

PORT OF CLEVELAND

The Port of Cleveland is a significant maritime hub located on the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio.

BIOGRAPHY

The Port of Cleveland located on the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio and managed by the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, has served as a major maritime hub since its founding in 1968. As one of the largest ports on the Great Lakes, it operates 27 active freight docks and is the only port currently handling container shipments on Lake Erie. The Port also offers breakbulk, dry bulk, and oversized services with its channel and harbor dredged to seaway draft to ensure uninterrupted access.

Top commodities handled at the port include iron ore, sand, cement, and sulfur, with the port's bulk and general cargo terminals managing the majority of freight. Its dedicated container terminal, supported by a regularly scheduled service, sets Cleveland apart from other regional ports.

Well-connected by Class I railroads - CSX and Norfolk Southern – and major highways, such as I-90, I-77, and I-490, the port facilitates efficient freight movements. It also welcomes cruise ships during the summer months, adding seasonal passenger service to its offering. Overall, the port's strategic location and comprehensive services make it a key player in Northeast Ohio's global competitiveness and a vital asset for the community.



27
Freight
Docks



No. 2
Port in Ohio
on Lake Erie by
Handled Tonnage



No. 2
Port or PSA that
handles Advanced
Manufacturing
products in Ohio (by
tonnage)

1968

Port of Cleveland
established

2015

13.7 million short tons
travel through the port,
the highest in the last ten
years

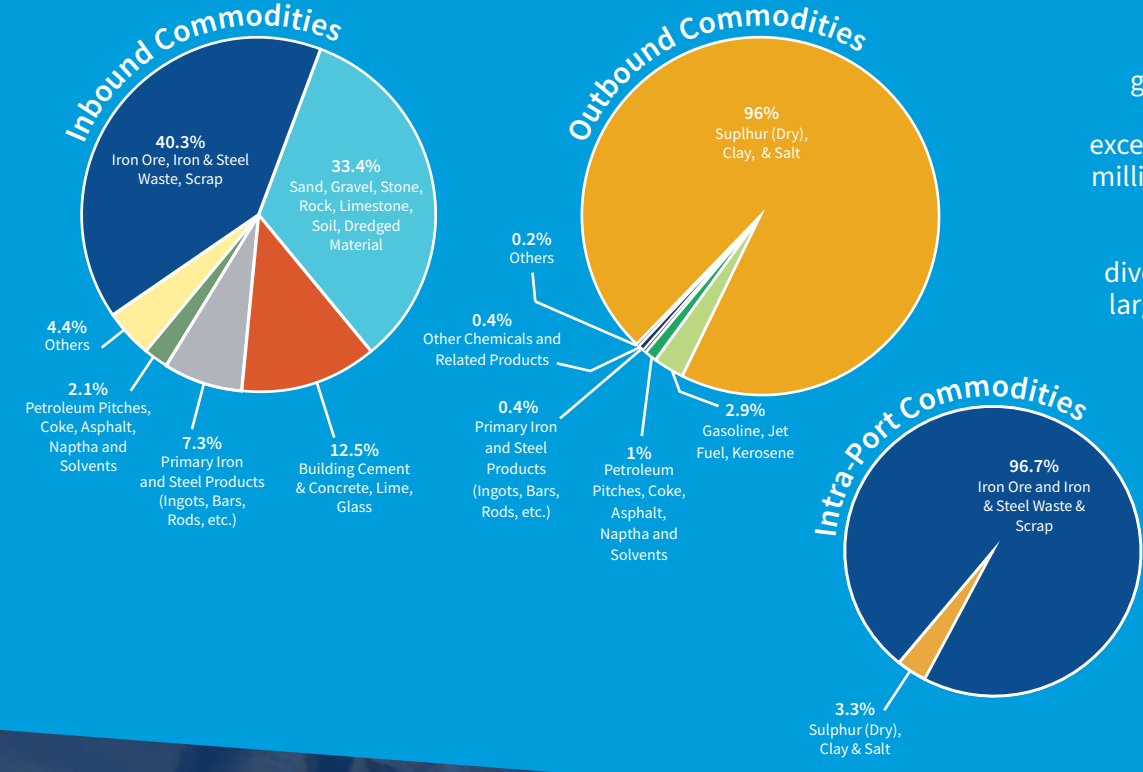
2022

Awarded \$27 million from
USDOT's Port Infrastructure
Development Program, the
Port is set to modernize and
expand its 144,000-square-foot
warehouse, with construction
commencing in 2025.

2023

Invested over \$20
million to rehabilitate
Docks 24 & 26, including
breakwater upgrade, pile
wall rehabilitation, and
stormwater management
system expansion.

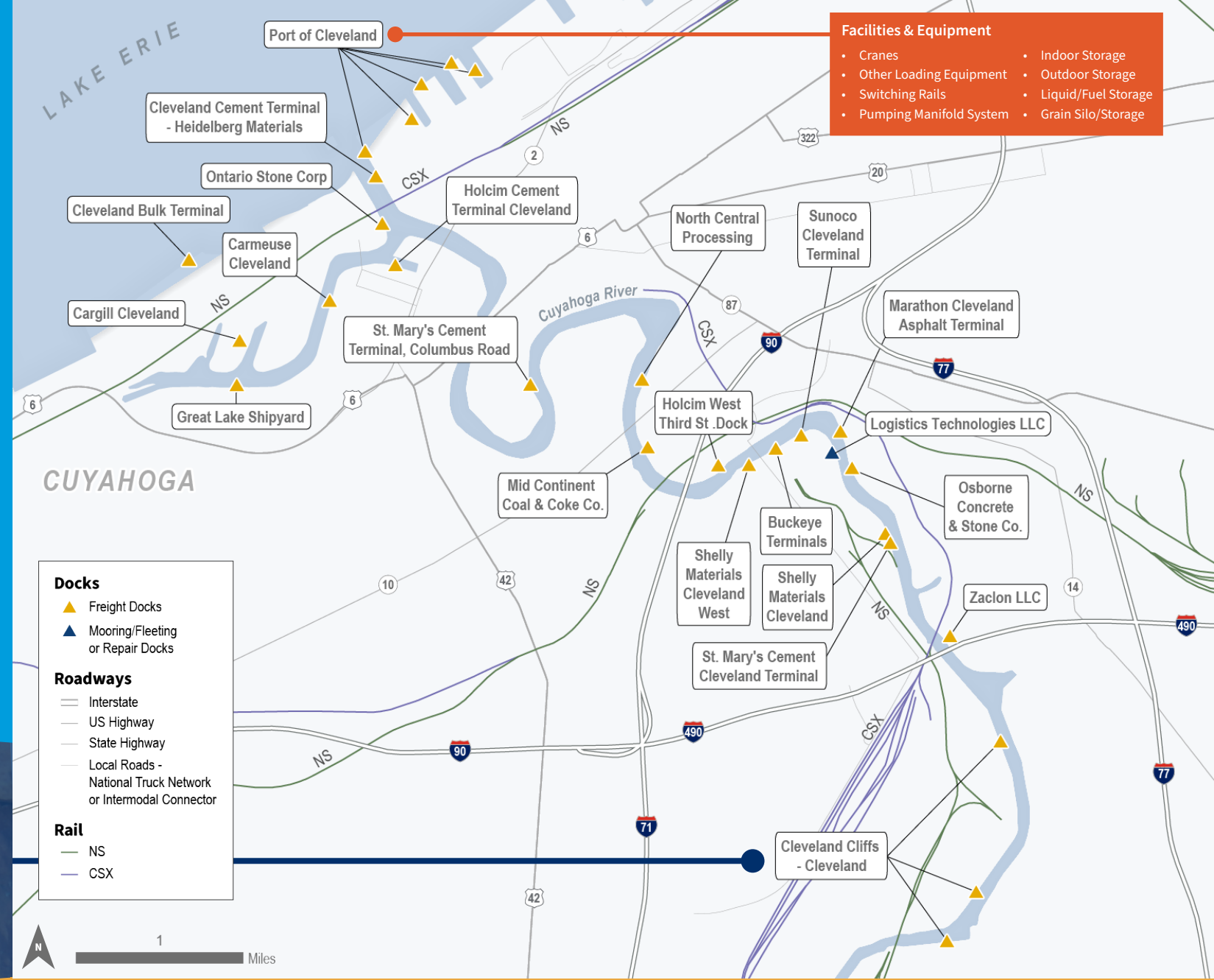
USE & SUPPLY CHAINS



In 2022, the Port of Cleveland handled over 9 million tons of goods, with most being inbound shipments. Inbound goods exceeded outbound shipments by 5 million tons. While the total volume decreased from the previous year, the Port still managed a diverse range of commodities. The largest category of inbound goods was advanced manufacturing commodities like iron ore and related products, accounting for 40.3 percent of inbound shipments. The Port also received construction materials, including sand, gravel and stone, as well as building cement and concrete. Over 95 percent of outbound commodities handled are sulphur, clay, and salt, supported by the nearby Cargill Cleveland facility.

CLEVELAND CLIFFS

Cleveland-Cliffs is a leading North American steel producer that controls the entire process, from extracting iron ore to delivering finished products. They specialize in value-added sheet products, particularly for the demanding automotive industry. Driven by a commitment to sustainability, they're leading the charge in environmentally responsible steelmaking with initiatives to reduce waste, conserve water, and lower their carbon footprint. Construction of a self-unloading vessel, leveraging the latest technological advancements, commenced in 2019 on the Great Lakes and concluded in 2022. The vessel's construction utilized iron ore sourced from the Cleveland Cliffs facility. This strategic sourcing decision is an example of enhanced efficiency in both unloading and loading operations at the facility, as the vessel incorporates a fully computerized system for cargo handling.



FACILITIES & MULTIMODAL CONNECTIONS

PORT FACILITIES

As one of the premier international multimodal trade hubs on the Great Lakes, the Port of Cleveland fuels economic connections between regional, national, and international markets. The Port's activities are supported by a variety of infrastructure. This includes two mobile cranes (60-ton capacity), one stationary crane (150-ton capacity), two Class I railroads, lay-down areas, and inside storage capacity.



HIGHWAY

Key regional routes that serve the Port include:

Interstate: I-71, I-77, I-80, I-90, I-480, I-490

US Highway: US 6, US 42, US 322, US 422

State Highway: OH 2, OH 10, OH 14, OH 21, OH 87, OH 176, OH 237



RAIL

Served by railroads: **CSX, NS, CB, CWRO, Conrail**

15 out of 27 docks have rail connections

Truck Trips Originating and Ending in the Port of Cleveland

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS) is an innovative project that aims to revitalize the lakeshore for tourism and community development while addressing the critical issue of dredged material reuse. CHEERS will repurpose dredged material to create new islands connected to the Lake Erie shoreline. These islands will serve as vital habitats for wildlife and provide public parks for community enjoyment.

Six project partners are working together in phases over the next 25 years to contribute to the reconnection of communities to the lake, improve public health, support the economy, and benefit the environment and local habitats. Construction is set to begin by 2026.



In 2023, the Port of Cleveland:

**Created
4,442
Direct Jobs**

**Generated
\$7 Billion
Economic Impact**

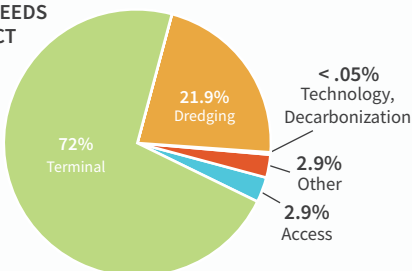
INNOVATIVE DREDGING PROGRAM

TOP CAPITAL NEEDS

The Port of Cleveland has 22 unfunded projects, totaling over \$41.5 million, with terminal projects making up 72 percent (\$29.9 million). These include dock fender replacements, surface and subsurface upgrades, and bulkhead strengthening. These improvements will enhance the Port's ability to handle a diverse range of cargo more efficiently, with some projects specifically aimed at boosting its capacity for containerized cargo linked to the Cleveland-Europe Express. Other planned projects include access improvements, emissions inventory, four dredging initiatives, CBP camera installation, and vessel and vehicle replacements. Additionally, three partially funded projects totalling \$49 million include an EPA CleanPorts Implementation project, a terminal modernization project, and a fiber-based communication network installation project.

UNFUNDED PROJECT TYPE	AMOUNT
Access	\$1.2M
Decarbonization	\$0.05M
Dredging	\$9.1M
Technology	\$0.075M
Terminal	\$29.9M
Other	\$1.2M
Total	\$41.5M

CAPITAL NEEDS BY PROJECT TYPE



CAPITAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Port of Cleveland is investing in projects that enhance public access to the Cuyahoga River and protecting vital shipping operations. A major effort focuses on stabilizing the Irishtown Bend Hillside, where a collapse could disrupt port activity. In coordination with community and planning stakeholders, the Port is supporting the development of a new urban park overlooking the River, set for completion in 2027.

Preparatory work includes removing 250,000 cubic yards of soil and constructing over 1,000 feet of bulkheads along the river's edge.



Funding by sources including USDOT's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), ODOT, NOACA and other regional and local partners, this groundwork will not only enable the subsequent construction of the park but also facilitate the establishment of a heritage site dedicated to preserving and commemorating the cultural legacy of the Irish immigrants who played an instrumental role in shaping Cleveland's industrial history.

Reference

Banner photo (Page 1): iStock photo ID: 1209474689 | Use & Supply Chains Pie Charts (Page 2): USACE WSCS Commerce Data, 2024. | Key Port for Ohio's Agricultural Commodity Movements (Page 2): Shipments of local farmers' crops and grains through the Toledo port continues to remain strong. Point and Shoreland Journal, Published April 9, 2021. Accessed February 2025. [Link](#) | NHS Intermodal Connector Designation (Page 2): CPCS Consultation with TMACOG. | Facility Map (Page 3): ODOT, USACE. Cartography by CPCS. | Truck Trips Originating and Ending in the Port of Cleveland (Page 3): WSP Analysis of Replica Data, USACE, ODOT. Cartography by CPCS (2024). | Innovative Dredging Program at the Port of Toledo Photo (Page 4): USACE. | Ohio Maritime Assistance Program Funded Warehouse Project (Page 4): Port of Toledo; Port board authorizes 50,000-square-foot warehouse project. The Blade, Published October 24, 2024. Accessed February 2025. [Link](#)