

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

January 16, 2019



Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Down Slightly in 2018

CLEVELAND – A 14-percent increase in iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes in December pushed the year-end total to 55.6 million tons, a decrease of just 0.3 percent, or three cargos in a 1,000-foot-long laker, compared to 2017. Early in the season, the trade was down nearly 14 percent, largely because of delays caused by heavy ice, but the gap narrowed steadily as the year progressed.

Four of the eight active iron ore shipping ports registered increases over 2017 that ranged from 1.1 to 19.6 percent. For the first time since 1852 no iron ore was shipped from Escanaba, Michigan. The port loaded its last iron ore cargo in April 2017.

Compared to the trade's 5-year average, 2018 iron ore loadings were up 7.8 percent.

About Lake Carriers' Association

Lake Carriers' Association ("LCA") represents 13 American companies that operate 45 U.S.-flag vessels ("lakers") on the Great Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation, as well as salt, sand and grain. Collectively, its members can transport more than 90 million tons of dry-bulk cargo per year and employ more than 1,600 men and women, all of whom are U.S. citizens or legally admitted aliens, and provide annual wages and benefits of approximately \$125 million. In turn, those cargos create and sustain nearly 116,000 jobs in the eight Great Lakes states and generate more than \$20 billion in economic activity, \$8.3 billion in personal income, \$16.4 billion in business revenue, \$4.1 billion in local purchases and \$3.7 billion in taxes.

###

Information based on data from knowledgeable sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Lake Carriers' Association assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of Lake Carriers' Association and may not necessarily represent the views of its individual members.

25651 Detroit Rd., Ste. 102 ♦ Westlake, OH 44145 ♦ www.lcaships.com

The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ANDRIE INC. • ARMSTRONG STEAMSHIP COMPANY • BELL STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC.
GREAT LAKES FLEET • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE, INC.
PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING COMPANY • PORT CITY MARINE SERVICES, INC. • SOO MARINE SUPPLY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE, INC.