

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN OCTOBER 2011

U.S. mine production of iron ore in October 2011, on a daily average basis, was 143,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than that for the prior month and 4% less than that of October 2010. Average daily production in October 2011 was 3,400 t less than that of September 2011.

Average daily shipments in October 2011, at 158,000 t, were 16% less than those of the prior month and 13% greater than those of October 2010. Mine stocks at the end of October 2011 were 489,000 t less than the stocks held on September 30, a 10% decrease. U.S. net exports of iron ore in September 2011 were 367,000 t, with exports almost 1.8 times 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:				
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
July	4,700	30,800	5,860	27,100
August	4,780	35,600	5,460	32,600
September	4,400 ^r	40,000	5,630	38,200
October	4,440	44,400	4,910	43,100

^rRevised.

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 OCTOBER^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Michigan	892	1,320	1,380	869	2,160	2,410
Minnesota	3,540	3,280	3,540	3,470	2,500	993
Total	4,440	4,600	4,910	4,340	4,660	3,410

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.

Note: An imbalance of production and shipments compared with stock changes indicates an inventory adjustment at the mines of 11,000 metric tons.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE^{1,2}

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
	2010:			
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
January–December	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	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

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:						
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
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

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				
		1st quarter	2nd quarter	July	August	September
Belgium	107	1	2	--	--	(4)
Canada	8,110	871	2,180	946	819	515
China	725	259	832	248	274	184
Finland	35	--	--	--	--	--
France	236	--	--	81	134	80
Germany	341	--	1	--	80	--
Mexico	188	1	1	1	6	(4)
Serbia	44	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	5	--	--	--	--	(4)
Spain	156	--	159	--	--	28
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	46
Other ³	11	5	9	4	(4)	1
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	1,280	1,310	854
Concentrates	391	64	72	50	61	65
Coarse ores	259	130	597	202	181	163
Fine ores	78	51	55	4	35	5
Pellets	9,220	890	2,460	1,020	1,040	620
Briquettes	5	(4)	--	(4)	--	--
Other agglomerates	(4)	--	1	(4)	(4)	(4)
Roasted pyrites	1	1	(4)	(4)	(4)	1
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	1,280	1,310	854

-- Zero.

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

²Includes agglomerates.

³Includes all countries receiving less than 5,000 metric tons in any month during the 2-year period.

⁴Less 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					2010
	September		Year to date			January–September
	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Argentina	--	--	74	11,000	149.30	--
Brazil	83	12,100	153	22,200	145.04	172
Canada	377	65,400	3,040	486,000	159.90	3,620
Chile	--	--	121	19,800	163.59	82
China	--	--	(4)	11	1,830.00	--
Finland	--	--	4	263	65.75	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Germany	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	3
Mexico	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	69
Norway	--	--	(4)	80	298.88	4
Peru	--	--	14	1,510	107.79	7
Russia	--	--	(4)	3	372.29	606
South Africa	--	--	147	28,800	196.14	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	4
Sweden	--	--	42	8,290	197.45	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	120
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	(4)
Ukraine	(4)	4	(4)	4	395.89	95
Venezuela	27	4,650	187	33,900	181.04	116
Total	487	82,100	3,810	615,000	161.30	4,900
Concentrates	113	15,000	477	72,600	152.21	287
Coarse ores	--	--	36	7,410	205.86	36
Fine ores	27	3,840	598	87,500	146.39	239
Pellets	346	63,300	2,650	437,000	164.90	4,340
Briquettes	--	--	8	3,420	427.63	4
Other agglomerates	--	--	34	5,830	171.59	--
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	263	65.75	(4)
Total	487	82,100	3,810	615,000	161.30	4,900

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 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	56	--	27	--	--	--	83
Canada	30	--	--	346	--	--	377
Ukraine	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Venezuela	27	--	--	--	--	--	27
Total	113	--	27	346	--	--	487

-- 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
	September		Year to date			January–September
	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	346	63,300	2,650	437,000	164.90	3,400
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	606
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	120
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	95
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	80
Total	346	63,300	2,650	437,000	164.90	4,340

-- 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.)	September	January–September	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	64	1,090	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	140	370	165
Cleveland, OH (41)	282	1,710	2,040
Detroit, MI (38)	--	11	(3)
El Paso, TX (24)	--	18	24
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	20	37
Laredo, TX (23)	--	1	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3)	--
Minneapolis, MN (35)	--	--	(3)
Mobile, AL (19)	--	5	156
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	571	489
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	1	1
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	1	7
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	4	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	--	--	3
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	5	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	(3)	1	--
Tampa, FL (18)	--	10	--
Total	487	3,810	4,900

-- 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.)	September	January–September	
	2011	2011	2010
Baltimore, MD (13)	64	878	1,980
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	--	30
Cleveland, OH (41)	282	1,710	2,040
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	37
Mobile, AL (19)	--	--	120
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	70	136
Total	346	2,650	4,340

-- 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.