

2005 U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE TO / FROM CANADA (CROSS-LAKES TRADE)

U.S.-Flag participation in the Cross-Lakes trade skyrocketed in 2005. U.S.-Flag Lakers hauled more than 9.3 million net tons of dry-bulk cargo between the United States and Canada in 2005, an increase of 42.4 percent compared to 2004. The growth is even more dramatic when weighed against the 5-year average. Since 2000, U.S.-owned, -built and -crewed Lakers have seen their share of the Cross-Lakes trade soar by nearly 80 percent.

Clean-burning, low-sulfur coal remains the top cargo for U.S.-Flag vessels trading to Canada. Shipments approached 5 million net tons in 2005, an increase of 30 percent over 2004. While that gain is impressive by any measure, it pales in comparison to the 5-year average. U.S.-Flag coal cargos to Canada have swelled by nearly 80 percent since 2000.

Iron ore cargos carried to Canada also grew in 2005, registering increases of 40 and 56 percent respectively.

Limestone became a major cargo for U.S.-Flag Lakers in the Cross-Lakes trade for the first time in 2005. Loadings almost tripled their 2004 level and more than quadrupled their 5-year average.

Cement was the only cargo to register a noticeable decrease in 2005. The falloff reflects the sale of Cemex's Great Lakes operations to Canadian-based St. Marys Cement. St. Marys is, at least initially, serving some of the terminals it acquired with Canadian rather than U.S.-Flag cement carriers.

U.S.-FLAG CARGO CARRIAGE CROSS-LAKES TRADE CALENDAR YEARS 2000-2005 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE (net tons)

COMMODITY	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	AVERAGE 2000-2004
Iron Ore	1,943,574	1,519,304	1,362,117	1,541,904	1,835,376	2,561,020	1,640,455
Coal	818,839	2,632,826	2,752,545	3,969,922	3,686,464	4,787,481	2,772,120
Limestone.....	115,727	124,742	214,944	560,905	541,947	1,487,436	311,653
Cement.....	454,101	505,917	334,112	367,889	419,000	324,267	416,204
Sand.....	69,650	0	0	0	0	74,183	13,930
Salt.....	0	76,599	0	93,180	0	28,539	33,956
Grain	35,222	26,000	0	26,159	50,578	43,416	27,592
TOTAL	3,437,113	4,885,388	4,663,718	6,559,959	6,533,365	9,306,342	5,215,910