



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

February 8, 2012

### U.S.-Flag Lakers' Cargo Up 14 Percent in January

CLEVELAND—U.S.-flag Great Lakes freighters (“lakers”) carried 3.9 million tons of dry-bulk cargo in January, an increase of 14 percent compared to a year ago, and 41 percent better than the month’s 5-year average.

Iron ore cargos for the steel industry increased 21 percent compared to a year ago and outperformed their 5-year average by 58 percent.

Coal loadings slumped by 53 percent compared to 2011, but fell slightly less – 45 percent – compared to the trade’s 5-year average.

Only one limestone cargo moved in January, which is more or less typical. Since much of the limestone shipped on the Lakes is rinsed before loading, shipments largely cease when temperatures slip below freezing.

U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Carriage on the Great Lakes							
January 2007-2012 and 5-Year Average							
(net tons)							
Commodity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Average 2007-2011
<b>Iron Ore</b>							
Direct Shipments	2,215,465	2,802,607	619,157	1,697,594	2,638,790	3,161,812	1,994,723
Transshipments	99,140	107,306	0	135,360	65,618	136,544	81,485
<b>Total - Iron Ore</b>	<b>2,314,605</b>	<b>2,909,913</b>	<b>619,157</b>	<b>1,832,954</b>	<b>2,704,408</b>	<b>3,298,356</b>	<b>2,076,207</b>
<b>Coal</b>							
Lake Superior	476,892	548,836	211,222	365,957	556,781	169,730	431,938
Lake Michigan	121,214	43,773	60,668	26,846	44,986	76,870	59,497
Lake Erie	49,439	96,190	27,934	102,759	40,974	54,958	63,459
<b>Total - Coal</b>	<b>647,545</b>	<b>688,799</b>	<b>299,824</b>	<b>495,562</b>	<b>642,741</b>	<b>301,558</b>	<b>554,894</b>
Limestone	188,303	0	0	0	4,328	25,628	38,526
Cement	159,971	90,948	0	29,560	35,025	72,707	63,101
Salt	22,566	101,342	0	0	54,808	214,093	35,743
Sand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain	0	0	0	0	0	15,764	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,332,990</b>	<b>3,791,002</b>	<b>918,981</b>	<b>2,358,076</b>	<b>3,441,310</b>	<b>3,928,106</b>	<b>2,768,472</b>

Lake Carriers' Association represents 17 American companies that operate 56 U.S.-flag vessels on the Great Lakes that carry the raw materials that drive the nation’s economy: iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport more than 115 million tons of cargo per year when high water offsets lack of adequate dredging. These cargos generate more than 103,000 jobs with an average wage of \$47,000 in the United States. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

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Information based on data from knowledgeable sources. 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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