

# Port of Antwerp-Bruges

## Factsheet throughput figures Q1 2025

### Total throughput

In the first quarter of 2025, total maritime cargo throughput reached 67.7 million tonnes— a 4.0% decline compared to the same period in 2024. This drop was primarily due to a significant contraction in bulk traffic.

### Containers

Container throughput started the year on a strong note, with a **4.6% increase in tonnage and a 4.5% rise in TEUs** (3,436,000 TEU) compared to Q1 last year. Port of Antwerp-Bruges grew its **market share** in the Hamburg-Le Havre range to **30.5%** in 2024, up by 0.6 percentage points. This helped the port move up in the **global container port rankings** from 15<sup>th</sup> to **14<sup>th</sup> place**.

### Conventional general cargo

Traffic in conventional general cargo **dropped by 5.4%** in Q1, largely due to a sluggish February. Iron and steel were particularly hard hit, with a 14.3% drop (inbound -13.7%, outbound -15.1%). Steel still accounted for 70.5% of the total volume in this segment, compared to the historical average of 75%. This decline reflects ongoing weakness in the economic climate, especially in the construction and automotive industries. On a positive note, gains were seen in paper and pulp (+48.0%), fruit (+3.9%), and timber (+2.9%).

### RoRo

RoRo business **increased** slightly in Q1, **up 1.1%** compared to the same period last year. The number of new cars handled dropped by 11.3% (inbound -8.8%, outbound -13.5%), in line with the challenges faced by Europe's automotive sector: new vehicle registrations in the EU declined by 3.4% in January-February, and by as much as 8.1% in Belgium. High & heavy equipment also saw a minor decline of 2.8%. Other RoRo segments fared better: truck volumes rose by 4.8%, and second-hand car traffic surged by 49.6%. Unaccompanied freight grew by 3.1%, with stable flows to the UK (+0.6%) and notable growth in shipments to Ireland (+9.4%) and Scandinavia (+10.3%). However, transshipments to the Iberian Peninsula dropped by 12.6%.

### Dry bulk

Dry bulk throughput reached 3.5 million tonnes in Q1, essentially **stable** year-on-year (-0.8%). Fertilisers, the largest product category in this segment, continued to perform well with a 4.3% rise, as did scrap (+8.5%) and kaolin (+32.3%). Other commodities fell back: coal throughput declined by 4.3%, sand and gravel by 9.9%, and other building materials and non-ferrous ores by 22% and 8.3%, respectively.

### Liquid bulk

Liquid bulk throughput took a sharp hit, **falling by 19.1%** compared to Q1 2024. Among liquid fuels, gasoline dropped by 45.7%, fuel oil by 32.1%, and naphtha by 34.7%. LNG also saw a steep decline of 44.4%, whereas LPG surged by 32.2%. Diesel bucked the trend with a 23.9% rise, and the volume of kerosene handled was 2.7 times higher than the same period last year. Chemical throughput grew by 10.9% overall (inbound +9.5%, outbound +13.6%), largely driven by a **strong 128% surge in biofuels**. Without that boost, the chemical segment would have seen a slight year-on-year drop (-1.7%; inbound -1.9%, outbound -1.2%). Europe's chemical industry remains under considerable pressure in terms of global competitiveness.

## Cruises

Zeebrugge welcomed 26 cruise ships in Q1 2025, a 36.8% increase from the previous year. A total of 112,149 passengers arrived at the port.

## Seagoing vessels

In Q1 2025, a total of 4,984 seagoing vessels called at Port of Antwerp-Bruges, a modest 2.7% increase compared to the previous year. The gross tonnage of these vessels dropped by 3.3% to 160,237,812.

