



The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

# Lake Carriers' Association

For Immediate Release

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## Iron Ore And Stone Exceptionally Strong

### **U.S.-Flag Cargos Up 16 Percent On The Lakes In August**

Shipments of dry-bulk cargoes on the Great Lakes in U.S.-Flag vessels topped 12.6 million net tons in August, an increase of 16 percent compared to a year ago. The August total further represents an increase of 3.5 percent compared to the month's 5-year average.

Iron ore cargoes for the steel industry swelled to 5.5 million tons in August, an increase of 36 percent compared to the corresponding period last year, and equaled the month's 5-year average. Limestone cargoes moved in U.S.-Flag lakers approached 3.8 million net tons, the highest monthly total for that trade since 1998.

Coal cargoes dipped 8.2 percent in August compared to a year ago, but were slightly above the month's 5-year average.

For the year, U.S.-Flag cargo movement on the Great Lakes stands at 67,251,357 net tons, an increase of 22.6 percent compared to the same point in 2003, and 7.7 percent ahead of the 5-year average for the January-August timeframe. Increases/decreases for the various commodities are as follows:

Commodity	Increase/Decrease Compared To 2003	Increase/Decrease Compared To 5-Yr. Avg.
Iron Ore	+23.6%	+2.5%
Coal	+16.6%	+11.8%
Limestone	+30.9%	+14.4%
Cement	+4.1%	+1.2%
Salt	+5.1%	+22.9%
Sand	-11.7%	+20.6%
Grain	+36.3%	+35.4%

To meet the increased demand for dry-bulk cargoes, U.S.-Flag Lakes operators have activated a number of vessels that were idle for all of or periods in 2003, and have operated all but three of the 63 U.S.-Flag lakers available for service.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 15 American corporations that operate 57 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore for the steel industry, limestone and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can 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: Telephone: (216) 861-0592 / Fax: (216) 241-8262 / E-Mail: [ggn@lcaships.com](mailto:ggn@lcaships.com).

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

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GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATES, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET, INC. / KEY LAKES, INC. • HMC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD.  
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