

Lakes Limestone Trade Down in May

CLEVELAND — Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3.6 million tons in May, a decrease of 6.8 percent compared to a year ago. May's loadings were above the month's 5-year average by 1.1 percent.

Loadings from U.S. quarries decreased 6.9 percent compared to 2024 to 2.9 million tons. Shipments from Canadian guarries totaled 688,697 tons, a decrease of 6.2 percent.

Year-to-date the Lakes limestone trade stands at 5.6 million tons, a decrease of 13.2 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings from Michigan and Ohio quarries total 4.6 million tons, a decrease of 11.9 percent. Shipments from Ontario quarries decreased 18.4 percent to 985,761 tons.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: MAY 2020-2025 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (NET TONS)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average 2020-2024
U.S. Ports	2,722,283	2,892,367	3,042,869	2,217,034	3,151,791	2,933,473	2,805,269
Canadian Ports	802,468	801,551	855,108	685,331	734,489	688,697	775,789
Total	3,524,751	3,693,918	3,897,977	2,902,365	3,886,280	3,622,170	3,581,058

YEAR-TO-DATE 2020-2025 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (NET TONS)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average 2020-2024
U.S. Ports	4,740,948	4,864,932	4,689,242	3,929,849	5,255,032	4,627,751	4,696,001
Canadian Ports	1,047,659	1,321,703	1,225,215	1,008,370	1,208,467	985,761	1,162,283
Total	5,788,607	6,186,635	5,914,457	4,938,219	6,463,499	5,613,512	5,858,283

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI; Cedarville, MI; Drummond Island, MI; Marblehead, OH; Port Inland, MI; and Presque Isle, MI. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne (from August 2017 on) and Smelter Bay (all Ontario).

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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