



Despite Pandemic Challenges, Port of Green Bay Finishes Close to Goal

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(Green Bay, Wis.) – After several shipping seasons with strong tonnage totals for the Port of Green Bay, the just-completed 2020 shipping season reflected the impact of the ongoing pandemic. The shipping season came to an end for the Port last week when the freighter Michigan Great Lakes delivered petroleum products to U.S. Oil.

The 2020 shipping season saw 1,922,608 total tons of cargo move into and out of the Port, a drop of about 15% from the robust 2019 shipping season when cargo shipments reached 2,256,085 tons. The leading cargo categories continued to be limestone, cement and salt.

“Our target each year is to reach or top 2 million tons for the shipping season,” said Dean Haen, Port of Green Bay Director. “While we got off to a good start in 2020, the numbers took a hit as the pandemic continued and had an impact on the overall economy. While 2020 was down compared to the last two shipping seasons, it was actually better than 2016 and 2017; an indication of a strong shipping season when you factor in the reduced business due to the pandemic. This shipping season was about 3% below our 5-year average.”

For the year, imports of limestone reached just more than 570,000 tons (down 19% from 2019), while salt imports topped 415,000 tons (up 7%). More than 380,000 tons of cement were also imported through the Port of Green Bay during the just-completed shipping season (up 25%). On the export side, petroleum products continued to lead the way at 67,000 tons, but it was a decline of nearly 45% from the previous year.

Just a few years ago, coal was the Port’s largest inbound commodity. “Many manufacturers and utilities, however, have converted to natural gas,” Haen said. “For the first time in decades, coal volume was less than 200,000 tons, compared to more than 400,000 tons in 2019. When considering that change, the Port did very well in 2020. The Port’s efforts to diversify import and export commodities are being rewarded and we are cautiously optimistic about the 2021 shipping season.”

In the 2020 shipping season, a total of 164 vessels moved through the Port of Green Bay, compared to 177 from the previous year.

About the Port of Green Bay: The Port of Green Bay exists to enhance the prosperity of the people of Northeast Wisconsin by providing facilities and infrastructure able to effectively and efficiently move commodities and goods across the nation. As the western-most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay offers a direct route for shipping from the Midwest to the rest of the world. The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators located along three miles of the Fox River involved in shipping commodities: [Ace Marine](#), [C. Reiss Coal Company](#), [Construction Resources Management](#), [Flint Hills Resources](#), [Fox River Terminals](#), [Georgia-Pacific](#), [Graymont](#), [GLC Minerals](#), [KK Integrated Logistics](#), [Lafarge Northern America](#), [RGL](#), [Sanimax](#), [St. Mary's Cement](#) and [U.S. Venture](#).

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