



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

Wisconsin



Wisconsin Relies on Great Lakes-Seaway Shipping

The State of Wisconsin borders 1,017 miles of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Its seven deep-draft commercial ports handle more than 39 million tons of inbound and outbound cargo annually.*

Great Lakes-Seaway shipping is critical to the state’s manufacturing, energy and agricultural sectors. For example, farm products from the upper Midwest are loaded on vessels in Superior and Milwaukee destined for export markets. Low sulfur coal mined in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado is railed to Superior where vessels load it for delivery to electric utilities in the lower Lakes. Similarly, iron ore from nearby Minnesota fills gigantic lake vessels in Superior destined for steel mills in Gary, Detroit, and Cleveland. Raw materials such as sand, gravel, and salt each move through Wisconsin ports — each playing an important role in the state’s economy.

Wisconsin is also home to three large shipyards that collectively have more than 2100 employees. The yards build and maintain both commercial and military vessels.

* includes the bi-state ports of Superior/Duluth and Marinette/Menominee

Jobs	Personal Income	Business Revenue	Local Purchases	Local Taxes Paid
6792	\$574 million	\$1.11 billion	\$187 million	\$202 million

Port	Annual Cargo Tonnage	Major Cargoes Handled
Green Bay	2,022,400	coal, gasoline, kerosene, pulp, limestone, cement, salt
Manitowac	254,266	cement, slag
Marinette/Menominee	106,940	salt, pig iron
Milwaukee	2,778,159	asphalt, salt, slag, cement, iron & steel, wheat, corn, soybeans
Superior/Duluth	25,071,110	iron ore, coal, limestone, wheat, soybeans, salt, cement, sand/gravel, machinery

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

The Economic Importance of the U.S. Private Shipbuilding and Repairing Industry, 2021 – U.S. Maritime Administration