

2013 IRON ORE TRADE

Shipments of iron ore totaled 58.8 million tons in 2013, a decrease of 4.8 percent compared to 2012. The trade had been just slightly behind 2012's pace through November, but the gap grew significantly when an early and harsh start to winter limited shipments to 5.1 million tons in December, a decrease of 20 percent compared to a year ago. There were significant weather-related delays at loading docks; one LCA member reported its vessels lost 360 hours in December waiting to load, and many vessels were either slowed by or beset in heavy ice. A number of cargos were outright cancelled.

For the year, shipments from U.S. ports totaled 52.4 million tons, a decrease of 3.9 percent compared to 2012. That total included 3.6 million tons transshipped to Québec City for loading into oceangoing vessels.

Loadings out of Canadian ports in the St. Lawrence Seaway totaled 6.5 million tons, a decrease of 18.2 percent.

GREAT LAKES IRON ORE SHIPMENTS: 2008-2013 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

(net tons)

PORT / DOCK	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	AVERAGE 2008-2012*
LAKE SUPERIOR							
Duluth, MN							
DM&IR	8,429,849	5,544,879	6,085,176	7,711,147	8,024,498	7,948,482	7,562,668
Hallett Dock Company	435,550	102,105	208,157	383,344	214,629	309,440	310,420
Superior, WI							
BNSF	10,285,069	2,427,228	7,745,539	8,949,320	9,661,598	8,501,088	9,160,382
Two Harbors, MN							
DM&IR	13,461,896	7,001,579	14,119,821	16,271,740	16,557,933	17,325,090	15,102,848
Silver Bay, MN							
Northshore Mining Co.	6,684,812	3,390,818	6,788,916	6,017,263	6,093,587	4,678,682	6,396,145
Presque Isle, MI							
LS&I Railroad	7,104,003	5,266,079	7,153,633	9,643,716	8,204,860	6,765,283	8,026,553
TOTAL – LAKE SUPERIOR	46,401,179	23,732,688	42,101,242	48,976,530	48,757,105	45,528,065	46,559,014
LAKE MICHIGAN							
Escanaba, MI							
CN	5,260,006	4,298,566	3,883,685	3,665,692	2,705,797	3,665,495	3,878,795
LAKE ERIE							
Cleveland, OH							
Cleveland Bulk Terminal	1,893,887	759,385	2,364,871	2,780,768	2,440,188	2,634,341	2,369,929
Ashtabula, OH							
Kinder Morgan/Pinney Dock	0	0	0	0	0	397,293	0
Conneaut, OH							
Canadian National Railway	0	0	0	0	0	150,001	0
TOTAL - LAKE ERIE	1,893,887	759,385	2,364,871	2,780,768	2,440,188	3,181,635	2,369,929
TOTAL – U.S. PORTS	53,555,072	28,790,639	48,349,798	55,422,990	53,903,090	52,375,195	52,807,738
Pointe Noire, QC							
Arnaud Railroad	1,359,061	938,450	896,193	913,754	718,140	791,476	971,787
Port Cartier, QC							
Quebec Cartier Mining Company	4,190,324	1,256,675	3,362,594	4,407,788	4,736,541	5,024,467	4,174,312
Sept Iles, QC							
Iron Ore Company of Canada	2,467,934	1,668,357	1,998,182	993,364	2,456,179	658,724	1,978,915
TOTAL – EASTERN CANADA	8,017,319	3,863,482	6,256,969	6,314,906	7,910,860	6,474,667	7,125,014
TOTAL – ALL PORTS	61,572,391	32,654,121	54,606,767	61,737,896	61,813,950	58,849,862	59,932,751

* Excludes 2009.

To convert iron ore to gross tons, multiply by .89286.