



*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

# Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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## U.S.-Flag Great Lakes Cargos Increase Slightly In April

Cleveland---Shipments of dry-bulk cargo on the Great Lakes in U.S.-Flag vessels totaled 10.4 million net tons in April, a slight increase compared to a year ago. However, compared to the month's 5-year average, this April's float represents a gain of nearly 9 percent. The years 2002 and 2003 were particularly depressed by the impacts of unfair trade on American steel mills.

April iron ore shipments totaled 4.6 million net tons, essentially unchanged from a year ago, but some 7.6 percent below the month's 5-year average. The comparisons confirm both that America's steel industry is healthier, but also smaller.

The U.S.-Flag coal trade on the Lakes in April recorded one of its strongest months in recent years. The 2.7 million net tons hauled in U.S. bottoms represent increases of 26 and 48 percent respectively. Loadings of western, low sulfur coal at Superior, Wisconsin, soared to 1.7 million net tons, an increase of 43 percent compared to a year ago, and 52 percent better than the month's 5-year average.

Low inventories at some quarries impacted the limestone trade in April. Shipments in U.S.-Flag Lakers – 2.8 million net tons - slipped 8.3 percent compared to a year ago, yet represent an increase of 19 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

For the year, the U.S.-Flag Great Lakes fleet has moved 17.5 million net tons of cargo, a decrease of 4 percent compared to the same point in 2004, but 17 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the January-April timeframe.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 13 American corporations that operate 55 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year.

For more information, visit LCA's Web site - [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com) - or contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications:

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### ***The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes***

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.  
GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.  
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