

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN APRIL 2012

U.S. mine production of iron ore in April 2012 was 3.98 million metric tons (Mt), 7% less than that in March. Production was 133,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis, 4% less than that of March and 9% less than that of April 2011. Average daily production in April 2012 was 5,980 t less than that of March.

U.S. iron ore shipments were 5.15 Mt in April 2012, 142% more than in March. Shipments were 172,000 t on a daily average basis, 150% greater than those of March and 6% more than those of April 2011. Mine stocks at the end of April 2012 were 1.18 Mt less than those held on March 31, a 13% decrease. U.S. exports of iron ore were 969,000 t, and U.S. imports were 431,000 t in April.

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
2011:				
April	4,360	16,700	4,870	10,900
May	4,840	21,600	5,120	16,000
June	4,520	26,100	5,280	21,300
July	4,700	30,800	5,860	27,100
August	4,780	35,600	5,460	32,600
September	4,400	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

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 APRIL^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Michigan	1,110	785	1,020	1,010	3,240	1,750
Minnesota	3,260	3,190	3,850	4,140	6,010	5,970
Total	4,360	3,980	4,870	5,150	9,250	7,730

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	
2011:					
March	1,320	1,600	4	2,930	
April	1,070	1,380	6	2,450	
May	1,450	1,940	7	3,400	
June	1,160	1,650	8	2,820	
July	1,290	1,930	4	3,230	
August	2,040	1,730	6	3,770	
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	

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
PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL IN THE UNITED STATES, 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
2011:						
March	2,790	7,680	2,490	7,360	4,580	13,300
April	2,550	10,200	2,300	9,660	4,480	17,800
May	2,870	13,100	2,490	12,100	4,270	22,000
June	2,820	15,900	2,520	14,700	4,420	26,500
July	2,520	18,400	2,750	17,400	4,620	31,100
August	2,610	21,100	3,060	20,500	4,370	35,500
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

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			
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	February	March	1st quarter	April
Canada	1,720	7,050	231	180	1,290	568
China	1,390	3,190	284	350	814	368
Colombia	(3)	16	--	(3)	1	--
France	134	430	--	--	--	--
Germany	(3)	81	--	--	--	--
Mexico	42	51	9	28	48	33
Spain	--	187	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	46	--	--	--	--
Other	2	8	5	(3)	5	1
Total	3,290	11,100	529	558	2,160	969
Concentrates	316	628	58	72	148	95
Coarse ores	471	1,740	207	175	554	71
Fine ores	58	208	31	81	114	9
Pellets	2,440	8,470	231	230	1,340	793
Briquettes	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	--
Roasted pyrites	1	3	1	(3)	1	(3)
Total	3,290	11,100	529	558	2,160	969

-- 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		
	January–April	April		January–April		
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Argentina	34	--	--	40	5,940	148.48
Brazil	(4)	67	8,680	280	40,000	142.87
Canada	1,040	315	51,000	1,470	242,000	164.91
Chile	88	49	7,350	49	7,350	150.00
China	(4)	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Finland	4	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	--	(4)	2	(4)	4	471.67
Mexico	27	--	--	47	5,630	119.74
Norway	(4)	--	--	(4)	27	299.18
Peru	5	--	--	8	956	119.50
Russia	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	39	6,360	163.00
Sweden	--	--	--	(4)	7	373.35
Ukraine	--	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
Venezuela	--	--	--	33	4,280	129.67
Total	1,200	431	67,000	1,970	313,000	159.22
Concentrates	120	80	10,700	198	26,300	133.01
Coarse ores	(4)	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
Fine ores	314	(4)	17	166	23,200	139.94
Pellets	760	352	56,300	1,600	263,000	164.42
Briquettes	(4)	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Roasted pyrites	4	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,200	431	67,000	1,970	313,000	159.22

-- 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 MARCH AND APRIL 2012^{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	
2012:							
March:							
Argentina	--	--	40	--	--	--	40
Brazil	--	--	(3)	145	--	--	146
Canada	51	--	--	431	--	--	482
Germany	(3)	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Mexico	--	--	47	--	--	--	47
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Sweden	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Total	51	--	87	576	--	--	714
April:							
Brazil	--	--	--	67	--	--	67
Canada	31	--	(3)	284	--	--	315
Chile	49	--	--	--	--	--	49
Germany	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Total	80	--	(3)	352	--	--	431

-- 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			
	January–April Thousand metric tons	April		January–April		
		Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)
Brazil	--	67	8,680	213	31,100	145.81
Canada	760	284	47,600	1,390	232,000	167.27
Total	760	352	56,300	1,600	263,000	164.42

-- 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.)	January–April		April
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	263	1,150	135
Buffalo, NY (09)	(3)	--	--
Charleston, SC (16)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	31	31
Cleveland, OH (41)	427	268	216
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	(3)	(3)
El Paso, TX (24)	18	--	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	(3)	--	--
Laredo, TX (23)	1	--	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	--	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	479	513	49
New York, NY (10)	--	(3)	(3)
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	--	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	(3)	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	5	--	--
Total	1,200	1,970	431

-- 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.)	January–April		April
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	263	988	135
Buffalo, NY (09)	(2)	--	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	427	268	216
New Orleans, LA (20)	70	345	--
Total	760	1,600	352

-- 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.