



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



Lakes U.S. Limestone Trade Down in May

CLEVELAND — Shipments of limestone from U.S. quarries on the Great Lakes decreased 8.1 percent from May of last year to 2.7 million tons. May's loadings were also below the month's 5-year average by 5.4 percent.

Year-to-date, the Lakes U.S. limestone trade totals 3.9 million tons, a decrease of 14.9 percent compared to 2025 and 15.7 percent below the 5-year average.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: MAY 2021-2026 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (NET TONS)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average 2021-2025
U.S. Ports	2,892,367	3,042,869	2,217,034	3,151,791	2,933,473	2,694,656	2,847,507
Canadian Ports	801,551	855,108	685,331	734,489	688,697	NA*	753,035
Total	3,693,918	3,897,977	2,902,365	3,886,280	3,622,170	2,694,656	3,600,542

YEAR-TO-DATE 2021-2026 AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE (NET TONS)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average 2021-2025
U.S. Ports	4,864,932	4,689,242	3,929,849	5,255,032	4,627,751	3,937,960	4,673,361
Canadian Ports	1,321,703	1,225,215	1,008,370	1,208,467	985,761	NA*	1,149,903
Total	6,186,635	5,914,457	4,938,219	6,463,499	5,613,512	3,937,960	5,823,264

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).

*As of April 2026, Canadian ports are no longer supplying information on limestone shipments.

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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