | 2,200 | 2,310 | 2,530 ^r | 1,850 |
| Total | 4,170 ^r | 4,200 | 3,840 | 3,110 | 3,200 ^r | 3,290 |

^rRevised.

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 |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--|--------|
| | | | | | |
| 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 |
| October | 1,210 | 1,430 | 3 | | 2,650 |
| November | 1,460 | 1,800 | 5 | | 3,260 |
| December | 1,410 | 1,970 | 3 | | 3,380 |
| January–December | 15,900 | 20,400 | 34 | | 36,300 |
| 2013, January | 1,310 | 1,350 | -- | | 2,660 |

-- Zero.

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

²Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
U.S. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL, BY TYPE OF FURNACE¹

(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 |
| 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 |
| October | 2,260 | 29,300 | 2,700 | 28,300 | 4,090 | 44,200 |
| November | 2,820 | 32,100 | 2,480 | 30,800 | 3,960 | 48,100 |
| December | 2,900 | 35,000 | 2,550 | 33,400 | 4,270 | 52,400 |
| 2013, January | 3,060 | 3,060 | 2,740 | 2,740 | 4,300 | 4,300 |

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 | 2011 | 2012 | | | | | 2013 January | |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | December | 4th quarter | | 1st quarter– 4th quarter |
| Canada | 7,050 | 1,290 | 1,850 | 1,590 | 395 | 1,640 | 6,370 | 832 |
| China | 3,190 | 814 | 1,820 | 1,020 | 247 | 458 | 4,110 | 47 |
| Colombia | 16 | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | (3) |
| France | 430 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Germany | 81 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 3 | 3 | -- |
| Japan | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 37 | 37 | -- |
| Mexico | 51 | 48 | 98 | 240 | 107 | 255 | 641 | 121 |
| Spain | 187 | -- | -- | (3) | -- | -- | (3) | -- |
| Switzerland | 46 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 23 |
| Other | 8 | 5 | 1 | (3) | (3) | 6 | 12 | 1 |
| Total | 11,100 | 2,160 | 3,770 | 2,860 | 758 | 2,400 | 11,200 | 1,020 |
| Concentrates | 628 | 148 | 449 | 411 | 172 | 320 | 1,330 | 120 |
| Coarse ores | 1,740 | 554 | 499 | 123 | 49 | 148 | 1,330 | 71 |
| Fine ores | 208 | 114 | 10 | 87 | (3) | 38 | 249 | (3) |
| Pellets | 8,470 | 1,340 | 2,810 | 2,240 | 537 | 1,870 | 8,260 | 833 |
| Briquettes | (3) | (3) | (3) | -- | (3) | -- | (3) | -- |
| Other agglomerates | 1 | (3) | 1 | (3) | (3) | 23 | 23 | -- |
| Roasted pyrites | 3 | 1 | 1 | (3) | (3) | (3) | 3 | -- |
| Total | 11,100 | 2,160 | 3,770 | 2,860 | 758 | 2,400 | 11,200 | 1,020 |

-- 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 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 | | | 2012 | | | 2013 | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| | January–December | December | | January–December | | | January | |
| | Thousand metric tons | Thousand metric tons | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Thousand metric tons | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Value ³ (dollars per ton) | Thousand metric tons | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 74 | -- | -- | 81 | 11,400 | 140.43 | -- | -- |
| Brazil | 562 | -- | -- | 739 | 94,700 | 128.09 | -- | -- |
| Canada | 3,910 | 338 | 48,600 | 3,810 | 587,000 | 154.15 | 81 | 10,400 |
| Chile | 165 | -- | -- | 104 | 15,500 | 148.86 | -- | -- |
| China | (4) | -- | -- | (4) | 115 | 5,750.00 | -- | -- |
| Finland | 4 | -- | -- | 4 | 278 | 69.50 | -- | -- |
| France | -- | -- | -- | (4) | 9 | 453.45 | -- | -- |
| Germany | (4) | -- | -- | (4) | 11 | 134.88 | -- | -- |
| India | -- | -- | -- | (4) | 2 | 48.00 | -- | -- |
| Latvia | -- | -- | -- | (4) | 3 | 3,150.00 | -- | -- |
| Mexico | 27 | -- | -- | 47 | 5,630 | 119.74 | -- | -- |
| Netherlands | -- | (4) | 2 | (4) | 2 | 303.71 | -- | -- |
| Norway | (4) | -- | -- | (4) | 72 | 299.73 | -- | -- |
| Peru | 14 | -- | -- | 44 | 4,620 | 104.89 | (4) | 2 |
| Russia | (4) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| South Africa | 147 | -- | -- | 91 | 11,300 | 124.62 | -- | -- |
| Sweden | 81 | -- | -- | 72 | 9,000 | 124.97 | -- | -- |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Ukraine | (4) | -- | -- | (4) | 15 | 54.17 | -- | -- |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | -- | 76 | 10,100 | 132.87 | -- | -- |
| Venezuela | 278 | -- | -- | 75 | 8,340 | 111.16 | -- | -- |
| Total | 5,270 | 338 | 48,600 | 5,140 | 758,000 | 147.50 | 81 | 10,400 |
| Concentrates | 796 | 1 | 34 | 862 | 99,600 | 115.52 | -- | -- |
| Coarse ores | 42 | 11 | 176 | 51 | 2,730 | 53.45 | 3 | 50 |
| Fine ores | 731 | (4) | 72 | 363 | 49,300 | 135.73 | (4) | 35 |
| Pellets | 3,650 | 326 | 48,400 | 3,860 | 606,000 | 157.05 | 78 | 10,400 |
| Briquettes | 12 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Other agglomerates | 34 | -- | -- | (4) | 115 | 5,750.00 | -- | -- |
| Roasted pyrites | 4 | -- | -- | 4 | 303 | 75.75 | (4) | 2 |
| Total | 5,270 | 338 | 48,600 | 5,140 | 758,000 | 147.50 | 81 | 10,400 |

-- 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 2013^{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 | (3) | 78 | -- | -- | 81 |
| Peru | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | (3) |
| Total | -- | 3 | (3) | 78 | -- | (3) | 81 |

-- 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 IRON ORE PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

| Country of origin | 2011 | 2012 | | | 2013 | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | January–December | December | | January–December | | | | |
| | Thousand metric tons | Thousand metric tons | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Thousand metric tons | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Value ² (dollars per ton) | Thousand metric tons | Value ² (thousand dollars) |
| Brazil | 244 | -- | -- | 284 | 40,700 | 143.27 | -- | -- |
| Canada | 3,410 | 326 | 48,400 | 3,500 | 555,000 | 158.65 | 78 | 10,400 |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | -- | 76 | 10,100 | 132.87 | -- | -- |
| Total | 3,650 | 326 | 48,400 | 3,860 | 606,000 | 157.05 | 78 | 10,400 |

-- 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.) | December | January–December | | January |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------|-------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Baltimore, MD (13) | -- | 1,710 | 1,450 | -- |
| Buffalo, NY (09) | -- | (3) | -- | -- |
| Charleston, SC (16) | -- | -- | (3) | -- |
| Chicago, IL (39) | -- | 675 | 689 | -- |
| Cleveland, OH (41) | 326 | 2,110 | 2,210 | -- |
| Detroit, MI (38) | -- | 16 | (3) | -- |
| El Paso, TX (24) | -- | 18 | -- | -- |
| Houston-Galveston, TX (53) | -- | 83 | 54 | -- |
| Laredo, TX (23) | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| Los Angeles, CA (27) | -- | (3) | (3) | -- |
| Mobile, AL (19) | -- | 13 | 48 | -- |
| New Orleans, LA (20) | -- | 616 | 618 | 78 |
| New York, NY (10) | -- | (3) | (3) | -- |
| Nogales, AZ (26) | -- | -- | -- | (3) |
| Norfolk, VA (14) | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| Ogdensburg, NY (07) | -- | 1 | (3) | -- |
| Philadelphia, PA (11) | -- | 4 | 4 | -- |
| Port Arthur, TX (21) | -- | -- | 27 | -- |
| San Francisco, CA (28) | -- | 5 | -- | -- |
| Seattle, WA (30) | 11 | -- | 37 | -- |
| St. Albans, VT (02) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Tampa, FL (18) | -- | 15 | 3 | -- |
| Total | 338 | 5,270 | 5,140 | 81 |

-- 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 IRON ORE PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Customs district (code no.) | December | January–December | | January |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------|-------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Baltimore, MD (13) | -- | 1,420 | 1,260 | -- |
| Buffalo, NY (09) | -- | (2) | -- | -- |
| Chicago, IL (39) | -- | 10 | 41 | -- |
| Cleveland, OH (41) | 326 | 2,110 | 2,210 | -- |
| Houston-Galveston, TX (53) | -- | 44 | -- | -- |
| New Orleans, LA (20) | -- | 70 | 345 | 78 |
| Total | 326 | 3,650 | 3,860 | 78 |

-- 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.