

## **2015 U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE**

Lake Carriers' Association members carried 87.2 million tons of dry-bulk cargo on the Great Lakes in 2015, a decrease of 3.3 percent compared to 2014. The biggest contributing factors were heavy ice in the spring and soaring imports of steel, much of it priced below the cost of production.

U.S.-flag lakers carried 40.9 million tons of iron ore in 2015, a decrease of 3.3 percent from 2014. Heavy ice in Whitefish Bay at the eastern end of Lake Superior significantly slowed the trade in the spring. The trade was down 66 percent in March, 10 in April. However, while the ice eventually melted away, steel imports plagued the trade all year, ending up at 29 percent of the market.

Coal cargos in U.S.-flag lakers totaled 17.7 million tons, a slight decrease – 118,000 tons – from 2014. That trade too was negatively impacted by the heavy ice in the spring. Just a few cargos moved in March and April loadings were down 10 percent.

The heavy ice also delayed the sailing of many of the smaller, lower horsepower vessels that move limestone. Even so, stone cargos increased 7.8 percent to 23.1 million tons.

Cement cargos increased 6.3 percent to 3.45 million tons. Salt cargos were a virtual repeat of the previous year – 1.4 million tons. Sand cargos dipped by 57,000 tons. Grain cargos rose by a third to 356,000 tons.

### **U.S.-FLAG DRY-BULK CARGO CARRIAGE** **CALENDAR YEARS 2010-2015 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

COMMODITY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE 2010-2014
<b>IRON ORE</b>							
Direct Shipments	39,663,547	44,443,975	42,700,840	41,218,215	41,924,590	37,397,501	41,990,233
Transshipments	2,364,871	2,780,768	2,488,187	2,633,826	3,699,617	3,467,452	2,793,454
<b>TOTAL – IRON ORE</b>	<b>42,028,418</b>	<b>47,224,743</b>	<b>45,189,027</b>	<b>43,852,041</b>	<b>45,624,207</b>	<b>40,864,953</b>	<b>44,783,687</b>
<b>COAL (By Lake of Loading)</b>							0
Lake Superior	15,847,574	12,954,188	11,947,617	12,216,668	11,325,509	12,867,046	12,858,311
Lake Michigan	2,017,395	3,166,372	2,654,506	2,314,161	1,870,773	1,093,993	2,404,641
Lake Erie	3,674,897	4,118,767	2,977,825	3,706,811	4,576,207	3,693,275	3,810,901
<b>TOTAL – COAL</b>	<b>21,539,866</b>	<b>20,239,327</b>	<b>17,579,948</b>	<b>18,237,640</b>	<b>17,772,489</b>	<b>17,654,314</b>	<b>19,073,854</b>
<b>LIMESTONE</b>	<b>20,410,266</b>	<b>21,434,839</b>	<b>21,794,394</b>	<b>22,111,494</b>	<b>21,459,429</b>	<b>23,142,584</b>	<b>21,442,084</b>
<b>CEMENT</b>	<b>2,782,259</b>	<b>2,817,846</b>	<b>3,183,388</b>	<b>3,129,748</b>	<b>3,248,033</b>	<b>3,451,989</b>	<b>3,032,255</b>
<b>SALT</b>	<b>1,391,239</b>	<b>1,452,134</b>	<b>1,020,157</b>	<b>1,004,837</b>	<b>1,400,068</b>	<b>1,411,169</b>	<b>1,253,687</b>
<b>SAND</b>	<b>225,593</b>	<b>332,172</b>	<b>336,316</b>	<b>371,279</b>	<b>376,456</b>	<b>319,891</b>	<b>328,363</b>
<b>GRAIN</b>	<b>306,872</b>	<b>283,200</b>	<b>371,406</b>	<b>447,653</b>	<b>259,461</b>	<b>356,268</b>	<b>333,718</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,684,513</b>	<b>93,784,261</b>	<b>89,474,636</b>	<b>89,154,692</b>	<b>90,140,143</b>	<b>87,201,168</b>	<b>90,247,649</b>