



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



U.S.-Flag Shipping on the Great Lakes Down 22.2 Percent in 2020

CLEVELAND – U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 70 million tons of cargo in 2020, a decrease of 22.2 percent compared to 2019. The 2020 float was also 18.5 percent below the fleet's 5-year average.

Shipments of cement increased by 4.7 percent while grain shipments increased by 8.7 percent. However, shipments of all other commodities decreased in 2020. Iron ore cargos totaled 37.1 million tons, a decrease of 25.4 percent from 2019. Coal was down 35.9 percent. Limestone dipped by 14.1 percent and salt cargos were off by 6.2 percent. Sand shipments decreased by less than 1 percent.

**U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes
2015-2020 and Long-Term Average
(net tons)**

Commodity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average 2015-2019
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	37,397,501	41,094,539	41,924,553	41,711,804	46,004,805	33,422,404	41,626,640
Transshipments	3,467,452	2,980,293	4,064,262	4,092,629	3,678,669	3,637,614	3,656,661
Total - Iron Ore	40,864,953	44,074,832	45,988,815	45,804,433	49,683,474	37,060,018	45,283,301
Coal							
Lake Superior	12,867,046	9,609,901	10,254,462	8,697,702	7,952,133	4,930,728	9,876,249
Lake Michigan	1,093,993	526,568	369,327	390,438	723,841	560,057	620,833
Lake Erie	3,693,275	2,828,408	2,708,708	2,728,192	2,642,972	1,764,650	2,920,311
Total - Coal	17,654,314	12,964,877	13,332,497	11,816,332	11,318,946	7,255,435	13,417,393
Limestone	23,142,584	21,193,845	21,553,131	21,961,050	24,086,722	20,694,823	22,387,466
Cement	3,451,989	3,246,471	3,182,636	2,933,346	3,288,509	3,441,467	3,220,590
Salt	1,411,169	1,259,409	1,067,836	460,577	923,476	866,354	1,024,493
Sand	319,891	265,220	375,638	493,128	413,040	411,165	373,383
Grain	356,268	249,999	237,331	259,745	289,728	314,849	278,614
Totals	87,201,168	83,254,653	85,737,884	83,728,611	90,003,895	70,044,110	85,985,242

About Lake Carriers' Association

Since 1880, Lake Carriers' has represented the U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet, which today can move more than 90 million tons of cargos annually that are the foundation of American industry, infrastructure, and power: iron ore, stone, coal, cement, and other dry bulk materials such as grain, salt, and sand. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

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