

2006 IRON ORE TRADE

Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway totaled 59,878,098 net tons in 2006, an increase of 3 percent over both 2005 and the trade's 5-year average.

Shipments from U.S. Great Lakes ports were significantly impacted by the dredging crisis.¹ The largest iron ore cargo loaded in 2006 that transited the connecting channels totaled only 67,582 net tons, or 4,700 net tons less than the record cargo of 72,300 net tons carried in 1997 when high water levels offset the lack of dredging.

2006 IRON ORE SHIPMENTS BY MONTH

(gross and net tons)

MONTH	GREAT LAKES PORTS		CANADIAN SEAWAY PORTS		TOTALS	
	GROSS TONS	NET TONS	GROSS TONS	NET TONS	GROSS TONS	NET TONS
January.....	2,801,400	3,137,568	0	0	2,801,400	3,137,568
February.....	137,607	154,120	0	0	137,607	154,120
March.....	1,651,708	1,849,913	136,074	152,403	1,787,782	2,002,316
April.....	4,410,437	4,939,689	878,996	984,475	5,289,433	5,924,164
May.....	4,524,148	5,067,046	902,408	1,010,697	5,426,556	6,077,743
June.....	4,493,216	5,032,402	1,023,466	1,146,282	5,516,682	6,178,684
July.....	4,968,805	5,565,062	1,001,907	1,122,136	5,970,712	6,687,198
August.....	4,770,773	5,343,266	1,059,799	1,186,975	5,830,572	6,530,241
September.....	4,434,178	4,966,279	983,756	1,101,807	5,417,934	6,068,086
October.....	4,203,587	4,708,017	830,444	930,097	5,034,031	5,638,114
November.....	4,134,178	4,630,279	841,949	942,983	4,976,127	5,573,262
December.....	4,238,004	4,746,564	1,035,748	1,160,038	5,273,752	5,906,602
TOTAL.....	44,768,041	50,140,205	8,694,547	9,737,893	53,462,588	59,878,098

¹ Shipments from Canadian ports in the Seaway are much less impacted by the dredging crisis, as that segment of the system is limited to a maximum draft of 26' 06."