



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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Great Lakes Limestone Trade Struggles Again in July

Cleveland-U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports loaded 2.9 million net tons of limestone in July, a decrease of 31 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings slumped even further when compared to the month's 5-year average: 37 percent. Although some quarries reported a slight increase in demand for fluxstone from the steel industry, the construction industry remains depressed, so orders for aggregates are weak.

The dredging crisis added to the trade's woes in July. A 1,000-foot-long integrated tug/barge twice loaded limestone, and the cargos totaled 97,492 tons. However, if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged the Great Lakes to project dimensions, the vessel would have delivered almost 108,000 tons of limestone. The dredging crisis cost the vessel almost 10 percent of its rated carrying capacity.

For the year, the limestone trade stands at 10.3 million tons, a decrease of 35.5 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 42.4 percent below the 5-year average for the January-July timeframe.

Great Lakes Limestone Shipments from U.S. and Canadian Ports: July 2004-2009 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,990,715	3,594,085	3,846,866	3,683,964	3,350,674	2,275,398	3,693,261
Canadian Ports	1,124,277	874,921	933,553	741,400	863,774	625,158	907,585
Total	5,114,992	4,469,006	4,780,419	4,427,371	4,214,448	2,900,556	4,600,846

Great Lakes Limestone Shipments from U.S. and Canadian Ports: Year-To-Date 2004-2009 and 5-Year Average (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	15,201,609	14,929,912	14,764,432	13,545,015	12,679,744	7,861,228	14,224,142
Canadian Ports	4,119,090	3,901,218	4,008,963	3,171,775	3,309,674	2,457,729	3,702,144
Total	19,321,090	18,831,130	18,773,395	16,718,797	15,989,418	10,318,957	17,926,286

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI. Kellys Island currently not shipping. Canadian ports: Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne, and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne ceased shipping by vessel in 2006.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American companies that operate 65 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes and carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy, including iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, and 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. Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (216) 861-0592.

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Report based on reliable data sources. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. LCA assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of LCA 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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