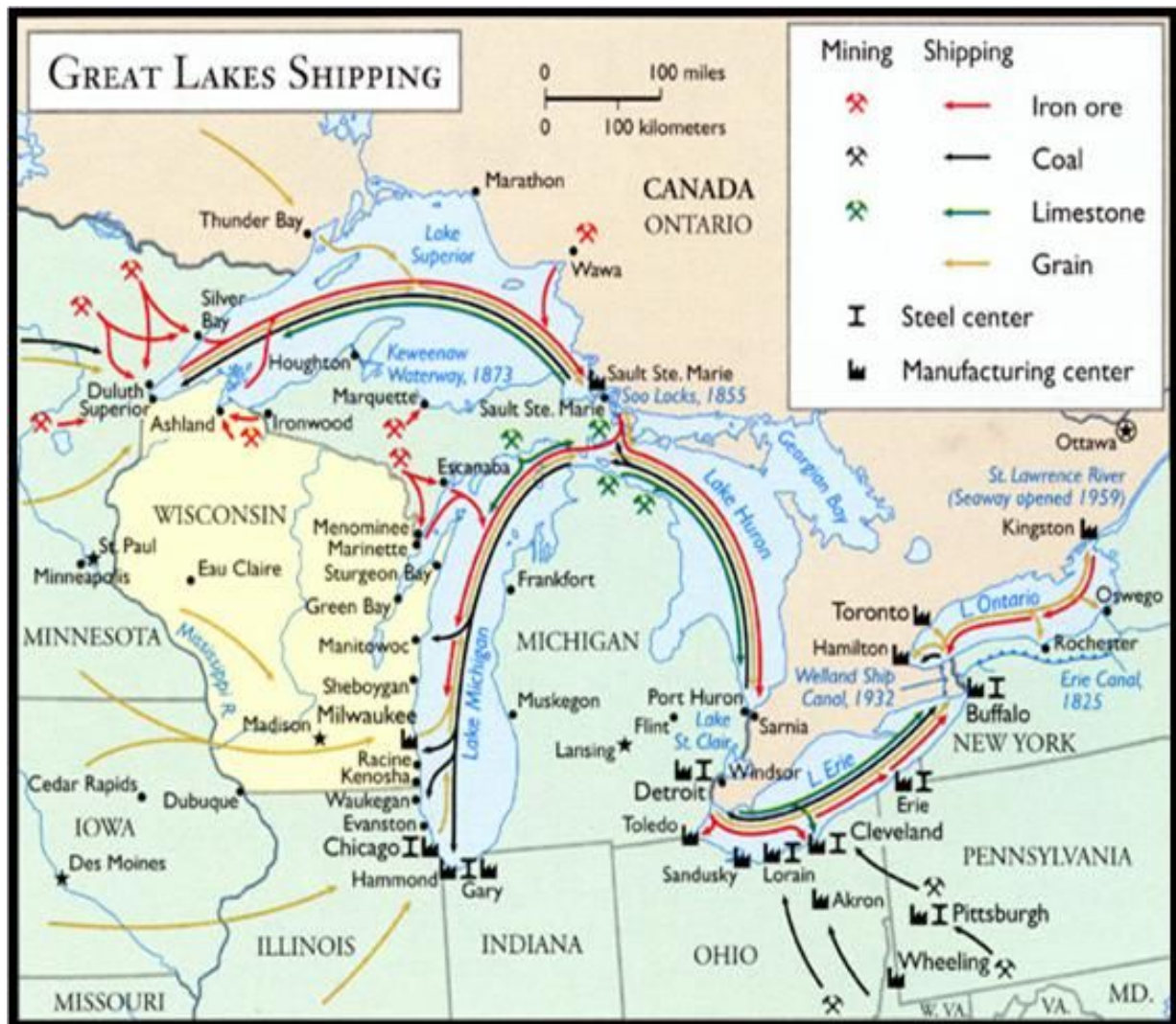


Great Lakes Navigation System Volume and Commodities



The GLNS provides the means of transporting significant amounts of waterborne commerce annually. Over 236 million tons of commodities were shipped on the system of waterways that comprise the GLNS in 2004. Part of the area served by the system, commonly referred to as the Mid-continent region, constitutes the industrial and agricultural heartland of North America. It encompasses nineteen States and three Canadian Provinces. Over 80 million people, approximately 30% of the combined populations of Canada and the U.S., live in this area. The region produces nearly 35% of the combined gross national products, a third of their capital investments and about 30% of their combined personal income. In the U.S. the eight Great Lakes states account for a third of the total U.S. exports.