

## PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

*Brown County*

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## **Petroleum Products Impacted 2016 Shipping Season**

*The Port of Green Bay officially ends 2016 shipping season*

**For Immediate Release**

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(Green Bay, WI) – With a final shipment of cement on January 7, the 2016 shipping season for the [Port of Green Bay](#) came to an official end on January 13, 2017. The 2016 season began on March 21, which was 13 days earlier than the previous year due to the mild winter. Overall, Port tonnage in 2016 totaled 1.8 million metric tons of cargo, just shy of a 2 million metric ton goal and down about 9 percent from 2015.

“While the numbers didn’t quite reach the 2 million mark, being as close as they were means it was still a good season,” stated Port Director Dean Haen. “The numbers indicate that the economy in Northeast Wisconsin remains strong.”

Major positive contributors to the 2016 season included increases in domestic imports of petroleum products (Up 1,421 percent) and U.S. salt (Up 40 percent). The incredible change in petroleum product imports was the result of the closing of a petroleum pipeline serving Northeast Wisconsin. The Port also saw the number of vessels increase by 1 percent to a total of 158, due to smaller capacity vessels carrying petroleum products. The salt increase was the result of a shift from salt mines in Canada to the United States.

All other domestic and foreign import and export commodities experienced declines that resulted in a 4 percent decrease in domestic imports; a 50 percent decrease in domestic exports; a 13 percent drop in foreign imports; and a 24 percent decrease in foreign exports.

“The most significant change resulting in those decreases, as well as the increase in domestic imports of petroleum products, can be attributed to the petroleum pipeline closure,” Haen explained. “Prior to the closure, US Venture exported diesel, gasoline and ethanol to other markets. With the closure of the pipeline, the exports flipped to imports to meet the demand for petroleum products.”

*(More)*

Though the need for petroleum products resulted in a consideration to keep the Port’s navigation channel open all winter, a lack of available petroleum products caused the Port to close in January. If the petroleum pipeline continues to stay closed throughout 2017, the Port will likely play a significant role once again in the movement of petroleum products.

Looking to the 2017 shipping season, Haen expects increases in limestone and petroleum products, with decreases in coal and cement due to continued low cost natural gas and the completion of the Interstate 41 project. “However, based on 2016 results, I am looking forward to 2017 as the shipping industry continues to be the most cost-effective method of transportation for commodities,” Haen said. “The Port is a vital component of our area economy and an economic engine not found in many communities; generating employment opportunities for the region and bringing revenue into our area. We want to capitalize on that to expand the movements of diverse cargo and extend the Port’s reach to new markets in 2017.”

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The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators involved in shipping commodities:

- ACE Marine, LLC
- C. Reiss Coal Company
- Construction Resources Management
- Flint Hills Resources
- Fox River Dock Company
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Graymont
- GLC Minerals, LLC
- KK Integrated Logistics, Inc.
- Lafarge North America
- RGL
- Sanimax
- St. Mary’s Cement Company
- US Venture

For more information on the Port, visit [www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com) or Twitter @PortofGreenBay.

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