

current; vessels that did trade here then, anchored off in the lake, and their loading was brought from and sent to them in lighters.

1820.....	120	1824.....	286
1821.....	150	1825.....	355
1822.....	200	1826.....	418
1823.....	236	1827.....	572

"This table embraces thirteen consecutive years. At the close of this period, the total number of American vessels, of all descriptions, employed in the commerce of Erie and the Upper Lakes, was only 53, with an aggregate tonnage of 3611 tons. This meagre exhibit is in keeping with the population, which, in 1825, was ascertained to be constituted of no more than 2,412 souls. At this time, the number will not vary much either way of 35,000. The year 1825, it will be remembered, was the period of the completion of the Erie Canal, and the above table of commerce extends through the first two years of canal commerce:

1841.....	5290	1842.....	4952
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"This year, vessels began to visit Lake Michigan for freights, instead of obtaining them from Ohio, as heretofore. The length of the voyages, caused a decrease in the arrivals and departures.

1843.....	5884	1845.....	5200
1844.....	5978		

"The introduction of many large new vessels, in the place of small old ones annually going out of commission, a very boisterous season of navigation, together with the fact that trips are more regularly made to the Upper Lake ports in search of cargoes, may, in a measure, account for the diminished number of arrivals this year.

"The arrivals and clearances, exports and imports, to and from Foreign ports, during 1846, were—