



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

William S. Kirk, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4962, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: wkirk@usgs.gov

Heather A. Geissler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7978
Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN FEBRUARY 2003

U.S. mine production of iron ore in February 2003, on a daily average basis, was 10% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 56% compared with those of the previous month. Mine stocks at the end of the month were 68% higher than at the end of the previous month. Consumption and trade data for February 2003 will be included in a subsequent issue.

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:				
February	3,200	6,890	1,360	3,890
March	3,660	10,600	2,200	6,090
April	3,840	14,400	4,360	10,400
May	4,850	19,200	5,320	15,800
June	4,870	24,100	5,810	21,600
July	4,430	28,500	5,720	27,300
August	4,580	33,100	5,530	32,800
September	4,270	37,400	4,910	37,700
October	4,650	42,000	4,790	42,500
November	4,740	46,800	4,480	47,000
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

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

2/ Excludes 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/	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
Michigan	1,230	711	237	174	2,010	1,970
Minnesota	3,060	2,480	905	1,190	5,780	4,840
Total	4,290	3,200	1,140	1,360	7,790	6,810

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

2/ Excludes byproduct ore.

3/ Includes rail and vessel.

4/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British	Total
			Columbia	
2002:				
January	782	630	10	1,420
February	355	699	10	1,060
March	1,060	771	5	1,840
April	1,490	913	9	2,410
May	2,390	1,240	8	3,630
June	1,530	828	6	2,370
July	2,290	1,020	7	3,320
August	1,770	940	9	2,720
September	1,970	1,250	7	3,220
October	2,040	1,180	8	3,220
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	1,090	973	6	2,070

1/ Data 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	
	January	
	2003	2002
United States ores	3,780	3,920
Canadian ores	428	298
Foreign ores	707	529
Total	4,920	4,750
Consumption by process	Stocks of ores and agglomerates, January 31	
Blast furnaces	4,370	4,290
Steel furnaces	39	4
Agglomerating plants 3/	510	448
Miscellaneous 4/	--	2
Total	4,920	4,750
Storage point	Blast furnace production of hot metal January	
Furnace yards	2003	2002
Receiving/transfer docks	NA	10,000
Total consumer	NA	1,950
	NA	12,000
	2003	2002
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,480	3,170
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	NA	26

NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

2/ Includes agglomerates.

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

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

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	2002				2003
	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	November	December	January
Canada	2,050	2,440	450	672	431
Mexico	10	29	2	4	3
Other	2	5	1	(3/)	(3/)
Total	2,060	2,480	452	676	434
Pellets	2,020	2,390	448	669	430
Other	36	83	4	7	4
Total	2,060	2,480	452	676	434

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

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Less 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
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Value 3/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	61	525	61	525	8.61	--
Brazil	450	12,400	450	12,400	27.47	290
Canada	141	3,150	141	3,150	22.23	73
Peru	(4/)	10	(4/)	10	4,750.00	(4/)
Other	--	--	--	--	--	28
Total	652	16,000	652	16,000	24.58 5/	390
Concentrates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Coarse ores	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fine ores	61	525	61	525	8.61	144
Pellets	524	14,400	524	14,400	27.55	219
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	28
Other agglomerates	68	1,070	68	1,070	15.87	--
Roasted pyrites	(4/)	10	(4/)	10	4,750.00	(4/)
Total	652	16,000	652	16,000	24.58 5/	390

-- Zero.

1/ Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

5/ Weighted 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 JANUARY 2003 1/
(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	--	--	--	450	--	--	450
Canada	--	--	--	74	68	--	141
Other	--	--	61	--	--	(2/)	61
Total	--	--	61	524	68	(2/)	652

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY 1/

Country of origin	2003					2002
	January		Year to date			January
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	450	12,400	450	12,400	\$27.47	146
Canada	74	2,070	74	2,070	28.07	73
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	524	14,400	524	14,400	27.55 3/	219

-- Zero.

1/ Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

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

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	January 2003	January 2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	202	217
Columbia - Snake, OR (29)	--	28
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	37	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(2/)	(2/)
Mobile, AL (19)	59	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	353	146
Total	652	390

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	January 2003	January 2002
Baltimore, MD (13)	74	73
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	37	--
Mobile, AL (19)	59	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	353	146
Total	524	219

--Zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.