

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2012

U.S. mine production of iron ore in February 2012, on a daily average basis, was 147,000 metric tons (t), 9% greater than that for the prior month and 5% greater than that of February 2011. Average daily production in February 2012 was 12,700 t greater than that of January 2012. U.S. mine production was 4.27 million metric tons (Mt) in February 2012.

Average daily shipments in February 2012 of 25,000 t were 80% less than those of the prior month and slightly more than

those of February 2011. Shipments were 725,000 t in February 2012, with the decline corresponding to the annual winter closure of the Soo Locks between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Mine stocks at the end of February 2012 were 2.78 Mt greater than the stocks held on January 31, a 70% increase. U.S. net imports of iron ore in February 2012 were 21,000 t, with exports being 4% less than imports.

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:				
February	3,920	8,010	699	3,930
March	4,350	12,400	2,070	6,000
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 ^r	4,170 ^r	3,840	3,840
February	4,270	8,450	725	4,560

^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 FEBRUARY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Michigan	1,040	1,010	31	203	2,840	1,470
Minnesota	2,870	3,270	668	522	4,630	5,270
Total	3,920	4,270	699	725	7,470	6,750

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:			
January	695	1,060	4	1,760
February	1,220	890	2	2,110
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

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 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:						
January	2,400	2,400	2,680	2,680	4,510	4,510
February	2,490	4,890	2,200	4,880	4,200	8,710
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

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	
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter- 4th quarter	January	February
Canada	871	2,180	2,280	1,720	7,050	879	231
China	259	832	707	1,390	3,190	180	284
Colombia	4	7	5	(3)	16	(3)	--
France	--	--	296	134	430	--	--
Germany	--	1	80	(3)	81	--	--
Mexico	1	1	7	42	51	11	9
Spain	--	159	28	--	187	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	46	--	46	--	--
Other	1	3	1	2	8	(3)	5
Total	1,140	3,180	3,450	3,290	11,100	1,070	529
Concentrates	64	72	176	316	628	18	58
Coarse ores	130	597	546	471	1,740	172	207
Fine ores	51	55	44	58	208	1	31
Pellets	890	2,460	2,680	2,440	8,470	879	231
Briquettes	(3)	--	(3)	--	(3)	--	(3)
Other agglomerates	--	1	(3)	(3)	1	--	(3)
Roasted pyrites	1	(3)	1	1	3	(3)	1
Total	1,140	3,180	3,450	3,290	11,100	1,070	529

-- 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–February	February		January–February		
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Brazil	(4)	--	--	68	8,930	131.34
Canada	475	471	82,400	673	111,000	164.65
Chile	49	--	--	--	--	--
China	--	(4)	55	(4)	55	5,470.00
Mexico	15	--	--	--	--	--
Norway	(4)	(4)	13	(4)	13	298.33
Peru	--	8	956	8	956	119.50
South Africa	--	39	6,360	39	6,360	163.00
Ukraine	--	(4)	15	(4)	15	54.17
Venezuela	--	33	4,280	33	4,280	129.67
Total	540	550	94,100	819	113,000	160.46
Concentrates	64	--	--	68	8,930	131.34
Coarse ores	(4)	(4)	15	(4)	15	54.17
Fine ores	279	79	11,600	79	11,600	146.96
Pellets	196	471	82,400	673	111,000	164.65
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	--	(4)	55	(4)	55	5,470.00
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	540	550	94,100	819	131,000	160.46

-- 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 AND FEBRUARY 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:							
January:							
Brazil	68	--	--	--	--	--	68
Canada	--	--	--	202	--	--	202
Total	68	--	--	202	--	--	270
February:							
Canada	--	--	(3)	471	--	--	471
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Peru	--	--	8	--	--	--	8
South Africa	--	--	39	--	--	--	39
Ukraine	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	33	--	--	--	33
Total	--	(3)	79	471	(3)	--	550

-- 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–February Thousand metric tons	February		January–February		
		Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)
Canada, total	196	471	82,400	673	111,000	164.65

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–February		February
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	196	536	266
Buffalo, NY (09)	(3)	--	--
Charleston, SC (16)	--	(3)	(3)
Chicago, IL (39)	--	(3)	(3)
Cleveland, OH (41)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(3)	(3)
El Paso, TX (24)	7	--	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	(3)	--	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	336	283	283
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	--	--
Total	540	819	550

-- 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–February		February
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	196	469	266
Buffalo, NY (09)	(2)	--	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	204	204
Total	196	673	471

-- 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.