

2009 COAL TRADE

Shipments of coal on the Great Lakes totaled 29,874,431 net tons in 2009, a decrease of 25 percent compared to 2008, or 9,916,059 tons. In terms of tons, 2009 represents the third-largest 1-year drop in the history of the Great Lakes coal trade. Only twice before have shipments fallen so much from one year to another.¹

The coal trade's performance mirrored the general weakness in the economy. However, the trade got off to a very slow start in March in part because of concerns about the adequacy of U.S. and Canadian icebreaking resources. The year before U.S.-flag vessel operators had suffered more than \$1.3 million in ice-related damages. As a consequence, at least two U.S.-flag operators delayed some sailings in March 2009 for fear of repeating their experiences of a year before. Therefore, coal shipments on the Lakes in March were less than 150,000 tons. Between 2004 and 2008, coal loadings had averaged 1.4 million tons in March.

GREAT LAKES COAL SHIPMENTS 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

PORT / DOCK	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	AVERAGE 2004-2008
LAKE SUPERIOR							
Superior, WI							
Superior Midwest Energy Terminal .	18,340,535	20,470,670	21,339,614	20,375,015	22,354,161	18,227,021	20,575,999
Thunder Bay, ON							
Canadian National.....	1,809,469	1,468,538	1,343,976	1,388,503	1,700,308	945,328	1,542,158
TOTAL – LAKE SUPERIOR	20,150,004	21,939,208	22,683,590	21,763,518	24,054,469	19,172,349	22,118,157
LAKE MICHIGAN							
Chicago, IL							
KCBX Terminals Company.....	3,946,020	4,183,423	3,578,388	2,721,860	2,808,875	1,368,202	3,447,713
Chicago Fuels Terminal.....	0	0	0	839,741	541,857	841,769	690,799
TOTAL – LAKE MICHIGAN.....	3,946,020	4,183,423	3,578,388	3,561,601	3,350,732	2,209,971	4,138,512
LAKE ERIE							
Toledo, OH							
CSX.....	2,672,992	3,356,332	2,874,569	3,192,774	3,187,296	3,218,291	3,056,792
Sandusky, OH							
Norfolk Southern.....	3,259,284	3,985,104	4,285,412	3,884,011	3,211,542	1,947,759	3,725,070
Ashtabula, OH							
Norfolk Southern.....	5,094,262	5,368,029	4,874,385	4,347,508	4,640,435	3,242,316	4,864,923
Conneaut, OH							
Bessemer & Lake Erie.....	4,814,298	3,874,592	3,491,109	2,251,985	1,084,189	0	3,103,234
Buffalo, NY							
Gateway Trade Center	0	109,004	297,802	259,141	261,827	83,745	231,943
TOTAL – LAKE ERIE	15,840,836	16,693,061	15,824,277	13,935,419	12,385,289	8,492,111	14,981,962
TOTAL – ALL LAKES	39,936,860	42,815,692	42,086,255	39,260,538	39,790,490	29,874,431	41,238,631

¹ The largest 1-year decrease is 19,633,965 tons recorded in 1949. A general recession gripped the economy, but there were also labor problems in the coal industry. The second-largest drop is 11,829,777 tons recorded in 1958. A major slump in steel production slowed economic activity overall and reduced demand for metallurgical coal (steel production) and steam coal (power generation).