

2006 LIMESTONE TRADE

Shipments of limestone from U.S. and Canadian ports on the Great Lakes totaled 39 million net tons in 2006, an increase of 3.3 percent compared to 2005, and 3.9 percent better than the trade's 5-year average. The increase is, however, somewhat misleading. Until November, shipments were slightly behind 2005, but mild weather in November and December allowed loadings to surge compared to a year ago and produced the upturn.

The limestone trade was not spared the inefficiencies that result from the dredging crisis. The largest stone cargo carried in 2006 totaled 50,274 net tons, some 3,600 tons short of a full load for the vessel in question.

**2006 LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS
BY MONTH**
(net tons)

MONTH	U.S. PORTS	CANADIAN PORTS	TOTAL
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	465,756	121,017	586,773
April	2,845,006	978,224	3,823,230
May	4,105,976	1,004,485	5,110,461
June	3,524,512	971,684	4,496,196
July	3,836,988	933,553	4,770,541
August	3,376,738	944,981	4,321,719
September	3,580,888	762,820	4,343,708
October	3,368,513	723,419	4,091,932
November	3,317,234	829,427	4,146,661
December	2,486,891	799,609	3,286,500
TOTAL	30,908,502	8,069,219	38,977,721

**GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS
CALENDAR YEARS 1997-2006**
(net tons)

CALENDAR YEAR	U.S. PORTS	CANADIAN PORTS	TOTAL
1997	33,918,708	5,326,505	39,247,210
1998	34,950,366	5,922,573	40,874,937
1999	31,738,565	6,585,998	38,326,562
2000	31,002,777	7,116,220	38,120,997
2001	30,724,237	7,180,562	37,906,800
2002	30,673,673	6,863,570	37,539,245
2003	27,067,685	7,115,172	34,184,860
2004	31,691,083	8,530,969	40,224,056
2005	29,984,216	7,741,161	37,725,377
2006	30,908,502	8,069,219	38,977,721
10-YEAR TOTAL	312,659,812	70,451,949	383,127,765