

2005 CEMENT TRADE

Shipments of cement in U.S.- and Canadian-Flag Lakers designed expressly to discharge that cargo fell sharply in 2005, slipping 8.3 percent to 5,048,817 net tons. The 2005 total was also noticeably below the trade's 5-year average (5,457,892 net tons).

Demand for cement is dictated by the construction industry, and that market was sluggish in 2005. However, some of the fall-off also may be related to a change in ownership at a major Great Lakes cement producer and the necessary adjustments and realignments which follow such transactions.

GREAT LAKES CEMENT SHIPMENTS CALENDAR YEARS 1996-2005 (net tons)

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL
1996.....	5,088,879
1997.....	5,355,448
1998.....	5,587,004
1999.....	5,639,981
2000.....	5,578,697
2001.....	5,470,198
2002.....	5,341,759
2003.....	5,390,169
2004.....	5,508,635
2005.....	5,048,817
10-YEAR TOTAL.....	54,009,587