



# 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

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**Abbreviations**

|        |                                                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| ARA    | Antwerp/Rotterdam/Amsterdam range                       |
| b/d    | Barrels per day                                         |
| BHP    | Brake horsepower                                        |
| bln    | Billion                                                 |
| CBM    | Cubic metres (also m <sup>3</sup> )                     |
| 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 <sup>3</sup> )                     |
| 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                                 |
| mtb        | 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:  
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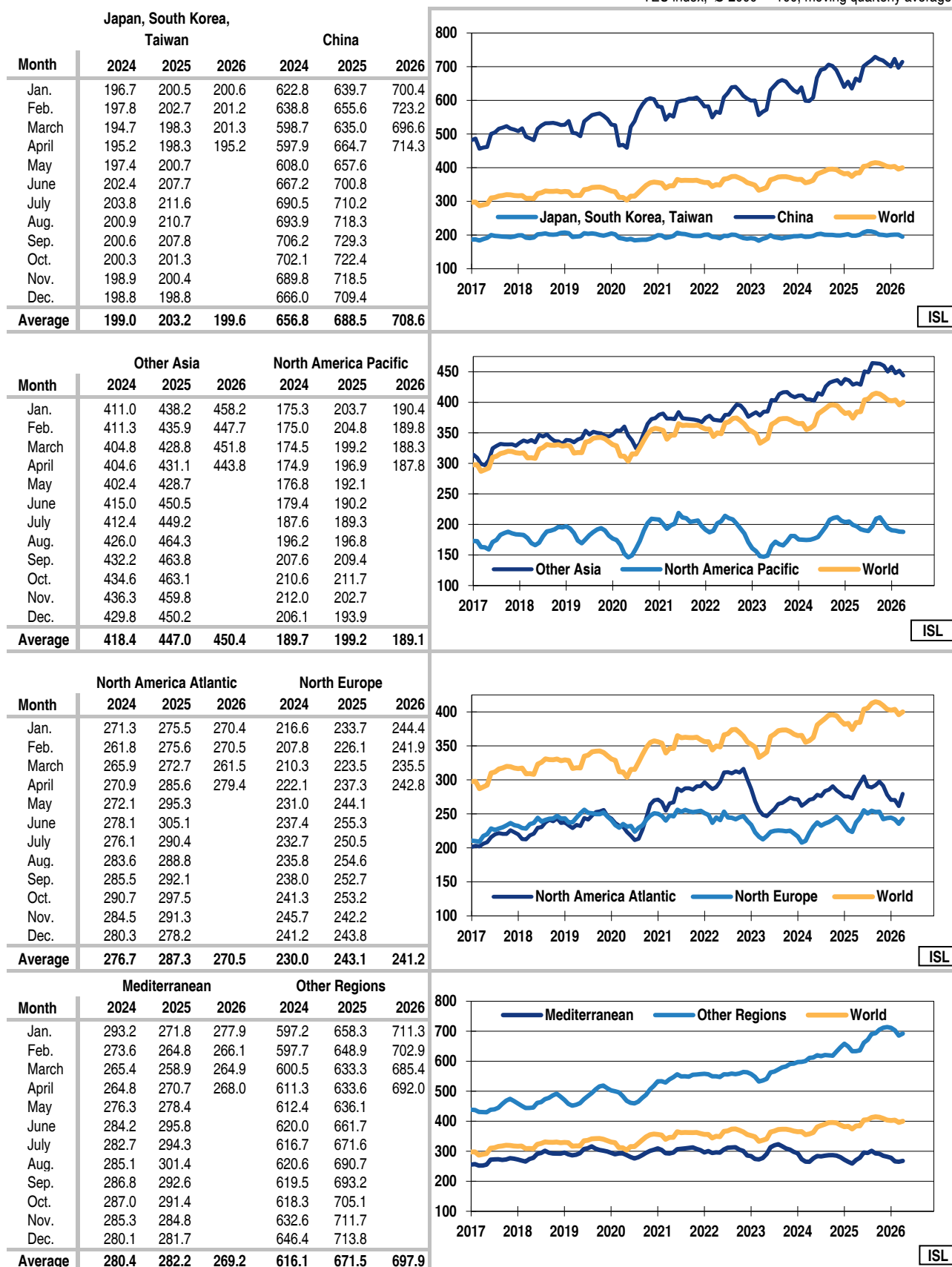
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TEU index; Ø 2000 = 100; moving quarterly averages



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).

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**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<br>- Crude/products tankers<br>- Products tankers                                                               | Oil tankers<br>"<br>"                                                                                                               | Tankers<br>"<br>"                                                              |
|               | Oil / Chemical tankers                  | - Oil chemical tankers<br>- Chemical tankers<br>- Other tankers                                                                     | Oil / Chemical tankers<br>"<br>"                                                                                                    | Tankers<br>"                                                                   |
|               | Liquid gas tankers                      | - LNG carriers<br>- LPG carriers<br>- Other liquid gas carriers                                                                     | Liquid gas tankers<br>"<br>"                                                                                                        | Tankers<br>"<br>"                                                              |
| DRY BULK      | Bulk carriers                           | - bulk carriers<br>- other bulk carriers incl. ore carriers<br>- Ore/bulk/oil carriers<br>- Ore/oil carriers<br>- Bulk/oil carriers | Bulk carriers<br>Other bulk carriers<br>"<br>"<br>"                                                                                 | Bulk carriers<br>"<br>"<br>"<br>"                                              |
|               | OTHER DRY CARGO                         | General cargo ships                                                                                                                 | General cargo ships, of which<br>Conventional Cargo ships<br>Special ships<br>Pure car carriers<br>Reefer ships<br>RoRo cargo ships | General cargo ships, of which<br>Conventional Cargo ships<br>(a)<br>(a)<br>(a) |
|               | Container ships                         | - Fully cellular container ships                                                                                                    | Fully cellular container ships                                                                                                      | Fully cellular container ships                                                 |
|               | Passenger and passenger cargo ships (b) | of which<br>- Passenger ships<br>- Cargo/RoRo passenger ships                                                                       | Passenger and cargo passenger ships, of which<br>Passenger ships<br>Cargo/RoRo passenger ships                                      | Passenger ships<br>"<br>"                                                      |

(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](http://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. 645.6 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, Inchon, 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

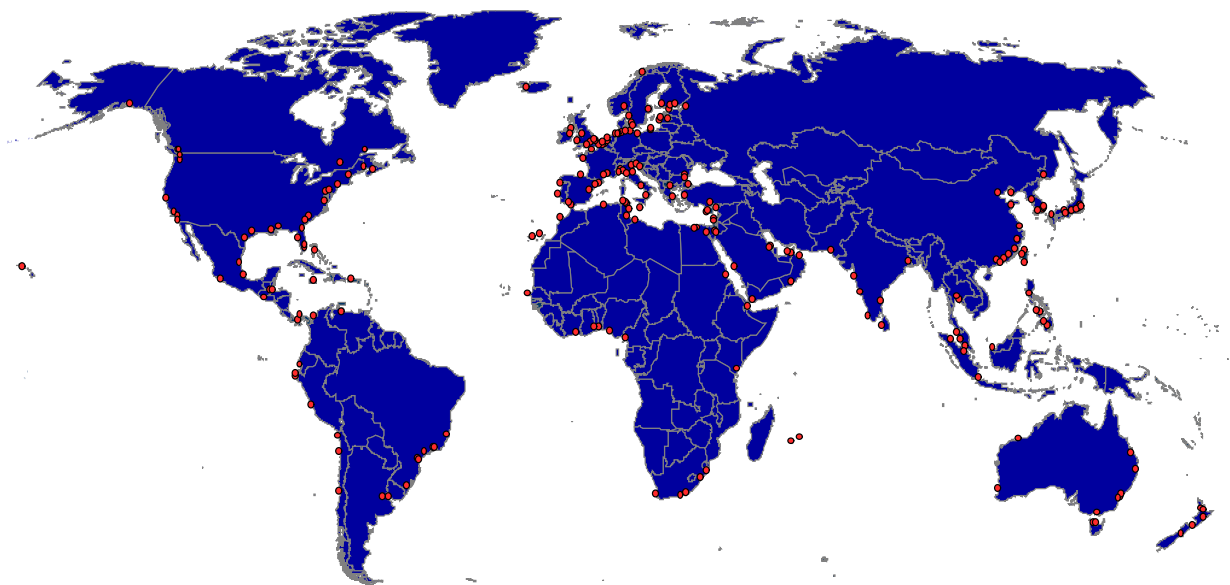
**Other Regions:** **Africa:** Pointe Noir (Congo), Tanger (Morocco), Capetown, Durban, Ngqura (South Africa). **South and Central America:** Buenos Aires (Argentina), Itajai, Paranagua, Rio Grande do Sul, Santos (Brazil), San Antonio (Chile), Cartagena (Colombia), Lazaro Cardenas, Manzanillo, Veracruz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

(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

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