



SHIPPING STATISTICS AND MARKET REVIEW 2026

Analytical Focus

- **Issue 1: World Merchant Fleet**
- Issue 2: Tanker Market
- Issue 3: Bulk Carrier Market
- Issue 4: Container Shipping
- Issue 5: General Cargo and Container Shipping
- Issue 6: Passenger and Cruise Shipping
- Issue 7: Shipbuilding and Shipbuilders
- Issue 8: Major Shipping Nations
- Issue 9: World Seaborne Trade and World Port Traffic



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Shipping Statistics and Market Review

Analytical Focus

World Merchant Fleet

ISL Comment.....	5
ISL Statistical Tables	9

Market Review

Economic Indicators	34
World Merchant Fleet	37
Freight and Charter Market	40
Shipping Prices and Costs	54
World Shipbuilding	57
World Port Traffic.....	59

Abbreviations

ARA	Antwerp/Rotterdam/Amsterdam range
b/d	Barrels per day
BHP	Brake horsepower
bln	Billion
CBM	Cubic metres (also m ³)
CEU	Car equivalent unit
cgt	Compensated gross tonnage
cif	Cost, insurance, freight
CLIA	Cruise Lines International Association
COD	Country of Domicile
CPE	Centrally-planned Economies
CPI	Consumer price index
CRSL	Clarkson Research Services Limited
cST	Centi Stokes
cu.m	Cubic metres (also m ³)
DB	Double bottom
DC	Developing Countries
DH	Double hull
DIS	Danish International Ship Register
DME	Developed market economies
DS	Double sides
dwt	Deadweight tons
d/y	Day/year
ECB	European Central Bank
EMEs	Emerging Market Economies
EU	European Union
FY	Fiscal year
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEU	Forty feet equivalent unit
fio	Free in and out
fob	Free on board
FT	Freight tons
ft	Foot
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
gt/grt	Gross tonnage
HP	Horsepower
HT	Harbour ton
ibf	Intermediate bunker fuel
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
in.	Inch
ITF	International Transport Workers Federation
km	Kilometre
loa	Length overall
lbs	Pounds
LDT	Light displacement tons
LDC	Less Developed Countries
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LT	Long ton
m	Metre
mbd	Million barrel per day
MCPM	Monthly Container Port Monitor
mdo	Marine diesel oil
MED	Mediterranean
MfA	Marine fishing area

mln	Million
M/T	Motor tanker
MT	Metric tons
mtd	per ton fob delivered
nth	Month
mtw	Per ton ex wharf
n.a.	Not available
NDRF	National Defence Reserve Fleet
n.e.c.	Not elsewhere classified
neg.	Negligible
NIS	Norwegian International Ship Register
no	Number
nrt	Net register tonnage
nt	Net tonnage
NWE,NW	Northwest Europe
o.a.	Over all
OBO	Ore/bulk/oil carrier
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OR	Ordinary Register
P/C	Products carrier
r	Revised
ro/ro	Roll-on/roll-off
RT	Revenue ton
SAR	Special administration region
SBT	Ship segregated ballast tanks
SDR	Special drawing rights
SEA Europe	Shipyards' & Maritime Equipment Association of Europe
SOx	sulfur oxides
SSMR	ISL Shipping Statistics and Market Review
SSYB	ISL Shipping Statistics Yearbook
ST	Short ton
t	Ton/tonne
TB	Tug/barge
TC	Time charter
TEU	Twenty-foot equivalent unit
TKB	Tanker barge
ULCC	Ultra large crude carrier
USAC	United States Atlantic Coast
USGC	United States Gulf Coast
USPC	United States Pacific Coast
USD/\$	US Dollar
VLCC	Very large crude carrier
VLOC	Very large ore carrier
WS	Worldscale
WTO	World Trade Organization
YR, YRS	Year, Years

Symbols

...	Data not available
-	Nil
0/0.0	Less than half of unit employed
1995-2026	From 1995 to 2026 inclusive
2024/25	Crop year, fiscal year etc., beginning in 2024 and terminating in 2025

Billions means a thousand million

Detailed items in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding

► For further explanation (e.g. Glossary) please visit:
www.isl.org

ISL Comment – World merchant fleet Page
5-8

(1) WORLD TONNAGE SUPPLY + MARKET FUNDAMENTALS

Global trade is back on course for growth	5
The development of the global merchant fleet continues to be significantly positive	5
The order backlog is at its highest level in 12 years and has doubled since 2022	6
Gas tanker market reacts quickly to oversupply	6
Still good prospects for the tanker market in 2026 and beyond	7
Earnings opportunities in dry bulk transport remain subdued	7
Container Market: New orders for large sizes increase	7
A weak year for the demolition yards	8

SUMMARY TABLES - COMMENT

Tab. 1	Fleet Summary 2025/2026	5
Tab. 2	World merchant fleet by ship type 2022 and 2026	5
Tab. 3	Total order book by major ship types as 2022, 2025 and 2026	5
Tab. 4	Ships in the world merchant fleet equipped with scrubbers or LNG capable at the start of 2026	7
Tab. 5	World merchant fleet's reductions by major ship types during 2020, 2024 and 2025	8

FIGURES - COMMENT

Fig. 1	World Merchant Fleet – Annual Tonnage Changes 2017 – 2026	5
Fig. 2	DWT-share of the ordered tonnage on the existing fleets by type as of January 1 st , 2022-2026	6
Fig. 3	Dry Bulk carriers: New orders and deliveries, 2016 – 2025	6
Fig. 4	Monthly development of Baltic indices 2017 - 2026	6
Fig. 5	Development of newbuilding prices of tankers, bulk carriers and container ships 2017 - 2026	6
Fig. 6	Second hand prices of tankers, bulk carriers and container ships from Jan. 2017 – Jan. 2026	7
Fig. 7	All tankers: New orders and deliveries, 2016 – 2025	7
Fig. 8	Time charter rates for tankers 2017 - 2026	7
Fig. 9	Fully cellular container ships: New orders and deliveries, 2016 – 2025	7
Fig. 10	Monthly HARPEX Container charter rate index 2016 up to January 2026.....	8
Fig. 11	Development demolition prices of tankers and bulk carriers from January 2017 – January 2026	8
Fig. 12	Development of seaborne trade of main cargo types 1996 – 2025.....	8

ISL Statistical Tables– World merchant fleet 9-32

(1) WORLD MERCHANT FLEET

1.1	Keyfigures as of January 1 st , 2026	9
1.2	By Major Flags and Ship Type as of January 1 st , 2026	10
1.3	Ranking by Flag as of January 1 st , 2025 and 2026	12
1.4	By Registered Flag and Country of Control According to Country Groups/Ship Type 2026	15
1.5	By Registered Flag and Country of Control According to Regions and Ship Type 2026	16
1.6	Fleet Development by Ship Type 2022 - 2026	17
1.7	By Division of Age and Ship Type as of January 1 st , 2026	19
1.8	By Size Class and Ship Type as of January 1 st , 2026	20
1.9	By Summer Draught and Ship Type as of January 1 st , 2026 – No of Ships	22
1.10	By Country of Control as of January 1 st , 2026	23
1.11	Top Countries of Control by Major Ship Types as of January 1 st , 2026	24

(2) BROKEN-UP MERCHANT SHIPS (YEARLY ANALYSIS)

2.1	Broken-up Ships by Type 2016 - 2025	25
2.2	Average Age of Broken-up Ships by Type 2016 - 2025	26
2.3	Broken-up Ships by Major Flags and Type January – December 2025	26
2.4	Broken-up ships by Scrapping Countries January – December 2025	26
2.5	Broken-up ships by Year of Build and Ship Type January – December 2025	27
2.6	Broken-up ships by Size Class and Type January – December 2025	27

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD SEABORNE TRADE

3.1	Seaborne Trade Volume in Tonnes 2005 - 2026	28
-----	---	----

(4) WORLD ORDER BOOK - FUTURE TONNAGE SUPPLY

4.1	Ships on Order by Type as of January 1 st , 2025 and 2026	29
4.2	Ships on Order by Major Types and Country of Build as of January 1 st , 2026	29
4.3	Ships on Order by Type and Major Shipyards as of January 1 st , 2026	30
4.4	Ships on Order by Ship Type and Delivery Schedule as of January 1 st , 2026	30
4.5	Ships on Order by Country of Build and Delivery Schedule as of January 1 st , 2026	31
4.6	Ships on Order by Type and DWT-Size Class as of January 1 st , 2026	31
4.7	Additions to Order Book by Ship Type and Major Countries of Build 2020 – 2025	32

FIGURES – STATISTICAL TABLES

Fig. 1	Tankers and Dry Cargo Ships Broken-up 2001 - 2025	27
Fig. 2	Cargo Carried by World Fleet 2006 - 2025	28
Fig. 3	Total World Order Book by Major ship types 2018 - 2026	30

▶ New ISL Publication – ISL Shipping Statistics Yearbook 2025

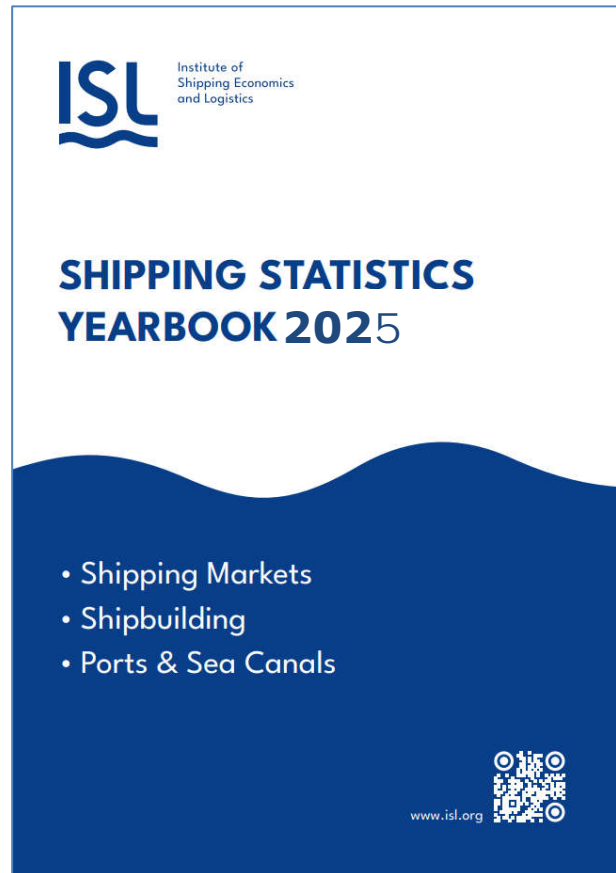
The shipping industry needs various information to evaluate market dynamics. The conceptual approach of the ISL SHIPPING STATISTICS YEARBOOK which goes back to the year 1986 is designed to inform on developments in shipping, world trade, seaborne trade, commodity markets, ocean freight and charter rates, individual profiles of shipping and shipbuilding countries, as well as on world port developments. ISL provides the yearbook for many years as a source for market analysis.

The various development indicators are presented within three main sections:

- The Shipping Market
- Shipbuilding
- Ports and Sea Canals

Moreover the Yearbook comprises an indepth analytical comment.

The ISL Yearbook is a unique, worldwide distributed statistical source and designed to particularly meet the requirements of shipowners, shipbuilders/repairers, port authorities, brokers, banks, transportation consultants, universities and research institutes.



 Contents – Major Market Indicators

(1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1.1	Currency Units, Exchange Rate	m	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.2	World Market Prices Overall Index	m	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.3	HWWI-World Market Prices for Selected Commodities	m	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.4	Production Indices per Working Day (Selected EU Countries)	m	35	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.5	Production Indices per Working Day for EU-15, Japan/USA	m	35	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.6	OECD Summary of the Projections	h	36	●				●					

(2) WORLD MERCHANT FLEET		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
2.1	World Merchant Fleet Development by Ship Type	q	37	●			●		●			●	
2.2	Additions to the World Merchant Fleet by Ship Type	q	37	●			●		●			●	
2.3	World Merchant Fleet Reductions / Broken-up Tonnage												
2.3.1	Quarterly	m	38	●			●		●			●	
2.3.2	By Year of Build and Ship Type (Cum.)	m	38	●			●		●			●	
2.3.3	By Country of Control and Ship Type (Cum.)	m	39	●			●		●			●	
2.3.4	By Scrapping Country and Ship Type (Cum.)	m	39	●			●		●			●	

(3) FREIGHT AND CHARTER MARKET		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
3.1	Freight and Charter Market – Executive Summary	m	40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2	Freight and Charter Market – Monthly Details												
3.2.1	Hamburg Index for Containership Time-Charter-Rates	m	42	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.2	HARPEX Containership Index	m	43	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.3	German Sea Freight indices	m	44	●			●		●			●	
3.2.4	Fearnleys - Time Charter Rates for Tankers	m	46	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.5	Clarkson – Tanker Spot Rates	m	47	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.6	Fearnleys – Dry Bulk Charter	m	48	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.7	Baltic Exchange Dry Bulk Indices	m	49	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.8	Maritime Research Freight Indices	m	50	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.9	Worldwide - Charter Fixtures for Coal and Grain	m	52	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.10	Spot Market Dirty Fixtures Arab. Gulf to North Europe	m	53	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.2.11	Clarkson - time charter rates for LNG/LPG tankers	m	54	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

(4) SHIPPING PRICES AND COSTS		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
4.1	Shipping Prices and Costs - Executive Summary	m	55	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.2	Monthly Demolition Prices by Area	m	56	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.3	Development of Bunker Market Prices	m	57	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

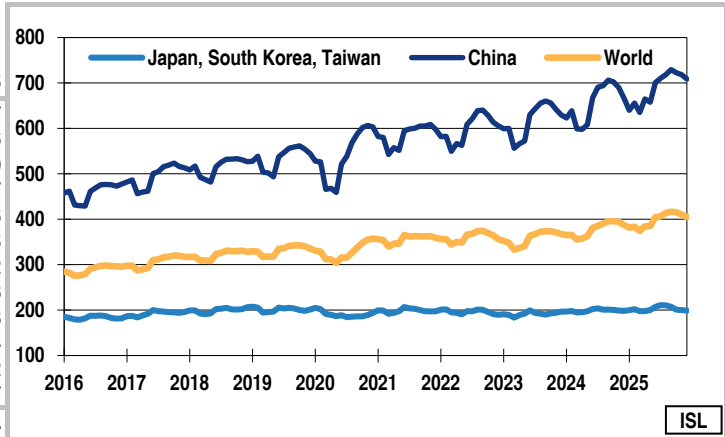
(5) WORLD SHIPBUILDING		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
5.1	New Orders – By Ship Type	q	58	●			●		●			●	
5.2	New Orders - By Country Groups/Shipbuilding Countries	q	58	●			●		●			●	
5.3	Order Book - By Ship Type	q	59	●			●		●			●	
5.4	Order Book - By Country Group/Shipbuilding Countries	q	59	●			●		●			●	

(6) DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR WORLD PORTS		Page	Frequency/up-date (issue)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
6.1	Total Cargo Traffic	q	60	●			●		●			●	
6.2	Total Container Traffic	q	60	●			●		●			●	
6.3	ISL Monthly Container Port Traffic Indices	m	61	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

6.3 ISL Monthly Container Port Traffic Indices 2023 - 2025

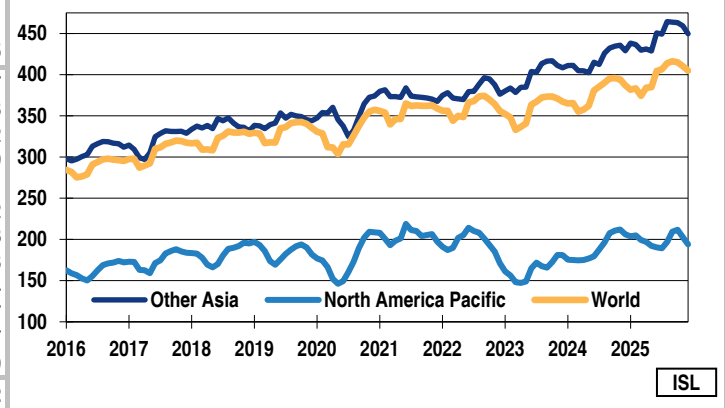
TEU index; Ø 2000 = 100; moving quarterly averages

Month	Japan, South Korea, Taiwan			China		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	190.9	196.7	199.7	599.3	622.8	639.7
Feb.	189.2	197.8	202.0	599.8	638.8	655.6
March	183.4	194.7	197.6	556.0	598.7	635.0
April	188.9	195.2	197.8	566.0	597.9	664.7
May	192.2	197.4	200.1	572.3	608.0	657.6
June	199.2	202.4	207.1	630.1	667.2	700.8
July	193.8	203.7	211.1	642.9	690.5	710.2
Aug.	191.9	200.9	210.2	655.3	693.9	718.3
Sep.	190.0	200.8	207.3	660.2	706.2	729.3
Oct.	192.7	200.4	200.8	656.0	702.1	722.4
Nov.	194.1	198.8	200.0	641.5	689.8	718.2
Dec.	196.5	198.3	198.7	629.6	666.0	708.7
Average	191.9	198.9	202.7	617.4	656.8	688.4



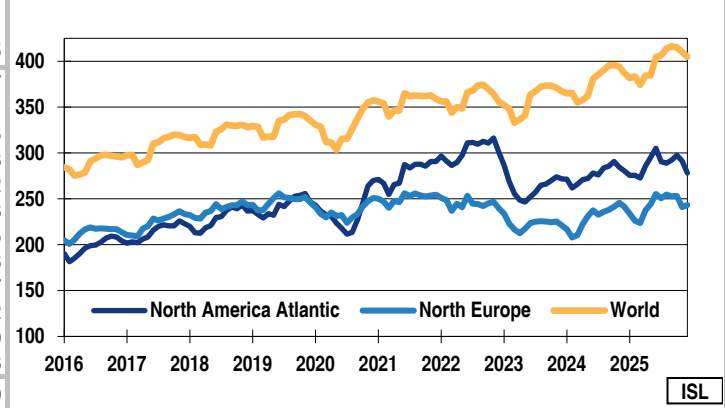
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Month	Other Asia			North America Pacific		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	380.2	411.0	438.3	161.2	175.3	203.7
Feb.	383.7	411.3	436.5	156.2	175.0	204.8
March	378.4	404.8	429.6	148.0	174.5	199.2
April	384.6	404.6	431.1	147.1	174.9	196.9
May	384.8	402.4	428.7	148.9	176.8	192.1
June	403.8	415.0	450.5	164.9	179.4	190.2
July	402.9	412.4	449.2	171.7	187.6	189.3
Aug.	413.5	426.0	464.4	167.6	196.2	196.8
Sep.	416.4	432.2	463.7	165.7	207.6	209.4
Oct.	416.9	434.6	463.1	172.4	210.6	211.7
Nov.	411.1	435.8	459.3	181.1	212.0	202.7
Dec.	408.3	429.0	449.6	181.0	206.1	193.9
Average	398.7	418.3	447.0	163.8	189.7	199.2



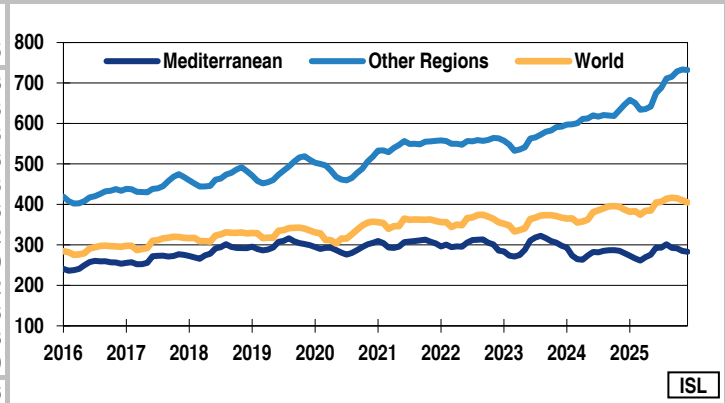
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Month	North America Atlantic			North Europe		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	286.6	271.3	275.5	233.8	216.6	233.7
Feb.	268.5	261.8	275.6	222.8	207.8	226.1
March	255.4	265.9	272.7	216.4	210.3	223.5
April	248.5	270.9	285.6	212.5	222.1	237.3
May	246.5	272.1	295.3	217.3	231.0	244.2
June	251.9	278.1	305.1	223.5	237.4	255.3
July	257.2	276.1	290.4	225.0	232.7	250.5
Aug.	264.8	283.6	288.8	225.6	235.8	254.6
Sep.	266.1	285.5	292.1	225.3	238.0	252.7
Oct.	269.9	290.7	297.5	224.4	241.3	253.2
Nov.	273.9	284.5	291.3	225.3	245.7	241.0
Dec.	271.8	280.3	278.2	221.1	241.2	243.3
Average	263.4	276.7	287.3	222.8	230.0	242.9



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Month	Mediterranean			Other Regions		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	283.9	293.2	273.1	557.5	597.2	658.3
Feb.	273.4	273.6	266.6	547.9	597.7	650.8
March	271.1	264.6	261.2	532.3	600.5	633.8
April	274.8	263.3	269.5	535.6	611.2	635.6
May	288.0	273.7	275.6	541.1	612.3	641.8
June	310.4	282.4	292.9	562.5	619.9	674.6
July	318.1	281.6	293.1	565.6	616.7	688.2
Aug.	322.5	285.1	301.4	572.3	620.6	711.0
Sep.	316.6	286.8	292.6	579.6	619.5	715.2
Oct.	309.2	287.0	291.4	582.6	618.3	728.6
Nov.	305.3	285.3	284.9	590.9	632.6	733.3
Dec.	297.8	279.5	283.0	592.0	646.4	732.0
Average	297.6	279.7	282.1	563.3	616.1	683.6



ISL

Note: For further information, e.g. definition of port regions, please see Definitions.

(Source: ISL Monthly Container Port Monitor 2026)

Fleet and New Construction Data

Country of registration and country of control

Country of registration indicates the country of the port of registry of a country (flag). The country of control is defined as the “Real Nationality”, i.e. the home country of the interests behind the primary reference company. None of the information regarding ownership is intended to confirm or otherwise the legal status of the companies or the ships associated with them

Denmark includes Faeroes, Greenland.

France includes French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Netherlands includes Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, Aruba.

Portugal includes Madeira.

Spain includes Canary Islands.

UK includes Isle of Man, Falkland Island, Turks and Caicos, St. Helens, Jersey.

US includes Puerto Rico.

Broken-up Tonnage

includes ships sold for breaking. Figures on broken-up tonnage are not revised if vessels reported for breaking are trading again.

Merchant Ship Type Structures

Based on „An International Classification of Ships by Type“ (ICST (1994)

Definition of terms used in merchant ship structures type classification.

Tanker: Single-deck vessel constructed and arranged for the carriage of liquid cargoes in tanks integral to the hull and include crude oil or non-hazardous (IMO code) refined products.

Chemical tanker: Vessel constructed and arranged for carrying hazardous (IMO code) cargoes in special tanks.

Liquid gas tanker: Vessel constructed and arranged for the carriage of liquefied gases either in integral tanks or independent tanks under pressure or refrigerated.

Dry Bulk: Dry cargo vessel. One deck, machinery aft with topside tanks capable of carrying a variety of self-trimming cargoes.

Ore Carrier (Bulk Carrier): Dry cargo vessel, one deck, strengthening for ore cargoes.

Ore/Bulk/Oil Carrier (OBO): Bulk carrier arranged for the carriage of either bulk dry cargoes or liquid cargoes in the same cargo spaces but not simultaneously.

General Cargo: Single or multi-deck general dry cargo vessel with facilities for loading/ discharging cargo.

Specialised Carrier (Special Ship): Dry cargo vessel specially designed for the carriage of particular cargoes, incl. open hatch carriers and reefer fish carriers.

Reefer: Specialised dry cargo vessel with 80 % or more insulated cargo space.

RoRo Cargo/RoRo Passenger: Vessel arranged for Roll-on Roll-off loading / discharging of vehicles (road and/or rail) as cargo and / or passenger conveyances.

Container Ship (Fully Cellular Container Ships): Vessel fitted throughout with fixed or portable cell guides for the carriage of containers above and below the weather deck.

Passenger: Vessel which carries more than 12 fare paying passengers whether berthed or unberthed (ferries).

Clarkson Research Services Limited Disclaimer

“The statistical and graphical Data contained under the heading is drawn from the Clarkson Research Services Limited (“CRSL”) database and other sources. CRSL has advised that: (i) some Data in CRSL’s database is derived from estimates or subjective judgments; and (ii) the Data in the databases of other marine data collection agencies may differ from the Data in CRSL’s database; and (iii) whilst CRSL has taken reasonable care in the compilation of the statistical and graphical Data and believes it to be accurate and correct, data compilation is subject to limited audit and validation procedures and may accordingly contain errors; and (iv) CRSL, its agents, officers and employees do not accept liability for any loss suffered in consequence of reliance on such Data or in any other manner; and (v) the provision of such Data does not obviate any need to make appropriate further enquiries; and (vi) the provision of such Data is not an endorsement of any commercial policies and/or any conclusions by CRSL”.

Basic Ship Type Structure and ISL Ship Type Aggregates

MERCHANT SHIP		STRUCTURES	ISL SHIP TYPES	
			Special Fleet Report	Broken-up tonnage etc.
LIQUID	Oil tankers	- Crude oil tankers - Crude/products tankers - Products tankers	Oil tankers " "	Tankers " "
	Oil / Chemical tankers	- Oil chemical tankers - Chemical tankers - Other tankers	Oil / Chemical tankers " "	Tankers "
	Liquid gas tankers	- LNG carriers - LPG carriers - Other liquid gas carriers	Liquid gas tankers " "	Tankers " "
DRY BULK	Bulk carriers	- bulk carriers	Bulk carriers	Bulk carriers
		- other bulk carriers incl. ore carriers	Other bulk carriers	"
		- Ore/bulk/oil carriers	"	"
		- Ore/oil carriers - Bulk/oil carriers	" "	" "
OHTER DRY CARGO	General cargo ships	of which - Conventional Cargo ships - Special ships - Pure car carriers - Reefer ships - RoRo cargo ships	General cargo ships, of which Conventional Cargo ships Special ships Pure car carriers Reefer ships RoRo cargo ships	General cargo ships, of which Conventional Cargo ships (a) (a) (a)
	Container ships	- Fully cellular container ships	Fully cellular container ships	Fully cellular container ships
	Passenger and passenger cargo ships (b)	of which - Passenger ships - Cargo/RoRo passenger ships	Passenger and cargo passenger ships, of which Passenger ships Cargo/RoRo passenger ships	Passenger ships " "

(a) Included in General Cargo Ships.

(b) Including ships (berthed and unberthed) for passenger transport and passenger carrying vessels like general cargo passenger ships, ro-ro passenger ships (ferries).

► For further explanation (e.g. Trade and Traffic Statistics) please visit: www.isl.org/infoline

ISL Monthly Container Port Traffic Indices 2016 - 2026

ISL's Monthly Container Port Traffic Index is based on monthly container traffic of the world's top container ports. In total, the ports reflected in the index handled approx. 615.7 mill TEU in 2025, equalling around 80 per cent of world container traffic. The monthly TEU volumes per port are available since 2000. The different regions are represented by the following ports:

Japan, S. Korea,

Taiwan: Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo, Yokohama, Busan, Incheon, Kwangyang, Kaohsiung, Keelung, Taichung

China: Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Ningbo, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Xiamen

Other Asia: Bandar Abbas, Ashdod, Haifa, Beirut, Salalah, Dammam, Jeddah, Jebel Ali, Chennai, Nhava Sheva, Manila, Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Port Klang

North-America Pacific: Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seaport Alliance (Seattle, Tacoma), Prince Rupert, Vancouver

North-America Atlantic: Baltimore, Charleston, Houston, Montreal, New York/ New Jersey, Port of Virginia, Savannah

North Europe: Antwerp, Bremen / Bremerhaven, Dublin, Gdansk, Hamburg, Helsinki, Klaipeda, Kotka, Le Havre, Lissabon, Rotterdam, Sines, St Petersburg, Tallinn, Zeebrugge

Mediterranean: Alexandria (Egypt), Ambarli (, Ashdod, Algeciras-La Linea, Barcelona, Beirut, Casablanca, Genoa, Gioia Tauro, Haifa, Marseilles, Mersin, Napoli, Salerno, Port Said, Valencia

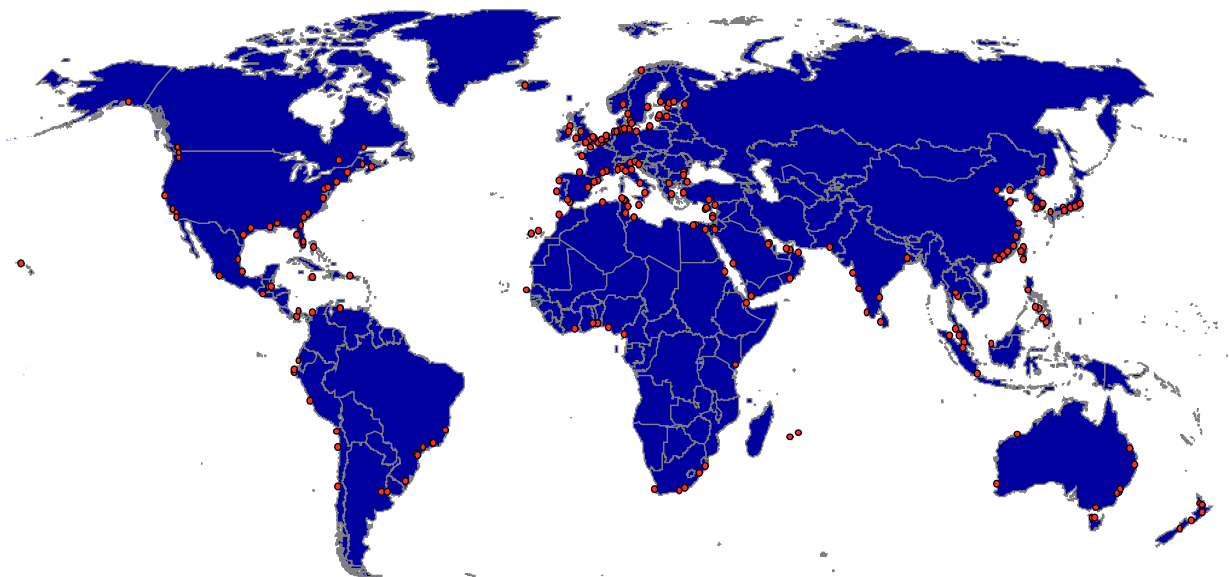
Other Regions: **Africa:** Pointe Noir (Congo), Tanger (Morocco), Capetown, Durban, Ngqura (South Africa). **South and Central America:** Buenos Aires (Argentina), Itajai, Paranagua, Rio Grande do Sul, Santos (Brazil), San Antonio (Chile), Cartagena (Colombia), Guayaquil (Ecuador), Lazaro Cardenas, Manzanillo, Veracruz (Mexico), Balboa, Manzanillo (Panama), Callao (Peru), Montevideo (Uruguay). **Oceania:** Brisbane, Freemantle, Melbourne, Sydney (Australia)

(Source: ISL Port Data Base 2026)

The ISL Port Data Base

the most comprehensive data base in port traffic

The ISL Port Data Base contains structured, comparable data on shipping, cargo and container traffic for more than 400 leading world ports since 1980. The data is constantly updated and completed, including today about 200 items per port and per year. This unique data base is made possible by our network partners throughout the world providing the broad information for our yearly ISL Port Data Base Survey.



Basis of calculation:

Our basis for customised extracts from the Port Data Base is as follows: € 60 - basic fee, plus € 0.60 per item.

The basic fee includes the setting up of a suited layout the addition of the necessary explanatory remarks and footnotes as well as the transmission of the data by E-Mail or by fax. By subscribing to a specified analysis on a yearly basis, you will save the basic fee and get an additional 20 per cent off the other costs starting the second year. Apart from customised database extracts, we provide standardised port profiles and rankings. Please contact us for contractual information.

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ISL - Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics

The ISL - Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics was founded in Bremen in 1954. By combining tradition and modern science, ISL has positioned itself as one of Europe's leading institutions for research, consulting and know-how transfer in maritime logistics.

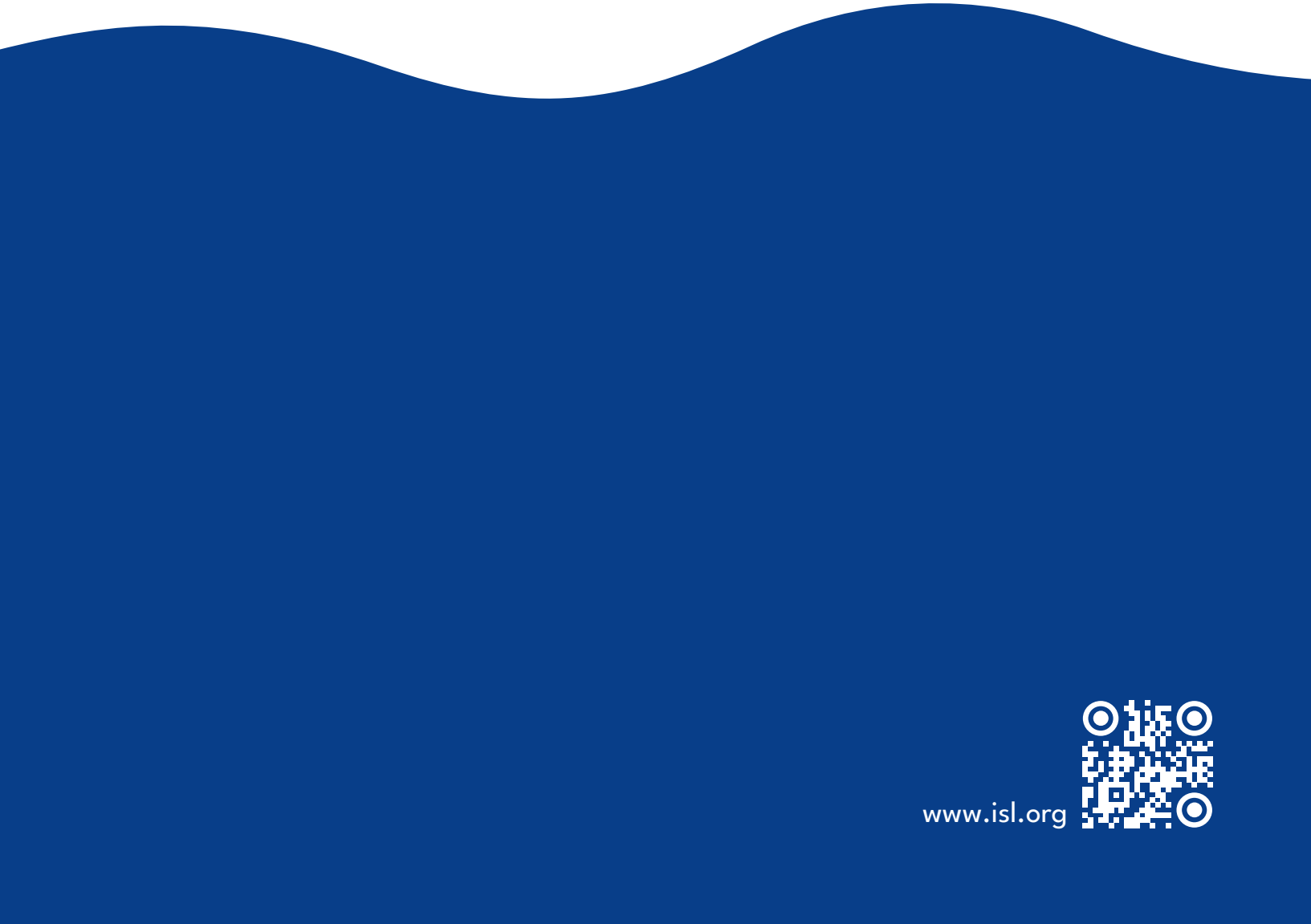
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