

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Robert L. Virta, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist (acting)
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7726, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: rvirta@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 MARCH 2012

U.S. mine production of iron ore in March 2012 was 4.29 million metric tons (Mt). Production was 138,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis, 6% less than that of February and slightly less than that of March 2011. Average daily production in March 2012 was 8,830 t less than that of February 2012.

U.S. iron ore shipments were 2.13 Mt in March. Shipments were 68,800 t on a daily average basis, 175% greater than those

of February and 3% more than those of March 2011. Mine stocks at the end of March 2012 were 2.16 Mt greater than the stocks held on February 29, a 32% increase. U.S. net imports of iron ore in March 2012 were 156,000 t, with exports being 22% 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:				
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	4,170	3,840	3,840
February	4,270	8,450	725	4,560
March	4,290	12,700	2,130	6,690

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 MARCH^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Michigan	901	869	588	363	3,150	1,980
Minnesota	3,450	3,420	1,480	1,770	6,600	6,930
Total	4,350	4,290	2,070	2,130	9,750	8,910

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:				
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
February	1,400	1,150	1	2,550

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:						
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
February	3,050	6,130	2,660	5,440	4,490	9,120

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	January	February	March	1st quarter
Canada	1,720	7,050	879	231	180	1,290
China	1,390	3,190	180	284	350	814
Colombia	(3)	16	(3)	--	(3)	1
France	134	430	--	--	--	--
Germany	(3)	81	--	--	--	--
Mexico	42	51	11	9	28	48
Spain	--	187	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	46	--	--	--	--
Other	2	8	(3)	5	(3)	5
Total	3,290	11,100	1,070	529	558	2,160
Concentrates	316	628	18	58	72	148
Coarse ores	471	1,740	172	207	175	554
Fine ores	58	208	1	31	81	114
Pellets	2,440	8,470	879	231	230	1,340
Briquettes	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Other agglomerates	(3)	1	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Roasted pyrites	1	3	(3)	1	(3)	1
Total	3,290	11,100	1,070	529	558	2,160

-- 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–March	March		January–March		
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)
Argentina	--	40	5,940	40	5,940	148.48
Brazil	(4)	146	22,400	213	31,300	147.07
Canada	568	482	80,500	1,150	191,000	165.74
Chile	49	--	--	--	--	--
China	--	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Germany	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	1,060.00
Mexico	27	47	5,630	47	5,630	119.74
Norway	(4)	(4)	14	(4)	27	299.18
Peru	5	--	--	8	956	119.50
South Africa	--	--	--	39	6,360	163.00
Sweden	--	(4)	7	(4)	7	373.35
Ukraine	--	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
Venezuela	--	--	--	33	4,280	129.67
Total	649	714	114,000	1,530	246,000	160.37
Concentrates	81	51	6,680	118	15,600	132.33
Coarse ores	(4)	--	--	(4)	15	54.17
Fine ores	279	87	11,600	166	23,200	139.84
Pellets	289	576	96,200	1,250	207,000	165.70
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	(4)	55	5,470.00
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	649	714	114,000	1,530	246,000	160.37

-- 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 FEBRUARY AND MARCH 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:							
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
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

-- 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–March Thousand metric tons	March		January–March		
		Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)
Brazil	--	145	22,400	145	22,400	154.35
Canada	289	431	73,800	1,100	185,000	167.19
Total	289	576	96,200	1,250	207,000	165.70

-- 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–March		March
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	263	1,018	481
Buffalo, NY (09)	(3)	--	--
Charleston, SC (16)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	(3)	(3)
Cleveland, OH (41)	26	52	52
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(3)	--
El Paso, TX (24)	18	--	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	(3)	--	--
Laredo, TX (23)	1	--	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	336	464	181
New York, NY (10)	--	(3)	(3)
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	--	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	(3)	(3)
San Francisco, CA (28)	5	--	--
Total	649	1,530	714

-- 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–March		March
	2011	2012	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	263	853	384
Buffalo, NY (09)	(2)	--	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	26	52	52
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	345	140
Total	289	1,250	576

-- 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.