

2005 GRAIN TRADE (Revised June 14, 2006)

Shipments of grain on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system totaled 11.4 million net tons in 2005, a slight decrease compared to 2004, but a drop of nearly 12 percent compared to the trade's 5-year average.

Wheat, long the principle grain cargo moving on the Lakes/Seaway, continued to decline. The total, 6.9 million tons, is the lowest this decade. Shipments of soybeans also fell sharply.

The Lakes/Seaway grain trade has struggled to respond to market shifts and competition from other modes of transportation. For example, in 1980, a record year for Lakes/Seaway grain, the Port of Thunder Bay (Ontario, Canada) shipped more wheat – 11.9 million net tons – than all the various grains that moved on the Lakes in 2005. However, in 1980, the Soviet Union was a prime customer for Lakes grain.

Domestically, the closure of all but one grain mill in Buffalo, New York, has reduced shipments to that port to a trickle compared to levels recorded 25 years ago. Whereas in 1980 Buffalo received more than 1.5 million tons of grain, shipments to the port totaled less than 400,000 tons in 2005. Population shifts and the advent of unit trains are major factors behind this decline.

**GRAIN SHIPMENTS BY COMMODITY
CALENDAR YEARS 2000-2005 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE
(bushels)**

COMMODITY	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	AVERAGE 2000-2004
Barley	10,517,584	5,220,083	7,701,166	2,141,042	0	1,726,750	5,115,975
Beet Pulp	0	0	0	5,343,520	6,245,464	5,700,036	2,317,797
Canola	18,392,120	16,314,160	12,862,840	15,033,880	23,632,040	31,069,640	17,247,008
Corn.....	72,773,072	64,854,866	45,641,973	37,217,326	32,943,753	31,074,498	50,686,198
Flaxseed.....	18,301,857	17,599,036	21,738,571	20,628,393	15,179,464	16,219,501	18,689,465
Mustard Seeds	10,628,200	0	1,354,428	0	0	0	2,396,526
Oats.....	3,653,438	13,551,187	157,812	5,183,375	10,372,562	11,248,813	6,583,675
Peas	23,436,800	9,449,767	74,633	5,645,334	11,068,800	23,523,234	9,935,067
Soybeans.....	74,037,401	66,006,200	63,793,673	39,582,235	48,660,793	38,073,169	58,416,061
Sunflower Seeds.....	0	0	0	0	1,464,000	0	1,464,000
Wheat	271,149,998	272,469,245	244,333,316	262,768,123	249,417,100	230,338,252	260,027,557
Miscellaneous Grains ..	18,165,120	21,582,471	9,667,375	4,386,639	3,019,776	4,896,215	11,364,277
TOTAL.....	521,057,590	487,049,016	407,327,789	397,931,870	402,005,756	393,870,108	444,243,606

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**2005 GRAIN SHIPMENTS
BY PORT AND COMMODITY**
(bushels and net tons)

PORT	COMMODITY	BUSHEL	NET TONS
Duluth, MN / Superior, WI	Barley.....	1,726,750	41,442
	Beet Pulp	5,700,036	159,601
	Flaxseed	3,547,679	99,335
	Peas.....	5,599,267	167,978
	Soybeans.....	5,996,600	179,898
	Wheat.....	73,019,400	2,190,582
		95,589,732	2,838,836
Thunder Bay, ON	Canola.....	31,069,640	776,741
	Flaxseed	12,671,822	354,811
	Oats	11,248,813	179,981
	Peas.....	17,923,967	537,719
	Wheat.....	149,715,600	4,491,468
	Other Grains	4,896,215	137,094
		227,526,057	6,477,814
Milwaukee, WI	Corn	5,050,783	141,422
	Soybeans.....	2,319,946	69,599
	7,370,729	211,021	
Chicago, IL	Soybeans.....	2,571,748	77,153
Burns Harbor, IN	Corn	3,521,000	98,588
	Soybeans.....	1,852,000	55,560
	5,373,000	154,148	
Sarnia, ON	Soybeans.....	4,538,100	136,143
	Wheat.....	2,988,000	89,640
	7,526,100	225,783	
Goderich, ON	Corn	187,393	5,622
	Soybeans.....	2,315,008	69,451
	Wheat.....	2,760,752	82,823
	5,263,153	157,896	
Toledo, OH	Corn	22,315,322	624,829
	Soybeans.....	18,111,767	543,353
	40,427,089	1,168,182	
Huron, OH	Soybeans.....	368,000	11,040
Owen Sound, ON	Wheat.....	1,098,500	32,955
Port Colborne, ON	Wheat.....	756,000	22,680
TOTAL.....		393,870,108	11,377,508