

JUN 30, 2025



INDUSTRY UPDATES

FREIGHT FORWARDING

STABLE DEMAND OUTLOOK DESPITE US TRADE POLICY UNCERTAINTY

BIMCO's June 2025 market update shows container shipping demand has remained stable, with global volumes up 5.1% year-on-year for the period January to April 2025. Despite looming U.S. tariff changes creating uncertainty, freight rates remain elevated.

However, BIMCO warns that with a 7.8% increase in fleet capacity expected this year, the current supply-demand balance could soften by the end of 2025. Carriers may face challenges in maintaining rates unless blank sailings or idling strategies are implemented.

CONTAINER RATES SPIKE AS SHIPPERS FRONT-LOAD

As of early June, container freight rates have skyrocketed on the Transpacific routes. Rates to the U.S. West Coast surged to \$5,488/FEU, while East Coast rates jumped 60% to \$6,410/FEU, with some lanes crossing \$7,000/FEU.

This rate hike is largely driven by front-loading cargo ahead of potential tariff increases, tightening vessel space, and early peak-season volume.

MALAYSIAN PORTS REGISTER STRONG Q1 PERFORMANCE

Malaysian ports recorded a combined throughput of 7.70 million TEU in the first quarter of 2025, marking a 6% year-over-year increase.

- Port of Tanjung Pelepas led the growth with 11% higher volumes.
- Port Klang followed with a 2% gain, reflecting steady demand.

The rise is attributed to stronger transshipment activity and growing intra-Asia trade, cementing Malaysia's role as a key logistics hub in Southeast Asia.

HIGHLIGHT

BIMCO: CONTAINER DEMAND REMAINS STABLE

FREIGHT RATES SURGE AMID TARIFF RUSH

MALAYSIAN PORTS POST Q1 GROWTH

IDLE FLEET DROPS SLIGHTLY IN JUNE

HHLA CEO TO STEP DOWN BY YEAR-END

OBS NEWSLETTER QUICK TAKEAWAYS

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IDLE CONTAINER SHIP FLEET SHRINKS TO 0.6% OF CAPACITY

Alphaliner data as of 2 June 2025 shows that the global idle containership fleet decreased to 71 ships totaling 185,200 TEU, or just 0.6% of global fleet capacity.

The number of laid-up vessels increased by 3, but overall TEU dropped by 15,300, indicating that carriers are actively reactivating larger ships to meet rising demand. This trend reflects improved vessel utilization but could contribute to future rate normalization if demand slows.

HHLA CEO ANGELA TITZRATH TO STEP DOWN IN DECEMBER 2025

Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) announced that CEO Angela Titzrath will exit her role by 31 December 2025.

During her tenure, Titzrath led HHLA through significant digital transformation, modernized Hamburg's port infrastructure, and expanded its intermodal rail and inland logistics network across Europe. Her leadership played a key role in repositioning HHLA as a competitive logistics player amid a shifting maritime landscape.

QUICK TAKEAWAYS

-  **Market Resilience** : BIMCO sees stable demand despite swirling trade policy winds.
-  **Shipping Costs** : Rate spikes signal tariff-driven urgency among shippers.
-  **Regional Growth** : Malaysia's ports reflect Asia's steady maritime expansion.
-  **Fleet Demand** : Idle ship capacity drops—fleet utilization is rebounding.
-  **Leadership Change** : HHLA's CEO exit marks a strategic milestone at Europe's key hub.