

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



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PORT OF GREEN BAY 2010 TONNAGE TOTALS AFFECTED BY ECONOMY

Officials optimistic but realistic for 2011

(Green Bay, WI) – 2010 proved to be yet another rough year for the economy and it shows in the shipping numbers. A drop in commodities such as salt and cement were main factors that resulted in a decrease in overall tonnage coming into the [Port of Green Bay](#) during the 2010 shipping season. The Port received more than 1.7 million metric tons of cargo last year, a decrease of about four percent from 2009.

Port Manager Dean Haen says the overall tonnage of salt imported in 2010 decreased by 133,000 metric tons when compared to 2009 numbers. “The tonnage numbers for salt in 2009 was high,” Haen stated. “When you couple that with last year’s mild winter, in many cases inventories of salt didn’t need to be replenished. The reserves were already there.”

The expanded use of limestone in new markets helped the product increase by nine percent; however, it was offset by the same percent decrease in cement. “The lack of construction projects meant the demand for materials like cement were not high as they were in 2009,” Haen stated. “It’s a direct reflection of the economy.”

Haen says the Port has historically been a leading indicator of economic conditions for the region. “We ended 2010 with an eight percent increase in domestic cargo, which may indicate that we will continue to see tonnage increase in 2011 as the economy continues to improve.”

(more)

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Despite the decrease in 2010, Haen says there remains great growth potential for the shipping industry. U.S. Venture was recently added as a new terminal operator, bringing the total number of businesses on the port to 14. U.S. Venture will be shipping petroleum products such as gasoline and diesel fuel. "Things are heading in the right direction for 2011," Haen stated. "U.S. Venture will diversify the tonnage coming in and out of the port and will positively contribute to the annual tonnage numbers."

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