



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

Michigan



Michigan Relies on Great Lakes-Seaway Shipping

Michigan’s shoreline stretches more than 3,200 miles on four of the five Great Lakes, including over 1,000 miles of Lake Michigan and over 900 miles of Lake Superior. The state’s two peninsulas also border parts of Lakes Huron and Erie. More than 35 million tons of inbound and outbound cargoes are handled at Michigan’s Great Lakes ports.

Michigan has more ports than any other state in the region, an indication of the critical role that shipping plays in the state’s economy. For example, iron ore mined in the upper peninsula is loaded onto lake vessels in Marquette for transport to steel mills in the lower Lakes. Limestone quarried on Drummond Island and in Rogers City is delivered to ports throughout the region for use in steel-making and construction. Cement produced in Alpena is distributed by Lake vessel for construction projects. Steel products from Europe, South America and Asia are off-loaded from ocean-going vessels in Detroit for use by local manufacturers.

Low-sulfur coal is delivered by ship to power generation facilities in Monroe. Bulk raw materials such as sand, gravel, and salt each move through Michigan ports – each playing an important role in the state’s economy.

Jobs	Personal Income	Business Revenue	Local Purchases	Local Taxes Paid
17,057	\$1.5 billion	\$2.3 billion	\$409 million	\$463 million

Port	Annual Cargo Tonnage	Major Cargoes Handled
Alpena	2,408,779	coal, coke, limestone, salt, slag, cement
Cheboygan	225,729	gasoline, fuel oil, limestone
Detroit*	8,197,428	coal, limestone, iron ore, salt, cement, iron & steel, aluminum, asphalt, slag

* includes Rouge River and Detroit River in Wayne County

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Port	Annual Cargo Tonnage	Major Cargoes Handled
Drummond Island	1,035,245	limestone, iron ore
Escanaba	166,125	coal, salt
Gladstone	13,933	asphalt
Grand Haven	1,597,894	limestone, sand/gravel, slag, cement
Holland	376,273	limestone, sand/gravel, iron & steel
Ludington	427,278	salt, limestone, sand/gravel
Manistee	421,289	coal, coke, limestone, slag
Marine City	1,271,202	limestone
Marquette	1,535,234	limestone, sand/gravel, iron ore, clay
Marysville	563,915	limestone, sand/gravel
Menominee/Marinette	106,940	salt, pig iron
Monroe	1,388,365	coal, limestone, asphalt, gypsum, iron & steel
Muskegon	1,217,729	limestone, sand/gravel, clay, salt, cement
Port Huron	333,700	sand & gravel, salt, clay
Presque Island	4,128,425	iron ore
Rogers City	6,121,478	limestone, sand & gravel
Saginaw	3,374,913	coal, limestone, sand/gravel, salt, cement
Sault Ste Marie	108,121	salt, steel scrap
St. Joseph	327,085	limestone, cement

Sources:

Waterborne Commerce of the United States, 2020 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Economic Impacts of Maritime Shipping in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region, 2023 – Martin Associates