



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

May 17, 2010

### Lakes Iron Ore Surges Again in April

CLEVELAND—The Great Lakes iron ore trade continued to strengthen in April in response to growing demand for steel. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian Lakes and Seaway ports totaled 5.4 million net tons, an increase of 146 percent compared to a year ago. April loadings also bettered the month's 5-year average by nearly 5 percent.

Rebounding steel production is driving the Lakes iron ore trade. As April began, the steel industry was using 70.8 percent of its capacity, and by month's end, had worked up to 72.5 percent of capacity. In April 2009, the steel industry had but 41 percent of its capacity on line.

Another positive indicator is that the 1.6 million tons of iron ore shipped from Two Harbors, Minnesota, in April is one of the highest monthly totals for a Great Lakes iron ore dock in the past several years.

Year-to-date the iron ore trade stands at 9.5 million tons, an increase of nearly 170 percent compared to a year ago. However, shipments are still slightly behind the 5-year average for the January-April 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 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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