

2006 U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE

The major U.S.-Flag carriers engaged in the dry-bulk trades on the Great Lakes carried 109.7 million net tons of cargo in 2006, an increase of 1.9 percent over 2005, and 6.1 percent ahead of the 5-year average.¹ Iron ore and limestone cargos registered noticeable increases, but coal loadings in U.S. bottoms slipped nearly 2 million tons. Part of the decline in coal is due to a Canadian customer changing its source of coal, a decision which also prompted shifting its delivery to a Canadian-Flag carrier(s).

All of the totals reported below were affected by the worsening dredging crisis. The largest iron ore cargo carried by a U.S.-Flag Laker through the Soo Locks totaled 67,582 net tons, yet the record for the Lakes is 72,300 net tons. The top coal load was likewise a "light load": 64,429 net tons versus a benchmark of 70,903 net tons. Both the iron ore and coal records date from 1997, a period when high water levels largely offset the lack of adequate dredging.

**U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE
CALENDAR YEARS 2001-2006 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE
(net tons)**

COMMODITY	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	AVERAGE 2001-2005
IRON ORE							
Direct Shipments.....	43,829,971	45,861,075	41,343,509	48,265,018	43,884,572	45,850,298	44,636,829
Transshipments	3,094,732	2,334,252	1,672,776	2,936,493	2,687,547	3,121,814	2,545,160
TOTAL – IRON ORE	46,924,703	48,195,327	43,016,285	51,201,511	46,572,119	48,972,112	47,181,989
COAL (By Lake of Loading)							
Lake Superior.....	13,640,260	13,874,872	14,238,033	15,459,399	17,429,479	17,180,114	14,928,409
Lake Michigan.....	2,288,791	2,239,657	2,771,065	3,734,928	3,760,477	3,161,804	2,958,984
Lake Erie.....	6,030,000	5,629,302	4,870,328	5,222,022	6,017,394	5,018,195	5,553,809
TOTAL – COAL.....	21,959,051	21,743,831	21,879,426	24,416,349	27,207,350	25,360,113	23,441,202
LIMESTONE.....	26,988,622	26,554,243	24,239,110	29,861,141	27,935,513	29,489,410	27,115,726
CEMENT.....	4,136,897	3,817,911	3,851,487	3,965,401	3,892,822	3,997,703	3,932,904
SALT.....	876,392	587,090	945,355	1,032,109	1,187,777	1,126,862	925,745
SAND.....	625,094	230,950	500,456	489,355	461,813	429,411	461,534
GRAIN	350,719	329,471	312,316	367,785	403,055	356,143	352,669
TOTAL.....	101,861,478	101,458,823	94,744,435	111,333,651	107,660,449	109,731,754	103,441,769

¹ This survey represents the members of Lake Carriers' Association and Andrie Inc. (cement only) and Laken Shipping (limestone).