

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in June 2011, on a daily average basis, was more than 3% less than that for the prior month and was 22% greater than that of June 2010, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Daily average production, at 151,000 metric tons (t), was 5,400 t less than that of May 2011.

Daily average shipments in June 2011, at 176,000 t, were 10,900 t more than those of the prior month and were 7% greater than those of June 2010. Mine stocks at the end of June 2011 were 765,000 t less than the stocks held on May 31, an 8% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in May 2011 were 596,000 t, with exports almost 2.3 times imports.

North American Production.—Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. (Cleveland, OH) announced production for the first half of 2011 for its North American operations. Cliffs' share of mine production for U.S. mines was 11.5 Mt, a 19% increase over that of the same period of 2010. Canadian production from Cliffs' managed mines for the first half of 2011 was 2.7 Mt, a 46% increase over that of the same period in 2010. This increase resulted mainly from increased ownership in the Wabush Mine and the ramp-up of production at the Bloom Lake Mine near Fermont, Quebec, a major part of which was obtained with the acquisition of Consolidated Thompson Iron Mines Ltd. (Cliffs Natural Resources Inc., 2011).

World Production.—Rio Tinto plc (London, United Kingdom) announced first half production for 2011. Rio Tinto's share of saleable iron ore plus pellets worldwide for the half-year ending June 30 was 90.7 Mt—a 4% increase compared with that of the same period in 2010—in spite of low production during the first quarter owing to disruptions caused by three tropical cyclones and widespread flooding (Rio Tinto plc, 2011, p. 2, 13).

BHP Billiton Ltd. (Melbourne, Australia) announced that its

share of worldwide iron ore (wet) production for the first half of 2011 was 68.8 Mt—a 10% increase compared with that of the corresponding period in 2010. Production in the first half of 2011 was affected by a planned maintenance shutdown at Samarco (Brazil) and weather and construction tie-in activities in the Pilbara region during the first quarter of 2011 (BHP Billiton Ltd., 2011a, p. 3, 9; 2011b, p. 9).

In the first half of 2011, Vale S.A. (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) reported iron ore production of 151.8 Mt (including Vale's Samarco joint venture)—an increase of 5% compared with that of the same period in 2010. Vale pellet production for the first half of 2011 was 25.7 Mt—an 11% increase compared with that of the first half of 2010. Increased production of iron ore was partially due to the ramp-up of a new processing plant at Corumbá in Brazil. Direct reduction pellet production began at Sohar in Oman during the second quarter of 2011 (Vale S.A., 2011, p. 2, 3).

References Cited

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- Cliffs Natural Resources Inc., 2011, Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. reports second-quarter 2011 results: Cleveland, OH, Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. news release, July 27, 10 p. (Accessed August 2, 2011, via <http://www.cliffsnaturalresources.com/>)
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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:				
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
June	4,520	26,100	5,280	21,300

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 JUNE ^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	1,070	817	1,100	935	3,160	1,690
Minnesota	3,440	2,890	4,180	4,000	5,040	2,480 ^r
Total	4,520	3,700	5,280	4,940	8,200	4,160 ^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:			
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	1,320 ^r	1,600	4	2,930 ^r
April	1,070 ^r	1,380	6	2,450 ^r
May	1,450	1,940	7	3,400

^rRevised.

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
FURNACE ¹

(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:						
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
May	2,870	13,100	2,490	12,100	4,270	22,000

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	March	1st quarter	April	May
Belgium	1	107	1	1	--	1
Canada	1,950	8,110	86	871	664	744
China	345	725	100	259	261	284
Finland	--	35	--	--	--	--
France	--	236	--	--	--	--
Germany	(3)	341	--	--	--	--
Mexico	2	188	(3)	1	(3)	1
Serbia	--	44	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	5	--	--	--	--
Spain	(3)	156	--	--	--	26
Other ⁴	1	11	3	5	4	3
Total	2,300	9,950	189	1,140	930	1,060
Concentrates	123	391	4	64	4	3
Coarse ores	124	259	30	130	149	223
Fine ores	1	78	19	51	49	5
Pellets	2,050	9,220	136	890	727	827
Briquettes	--	5	--	(3)	--	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	(3)	--	--	(3)	(3)
Roasted pyrites	(3)	1	--	1	--	(3)
Total	2,300	9,950	189	1,140	930	1,060

-- 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
	May		Year to date			January-May
	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	136.65	--
Brazil	13	1,710	13	1,720	132.38	37
Canada	411	67,600	1,450	198,000	136.26	2,060
Chile	--	--	88	13,400	152.00	46
China	(4)	4	(4)	8	4,200.00	--
Finland	--	--	4	263	65.75	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Mexico	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	48
Norway	--	--	(4)	26	300.00	2
Peru	--	--	5	268	53.60	7
Russia	--	--	(4)	3	372.29	473
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	3
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	95
Venezuela	38	6,260	38	6,260	164.82	52
Total	462	75,500	1,660	226,000	136.46	2,820
Concentrates	51	8,120	171	24,000	140.38	95
Coarse ores	--	--	(4)	12	54.19	--
Fine ores	(4)	52	314	39,200	124.96	154
Pellets	411	67,400	1,170	163,000	139.20	2,570
Briquettes	(4)	4	(4)	8	4,200.00	3
Other agglomerates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	263	65.75	(4)
Total	462	75,500	1,660	226,000	136.46	2,820

-- 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.

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 MAY 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	
Brazil	13	--	--	--	--	--	13
Canada	(3)	--	(3)	411	--	--	411
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)
Venezuela	38	--	--	--	--	--	38
Total	51	--	(3)	411	(3)	--	462

-- 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
	May		Year to date			January-May
	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	411	67,400	1,170	163,000	139.20	1,910
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	473
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	95
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	52
Total	411	67,400	1,170	163,000	139.20	2,570

-- 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.)	May	January-May	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	208	471	1,570
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	51	51	30
Cleveland, OH (41)	203	629	828
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)	--	479	348
New York, NY (10)	--	--	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	--	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	1	4
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	4	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	5	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	(3)	(3)	--
Total	462	1,660	2,820

-- 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.)	May	January-May	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	208	471	1,570
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	--	30
Cleveland, OH (41)	203	629	824
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	37
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	70	108
Total	411	1,170	2,570

-- 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.