

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

World General Cargo and Ro-Ro Shipping

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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 ³)
CEU	Car equivalent unit
cgt	Compensated gross tonnage
cif	Cost, insurance, freight
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
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
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
1995-2021	From 1995 to 2021 inclusive
2002/03	Crop year, fiscal year etc., beginning in 2002 and terminating in 2003

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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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

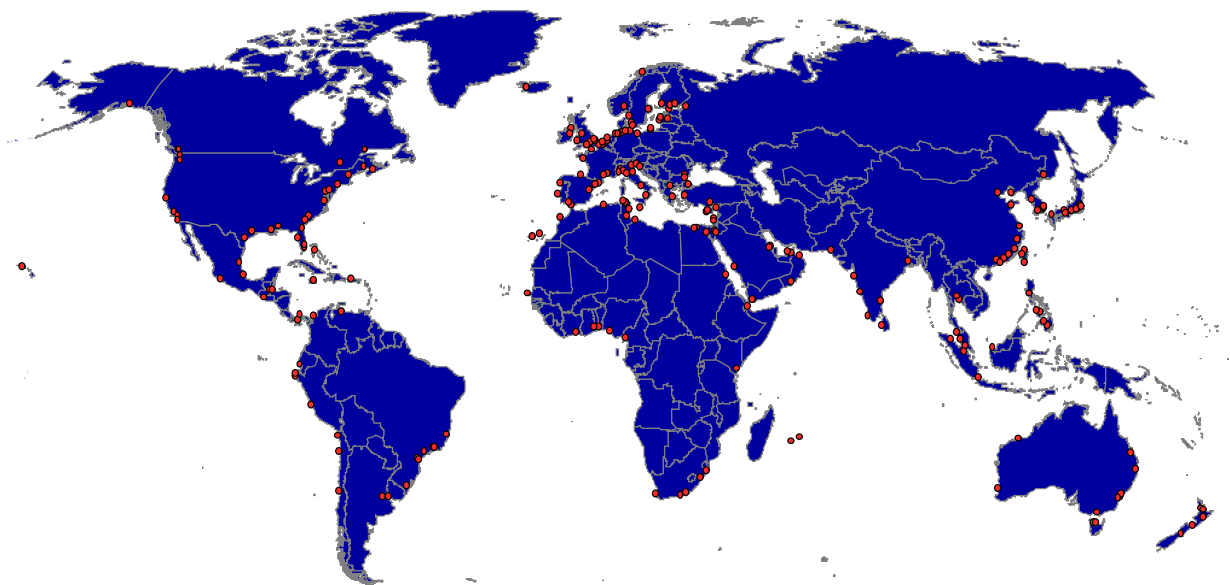
Other Regions: **Africa:** Pointe Noir (Congo), Tanger (Morocco), Capetown, Durban, Ngqura (South Africa). **South and Central America:** Buenos Aires (Argentina), Itajai, Paranagua, Rio Grande do Sul, Santos (Brazil), San Antonio (Chile), Cartagena (Colombia), Lazaro Cardenas, Manzanillo, Veracruz (Mexico), 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.



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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 - 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 - other bulk carriers incl. ore carriers - Ore/bulk/oil carriers - Ore/oil carriers - Bulk/oil carriers	Bulk carriers Other bulk carriers " " "	Bulk carriers " " " "
	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 - 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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