



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

October 8, 2009

### Great Lakes Limestone Trade Struggled Again in September

Cleveland--Shipments of limestone from U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports were again weak in September. The trade totaled 2,983,855 net tons, a decrease of 21 percent compared to a year ago.

September was down even more compared to the month's 5-year average - 29 percent.

The blame for some of the erosion lies squarely with the dredging crisis. The largest limestone cargo loaded in September totaled 50,222 tons. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was maintaining Great Lakes ports and waterways to their authorized depth, the vessel would have carried about 54,000 tons. The 3,800 tons of limestone left at the quarry thanks to the dredging crisis represents enough product to build 10 houses.

For the year, the limestone trade stands at 16,351,880 tons, a decrease of 32.5 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments are 38.7 percent below the 5-year average for the first three quarters.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 2004-2008
U.S. Ports	3,761,479	3,563,271	3,580,888	3,279,096	2,983,835	2,311,117	3,433,713
Canadian Ports	868,152	784,352	762,820	638,900	791,891	672,738	769,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,631,635</b>	<b>4,349,628</b>	<b>4,345,714</b>	<b>3,920,003</b>	<b>3,777,734</b>	<b>2,983,855</b>	<b>4,202,936</b>

#### **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	23,120,950	22,274,324	21,722,058	20,140,991	19,116,807	12,665,220	21,275,026
Canadian Ports	6,065,357	5,585,856	5,716,764	4,460,875	5,095,604	3,686,580	5,384,891
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,188,311</b>	<b>27,862,185</b>	<b>27,440,828</b>	<b>24,603,873</b>	<b>24,214,419</b>	<b>16,351,800</b>	<b>26,659,917</b>

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 and Kellys Island has not shipped this year.

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, 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](http://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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Suite 720 • 20325 Center Ridge Rd. • Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3572 • Fax: 440-333-9993 •  
[www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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#### ***The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes***

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