



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Shipping Down in 2022

CLEVELAND – U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 76.4 million tons of cargo in 2022, a decrease of 6.6 percent compared to 2021. The 2022 float was 7.1 percent below the fleet's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos totaled 37.4 million tons, a decrease of 10.2 percent compared to a year earlier. Coal cargos were also down 10.2 percent to 9.3 million tons. Limestone shipments decreased by 1.8 percent, while cement shipments increased by 3.8 percent. Salt and sand cargos were up by 5.9 percent and 30.7 percent, respectively. Grain shipments decreased by 2.6 percent.

**U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes
2017-2022 and Long-Term Average
(net tons)**

Commodity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average 2017-2021
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	41,924,553	41,711,804	46,004,805	33,422,404	37,960,232	35,370,648	40,204,760
Transshipments	4,064,262	4,092,629	3,678,669	3,637,614	3,690,957	2,017,176	3,832,826
Total - Iron Ore	45,988,815	45,804,433	49,683,474	37,060,018	41,651,189	37,387,824	44,037,586
Coal							
Lake Superior	10,254,462	8,697,702	7,952,133	4,930,728	7,268,985	6,160,250	7,820,802
Lake Michigan	369,327	390,438	723,841	560,057	827,962	878,467	574,325
Lake Erie	2,708,708	2,728,192	2,642,972	1,764,650	2,255,738	2,262,121	2,420,052
Total - Coal	13,332,497	11,816,332	11,318,946	7,255,435	10,352,685	9,300,838	10,815,179
Limestone	21,553,131	21,961,050	24,086,722	20,694,823	24,141,410	23,704,683	22,487,427
Cement	3,182,636	2,933,346	3,288,509	3,441,467	3,612,012	3,748,705	3,291,594
Salt	1,067,836	460,577	923,476	866,354	1,162,396	1,230,538	896,128
Sand	375,638	493,128	413,040	411,165	500,055	653,695	438,605
Grain	237,331	259,745	289,728	314,849	366,154	356,503	293,561
Totals	85,737,884	83,728,611	90,003,895	70,044,110	81,785,901	76,382,786	82,260,080

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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