

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 2013

U.S. mine production of iron ore in September 2013 was 159,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis, 7% greater than that of August 2013 and 10% more than that of September 2012. U.S. iron ore shipments in September 2013 were 180,000 t on a daily average basis, 3% greater than those of August and 16% more than those of September 2012.

Mine stocks at the end of September 2013 were 16% less than those held in August and 4% more than those in September 2012. U.S. imports of iron ore in September 2013 were 134% greater than those in August 2013 and 22% greater than those of September 2012. U.S. exports of iron ore in September 2013 were 21% greater than those in August 2013 and 23% greater than those of September 2012.

Nevada Iron Ltd. entered into an agreement to acquire lands adjacent to its Buena Vista iron ore project in Nevada. The acquisition was expected to increase the project's land holdings by 163% to 6,464 hectares (15,973 acres) (Swanepoel, 2013). Nevada Iron's Buena Vista National Instrument 43-101 technical report indicated a life of mine average ore grade of 19% with 1.8 million metric tons of average annual concentrate produced (Nevada Iron, 2013).

The U.S. Export-Import Bank was considering financing \$650 million in construction equipment from Caterpillar Inc. in

Illinois to the Roy Hill iron-ore project in Western Australia. Roy Hill was estimated to produce 55 Mt of iron ore annually (Barrett, 2013). State representatives and iron ore producers have argued against the deal, stating that Roy Hill's mining would result in lost revenue, hurting the U.S. iron and steel industry (Merrion, 2013).

References Cited

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- Merrion, Paul, 2013, Caterpillar wins fight over export deal: Crain's Chicago Business, November 14. (Accessed December 18, 2013, at <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20131114/NEWS02/131119851/caterpillar-wins-fight-over-export-deal>.)
- Nevada Iron, 2013, NI 43-101 technical report, Nevada Iron Ltd, Web site. (Accessed December 11, 2013, at <http://www.nv-iron.com/projects/buena-vista/ni-43101-technical-report>.)
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TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
2012:					
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
August	4,610	33,200	5,430	32,300	3,320
September	4,780	38,000	5,400	37,700	2,770

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

²Excludes byproduct ores.

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

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
2012:				
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	1,080	1,600	--	2,680
February	1,000	1,430	--	2,430
March	845	1,620	--	2,470
April	1,730	1,730	--	3,460
May	1,950	1,650	--	3,600
June	1,840	2,060	--	3,900
July	1,760	2,140	--	3,900
August	1,740	2,000	--	3,730
September	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available. -- Zero.

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 3
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:						
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
August	2,890	22,900	2,550	20,500	4,580	35,100
September	2,880	25,800	2,460	23,000	4,400	39,500

¹Data 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^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2012	2013				
		1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September
Canada	6,370	1,290	1,630	496	295	582
China	4,110	412	458	236	269	197
Colombia	1	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	82
Germany	3	5	7	(3)	--	--
Hong Kong	3	--	164	--	--	--
Japan	37	--	--	28	--	31
Mexico	641	338	272	104	55	85
Slovakia	--	47	68	--	--	--
Spain	(3)	(3)	--	--	189	--
United Kingdom	--	222	140	61	--	--
Other	12	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	926	808	977
Concentrates	1,330	485	631	218	277	160
Coarse ores	1,330	130	83	--	--	--
Fine ores	249	213	91	28	(3)	1
Pellets	8,260	1,490	1,860	597	478	755
Briquettes	(3)	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	23	--	70	82	54	60
Roasted pyrites	3	(3)	(3)	1	(3)	--
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	926	808	977

-- 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 5
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	2012			2013		
	January–September Thousand metric tons	September		January–September		
		Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ^{3,4} (dollars per ton)
Argentina	81	--	--	88	15,900	181.17
Brazil	728	137	18,900	364	45,200	124.13
Canada	2,850	300	41,500	1,620	218,000	134.83
Chile	96	--	--	50	5,720	114.32
China	(5)	--	--	1	97	97.00
Finland	4	--	--	--	--	--
France	(5)	--	--	(5)	4	175.65
Germany	(5)	--	--	(5)	5	217
India	--	--	--	(5)	3	2,681.00
Latvia	(5)	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	47	--	--	(5)	5	100.00
Norway	(5)	78	11,900	78	11,900	152.59
Peru	8	--	--	(5)	7	1,642.50
South Africa	39	--	--	43	6,150	142.98
Sweden	66	--	--	18	1,930	107.33
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	(5)	59	164.57
Ukraine	(5)	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	--	(5)	5	4,590.00
Venezuela	33	--	--	--	--	--
Total	4,030	514	72,200	2,260	305,000	134.97
Concentrates	731	--	--	213	21,900	102.92
Coarse ores	(5)	(5)	17	19	1,750	92.05
Fine ores	327	59	6,790	482	66,600	138.22
Pellets	2,960	455	65,400	1,550	215,000	138.91
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	(5)	--	--	1	97	97.00
Roasted pyrites	4	--	--	(5)	14	2,306.83
Total	4,030	514	72,200	2,260	305,000	134.97

-- 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.

⁴Values are calculated and may not reflect actual amounts per ton.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 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	
Brazil	--	--	59	78	--	--	137
Canada	--	(3)	--	300	--	--	300
Norway	--	--	--	78	--	--	78
Total	--	(3)	59	455	--	--	514

-- 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 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2012	2013				
	January–September	September		January–September		
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ^{2,3} (dollars per ton)
Brazil	284	78	12,100	155	24,900	161
Canada	2,600	300	41,500	1,320	178,000	135.55
Germany	--	--	--	(4)	5	217.22
Norway	--	78	11,900	78	11,900	152.23
United Kingdom	76	--	--	--	--	--
Total	2,960	455	65,400	1,550	215,000	138.91

-- 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.

³Values are calculated and may not reflect actual amounts per ton.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
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–September		September
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,440	--	--
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	(3)
Charleston, SC (16)	(3)	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	559	254	59
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,310	1,090	147
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	1	(3)
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	54	(3)	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	(3)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	22	18	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	601	902	308
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	--
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	(3)	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(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	4,030	2,260	514

-- 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 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January–September		September
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,260	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	41	--	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,310	1,080	147
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(2)	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	345	463	308
Total	2,960	1,550	455

-- 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.