

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 2003

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December, on a daily average basis, was 13% less than that of November, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily production was 120,000 metric tons per day (t/d), compared with 138,000 t/d in November. Production in December 2002 was 152,000 t/d. Shipments increased by 10% compared with those of the

previous month. Mine stocks at the end of December were 27% lower than at the end of November.

Note

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

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
2002:				
December	4,700	51,500	5,040	52,000
2003:				
January	4,310	4,310	2,880	2,880
February	4,290	8,610	1,140	4,030
March	4,080	12,700	1,810	5,830
April	4,230	16,900	4,790	10,600
May	4,010	20,900	5,340	16,000
June	3,740	24,700	4,840	20,800
July	3,920	28,600	4,450	25,200
August	3,950	32,500	4,330	29,600
September	3,870	36,400	4,220	33,800
October	4,190	40,600	4,370	38,200
November	4,140	44,700	4,540	42,700
December	3,730	48,500	5,170	47,900

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 DECEMBER^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
Michigan	899	1,180	1,160	1,510	1,460	1,020
Minnesota	2,830	3,520	4,010	3,530	2,340	2,190
Total	3,730	4,700	5,170	5,040	3,800	3,210

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

²Excludes byproduct ore.

³Includes rail and vessel.

⁴Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE¹

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British	Total
			Columbia	
2002:				
November	2,100	1,390	7	3,500
December	1,100	1,020	5	2,120
Year total	18,900	11,900	91	30,800
2003:				
January	862	699	6	1,570
February	674	580	6	1,260
March	989	578	7	1,570
April	1,800	1,120	5	2,930
May	1,960	1,540	4	3,510
June	2,090	1,260	5	3,360
July	2,140	1,460	8	3,610
August	1,530	1,100	6	2,630
September	1,710	1,240	7	2,950
October	2,080	1,500	6	3,580
November	2,260	1,190	5	3,450

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

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT
METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	October		January-October	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
United States ores	4,060	4,030	41,200	39,600
Canadian ores	235	485	3,000	3,570
Foreign ores	523	750	5,960	6,030
Total	4,820	5,270	50,200	49,200
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	4,440	4,710	45,000	44,300
Steel furnaces	2	51	130	224
Agglomerating plants ³	376	508	4,960	4,680
Miscellaneous ⁴	--	--	26 ⁵	2
Total	4,820	5,270	50,200	49,200
Stocks of ores and agglomerates,				
October 31				
Storage point	2003	2002		
Furnace yards	10,500	10,800		
Receiving/transfer docks	984	1,690		
Total consumer	11,500	12,500		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	October		January-October ⁶	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
	No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	3,200	3,650	32,400
	31	31	XX	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

⁴Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

⁵Adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey

⁶Includes revisions to previous month's data.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	2003				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	October	November
Canada	757	2,060	2,130	589	515
Mexico	3	(3)	7	(3)	(3)
Other	1	4	30	1	26
Total	761	2,070	2,170	590	541
Pellets	756	2,060	2,110	587	540
Other	5	6	53	4	1
Total	761	2,070	2,170	590	541

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 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	2003					2002
	November		Year to date			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	--	--	128	1,110	8.63	507
Brazil	391	9,520	4,760	113,000	23.84	5,210
Canada	511	14,400	6,200	174,000	28.13	4,770
Chile	--	--	296	6,510	22.01	275
Norway	--	--	4	107	26.65	15
Peru	36	598	77	1,280	16.52	86
Other	--	--	142	5,710	40.07	164
Total	938	24,500	11,600	302,000	26.07 ⁴	11,000
Concentrates	--	--	957	20,300	21.20	387
Coarse ores	--	--	24	627	25.86	3
Fine ores	266	4,640	2,140	36,200	16.87	3,170
Pellets	607	17,700	8,110	238,000	29.29	7,100
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	39
Other agglomerates	64	2,150	357	7,350	20.61	321
Roasted pyrites	--	--	7	344	48.47	12
Total	938	24,500	11,600	302,000	26.07 ⁴	11,000

-- 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.

⁴Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2003^{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	--	--	177	214	--	--	391
Canada	--	--	54	393	64	--	511
Other	--	--	36	--	--	--	36
Total	--	--	266	607	64	--	938

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2003					2002
	November		Year to date			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	214	6,400	2,720	78,600	\$28.90	2,800
Canada	393	11,300	5,390	159,000	29.49	4,300
Total	607	17,700	8,110	238,000	29.29 ³	7,100

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.

³Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

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	November	January-November	
	2003	2003	2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	137	2,910	3,950
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	7	7
Charleston, SC (16)	--	106	235
Chicago, IL (39)	158	1,090	815
Cleveland, OH (41)	266	2,990	1,290
Columbia - Snake, OR (29)	--	--	28
Detroit, MI (38)	--	226	280
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	72	40
Laredo, TX (23)	--	20	24
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)	(3)
Miami, FL (52)	--	--	4
Mobile, AL (19)	--	75	1,030
New Orleans, LA (20)	377	4,010	3,280
New York, NY (07)	--	(3)	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	82	7
Providence, RI (05)	--	--	34
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	10
Tampa, FL (18)	--	16	10
Total	938	11,600	11,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
 BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	November	January-November	
	2003	2003	2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	1,050	1,600
Charleston, SC (16)	--	105	235
Chicago, IL (39)	--	--	201
Cleveland, OH (41)	266	2,990	1,290
Detroit, MI (38)	--	226	257
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	55	29
Laredo, TX (23)	--	20	25
Mobile, AL (19)	--	59	960
New Orleans, LA (20)	341	3,610	2,510
Total	607	8,110	7,100

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.