

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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 JULY 2013

U.S. mine production of iron ore in July 2013 was 4.4 million metric tons (Mt), 10% greater than that in June. Production was 142,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis, 7% greater than that of June 2013 and 4% more than that of July 2012. U.S. iron ore shipments were 5.65 Mt in July 2013, 9% greater than those in June 2013. Shipments were 182,000 t on a daily average basis, 6% greater than those of June and slightly less than those of July 2012.

Mine stocks at the end of July 2013 were 23% less than those held in June and 7% more than those in July 2012. U.S. exports of iron ore were 926,000 t in July 2013, 25% greater than those in June 2013 and 11% less than those of July 2012. U.S. imports of iron ore were 237,000 t in July 2013, 11% greater than those in June 2013 and 44% less than those of July 2012.

The amount of pig iron produced by blast furnaces in July 2013 was essentially unchanged from that in June, and 6% lower than that in July 2012. The amount of raw steel produced using basic oxygen furnaces was nearly the same as that in June and 6% lower than that in July 2012. Production from electric furnaces was 8% higher than that in June and 6% higher than that in July 2012 (table 4).

China's average import prices for iron ore fines at 62% iron content spot price (cost and freight Tianjin port) rose to \$127.19 per dry metric ton in June 2013, an 11% increase from that of July 2013 and nearly the same as that of July 2012 (Index Mundi, undated).

Austrian company, voestalpine AG planned to construct a 2-million-metric-ton-per-year direct-reduced iron (DRI) plant near Corpus Christi, TX. Midrex Technologies Inc. and Siemens Industry Inc. were contracted to build the \$270 million facility,

which will supply hot briquetted iron (HBI) to voestalpine's facilities in Linz and Donawitz and other customers beginning in late 2015. The consortium also planned infrastructure improvements, including port facilities (Siemens Industry Inc., 2013).

Nucor Corp. signed an agreement with Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag (Sweden) to supply 750,000 t of DRI pellets per year (Lovell and Richardson, 2013).

The Rizhao International Iron Ore Exchange opened in July to facilitate spot trading of iron ore at the largest port in China. The trading group included 21 primary dealers which list transactions to the public. Rizhao receives more than 100 Mt/yr of iron ore (Rong, 2013).

## References Cited

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- Rong, Feiwen, 2013, China starts spot iron ore platform in Rizhao to boost trade: Bloomberg News, July 11. (Accessed October 21, 2013, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-09/china-starts-spot-iron-ore-platform-in-rizhao-to-boost-trade.html>.)
- Siemens Industry Inc., 2013, Siemens and Midrex to build direct reduction plant for voestalpine in Texas: Erlangen, Germany, Siemens Industry Inc. press release, July 16, 1 p.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks <sup>4</sup>
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2012:					
July	4,250	29,600	5,730	28,600	3,850
August	4,350	33,900	5,220	33,800	2,980
September	4,340	38,300	4,670	38,500	2,660
October	4,750	43,000	4,460	42,900	2,970
November	4,580	47,600	4,530	47,500	3,020
December	4,650	52,200	5,500	53,000	2,200
2013:					
January	4,200	4,200	3,110	3,110	3,290
February	3,900	8,100	611	3,720	6,580
March	4,400	12,500	2,020	5,740	8,960
April	3,460	16,000	4,670	10,400	7,830
May	4,280	20,200	5,680	16,100	6,350
June	3,990	24,200	5,170	21,300	5,390
July	4,400	28,600	5,650	26,900	4,130

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

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

<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 2  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2012:				
July	1,388	1,550	3	2,941
August	1,410	1,616	2	3,028
September	1,284	2,040	4	3,329
October	1,214	1,430	3	2,647
November	1,456	1,803	5	3,264
December	1,410	1,969	3	3,382
January–December	15,923	20,369	34	36,326
2013:				
January	1,080	1,602	--	2,682
February	1,003	1,428	--	2,431
March	845	1,619	--	2,465
April	1,726	1,731	--	3,457
May	1,785	1,648	--	3,433
June	1,678	2,055	--	3,732
July	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available. -- Zero.

<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.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 3  
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
2012:						
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
February	2,760	5,820	2,530	5,280	4,050	8,350
March	3,040	8,860	2,660	7,940	4,300	12,600
April	2,800	11,700	2,510	10,500	4,340	17,000
May	2,880	14,500	2,660	13,100	4,480	21,500
June	2,760	17,300	2,440	15,500	4,340	25,800
July	2,760	20,100	2,430	18,000	4,680	30,500

<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 4  
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	2012	2013		July
		1st quarter	2d quarter	
Canada	6,370	1,290	1,630	496
China	4,110	412	458	236
Colombia	1	(3)	(3)	--
Germany	3	5	7	(3)
Hong Kong	3	--	164	--
Japan	37	--	--	28
Mexico	641	338	272	104
Slovakia	--	47	68	--
Spain	(3)	(3)	--	--
United Kingdom	--	222	140	61
Other	12	1	(3)	(3)
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	926
Concentrates	1,330	485	631	218
Coarse ores	1,330	130	83	--
Fine ores	249	213	91	28
Pellets	8,260	1,490	1,860	597
Briquettes	(3)	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	23	--	70	82
Roasted pyrites	3	(3)	(3)	1
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	926

-- 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 5  
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	2012			2013		
	January–July	July		January–July		
	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	40	47	8,110	88	15,900	181.17
Brazil	516	106	15,200	144	18,400	127.97
Canada	2,340	84	11,800	1,180	160,000	134.78
Chile	96	--	--	50	5,720	114.32
China	(4)	--	--	1	47	47.00
Finland	4	--	--	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	(4)	4	175.65
Germany	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
India	--	--	--	(4)	3	2,681.00
Latvia	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	47	--	--	(4)	5	100.00
Norway	(4)	--	--	(4)	28	299.89
Peru	8	--	--	(4)	7	1,642.50
South Africa	39	--	--	43	6,150	142.98
Sweden	66	(4)	13	18	1,930	107.33
Trinidad and Tobago	--	(4)	38	(4)	59	164.57
Ukraine	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	--	(4)	5	4,590.00
Venezuela	33	--	--	--	--	--
Total	3,260	237	35,200	1,530	208,000	135.98
Concentrates	504	29	2,430	161	17,500	108.80
Coarse ores	(4)	--	--	19	1,730	91.16
Fine ores	231	47	8,290	392	56,300	143.73
Pellets	2,520	161	24,400	957	132,000	138.20
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	(4)	--	--	1	47	47.00
Roasted pyrites	4	--	--	(4)	14	2,306.83
Total	3,260	237	35,200	1,530	208,000	135.98

-- 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 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN JULY 2013<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	--	--	47	--	--	--	47
Brazil	29	--	--	77	--	--	106
Canada	--	--	1	83	--	--	84
Sweden	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Trinidad and Tobago	(3)	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Total	29	--	47	161	--	--	237

-- 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 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

Country of origin	2012		2013			
	January–July	July	July	January–July	January–July	January–July
	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	77	12,800	77	12,800	167
Canada	2,160	83	11,600	879	119,000	135.86
United Kingdom	76	--	--	--	--	--
Total	2,520	161	24,400	957	132,000	138.20

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
 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–July		July
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,440	--	--
Charleston, SC (16)	(3)	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	308	111	29
Cleveland, OH (41)	886	801	83
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	1	1
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	10	(3)	(3)
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	(3)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	22	18	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	560	594	124
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	(3)	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	--	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	27	--	--
San Diego, CA (25)	--	(3)	--
Seattle, WA (30)	(3)	--	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	3	--
Tampa, FL (18)	3	--	--
Total	3,260	1,530	237

--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 9  
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS,  
 BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January–July		July
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,260	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	28	--	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	886	801	83
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(2)	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	345	156	77
Total	2,520	957	161

-- 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.