

Port of Antwerp-Bruges

Factsheet throughput figures 2024

Total throughput

In 2024, Port of Antwerp-Bruges' total throughput reached **277.7 million tons**, up **2.3%** from 2023. This growth was mainly driven by the strong performance in container throughput.

Containers

Container throughput in 2024 showed an **increase** of **8.9%** in tonnage and **8.1%** in TEUs. Temperature-controlled cargo (reefer containers) performed particularly well, with 9.2% growth, accounting for 8.6% of total container traffic. The fourth quarter saw an impressive 12.5% increase in TEUs compared to the same period in 2023. In addition, Port of Antwerp-Bruges' market share in the Hamburg - Le Havre range rose 0.7% points to 30.6% (Q1-Q3).

Conventional general cargo

The throughput of conventional general cargo remained **stable** (0.1%) despite the challenging economic conditions. Exports increased slightly by 1.4%, while import decreased by 1.0%. Despite a drop in demand from sectors such as construction and automotive, the throughput of iron and steel showed a growth of 3.8%, i.a. thanks to strong demand from markets such as the United States (+9.1%) and Mexico (+8.1%). However, other products such as wood (-21.7%), paper and cellulose (-31.9%), and building materials (-23.8%) saw sharp declines. In contrast, fresh fruit performed particularly well with growth of 17.0%.

RoRo

RoRo throughput **decreased** by **3.4%** in 2024 compared to 2023. This decline was noticeable in transportation equipment, such as new cars (-9.4%), used cars (-31.8%), trucks (-3.2%) and High & Heavy (-22.0%). Belgian car sales were down 5.8% (Jan-Nov), and European electric vehicle sales were also down 5.4% (YTD), mainly due to a sharp drop in Germany.

The throughput of unaccompanied cargo on RoRo vessels in Zeebrugge increased by 3.4%, with decreases in traffic to the UK (-2.8%) offset by increases to Ireland (+1.4%), Scandinavia (+16.3%) and Spain/Portugal (+34%).

Dry bulk

Total throughput of dry bulk **grew** slightly in 2024 by **0.4%**, where an increase in exports (+5.3%) partially compensated for a decrease in imports (-2.5%). Fertilisers, the largest product category within dry bulk, recorded growth of 22.9% thanks to a strong recovery after declines in 2022 and 2023. Other product groups, such as scrap (+3.5%), non-ferrous ores (+12.5%) and building materials (+11.3%), also showed increases. In contrast, coal throughput fell significantly by 35.4%, contributing to the overall decline. Indeed, dry bulk, excluding energy products such as coal and wood pellets, grew by 9.4%.

Liquid bulk

Liquid bulk throughput **fell** by **5.8%** in 2024. This decline was mainly caused by a decrease in liquid fuels (-10.8%) and LNG (-21.9%). Diesel saw a significant decrease of 22.3% due to low demand and high stocks, while other fuels had mixed results: gasoline (-0.4%), kerosene (+14.8%), naphtha (-2.0%), lubricants (+35.7%) and LPG (+5.5%). Chemicals experienced strong growth (+14.8%), mainly due to a strong increase in biofuels (+60.1%), while chemical gases (+9.5%) and basic chemicals (+11.5%) also performed positively. However, the competitiveness of the European chemical sector remains under pressure.

Cruises

In 2024, Zeebrugge welcomed **187 cruise ships**, ten more than the previous year. A total of 557,000 passengers arrived at the port.

Seagoing vessels

In 2024, **20,195 ocean-going vessels** called at Port of Antwerp-Bruges, a slight **increase of 0.2%** compared to 2023. The gross tonnage of these vessels fell by 3.7% to 632.4 million GT.

