



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Down 12.8 Percent in 2025

CLEVELAND – Shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes totaled 4.2 million tons in December, a decrease of 8.8 percent compared to 2024. Shipments were also below the 5-year average for the month by 7.6 percent.

The year-end total for the iron ore trade decreased by 12.8 percent to 43.4 million tons.

2025 iron ore loadings were down 8 percent compared to the trade's 5-year average.

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.

Great Lakes Iron Ore Shipments: December 2020-2025 and 5-Year Average Includes Transshipments to Quebec City for Shipment Overseas

(net tons)

| Port | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Average 2020-2024 |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Duluth, MN | 711,111 | 585,725 | 740,415 | 862,141 | 677,106 | 618,019 | 715,300 |
| Superior, WI | 615,368 | 1,080,199 | 839,100 | 1,100,736 | 1,232,047 | 808,759 | 973,490 |
| Two Harbors, MN | 1,716,377 | 1,559,111 | 1,284,398 | 1,377,157 | 1,498,123 | 1,204,377 | 1,487,033 |
| Silver Bay, MN | 507,707 | 369,820 | 0 | 363,521 | 370,464 | 450,237 | 322,302 |
| Marquette, MI* | 737,384 | 557,936 | 653,474 | 676,569 | 568,958 | 691,727 | 638,864 |
| Cleveland, OH** | 180,961 | 370,347 | 468,968 | 394,364 | 211,882 | 385,616 | 325,304 |
| Ashtabula, OH | 185,489 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37,098 |
| Total | 4,654,397 | 4,523,138 | 3,986,355 | 4,774,488 | 4,558,580 | 4,158,735 | 4,499,392 |

*Marquette = Presque Isle in previous reports

**Transshipments within Cleveland Harbor

Year-To-Date 2020-2025

| Port | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Average 2020-2024 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Duluth, MN | 8,047,633 | 8,843,603 | 7,381,085 | 9,048,127 | 7,976,581 | 7,730,074 | 8,259,406 |
| Superior, WI | 7,037,669 | 11,719,625 | 11,290,354 | †12,414,374 | 11,719,743 | 8,829,623 | 10,836,353 |
| Two Harbors, MN | 13,303,809 | 15,407,333 | 13,953,527 | 14,918,359 | 15,282,891 | 12,930,051 | 14,573,184 |
| Silver Bay, MN | 4,382,861 | 5,873,375 | 1,735,362 | 3,239,443 | 4,297,301 | 3,973,003 | 3,905,668 |
| Marquette, MI* | 5,391,001 | 6,144,094 | 5,394,125 | 7,075,000 | 6,868,584 | 6,983,263 | 6,174,561 |
| Cleveland, OH** | 2,021,923 | 3,617,145 | 2,560,605 | 4,362,457 | 3,629,510 | 2,956,710 | 3,238,328 |
| Ashtabula, OH | 1,046,225 | 28,553 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 214,956 |
| Total | 41,231,121 | 51,633,728 | 42,315,058 | †51,057,760 | 49,774,610 | 43,402,724 | 47,202,455 |

† Revised 2/29/24

Information based on data from knowledgeable sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Lake Carriers' Association assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. Report represents the views of Lake Carriers' Association and may not necessarily represent the views of its individual members.