

2003 POTASH TRADE

The Great Lakes potash trade remained static in 2003. Shipments from Thunder Bay, Ontario, the sole potash loading port on the Great Lakes, totaled 579,352 net tons, essentially a decrease of one cargo compared to both the previous year and the 5-year average. While the trade once topped 1.5 million net tons a year, rail delivery has increased as fertilizer distributors need to restock for the coming growing season before the Soo Locks open on March 25.

GREAT LAKES POTASH SHIPMENTS CALENDAR YEARS 1994-2003

(net tons)	
CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL
1994.....	666,918
1995.....	657,256
1996.....	595,194
1997.....	767,400
1998.....	801,829
1999.....	606,014
2000.....	688,858
2001.....	563,882
2002.....	587,296
2003.....	579,352
10-YEAR TOTAL.....	6,513,999

2003 GRAIN TRADE

For the sixth straight year, grain shipments on the Great Lakes declined in 2003. Loadings totaled 11.6 million net tons, a decrease of 3.9 percent from 2002 and 15.4 percent from the commodity's 5-year average. There are a number of factors behind the downturn, but a general shift in exports to Pacific Rim countries and ample grain supplies worldwide are the leading causes.

GRAIN SHIPMENTS BY COMMODITY CALENDAR YEARS 1999-2003 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE

(bushels)						
COMMODITY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5-YEAR AVERAGE
Barley	14,561,222	10,517,584	5,220,083	7,701,166	2,141,042	8,028,220
Beet Pulp.....	0	0	0	0	5,343,520	5,343,520
Canola	16,643,778	18,392,120	16,314,160	12,862,840	15,033,880	15,849,356
Corn.....	109,309,788	72,773,072	64,854,866	45,641,973	37,217,326	65,959,405
Flax.....	8,079,143	18,301,857	17,599,036	21,738,571	20,628,393	17,269,400
Mustard Seeds	0	10,628,200	0	1,354,428	0	2,396,526
Oats.....	12,500,250	3,653,438	13,551,187	157,812	5,183,375	7,009,213
Peas	15,059,267	23,436,800	9,449,767	74,633	5,645,334	10,733,161
Soybeans.....	84,879,950	74,037,401	66,006,200	63,793,673	39,582,235	65,659,892
Sunflower Seeds.....	7,119,086	0	0	0	0	1,423,818
Wheat	272,998,886	271,149,998	272,469,245	244,333,316	262,768,123	264,743,914
Miscellaneous Grains	10,857,589	18,165,120	21,582,471	9,667,375	4,386,639	12,931,839
TOTAL.....	552,008,959	521,055,590	487,047,015	407,325,787	397,929,867	477,348,264