

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

John D. Jorgenson, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4912, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [jjorgenson@usgs.gov](mailto:jjorgenson@usgs.gov)

Frederic de Haas (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7978  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [fdehaas@usgs.gov](mailto:fdehaas@usgs.gov)

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

## IRON ORE IN APRIL 2004

U.S. mine production of iron ore in April 2004, on a daily average basis, was 16% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily production was 154,000 metric tons per day (t/d), compared with 133,000 t/d in March 2004.

Shipments on a daily basis doubled compared with those of March 2004. Mine stocks at the end of April 2004 were 7% lower than the revised stock figures at the end of March 2004.

**Note**

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

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2003:				
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	3,740	48,500	5,170	47,900
2004:				
January	4,270	4,270	3,920	3,920
February	4,230	8,500	1,190	5,100
March	4,130	12,600	2,710	7,810
April	4,630	17,300	5,260	13,100

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

<sup>2</sup>Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN APRIL<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks <sup>4</sup>	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Michigan	1,180	976	1,270	1,120	1,970	2,420
Minnesota	3,460	3,250	3,990	3,670	6,190	7,080
Total	4,630	4,230	5,260	4,790	8,160	9,500

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

<sup>2</sup>Excludes byproduct ore.

<sup>3</sup>Includes rail and vessel.

<sup>4</sup>Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	
			Columbia	Total
<b>2003:</b>				
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
December	1,740	1,060	6	2,800
Year total	19,800	13,300	69	33,200
<b>2004:</b>				
January	1,150 <sup>r</sup>	839	5	1,990 <sup>r</sup>
February	1,070 <sup>r</sup>	589	7	1,660 <sup>r</sup>
March	1,250	1,030	6	2,290

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	February		January - February	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
United States ores	NA	3,910	NA	7,690
Canadian ores	NA	328	NA	756
Foreign ores	NA	752	NA	1,460
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,840<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>9,560<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>9,900</b>
Consumption by process	February		January - February	
Blast furnaces	NA	4,480	NA	8,840
Steel furnaces	NA	37	NA	75
Agglomerating plants <sup>3</sup>	NA	477	NA	987
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	NA	--	NA	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,840<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>9,560<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>9,900</b>
Stocks of ores and agglomerates, February 29/28				
Storage point	2004	2003		
Furnace yards	NA	8,620		
Receiving/transfer docks	NA	1,090		
Total consumer	NA	9,710		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	February		January - February	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,200	3,290 <sup>r</sup>	6,540	6,770 <sup>r</sup>
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	NA	29	XX	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

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

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

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore 2003) 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type of product	2003	2004			
	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Canada	1,700	605	141	212	959
Mexico	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Other	76	30	18	12	60
Total	1,780	636	159	224	1,020
Pellets	1,780	635	158	223	1,020
Other	6	1	1	1	3
Total	1,780	636	159	224	1,020

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2004					2003
	March		Year to date			January-March
	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>3</sup> (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	--	--	(4)	24	54.15	128
Brazil	433	11,200	1,170	30,000	25.56	1,250
Canada	122	4,180	627	20,900	33.37	460
Chile	--	--	59	1,560	26.46	46
Finland	--	--	4	190	47.50	3
Mexico	--	--	26	548	21.08	--
Peru	--	--	15	266	17.73	(4)
South Africa	--	--	(4)	11	226.70	--
Spain	--	--	(4)	3	39.91	--
Venezuela	21	822	21	822	39.14	--
Total	576	16,200	1,930	54,400	28.22	1,890
Concentrates	34	840	127	3,070	23.98	123
Coarse ores	--	--	(4)	11	226.70	--
Fine ores	213	4,420	540	10,400	19.28	276
Pellets	308	10,100	1,230	39,800	32.28	1,320
Briquettes	21	822	21	822	40.00	--
Other agglomerates	--	--	(4)	3	39.91	166
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	193	48.25	3
Total	576	16,200	1,930	54,400	28.22	1,890

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

<sup>4</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN MARCH 2004<sup>1,2</sup>  
(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	--	--	213	220	--	--	433
Canada	34	--	--	88	--	--	122
Other	--	--	--	--	21	--	21
Total	34	--	213	308	21	--	576

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Country of origin	2004					2003
	March		Year to date			January-March
	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>2</sup> (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	220	6,760	676	20,400	30.20	957
Canada	88	3,340	558	19,400	34.81	365
Total	308	10,100	1,230	39,800	32.28	1,320

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>Customs 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<sup>1,2</sup>  
 (Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	March	January-March	
	2004	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	313	886	781
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	1	1
Charleston, SC (16)	--	--	77
Chicago, IL (39)	--	(3)	26
Cleveland, OH (41)	23	23	--
Great Falls, MT (33)	--	(3)	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	28	37
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	21	21	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	220	965	907
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	(3)	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	4	3
Total	576	1,930	1,890

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes agglomerates.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10  
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,  
 BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	March	January-March	
	2004	2004	2003
Baltimore, MD (13)	66	319	289
Charleston, SC (16)	--	--	77
Cleveland, OH (41)	23	23	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	27	37
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	59
New Orleans, LA (20)	220	865	860
Total	308	1,230	1,320

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.