



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

September 29, 2009

### Coal Trade on Lakes Off 13 Percent in August

CLEVELAND—Coal shipments on the Great Lakes in August totaled 3.6 million net tons, a decrease of 13 percent compared to a year ago. However, the August 2008 total was a bit depressed, so as a result, this August's shipments are almost 23 percent off the month's 5-year average.

The top coal cargos remained in the 66,000-67,000 ton range in August. Ships have benefited from higher water levels. Nonetheless, even these cargos represent light loading. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restores the Great Lakes Navigation System to project dimensions by removing the 16-plus million cubic yards of sediment that clog ports and waterways, some vessels will be able to carry almost 71,000 tons of coal each trip.

For the year, coal shipments stand at 17.8 million tons, a decrease of approximately 25 percent compared to a year ago. The trade is more than 28 percent off the 5-year average for the January-August timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and 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 offsets lack of adequate dredging. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association.

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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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