

2006 POTASH TRADE

Shipments of potash from Thunder Bay, Ontario, slumped to their lowest level in the past 10 years: 483,174 net tons. As such, 2006 shipments represent a decrease of 17.3 percent from 2005, and 20.6 percent from the trade's 5-year average.

Potash cargos used to top 1.5 million net tons a year, but rail delivery has increased, as fertilizer distributors need to restock for the coming growing season before the Soo Locks open on March 25.

GREAT LAKES POTASH SHIPMENTS CALENDAR YEARS 1997-2006

(net tons)

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL
1997	767,400
1998	801,829
1999	606,014
2000	688,858
2001	563,882
2002	587,296
2003	579,352
2004	728,701
2005	584,672
2006	483,174
10-YEAR TOTAL	6,391,178