

NEW YORK STATE CANAL SYSTEM COMMERCIAL SHIPPING FACT SHEET

For more than 200 years, the Canal System has moved America forward. Today, we're modernizing this historic corridor for the next century of sustainable commerce.

COMMERCIAL SHIPPING ON THE CANAL SYSTEM TODAY

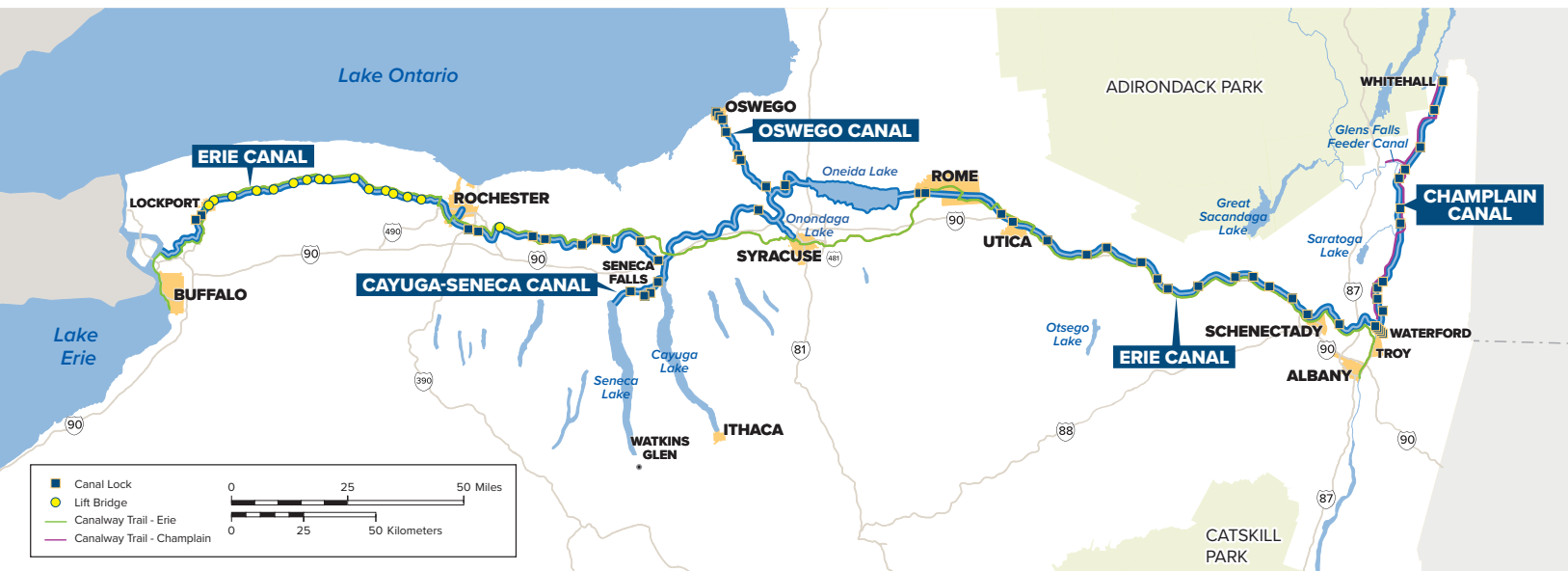
The New York State Canal System currently supports various industries across the state and beyond, and is ideal for:

- Oversized and overweight cargo that exceeds truck, rail and other transportation infrastructure limitations.
- Bulk commodities like liquid calcium chloride, agriculture products, construction aggregate and other cargo.
- Project cargo for energy and infrastructure development like rotor blades, transformers, towers, cables and generators.
- Other time-flexible shipments that prioritize cost and sustainability.

CANAL SYSTEM OVERVIEW & OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

The Canal System is a 524-mile long, commercially viable waterway comprised of four distinct canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. It passes through over 200 communities and across 21 of the 62 counties of New York State.

The system connects the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain, and provides access to the Saint Lawrence Seaway, Welland Canal and other major inland navigation channels.





BENEFITS OF SHIPPING BY CANAL

Higher Capacity: Barges can carry much larger quantities of cargo. A single barge can carry the equivalent of 60-70 truckloads of goods.

Fuel Efficiency: Barges are significantly more fuel-efficient, capable of moving one ton of cargo about four times farther per gallon of fuel compared to trucks.

Traffic Reduction: Using barges for transport helps reduce congestion and wear-and-tear on highways and roads.

Environmental Impact: Barge transport produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions per ton-mile compared to trucks.

Cost-Effectiveness: For bulk goods and long-distance transport, barges are often more cost-effective due to lower fuel costs and higher cargo capacity.

PORTS AND TERMINALS

The Canal System connects several different ports in New York State (and beyond), including:

- Port of New York/New Jersey
- Port of Albany
- Port of Buffalo
- Port of Coeymans
- Port of Oswego

Several Canal terminals and other locations are available for commercial use and loading sites can be discussed upon request.

LOCKS

Locks within the Canal System have a usable length of 300 feet and a usable width of 43.5 feet. They are equipped with a capstan for the purpose of double locking.

GENERAL NAVIGATION

- Navigation season typically runs from mid-May to mid-October. Commercial shipping permits may be issued for the weeks on the cusp of the season, in early May and late October.
- Operating hours generally range from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Off-hour lock and lift bridge operations are available to commercial vessels with 24-hour advance notice.
- A variety of navigation aids mark the Canal channels, most of which are unlighted.

	VERTICAL CLEARANCE	CONTROLLING DEPTHS
Eastern Erie Canal Federally Improved Marine Highway between Waterford & Oswego	21 feet	11 feet
Western Erie Canal Between Phoenix & Tonawanda	15.5 feet	9 feet
Champlain Canal	17 feet	9.5 feet
Cayuga-Seneca Canal	16 feet	9 feet

LEARN MORE

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- [Welcome to the NYS Canal System](#)
- [Commercial Shipping & Towing](#)
- [Navigation Information](#)
- [Bridge Heights & Canal Speed Limits](#)
- [Lock, Lift Bridge, & Guard Gate Listings](#)
- [NYS Canal Map](#)