2002 IRON ORE TRADE

Iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes totaled 58.9 million net tons in 2002, an increase of 5.8 percent, compared to 2001, but a decrease of 9.2 percent, compared to the 5-year average. North American raw steel production totaled an estimated 101.7 million tons in 2002, an increase of 2.4 percent, compared to 2001, but the amount of steel made in Basic Oxygen Furnaces that turn pellets into hot metal fell 4 percent to an estimated 50.1 million net tons.

The Lakes iron ore trade was essentially non-stop in 2002. Shipments ceased from Lake Superior ports when the Soo Locks closed on January 15, but Escanaba continued to ship throughout February, albeit at a much slower pace, as the iron ore was being railed down from the Minorca Mine in Minnesota. The Mesabi Range ore was then loaded into the tug/barge unit JOYCE VANENKEVORT/GREAT LAKES TRADER.

The March 25 opening of the Soo Locks allowed the Lake Superior iron ore trade to resume, but for the first time in 45 years, Taconite Harbor remained silent. The iron ore mine that shipped through "Tac Harbor" ceased operations in January 2001, and the dock has not loaded a cargo since August of 2001.

The March, April and May totals from U.S. ports represented significant declines from the year before and reflected the continued idling of mills operated by the now-bankrupt and liquidating LTV Steel. Those mills were purchased by investors who then founded the International Steel Group (ISG). Steel production resumed in Cleveland in late May and Indiana Harbor in July.

Monthly iron ore shipments from U.S. and Canadian ports peaked at 7 million net tons (6.2 million gross tons) in August and remained ahead of 2001's pace through the end of the year.

2002 IRON ORE SHIPMENTS BY MONTHS

(gross and net tons)

	Great Lakes		Eastern Canada		Totals	
Month	**Gross Tons**	**Net Tons**	**Gross Tons**	**Net Tons**	**Gross Tons**	**Net Tons**
January	1,422,227	1,592,894	0	0	1,422,227	1,592,894
February	199,144	223,040	0	0	199,144	223,040
March	854,280	956,794	109,042	122,127	963,322	1,078,921
April	3,753,232	4,203,620	751,161	841,302	4,504,393	5,044,922
May	4,781,072	5,354,801	911,480	1,020,857	5,692,552	6,375,658
June	5,126,152	5,741,290	747,079	836,728	5,873,231	6,578,018
July	5,140,917	5,757,827	710,901	796,209	5,851,818	6,554,036
August	5,411,262	6,060,613	795,885	891,391	6,207,147	6,952,004
September	4,844,807	5,426,183	898,142	1,005,919	5,742,949	6,432,102
October	4,493,417	5,032,627	1,001,921	1,122,151	5,495,338	6,154,778
November	4,205,735	4,710,423	1,048,820	1,174,678	5,254,555	5,885,101
December	4,696,470	5,260,046	701,521	785,703	5,397,991	6,045,749
Totals	**44,928,715**	**50,320,158**	**7,675,952**	**8,597,065**	**52,604,667**	**58,917,223**

2001/2002 "ICE SEASON" IRON ORE SHIPMENTS: DECEMBER 16, 2001 - APRIL 15,2002 (gross/net tons)

Loading Dock	Tonnage Shipped		Number of Cargos
	Gross Tons	Net Tons	
U.S. Great Lakes Ports			
Duluth	986,750	1,105,160	31
Superior	957,917	1,072,867	19
Two Harbors	1,874,902	2,099,890	49
Silver Bay	79,335	88,855	3
Presque Isle	1,175,612	1,316,685	52
Escanaba	905,968	1,014,684	34
Total	**5,980,484**	**6,698,141**	**188**
Eastern Canada			
Pointe Noire	258,258	289,248	10
Port Cartier	179,673	201,233	7
Sept Iles	137,709	154,234	5
Total	**575,640**	**644,715**	**22**
Total - All Ports	**6,556,124**	**7,342,856**	**210**

Note: The U.S. Coast Guard considers the "ice season" to begin on December 15 and end the following April 15. To insure consistency of thought, LCA will now use that time span to illustrate the importance of iron ore shipments during periods of ice cover. The table below utilizes the "Extended Season" approach, which tabulated iron ore moved between Debember 15 and the close of navigation, usually at the end of January.

EXTENDED SEASON IRON ORE SHIPMENTS: 2001 - 1992 (gross and net tons)

Navigation Season	Cargos	Gross Tons	Net Tons
2001	95	2,862,919	3,206,468
2000	142	3,811,741	4,269,150
1999	191	5,565,682	6,233,564
1998	128	4,058,900	4,545,968
1997	162	5,382,107	6,027,960
1996	143	4,761,182	5,332,524
1995	192	5,716,017	6,401,939
1994	228	7,603,888	8,516,355
1993	162	5,057,230	5,664,098
1992	98	3,149,003	3,526,883
10-Year Total	**1,541**	**47,968,669**	**53,724,909**