



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



U.S.-Flag Cargo Movement on Lakes Down 6.3 Percent in 2024

CLEVELAND – U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (lakers) moved 76.3 million tons of cargo in 2024, a decrease of 6.3 percent compared to 2023. The 2024 float was 4.6 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. However, shipments of all other commodities decreased in 2024. Both iron ore and grain cargos decreased by less than one percent to 42 million tons and 312,345 tons, respectively. 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 | 39,113,822 | 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 | 41,989,988 | 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 | 76,269,040 | 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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