

Port of Antwerp-Bruges

Fact sheet: Throughput Figures third quarter 2025



Total throughput

In the first three quarters of 2025, the total maritime throughput of Port of Antwerp-Bruges reached 202.6 million tonnes, 3.8% lower than in the same period last year. The decline is primarily due to bulk traffic (-12.8%), whereas the general cargo segment – including containers, conventional general cargo and RoRo – grew by 1.3%.



Containers

After a strong start to the year, container throughput lost some momentum from August onwards: the third quarter remained 2.4% below the level of the third quarter in 2024. Nevertheless, the balance over the first nine months is positive, with growth of 1.1% in tonnage (113.5 million tonnes) and 1.6% in TEUs (10.3 million TEUs). The market share in the Hamburg-Le Havre range declined slightly in the first half of 2025, by 0.7 percentage points to 29.8%. Traffic with the Far East increased by 4.1%, driven by higher imports (+3.2%) and exports (+4.8%). However, the export of full containers declined by 2.8%, while that of empty containers rose by 15.6%, a clear sign of the weaker European export position.



Conventional general cargo

Despite a decline in the first half of the year, the volume of conventional general cargo stabilised after nine months at last year's level. Throughput of iron and steel still declined by 4.4%, but this is a clear improvement compared with -11.7% at mid-year. Imports increased by 2.4%, while exports fell further (-13.8%), mainly due to reduced export to the United States (-36% compared with the second quarter) and Mexico. Steel imports from China rose to 400,000 tonnes (+46%) in the first three quarters, comparable with supplies from India (440,000 tonnes, -30%), Turkey (402,000 tonnes, +138%) and South Korea (397,000 tonnes, +13.7%). Other cargo traffic increased by 18.4%, thanks to higher volumes of fruit (+11%), steel structures (+23%) and other general cargo (+25%), while wood fell slightly (-4%).



RoRo

RoRo throughput increased 3.3% in the first nine months of 2025. A total of 2.34 million new vehicles were handled at the port, almost the same as last year (-0.9%). Notably, imports from China grew strongly (+19.7%), with China overtaking Japan as the main country of origin. Truck imports (+7.7%), high and heavy equipment (+5.1%) and used vehicles (+53%) also saw an increase. The traffic of unaccompanied cargo remained stable (+0.1%), with lower volumes to the United Kingdom (-0.6%) and an increase towards Ireland (+11.4%) and Scandinavia (+2.8%).



Dry bulk

In the first nine months of 2025, 10.1 million tonnes of dry bulk were handled, 8.9% less than last year. Fertilisers remained relatively stable (-1.1%): imports increased by 12.9%, due to a doubling of Russian shipments in anticipation of new EU tariffs, alongside a growing share from alternative origin countries such as Morocco. Exports, which represent two thirds of fertiliser trade, fell by 8.9%, driven by weaker shipments to Turkey, Italy and various markets in Africa and Latin America. Positive outliers included scrap (+9.2%) and kaolin (+24.7%), while coal (-44.5%), sand and gravel (-13.2%), other building materials (-10.9%) and non-ferrous ores (-4.1%) declined.



Liquid bulk

Throughput of liquid bulk in the first nine months of 2025 totalled 55.9 million tonnes, a decrease of 13.5% compared with last year. Petroleum derivatives, which account for 62% of this segment, fell by 18% due to the loss of gasoline exports to West-Africa as a result of stricter European regulations, and lower imports from the United Kingdom. Only kerosene recorded strong growth (+77%). Energy gases (propane and butane) rose by 12.6%, while naphtha (-25.3%) and LNG (-15.1%) declined. Chemical throughput remained stable (+1.9%), largely thanks to biofuels (+41.7%); excluding this component, the chemicals volume was 4.3% lower. The European chemical sector continues to face pressure from high energy costs, dumping from China, and weak demand.



Seagoing vessels and Cruises

In the first three quarters of 2025, 15,436 **seagoing vessels** called at the port, an increase of 2.8%. Their combined gross tonnage increased by 3.3%. In the same period, Zeebrugge received 392,500 cruise passengers (-4.9%) aboard 139 **cruise ships**, four fewer than last year.



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