



Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2009

No Rebound in Lakes Limestone Trade in August

The recession kept its grip on the Great Lakes limestone trade in August. Shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports totaled only 3,048,988 net tons, a decrease of 31.4 percent compared to a year ago. The decrease was slightly larger when compared to the month's 5-year average: 32.7 percent.

The weak demand for stone took its toll on the U.S.-Flag Lakes fleet. Several vessels that are heavily engaged in the trade were forced to lay-up for periods of time during the month.

One bright spot was that higher water levels allowed one vessel to carry 52,243 tons of limestone in one trip. This is one of the largest loads for that vessel in some time. Nonetheless, the cargo still represented less than a full load. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was dredging the Great Lakes Navigation System to project dimensions, the vessel would have loaded another 1,800 tons.

For the year, the limestone trade stands at 13.4 million tons, a decrease of 34.6 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 40.5 percent below the 5-year average for the January-August timeframe.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: AUGUST 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	4,157,862	3,781,141	3,376,738	3,316,880	3,453,228	2,492,875	3,617,170
Canadian Ports	1,077,724	900,286	944,981	650,200	994,039	556,113	913,446
Total	5,235,586	4,681,427	4,321,719	3,969,087	4,447,267	3,048,988	4,530,616

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	19,359,471	18,711,053	18,141,170	16,861,895	16,132,972	10,354,103	17,841,313
Canadian Ports	5,197,205	4,801,504	4,953,944	3,821,975	4,303,713	3,013,842	4,615,669
Total	24,556,676	23,512,557	23,095,114	20,685,877	20,436,685	13,367,945	22,456,982

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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