

2009 LIMESTONE TRADE

Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 23.5 million net tons in 2009, a decrease of more than 28 percent compared to 2008, and the lowest total recorded since 1984.

The recession took a major toll on the two largest markets for Lakes limestone: construction and steel production. As a result, demand for both aggregate (construction) and fluxstone (blast furnaces) fell sharply.

Unlike the iron ore trade, which began to strengthen as 2009 came to an end, limestone shipments faded quickly in December. Not one stone cargo was shipped after December 15. In a normal year, limestone will continue to load until about Christmas, and in some years, a few quarries will continue to ship into early January if the weather is mild.

2009 LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS BY MONTH

(net tons)

MONTH	U.S. PORTS	CANADIAN PORTS	TOTAL
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	16,372	0	16,372
April	1,225,179	326,311	1,551,490
May	2,229,887	627,727	2,857,614
June	2,114,392	878,533	2,992,925
July	2,275,398	625,158	2,900,556
August	2,492,875	556,113	3,048,988
September	2,311,117	672,738	2,983,855
October	2,653,204	656,150	3,309,354
November	2,577,680	509,875	3,087,555
December	715,473	39,950	755,423
TOTAL	18,611,577	4,892,555	23,504,132

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS CALENDAR YEARS 2000-2009

(net tons)

CALENDAR YEAR	U.S. PORTS	CANADIAN PORTS	TOTAL
2000	31,002,777	7,116,220	38,120,997
2001	30,724,237	7,180,562	37,906,800
2002	30,673,673	6,863,570	37,539,245
2003	27,067,685	7,115,172	34,184,860
2004	31,691,083	8,530,969	40,224,056
2005	29,984,216	7,741,161	37,725,377
2006	30,908,502	8,069,219	38,977,721
2007	27,961,091	6,040,375	34,001,466
2008	25,691,214	6,676,299	32,367,513
2009	18,611,577	4,892,555	23,504,132
10-YEAR TOTAL	284,316,055	70,226,102	354,552,167