



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Shipping Up 6.5 Percent in 2023

CLEVELAND – U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 81.4 million tons of cargo in 2023, an increase of 6.5 percent compared to 2022. The 2023 float was 1.2 percent above the fleet's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos totaled 42.4 million tons, an increase of 13.4 percent compared to a year earlier. Coal cargos were down 9.7 percent to 8.4 million tons. Limestone shipments increased by 3.9 percent to 24.6 million tons, while cement shipments were a near match to 2022 at 3.7 million tons. Salt and grain cargos were down by 5.8 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively. Sand shipments increased by 12.4 percent.

**U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes
2018-2023 and Long-Term Average
(net tons)**

Commodity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average 2018-2022
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	41,711,804	46,004,805	33,422,404	37,960,232	35,370,648	39,008,635	38,893,979
Transshipments	4,092,629	3,678,669	3,637,614	3,690,957	2,017,176	3,375,654	3,423,409
Total - Iron Ore	45,804,433	49,683,474	37,060,018	41,651,189	37,387,824	42,384,289	42,317,388
Coal							
Lake Superior	8,697,702	7,952,133	4,930,728	7,268,985	6,160,250	5,367,531	7,001,960
Lake Michigan	390,438	723,841	560,057	827,962	878,467	803,237	676,153
Lake Erie	2,728,192	2,642,972	1,764,650	2,255,738	2,262,121	2,230,065	2,330,735
Total - Coal	11,816,332	11,318,946	7,255,435	10,352,685	9,300,838	8,400,833	10,008,847
Limestone	21,961,050	24,086,722	20,694,823	24,141,410	23,704,683	24,631,568	22,917,738
Cement	2,933,346	3,288,509	3,441,467	3,612,012	3,748,705	3,732,534	3,404,808
Salt	460,577	923,476	866,354	1,162,396	1,230,538	1,158,665	928,668
Sand	493,128	413,040	411,165	500,055	653,695	734,591	494,217
Grain	259,745	289,728	314,849	366,154	356,503	314,513	317,396
Totals	83,728,611	90,003,895	70,044,110	81,785,901	76,382,786	81,356,993	80,389,061

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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