



2023 Winona Commercial Harbor Report

The Port Authority of Winona conducted a brief survey of river users to prepare a report outlining the economic impact of the Winona Commercial Harbor. This survey was conducted in March of 2023. This is the third survey conducted since 2004. The Port Authority Survey had an 85.7% response rate from businesses.

The Mississippi River System

The Mississippi River System stretches over 195 miles in Minnesota and supports four port areas whose combined 2019 tonnage was 11 million net tons. The river accounts for over 50 percent of Minnesota's agricultural exports.

Minnesota's largest river tonnage commodities are agricultural products such as corn, soybeans, and wheat. In 2020, Minnesota shipped 14 million tons of commodities down the Mississippi River. River ports also handle other dry commodities such as fertilizer, cement, sand and gravel, salt, coal, steel, and scrap metals for recycling. Liquid products include petroleum, caustic soda, vegetable oils, molasses, and anhydrous ammonia.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers maintains the Mississippi River System. They dredge the width and depth of the channel to accommodate 9-foot-deep barges, and they operate the 29 locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi. Recreational boaters also use the locks at no cost. The commercial barge operators on the river pay a user fee of 29 cents per gallon of fuel purchased. These dollars are used to pay for half of the major federal lock structure improvements.

Port	2019 Tons	2018 Tons	2017 Tons
Twin Cities	7,300,722	7,586,571	8,203,679
Savage	1,631,519	3,459,680	3,331,936
Red Wing	609,543	1,018,887	1,019,341
Winona	1,541,831	2,269,364	2,416,502
Totals	11,083,614	14,334,502	14,971,458

Annual tonnages will vary due to seasonal flooding, freight rates and foreign grain demand. Information provided by Minnesota Department of Transportation Ports and Waterways Division.

Market Value Information (includes all users)

The Estimated Market Value from the Winona County Assessor's Office indicates the total value of river related business property in the commercial harbor and on the eastern edge of the City is \$12.9 million and pay over \$328,000 annually in property taxes.

Employment and Local Purchases

The river-related businesses operating in the commercial harbor and on the eastern edge of Winona have a total of 91 employees with an annual payroll of \$6.7 million. Additionally, the average wage noted by the respondents was \$68,905. This average wage is above the average for all industries 2021 of \$42,994.00 (QCEW City of Winona 2021 Average).

Secondary business benefits such as other purchases made by the local river-related companies were measured. The total of all goods, services, repairs, and fuel were over \$6.9 million in aggregate with capital improvement expenditures of over \$5.9 million.

	Total of All	Average Per Company
Utilities	\$ 552,428	\$ 92,071
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 1,833,344	\$ 366,669
Goods Purchased	\$ 780,520	\$ 130,087
Fuel	\$ 1,858,389	\$ 309,731
Services	\$ 164,907	\$ 54,969
Contractors	\$ 1,719,984	\$ 343,996
Capital Improvements	\$ 4,843,338	\$ 1,210,834
All goods, services, repairs	\$ 6,909,572	\$ 1,297,523

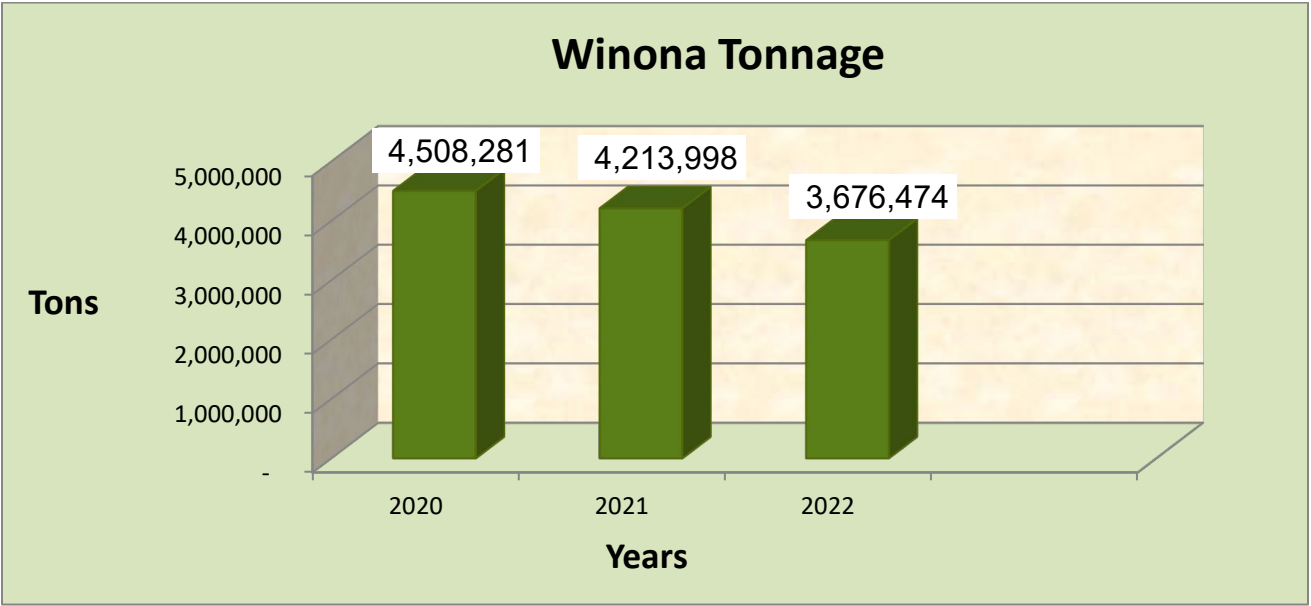
Commodities and Tonnage

The most recent data from river related businesses reports the value of inbound and outbound commodities to be \$3-\$4 million tons based on reports from 2020 to 2022.

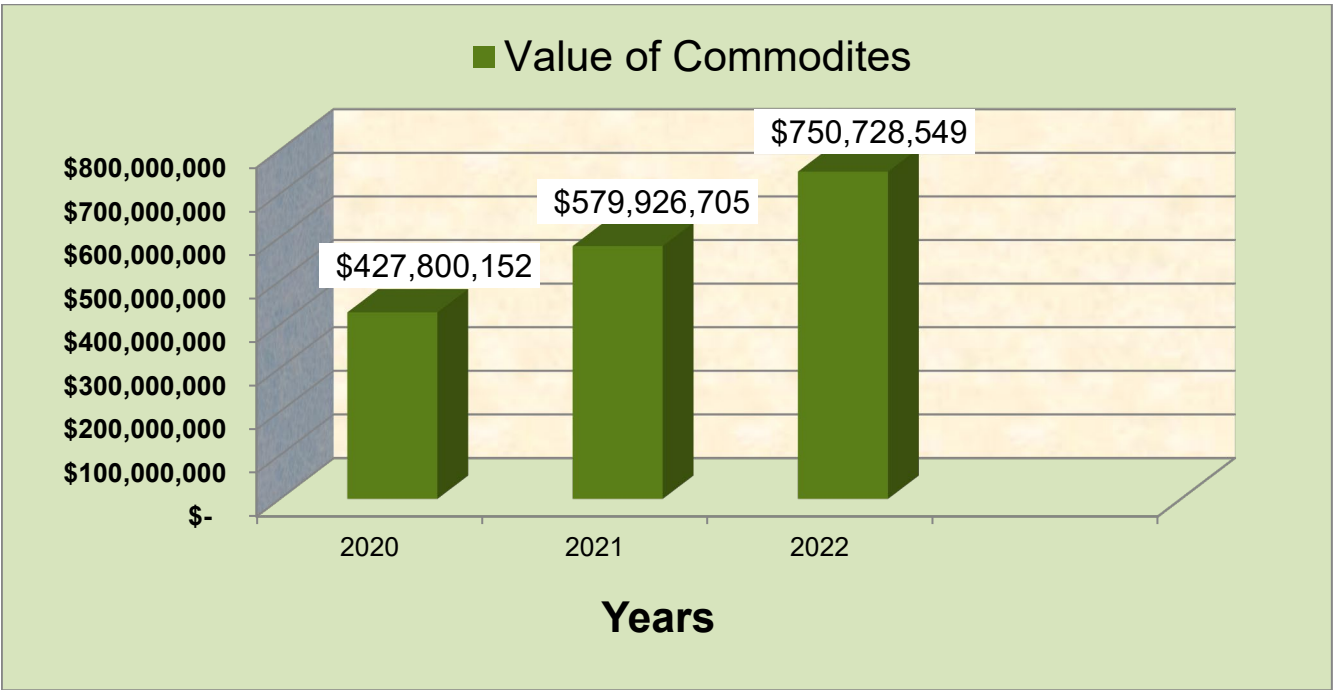
East Businesses and Commercial Harbor Tons of Commodities			
Year	Inbound Tons	Outbound Tons	Total
2022	1,883,140	1,793,334	3,676,474
2021	2,156,719	2,057,279	4,213,998
2020	2,285,515	2,222,766	4,508,281

The Port Authority leases two dock facilities that handle products such as distillers’ grain (DDG), salt, fertilizer, gypsum, and cottonseed. The commodities handled at the Port Authority docks are just part of the overall tonnage handled in the commercial harbor by all the river operators. In 2022, over 340,000 tons of commodities were handled at the Port Authority docks compared to the overall tonnage of 3.6 million tons.

While there is a downward trend in total tonnage at all facilities as noted below:



The value of the products/commodities handled by the river businesses continues to increase.



Annual Average Loading & Unloading by Transportation Type

Years	Number of Semis	Number of Railcars	Number of Barges
2004	79,000	5,200	1,440
2010	67,900	2,435	1,306
2022	80,727	1,748	1,456

*The previous two surveys only included businesses within the Commercial Harbor and this survey measured all river users.

