LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION

# Lakes Limestone Trade Down in October

CLEVELAND — U.S. shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes decreased 7.8 percent from 2025 to 2.95 million tons. Limestone cargos were below the month's 5-year average by 17.3 percent.

Year-to-date, the limestone trade stands at 18.8 million tons, a decrease of 17.7 percent compared to last year and 22.4 percent below the month's 5-year average.

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

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | Average 2021-2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. Ports | 2,915,616 | 3,197,709 | 2,992,462 | 2,740,218 | 2,573,839 | 2,951,990 | 2,883,969 |
| Canadian Ports | 638,517 | 736,157 | 835,201 | 587,069 | 626,805 | NA** | 684,750 |
| **Total** | **3,554,133** | **3,933,866** | **3,827,663** | **3,327,287** | **3,200,644** | **2,951,990** | **3,568,719** |

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

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023* | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | Average 2021-2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. Ports | 19,447,386 | 19,867,668 | 19,401,470 | 19,477,391 | 18,601,030 | 18,770,047 | 19,358,989 |
| Canadian Ports | 5,193,170 | 5,137,804 | 4,886,669 | 4,672,909 | 4,208,832 | NA** | 4,819,877 |
| **Total** | **24,640,556** | **25,005,472** | **24,288,139** | **24,150,300** | **22,809,862** | **18,770,047** | **24,178,866** |

*Revised 7/11/24

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