

Port of Antwerp-Bruges

Fact sheet: Throughput Figures H1 2025



Total throughput

In H1 2025, Port of Antwerp-Bruges' total maritime cargo throughput was **137.2 million tonnes**, **4.3% less** than the same period in 2024. The decline was mainly due to a sharp drop in bulk cargo volumes (-16.2%), while general cargo (containers, conventional general cargo and RoRo) increased by 2.9%.



Containers

Container traffic remained remarkably resilient despite ongoing logistical issues and other challenges. Compared to H1 2024, throughput **increased 3.6% in tonnage** (77 million tonnes) and **3.7% in TEU** (6.91 million TEUs). Port of Antwerp-Bruges' market share in the Hamburg-Le Havre Range held steady at 30.4% in Q1 2025. In the global ranking of the largest container ports, Port of Antwerp-Bruges moved from the 15th to the 14th position in 2024.



Conventional general cargo

Conventional general cargo throughput was **4.3% lower** than in H1 2024. Iron and steel in particular showed a negative trend, with a 12% decline (imports -11.3%, export -12.9%). Notably, exports of steel to the United States increased by 6.3%, despite the current 50% import duties. Other cargo types in this segment showed strong growth: paper and pulp up 60%, fruit up 4%, and other general cargo up 21.5%.



RoRo

RoRo activity **rose slightly** compared to H1 2024 (+1.4%). The number of new vehicles handled fell by 5.3% (imports -4.8%, exports -5.7%), reflecting the decline in new car registrations in Belgium (-9.7%) and neighbouring countries. However, the second quarter showed recovery after a weak start to the year. Throughput of used cars increased by 34.7%, while trucks (+6.9%) and high & heavy equipment (+4.3%) also saw growth. Unaccompanied freight throughput saw a slight decline (-1%), with regional variations: down to the UK (-1.4%) and the Iberian Peninsula (-19.4%), stable volumes to Scandinavia, and growth to Ireland (+13.2%).



Dry bulk

Dry bulk throughput **dropped by 11%** to 6.8 million tonnes compared to H1 2024. The sharpest declines were seen in sand and gravel (-9%), other building materials (-16.6%) and coal (-40.5%), a result of the ban on imports from Russia. Fertiliser imports rose by 22.4%, partly in anticipation of tighter EU import tariffs on Russian goods, while exports fell by 16.3%. Positive developments in this segment came scrap metal (+9.9%) and china clay (+29%).



Liquid bulk

Liquid bulk throughput **declined 17.1%** in H1 2025 compared to the same period last year. Liquid fuels (-23.6%), naphtha (-31.3%) and LNG (-26.7%) declined particularly sharply, because of higher freight rates driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the full-capacity operation of the Dangote mega-refinery, and EU sanctions. Only LPG (+20.7%) and kerosene (+62.4%) showed growth, driven by the lower price of propane versus the alternative naphtha and a strong start to the flight season. Chemicals throughput increased by 8.9%, largely thanks to a 68% rise in biofuels. Excluding biofuels, chemical throughput remained virtually stable (+0.9%), illustrating the continued pressure on the European chemicals industry, with further closures announced (TotalEnergies, Versalis, Dow, Sasol, etc.).

Cruises

In the first six months of 2025, Zeebrugge welcomed **83 cruise ships**, a **1.2% increase** compared to the previous year. A total of 256.579 passengers arrived at the port.

Seagoing vessels

In H1 2025, a total of **10,042 seagoing vessels** called at Port of Antwerp–Bruges, a **1.4% increase** compared to the previous year. The gross tonnage of these vessels rose by 2.4% to 323,220,011 GT.

