

2009 U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE

The major U.S.-flag operators on the Great Lakes carried 66.5 million net tons of cargo in 2009, a decrease of 35 percent from 2008, and a drop of 37.7 percent compared to their 5-year average. For a time, U.S.-flag cargos were 50 percent off 2008's pace.

The recession cut iron ore cargos virtually in half. The 24 million tons carried are the lowest total since LCA began tracking the U.S.-flag float in 1984.

Coal loadings slumped 17.2 percent compared to 2008. The decline came mostly in loadings of western, low-sulfur coal for utilities. Eastern coal cargos loaded at Lake Erie ports were within hailing distant of the previous year.

With both the steel and construction industries in low gear, limestone cargos fell 28 percent to 17.1 million tons. The depressed market for limestone led to the closure of the quarry on Kellys Island, Ohio, which in turn was a major factor in the demise of Laken Shipping, a company with one small tug/barge unit specializing in limestone from that shallow-draft port.

Cement cargos for the construction industry fell 13 percent. Salt loadings increased by perhaps two cargos, but sand cargos fell by 27 percent. The grain trade increased by about three cargos.

U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE **CALENDAR YEARS 2004-2009 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

COMMODITY	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	AVERAGE 2004-2008
IRON ORE							
Direct Shipments.....	48,265,018	43,884,572	45,850,298	45,049,721	45,329,607	23,271,702	45,675,843
Transshipments	2,936,493	2,687,547	3,121,814	2,156,662	1,893,887	759,385	2,559,280
TOTAL – IRON ORE	51,201,511	46,572,119	48,972,112	47,206,383	47,223,494	24,031,087	48,235,123
COAL (By Lake of Loading)							
Lake Superior.....	15,459,399	17,429,479	17,180,114	16,692,347	17,962,580	15,427,708	16,944,783
Lake Michigan.....	3,734,928	3,760,477	3,161,804	2,718,874	3,253,001	1,996,793	3,325,816
Lake Erie.....	5,222,022	6,017,394	5,018,195	5,759,408	3,756,042	3,250,387	5,154,612
TOTAL – COAL.....	24,416,349	27,207,350	25,360,113	25,170,629	24,971,623	20,674,888	25,425,211
LIMESTONE	29,861,141	27,935,513	29,489,410	25,966,057	23,632,070	17,067,232	27,376,838
CEMENT	3,965,401	3,892,822	3,997,703	3,602,488	3,294,071	2,865,323	3,750,497
SALT	1,032,109	1,187,777	1,126,862	1,241,297	1,224,769	1,260,901	1,162,562
SAND	489,355	461,813	429,411	449,474	359,191	262,805	437,848
GRAIN	367,785	403,055	356,143	404,923	247,597	304,507	355,900
TOTAL	111,333,651	107,660,449	109,731,754	104,041,251	100,952,815	66,466,743	106,743,979