



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Down in March

CLEVELAND – Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes in March 2026 decreased 23.5 percent from a year ago. Loadings were also below the month’s 5-year average by 35.1 percent.

The iron ore trade stands at 2.7 million tons, a decrease of 7.7 percent compared to 2025. For the first three months of the year, iron ore shipments are 21.2 percent below their 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: March 2021-2026 and 5-Year Average Includes Transshipments to Quebec City for Shipment Overseas

(net tons)

Port	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average 2021-2025
Duluth, MN	152,933	89,805	176,207	289,592	102,763	104,553	162,260
Superior, WI	297,293	64,613	264,994	91,884	98,615	82,568	163,480
Two Harbors, MN	396,737	213,598	309,365	530,938	331,010	166,587	356,330
Silver Bay, MN	63,012	37,218	0	61,915	37,461	109,985	39,921
Marquette, MI*	201,592	36,743	162,057	151,687	59,545	74,025	122,325
Cleveland, OH**	171,456	137,240	346,980	455,025	332,792	198,112	288,699
Ashtabula, OH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,283,023	579,217	1,259,603	1,581,041	962,186	735,830	1,133,014

*Marquette = Presque Isle in previous reports

**Transshipments within Cleveland Harbor

Year-To-Date 2021-2026

Port	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average 2021-2025
Duluth, MN	445,476	408,609	594,812	662,712	571,324	366,446	536,587
Superior, WI	958,781	509,632	815,989	799,703	409,464	538,558	698,714
Two Harbors, MN	1,412,625	902,674	988,765	1,407,676	1,053,284	701,174	1,153,005
Silver Bay, MN	208,995	112,691	0	342,177	259,818	195,448	184,736
Marquette, MI*	622,118	275,967	558,781	421,011	249,407	350,346	425,457
Cleveland, OH**	221,922	226,196	779,657	733,015	430,579	592,960	478,274
Ashtabula, OH	28,553	0	0	0	0	0	5,711
Total	3,898,470	2,435,769	3,738,004	4,366,294	2,973,876	2,744,932	3,482,483

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.