



**AMERICAN  
GREAT LAKES PORTS  
ASSOCIATION**

# Minnesota



## Minnesota Relies on Great Lakes-Seaway Shipping

The state of Minnesota borders 272 miles of Lake Superior. Its three deep-draft commercial ports handle more than 42 million tons of inbound and outbound cargo annually.\*

Great Lakes Seaway shipping is critical to the state’s mining and agricultural sectors. Ore from Minnesota’s Iron Range is railed to Lake Superior ports and transported by vessel to steel mills in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Ontario. Farm products from the upper Midwest such as wheat and soybeans are brought to the Port of Duluth for export to Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa and South America. Wind energy components that originate in Europe arrive through the Port of Duluth for transport to inland energy projects in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Each unique cargo movement has a positive economic impact on Minnesota, creating jobs and stimulating the state’s economy.

\* includes the bi-state port of Duluth/Superior

Jobs	Personal Income	Business Revenue	Local Purchases	Local Taxes Paid
4579	\$373 million	\$919 million	\$193 million	\$151 million

Port	Annual Cargo Tonnage	Major Cargoes Handled
Duluth/Superior	25,071,110	iron ore, coal, limestone, wheat, soybeans, salt, cement, sand/gravel, machinery
Two Harbors	13,499,847	Iron ore, aluminum ore
Silver Bay	4,335,221	Iron ore, coal, limestone

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