

2009 GREAT LAKES DRY-BULK COMMERCE

Great Lakes shipping was not immune to the recession that gripped the country (and world) in 2009. The major dry-bulk cargos totaled only 111.2 million net tons in 2009, a decrease of nearly 30 percent compared to 2008, and even more – 32.1 percent – when compared to the trade's 5-year average. The vast majority of these cargos are carried by U.S.- and Canadian-flag lakere. Oceangoing vessels' participation is limited almost exclusively to grain.

Another way to measure the decrease is that in 2004, U.S.-flag vessels carried more cargo – 111.3 million tons – than all vessels working the Lakes in 2009.

The various commodities are reviewed in detail in following sections.

GREAT LAKES DRY-BULK COMMERCE **CALENDAR YEARS 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

COMMODITY	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	AVERAGE 2004-2008
IRON ORE*							
From Lake Superior	48,074,811	45,240,419	45,635,055	43,846,005	45,965,629	23,630,583	45,752,383
From Lake Michigan	5,036,886	3,705,873	4,505,150	4,877,479	5,260,006	4,298,566	4,677,077
From Eastern Canada.....	9,502,914	9,241,256	9,737,893	9,375,654	8,017,319	3,863,482	9,175,007
TOTAL – IRON ORE	62,614,611	58,187,548	59,878,098	58,099,138	59,242,954	31,792,631	59,604,467
COAL							
From Lake Superior	20,150,004	21,939,208	22,683,590	21,763,518	24,054,469	19,172,349	22,118,157
From Lake Michigan	3,946,020	4,183,423	3,578,388	3,561,601	3,350,732	2,209,971	3,724,032
From Lake Erie	15,840,836	16,584,057	15,525,475	13,935,419	12,385,289	8,492,111	14,854,215
TOTAL – COAL.....	39,936,860	42,706,688	41,878,453	39,260,538	39,790,490	29,874,431	40,696,404
LIMESTONE							
From U.S. Ports	31,691,083	29,984,216	30,908,502	27,961,091	25,691,214	18,611,577	29,247,221
From Canadian Ports.....	8,530,969	7,741,161	8,069,219	6,040,375	6,676,299	4,892,555	7,411,604
TOTAL – LIMESTONE ..	40,222,052	37,725,377	38,977,721	34,001,466	32,367,513	23,504,132	36,658,825
SALT	9,239,658	9,255,371	9,726,216	8,892,084	11,425,842	12,611,308	9,707,834
CEMENT.....	6,345,671	6,154,834	6,047,303	5,671,762	5,036,915	4,016,999	5,851,297
GRAIN	11,667,639	11,377,508	13,027,667	11,135,605	9,284,286	9,393,810	11,298,941
TOTAL.....	170,026,491	165,407,326	169,535,458	157,060,593	157,148,000	111,193,311	163,817,768

Revised after publication of 2008 Report.

To convert iron ore to gross tons, multiply by .89286.