

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN MAY 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in May 2011, on a daily average basis, was 156,000 metric tons (t), 7% greater than that for the prior month and 6% greater than that of May 2010, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Average daily production was 10,500 t greater than that of April 2011.

Average daily shipments in May 2011, at 165,000 t, were

slightly greater than those of the prior month and slightly less than those of May 2010. Mine stocks at the end of May 2011 were 285,000 t less than the stocks held on April 30, a 3% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in April 2011 were 382,000 t, with exports 70% greater 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
2010:				
May	4,560	18,300	5,230	16,000
June	3,700	22,000	4,940	20,900
July	4,630	26,600	5,060	26,000
August	4,550	31,200	5,050	31,000
September	4,430	35,600	4,540	35,600
October	4,600	40,200	4,340	39,900
November	4,640	44,800	4,720	44,600
December	4,660	49,500	4,600	49,200
2011:				
January	4,100	4,100	3,230	3,230
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

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 MAY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,150	1,050	1,200	795	3,180	1,810
Minnesota	3,690	3,500	3,920	4,440	5,780	3,590 ^r
Total	4,840	4,560	5,120	5,230	8,970	5,400 ^r

^rRevised.

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
2010:				
April	1,500	1,510	7	3,020
May	1,840	1,340	11	3,190
June	1,970	1,710	10	3,690
July	1,630	1,350	12	2,990
August	1,350	1,390	12	2,760
September	1,130	1,830	8	2,970
October	1,490	1,350	7	2,850
November	2,620	1,990	10	4,620
December	1,640	1,440	5	3,090
Year	19,000	17,000	93	36,100
2011:				
January	695	1,060	4	1,760
February	1,220	890	2	2,110
March	1,340	1,600	4	2,950
April	1,220	1,380	6	2,600

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
2010:						
April	2,030	9,770	2,820	9,170	4,140	16,000
May	2,830	12,600	2,560	11,700	4,440	20,400
June	2,800	15,400	2,530	14,300	4,300	24,700
July	2,450	17,800	2,050	16,300	4,320	29,000
August	2,490	20,300	2,250	18,600	4,130	33,200
September	2,600	22,900	2,370	20,900	4,000	37,200
October	2,150	25,100	2,390	23,300	4,160	41,300
November	2,470	27,500	2,220	25,500	3,950	45,300
December	2,340	29,900	2,580	28,100	4,060	49,300
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

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	2010		2011			
	4th quarter	Year	February	March	1st quarter	April
Belgium	1	107	--	1	1	--
Canada	1,950	8,110	32	86	871	664
China	345	725	51	100	259	261
Finland	--	35	--	--	--	--
France	--	236	--	--	--	--
Germany	(3)	341	--	--	--	--
Mexico	2	188	(3)	(3)	1	(3)
Serbia	--	44	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	5	--	--	--	--
Spain	(3)	156	--	--	--	--
Other ⁴	1	11	1	3	5	4
Total	2,300	9,950	84	189	1,140	930
Concentrates	123	391	1	4	64	4
Coarse ores	124	259	51	30	130	149
Fine ores	1	78	1	19	51	49
Pellets	2,050	9,220	31	136	890	727
Briquettes	--	5	--	--	(3)	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Roasted pyrites	(3)	1	(3)	--	1	--
Total	2,300	9,950	84	189	1,140	930

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes all countries receiving less than 5,000 metric tons in any month during the 2-year period.

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					2010
	April		Year to date			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Argentina	34	4,650	34	4,650	136.65	--
Brazil	--	--	(4)	12	54.19	37
Canada	471	60,100	1,040	130,000	125.12	1,500
Chile	38	6,060	88	13,400	152.00	46
China	(4)	4	(4)	4	4,480.00	--
Finland	4	263	4	263	65.75	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Mexico	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	48
Norway	(4)	13	(4)	26	300.00	2
Peru	--	--	5	268	53.60	7
Russia	(4)	3	(4)	3	372.29	401
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	3
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	21
Total	548	71,100	1,200	151,000	126.02	2,070
Concentrates	38	6,060	120	15,900	132.38	95
Coarse ores	--	--	(4)	12	54.19	--
Fine ores	35	4,690	314	39,200	124.80	152
Pellets	471	60,100	760	95,500	125.64	1,820
Briquettes	(4)	4	(4)	4	4,480.00	3
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Roasted pyrites	4	263	4	263	65.75	(4)
Total	548	71,100	1,200	151,000	126.02	2,070

-- 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 APRIL 2011^{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	
Argentina	--	--	34	--	--	--	34
Canada	--	--	(3)	471	--	--	471
Chile	38	--	--	--	--	--	38
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	4	4
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Russia	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Total	38	--	35	471	(3)	4	548

-- 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 PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2011					2010
	April		Year to date			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	37
Canada	471	60,100	760	95,500	125.64	1,360
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	401
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	21
Total	471	60,100	760	95,500	125.64	1,820

-- 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.)	April	January-April	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	263	1,330
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	401	427	378
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	(3)	--
El Paso, TX (24)	--	18	3
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	(3)	37
Laredo, TX (23)	--	1	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	(3)	--
Minneapolis, MN (35)	--	--	(3)
New Orleans, LA (20)	143	479	316
New York, NY (10)	--	--	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	(3)	2
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	4	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	5	--
Total	548	1,200	2,070

-- 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 PELLETS,
 BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	April	January-April	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	263	1,330
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	401	427	375
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	37
New Orleans, LA (20)	70	70	76
Total	471	760	1,820

-- 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.