

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON ORE IN JANUARY 2012

U.S. mine production of iron ore in January 2012, on a daily average basis, was 160,000 metric tons (t), 7% greater than that for the prior month and 21% greater than that of January 2011. Average daily production in January 2012 was 10,200 t greater than that of December 2011. U.S. mine production was 4.95 million metric tons (Mt) in January 2012.

Average daily shipments in January 2012 of 124,000 t were 36% less than those of the prior month and 19% greater than those of January 2011. Shipments were 3.84 Mt in January 2012. Mine stocks at the end of January 2012 were 1.11 Mt greater than the stocks held on December 31, a 39% increase. U.S. net exports of iron ore in January 2012 were 524,000 t, with exports being two 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
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	40,000	5,630	38,200
October	4,440	44,400	4,910	43,100
November	4,600	49,000	5,010	48,100
December	4,630	53,600	6,040	54,200
2012, January	4,950	4,950	3,840	3,840

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 JANUARY^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons)

State	Production		Shipments ³		Stocks ⁴	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Michigan	708	830	1,100	1,640	1,820	671
Minnesota	3,390	4,120	2,130	2,200	2,430	3,300
Total	4,100	4,950	3,230	3,840	4,250	3,970

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:			
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
October	1,390	1,460	6	2,850
November	1,210	2,340	5	3,550
December	1,340	2,200	1	3,540
January–December	15,800	19,800	59	35,700

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, 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
October	3,010	26,600	2,630	26,200	4,140	43,800
November	2,990	29,600	2,680	28,900	4,040	47,800
December	3,190	32,800	2,840	31,700	4,290	52,100

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					2012 January	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	December	4th quarter		
Belgium	107	1	2	(3)	--	(3)	3	(3)
Canada	8,110	871	2,180	2,280	510	1,720	7,050	879
China	725	259	832	707	459	1,390	3,190	180
Finland	35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
France	236	--	--	296	--	134	430	--
Germany	341	--	1	80	--	(3)	81	--
Mexico	188	1	1	7	9	42	51	11
Serbia	44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	5	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	--
Spain	156	--	159	28	--	--	187	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	46	--	--	46	--
Other ⁴	11	5	9	5	2	2	21	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	980	3,290	11,100	1,070
Concentrates	391	64	72	176	68	316	628	18
Coarse ores	259	130	597	546	148	471	1,740	172
Fine ores	78	51	55	44	37	58	208	1
Pellets	9,220	890	2,460	2,680	726	2,440	8,470	879
Briquettes	5	(3)	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	--
Other agglomerates	(3)	--	1	(3)	--	(3)	1	--
Roasted pyrites	1	1	(3)	1	(3)	1	3	(3)
Total	9,950	1,140	3,180	3,450	980	3,290	11,100	1,070

-- 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	2010			2011			2012	
	January–December	December		January–December			January	
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Value ³ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	--	74	11,000	149.30	--	--
Brazil	506	209	26,500	562	81,600	145.19	68	8,930
Canada	4,490	228	33,000	3,910	617,000	157.88	202	28,400
Chile	131	--	--	165	28,300	171.70	--	--
China	--	(4)	57	(4)	68	4,260.00	--	--
Finland	--	--	--	4	263	65.75	--	--
France	(4)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	(4)	--	--	(4)	2	1,060.00	--	--
Greece	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	138	--	--	27	2,240	83.04	--	--
Norway	5	(4)	20	(4)	119	298.87	--	--
Peru	16	--	--	14	1,510	107.79	--	--
Russia	606	--	--	(4)	3	372.29	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	147	28,800	196.14	--	--
Spain	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sweden	54	18	4,140	81	16,500	203.27	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	120	--	--	8	3,650	455.63	--	--
Turkey	(4)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ukraine	95	--	--	(4)	4	395.89	--	--
Venezuela	251	--	--	278	49,300	177.44	--	--
Total	6,420	456	63,800	5,270	841,000	159.50	270	37,300
Concentrates	652	74	9,130	796	124,000	155.93	68	8,930
Coarse ores	36	--	--	42	8,660	206.26	--	--
Fine ores	628	18	4,160	731	111,000	152.42	--	--
Pellets	5,100	364	50,400	3,650	587,000	160.58	202	28,400
Briquettes	4	--	--	12	3,960	329.83	--	--
Other agglomerates	--	(4)	57	34	5,890	173.26	--	--
Roasted pyrites	(4)	--	--	4	263	65.75	--	--
Total	6,420	456	63,800	5,270	841,000	159.50	270	37,300

-- 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 DECEMBER 2011 AND JANUARY 2012^{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	
December 2011:							
Brazil	31	--	--	179	--	--	209
Canada	43	--	--	185	--	--	228
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)
Norway	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
Sweden	--	--	18	--	--	--	18
Total	74	--	18	364	(3)	--	456
January 2012:							
Brazil	68	--	--	--	--	--	68
Canada	--	--	--	202	--	--	202
Total	68	--	--	202	--	--	270

-- 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 IRON ORE PELLETS, BY COUNTRY¹

Country of origin	2010		2011				2012	
	January–December	December		January–December			January	
	Thousand metric tons	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Value ² (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Brazil	76	179	21,900	244	33,600	137.57	--	--
Canada	4,090	185	28,500	3,410	553,000	162.27	202	28,400
Russia	606	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	120	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ukraine	95	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Venezuela	107	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	5,100	364	50,400	3,650	587,000	160.58	202	28,400

-- 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.)	December	January–December		January
	2011	2010	2011	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	277	1,980	1,710	270
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	(3)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	31	569	675	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	86	2,740	2,110	--
Columbia-Snake (29)	--	21	--	--
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(3)	16	--
El Paso, TX (24)	--	55	18	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	63	76	83	--
Laredo, TX (23)	--	--	1	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	--	(3)	--
Minneapolis, MN (35)	--	(3)	--	--
Mobile, AL (19)	--	179	13	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	788	616	--
New York, NY (10)	--	(3)	(3)	--
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	1	1	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	8	1	--
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	4	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	--	3	--	--
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	--	5	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	--	(3)	1	--
Tampa, FL (18)	--	--	15	--
Total	456	6,420	5,270	270

-- 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 IRON ORE PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	December	December–January		January
	2011	2010	2011	2012
Baltimore, MD (13)	234	1,980	1,420	202
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	(2)	--
Chicago, IL (39)	--	30	10	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	85	2,730	2,110	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	44	76	44	--
Mobile, AL (19)	--	120	--	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	162	70	--
Total	364	5,100	3,650	202

-- 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.