



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Sour Economy Halves Lakes Coal Trade in January

CLEVELAND—The stumbling economy took its toll on the Great Lakes coal trade in January. Shipments totaled only 778,971 net tons, just half the volume of a year ago, and certainly one of the slowest Januaries in recent memory.

With the Lakes now largely closed by winter, the low January coal total could come back to haunt the nation if power plants find themselves short of coal. A recently-released study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found that Great Lakes shipping annually saves its customers \$3.6 billion in transportation costs compared to the land-based modes. However, all U.S.-Flag lakers are now in winter lay-up and undergoing annual maintenance, so the fleet would not be able to meet any demand for coal until March at the earliest.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 16 American corporations that operate 63 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone, and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at www.lcaships.com.

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

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Great Lakes Coal Shipments: January 2004-2009 and 5-Year Average
(net tons)

Port	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
Superior, WI	442,141	465,598	687,977	532,042	847,858	390,328	595,123
Thunder Bay, ON	85,722	45,319	25,100	0	26,923	28,516	36,613
Total - Lake Superior	527,863	510,917	713,077	532,042	874,781	418,844	631,736
Chicago, IL	182,194	241,255	289,810	121,214	43,773	60,668	175,649
Total - Lake Michigan	182,194	241,255	289,810	121,214	43,773	60,668	175,649
Toledo, OH	0	0	0	0	16,141	0	3,228
Sandusky, OH	27,420	111,133	115,235	0	97,250	77,092	70,208
Ashtabula, OH	379,999	215,882	382,671	144,245	267,020	222,367	277,963
Conneaut, OH	357,576	507,550	442,939	471,898	197,485	0	395,490
Buffalo, NY	0	0	0	0	34,604	0	6,921
Total - Lake Erie	764,995	834,565	940,845	616,143	612,500	299,459	753,810
Total - All Lakes	1,475,052	1,586,737	1,943,732	1,269,399	1,531,054	778,971	1,561,195

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

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET / KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. • THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY
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