

Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

March 13, 2019



U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes More Than Doubled in January

CLEVELAND — U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 3.1 million tons of cargo in January, an increase of 110 percent compared to a year ago. The January float was also 44 percent above the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore shipments totaled 2.5 million tons, an increase of 84 percent. Coal loadings quadrupled to 137,000 tons. The limestone trade totaled 196,000 tons, an increase of 100 percent.

U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Carriage on the Great Lakes January 2014-2019 and 5-Year Average

(net tons)

Commodity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average 2014-2018
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	1,277,149	1,907,144	1,603,693	1,592,600	1,152,826	2,260,510	1,506,682
Transshipments	223,149	166,377	60,627	192,940	220,288	269,956	172,676
Total - Iron Ore	1,500,298	2,073,521	1,664,320	1,785,540	1,373,114	2,530,466	1,679,359
Coal							
Lake Superior	158,845	428,167	66,158	80,050	0	123,885	146,644
Lake Michigan	60,713	42,423	0	0	0	13,323	20,627
Lake Erie	148,682	113,548	123,819	92,536	34,449	0	102,607
Total - Coal	368,240	584,138	189,977	172,586	34,449	137,208	269,878
Limestone	0	104,338	180,204	0	0	195,594	56,908
Cement	37,790	181,291	150,775	107,660	48,792	130,743	105,262
Salt	45,767	0	77,072	73,188	23,140	100,900	43,833
Sand	0	0	0	0	0	16,763	0
Grain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1,952,095	2,943,288	2,262,348	2,138,974	1,479,495	3,111,674	2,155,240

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American companies that operate 46 U.S.-flag vessels 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, these vessels 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, the cargoes its members carry 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. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

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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.

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