

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2013

U.S. mine production of iron ore in November 2013 was 155,000 metric tons (t) on a daily average basis (Table 1), 8% greater than that of October 2013 and slightly higher than that of November 2012. U.S. iron ore shipments were 143,000 t on a daily average basis, 14% less than those of October and 5% less than those of November 2012.

Mine stocks at the end of November 2013 were 17% more than those held in October and 18% less than those in November 2012 (Table 1). U.S. imports of iron ore were 355,000 t in November 2013, 7% less than those in October 2013 and 21% less than those of November 2012. U.S. exports of iron ore were 1.30 Mt in November 2013, 48% greater than those in October 2013 and 24% greater than those of November 2012 (Table 4).

In response to protests at Gogebic Taconite LLC's (GTAC) proposed iron ore mine site, Wisconsin legislators passed a bill establishing a 600-foot restricted zone around GTAC's mining equipment and roads at the site. The site is in the Penokee Hill's 1,416 hectares (3,500 acres) of land open to the public through the State's managed forest programs. Protests at the site have interfered with workers conducting sampling and other tests. The bill has been sent to Governor Walker for final approval (Associated Press, The, 2013).

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) approved over \$5 million in funding from the Taconite Economic Development Fund for miscellaneous projects at U.S. Steel Corp.'s Minntac and Keetac Mines. Projects included the installation of a new pumping station at the Minntac Mine and a new pump transfer station at the Keetac Mine (Hanna, 2013).

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) asked the Minnesota Court of Appeals for a full environmental review of U.S. Steel's Minntac Mine expansion plan. The MCEA claimed the expansion plan, expected to utilize 202

hectares (500 acres) and extend the mine's life until 2031, would violate water quality standards downstream from the mine. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources indicated, however, that Minntac Mine operators complied with its Clean Water Act permits and entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to address water quality downstream from the site, including installing a seepage collection system (Kraker, 2013).

The Steel Authority of India led efforts to renegotiate the terms of agreement for mining Afghanistan's Hajigak iron ore deposit, which contains an estimated 1.8 billion metric tons of iron ore at 62% iron content. India's finance ministry requested a detailed study of the project's viability following increased violence in the region and the withdrawal of a Chinese company that had planned to construct a 900-km railway in the region (Donati, 2013).

## References Cited

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- Hanna, Bill, 2013, 2 U.S. Steel initiatives ok'd for funding: VirginiaMN.com, November 9. (Accessed March 5, 2014, at [http://www.virginiamn.com/news/local/article\\_586218d0-48f2-11e3-be6f-0019bb2963f4.html?mode=jqm](http://www.virginiamn.com/news/local/article_586218d0-48f2-11e3-be6f-0019bb2963f4.html?mode=jqm).)
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TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments <sup>3</sup>		Stocks <sup>4</sup>
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	End of Month
<b>2012:</b>					
November	4,580	47,600	4,530	47,500	3,020
December	4,650	52,200	5,500	53,000	2,200
<b>2013:</b>					
January	4,200	4,200	3,110	3,110	3,290
February	3,900	8,100	611	3,720	6,580
March	4,400	12,500	2,020	5,740	8,960
April	3,460	16,000	4,670	10,400	7,830
May	4,280	20,200	5,680	16,100	6,350
June	3,990	24,200	5,170	21,300	5,390
July	4,400	28,600	5,650	26,900	4,130
August	4,610	33,200	5,430	32,300	3,320
September	4,780	38,000	5,400	37,700	2,770
October	4,460	42,500	5,120	42,900	2,110
November	4,650	47,100	4,280	47,100	2,470

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Includes usable (marketable) material at mines, concentrators, pelletizing plants, and loading docks. Excludes stocks of crude ore at mine and concentrates at agglomerating complexes.

TABLE 2  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland and Labrador	Quebec	British Columbia	Total
<b>2012:</b>				
November	1,460	1,800	5	3,260
December	1,410	1,970	3	3,380
January–December	15,900	20,400	34	36,300
<b>2013:</b>				
January	1,080	1,600	--	2,680
February	1,000	1,430	--	2,430
March	845	1,620	--	2,470
April	1,730	1,730	--	3,460
May	1,950	1,650	--	3,600
June	2,220 <sup>r</sup>	2,060	--	4,280 <sup>r</sup>
July	1,880 <sup>r</sup>	2,140	--	4,030 <sup>r</sup>
August	1,840 <sup>r</sup>	2,260	--	4,100 <sup>r</sup>
September	1,640 <sup>r</sup>	2,000	--	3,640 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,740	2,300	--	4,050
November	1,770	1,690	--	3,460

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes production from steel plant waste oxides.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 3  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND RAW STEEL, BY TYPE OF FURNACE<sup>1</sup>

(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
2012:						
November	2,820	32,100	2,480	30,800	3,960	48,100
December	2,900	35,000	2,550	33,400	4,270	52,400
2013:						
January	3,060	3,060	2,740	2,740	4,300	4,300
February	2,760	5,820	2,530	5,280	4,050	8,350
March	3,040	8,860	2,660	7,940	4,300	12,600
April	2,800	11,700	2,510	10,500	4,340	17,000
May	2,880	14,500	2,660	13,100	4,480	21,500
June	2,760	17,300	2,440	15,500	4,340	25,800
July	2,760	20,100	2,430	18,000	4,680	30,500
August	2,890	22,900	2,550	20,500	4,580	35,100
September	2,880	25,800	2,460	23,000	4,400	39,500
October	2,870	28,700	2,510	25,500	4,490	44,000
November	2,760	31,500	2,430	27,900	4,340	48,300

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

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 4  
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	2012	2013				
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	October	November
Canada	6,370	1,290	1,630	1,370	609	728
China	4,110	412	458	703	143	475
Colombia	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	--
France	--	--	--	82	--	--
Germany	3	5	7	(3)	--	--
Hong Kong	3	--	164	--	--	--
Japan	37	--	--	58	--	--
Mexico	641	338	272	244	120	92
Slovakia	--	47	68	--	--	--
Spain	(3)	(3)	--	189	--	--
United Kingdom	--	222	140	61	--	(3)
Other	12	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	2,710	873	1,300
Concentrates	1,330	485	631	655	189	229
Coarse ores	1,330	130	83	--	--	--
Fine ores	249	213	91	29	11	8
Pellets	8,260	1,490	1,860	1,830	672	1,060
Briquettes	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)
Other agglomerates	23	--	70	196	--	--
Roasted pyrites	3	(3)	(3)	(3)	--	--
Total	11,200	2,320	2,740	2,710	873	1,300

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
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	2012		2013			
	January–November Thousand metric tons	November		January–November		
		Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>3,4</sup> (dollars per ton)
Argentina	81	--	--	137	23,100	168.88
Brazil	739	130	15,200	601	71,800	119.49
Canada	3,470	192	24,200	2,010	269,000	133.99
Chile	104	--	--	50	5,720	114.32
China	(5)	--	--	1	97	97.00
Finland	4	--	--	--	--	--
France	(5)	--	--	(5)	4	175.65
Germany	(5)	(5)	3	(5)	8	242
India	(5)	(5)	5	(5)	8	596.15
Latvia	(5)	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	47	(5)	26	(5)	31	100.00
Norway	(5)	--	--	78	11,900	152.77
Peru	44	12	2,250	12	2,260	187.92
South Africa	91	--	--	74	10,600	143.62
Sweden	72	20	3,440	38	5,370	141.24
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	(5)	59	164.57
Ukraine	(5)	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	--	(5)	5	4,590.00
Venezuela	75	--	--	--	--	--
Total	4,800	355	45,100	3,000	400,000	133.32
Concentrates	861	86	8,870	414	44,100	106.50
Coarse ores	40	14	2,620	34	4,380	128.91
Fine ores	363	19	3,100	573	79,600	138.84
Pellets	3,530	236	30,500	1,980	272,000	137.42
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	(5)	--	--	1	97	97.00
Roasted pyrites	4	(5)	5	(5)	19	1,050.56
Total	4,800	355	45,100	3,000	400,000	133.32

-- 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>Values are calculated and may not reflect actual amounts per ton.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2013<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	86	--	--	44	--	--	130
Canada	--	--	(3)	192	--	--	192
Germany	--	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)
Mexico	--	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)
Peru	--	--	12	--	--	--	12
Sweden	--	14	6	--	--	--	20
Total	86	14	19	236	--	(3)	355

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

Country of origin	2012		2013			
	January–November Thousand metric tons	November		January–November		
		Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Value <sup>2,3</sup> (dollars per ton)
Brazil	284	44	6,320	199	31,200	157
Canada	3,170	192	24,200	1,700	229,000	134.47
Germany	--	--	--	(4)	5	217.22
Norway	--	--	--	78	11,900	152.23
United Kingdom	76	--	--	--	--	--
Total	3,530	236	30,500	1,980	272,000	137.42

-- 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>Customs value. Excludes international freight and insurance charges.

<sup>3</sup>Values are calculated and may not reflect actual amounts per ton.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
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.)	January–November		November
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,450	11	11
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(3)	--
Charleston, SC (16)	(3)	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	689	477	86
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,880	1,470	192
Detroit, MI (38)	(3)	1	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	54	44	44
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(3)	(3)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	48	18	--
New Orleans, LA (20)	618	964	12
New York, NY (10)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Nogales, AZ (26)	--	(3)	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(3)	(3)	--
Pembina, ND (34)	--	(3)	(3)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	4	--	--
Port Arthur, TX (21)	27	--	--
San Diego, CA (25)	--	(3)	(3)
Seattle, WA (30)	26	--	--
St. Albans, VT (02)	(3)	3	--
Tampa, FL (18)	3	9	9
Total	4,800	3,000	355

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE PELLETS,  
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district (code no.)	January–November		November
	2012	2013	2013
Baltimore, MD (13)	1,260	--	--
Chicago, IL (39)	41	--	--
Cleveland, OH (41)	1,880	1,470	192
Detroit, MI (38)	--	(2)	--
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	--	44	44
New Orleans, LA (20)	345	463	--
Total	3,530	1,980	236

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.