



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes Down 3.9 Percent in 2024

CLEVELAND – U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 78.2 million tons of cargo in 2024, a decrease of 3.9 percent compared to 2023. The 2024 float was 2.1 percent below the fleet's 5-year average.

Compared to 2023, salt shipments increased by 5.8 percent while sand shipments increased by 15.2 percent. Iron ore shipments totaled 43.9 million tons, a 3.6 percent increase from the prior year. Grain cargos decreased by less than one percent to 312,345 tons. Coal cargos were down 12.7 percent to 7.3 million tons. Limestone shipments declined by 14.5 percent to 21.1 million tons and cement shipments dipped by 6.3 percent to 3.5 million tons.

**U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes
2019-2024 and Long-Term Average
(net tons)**

Commodity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average 2019-2023
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	46,004,805	33,422,404	37,960,232	35,370,648	39,008,635	41,041,726	38,353,345
Transshipments	3,678,669	3,637,614	3,690,957	2,017,176	3,375,654	2,876,166	3,280,014
Total - Iron Ore	49,683,474	37,060,018	41,651,189	37,387,824	42,384,289	43,917,892	41,633,359
Coal							
Lake Superior	7,952,133	4,930,728	7,268,985	6,160,250	5,367,531	5,173,375	6,335,925
Lake Michigan	723,841	560,057	827,962	878,467	803,237	842,896	758,713
Lake Erie	2,642,972	1,764,650	2,255,738	2,262,121	2,230,065	1,318,754	2,231,109
Total - Coal	11,318,946	7,255,435	10,352,685	9,300,838	8,400,833	7,335,025	9,325,747
Limestone	24,086,722	20,694,823	24,141,410	23,704,683	24,631,568	21,062,713	23,451,841
Cement	3,288,509	3,441,467	3,612,012	3,748,705	3,732,534	3,497,443	3,564,645
Salt	923,476	866,354	1,162,396	1,230,538	1,158,665	1,225,424	1,068,286
Sand	413,040	411,165	500,055	653,695	734,591	846,102	542,509
Grain	289,728	314,849	366,154	356,503	314,513	312,345	328,349
Totals	90,003,895	70,044,110	81,785,901	76,382,786	81,356,993	78,196,944	79,914,737

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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