



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

January 7, 2009

### Lakes Limestone Trade Plunged to Depression Level in December

Cleveland—With the economy in a free fall, shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes plummeted in December. The trade totaled only 528,821 net tons, a decrease of 75 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings were off even more – 78 percent – compared to the month's 5-year average.

"The Lakes limestone trade is dependent on healthy construction and steel industries," said James H.I. Weakley, President of Lake Carriers' Association. "The deepening recession has all but silenced the construction industry and idled most of the nation's blast furnaces. The new Congress and new Administration must enact legislation that will jump start the economy with 'shovel-ready' projects such as construction of a second Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The project will require more than 1.1 million tons of limestone, or more than a month's production at a large quarry. The lock will also use 25,000 tons of steel, or two full days of production at one of our largest steel mills. Americans need work, and twinning the Poe Lock will generate 1.5 million manhours over the 10-year construction period."

The Lakes limestone trade totaled 32.4 million net tons in 2008, a decrease of 5 percent compared to 2007, but nearly 16 percent below the trade's 5-year average.

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: DECEMBER 2003-2008 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	1,578,554	1,529,816	1,586,466	2,486,891	1,732,502	451,134	1,782,846
Canadian Ports	696,487	676,565	761,311	799,609	349,500	77,687	656,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,277,044</b>	<b>2,208,385</b>	<b>2,349,782</b>	<b>3,288,506</b>	<b>2,084,009</b>	<b>530,829</b>	<b>2,439,540</b>

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: 2003-2008 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average 2003-2007
U.S. Ports	27,067,685	31,691,083	29,984,216	30,908,502	27,961,091	25,691,214	29,522,515
Canadian Ports	7,115,172	8,530,969	7,741,161	8,069,219	6,040,375	6,676,299	7,499,379
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,184,860</b>	<b>40,224,056</b>	<b>37,727,382</b>	<b>38,979,727</b>	<b>34,003,473</b>	<b>32,369,521</b>	<b>37,021,894</b>

U.S. ports: Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI, and Presque Isle, MI. 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 16 American corporations that operate 63 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels 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 a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com). Contact: Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications. Telephone: (440) 333-9996.

-30-

Information based on data sources believed to be reliable. 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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