



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 5, 2011

### Great Lakes Iron Ore Trade Down 11.2 Percent in March

CLEVELAND—Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 1.9 million tons in March, a decrease of 11.2 percent compared to a year ago. However, loadings were 6.75 percent ahead of the month's 5-year average.

Shipments from U.S. ports totaled 1.75 million tons, a decrease of 17 percent compared to a year ago. However, the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, that connect Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes opened on March 21 in 2010. This March the locks opened on their regularly-scheduled date: March 25. Five of the seven U.S. ore ports are located on Lake Superior, so four less days of navigation clearly impacted the total. Nonetheless, shipments were 100,000 tons ahead of March's 5-year average.

Through March the iron ore trade stands at 4.8 million tons, an increase of 17.2 percent compared to a year ago (this because shipments were up 60 percent in January). Loadings are also 9.4 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the first quarter.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 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, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per 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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