

## **2005 LIMESTONE TRADE**

Shipments of limestone from U.S. and Canadian ports on the Great Lakes totaled 37.7 million net tons in 2005, a decrease of 6.2 percent from 2004. While the decline reflects a downturn in steel production that affected demand for fluxstone and a sluggish construction market that required less aggregate, it should be noted the 2004 total was the highest in a number of years. As a result, the comparison with limestone's 5-year average (37.6 million net tons) is quite different; the trade was in fact slightly ahead of its long-term average in 2005.

Another factor should be noted. Severe and frequent storms idled the U.S.-Flag Lakes fleet for roughly 5,000 hours in November. Canadian Lakers suffered similar delays and the results were apparent in all cargo totals for that month.

### **2005 LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS BY MONTH (net tons)**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>U.S. PORTS</b>	<b>CANADIAN PORTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
January .....	167,000	180,000	347,000
February .....	0	0	0
March .....	290,018	7,661	297,679
April .....	3,082,615	736,667	3,819,282
May .....	4,066,583	1,073,064	5,139,647
June .....	3,729,611	1,028,905	4,758,516
July .....	3,594,085	874,921	4,469,006
August .....	3,781,141	900,286	4,681,427
September .....	3,563,271	784,352	4,347,623
October .....	3,437,981	851,909	4,289,890
November .....	2,685,445	542,085	3,227,530
December .....	1,586,466	761,311	2,347,777
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>29,984,216</b>	<b>7,741,161</b>	<b>37,725,377</b>

### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE SHIPMENTS CALENDAR YEARS 1996-2005 (net tons)**

<b>CALENDAR YEAR</b>	<b>U.S. PORTS</b>	<b>CANADIAN PORTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1996 .....	30,151,516	4,437,757	34,591,269
1997 .....	33,918,708	5,326,505	39,247,210
1998 .....	34,950,366	5,922,573	40,874,937
1999 .....	31,738,565	6,585,998	38,326,562
2000 .....	31,002,777	7,116,220	38,120,997
2001 .....	30,724,237	7,180,562	37,906,800
2002 .....	30,673,673	6,863,570	37,539,245
2003 .....	27,067,685	7,115,172	34,184,860
2004 .....	31,691,083	8,530,969	40,224,056
2005 .....	29,984,216	7,741,161	37,725,377
<b>10-YEAR TOTAL .....</b>	<b>311,902,826</b>	<b>66,820,487</b>	<b>378,741,313</b>