

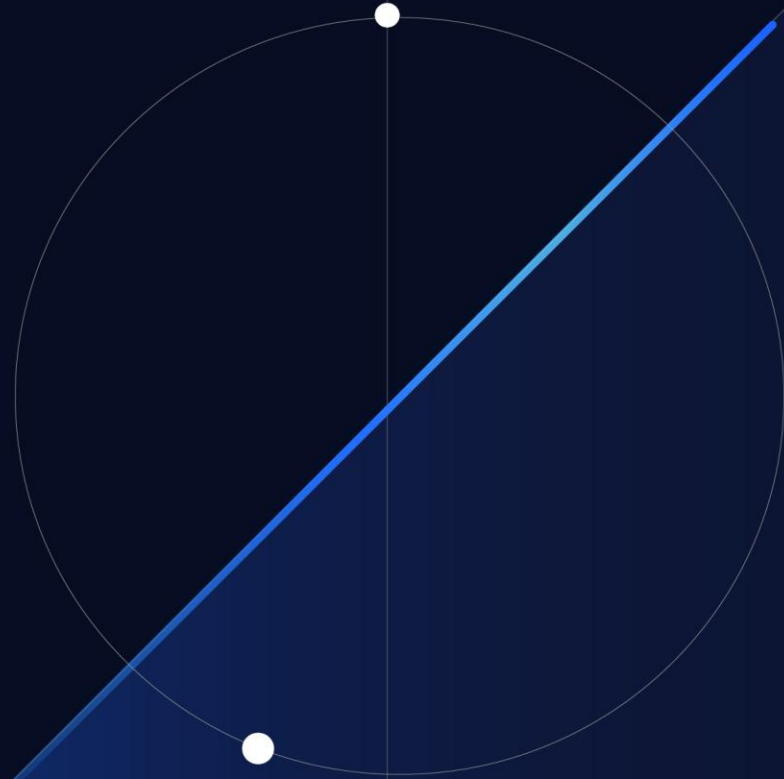


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October 2025 | Container Shipping Trends

Record orderbooks and record volumes

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How to Get Finance On Side and in Support of Your Freight Decisions

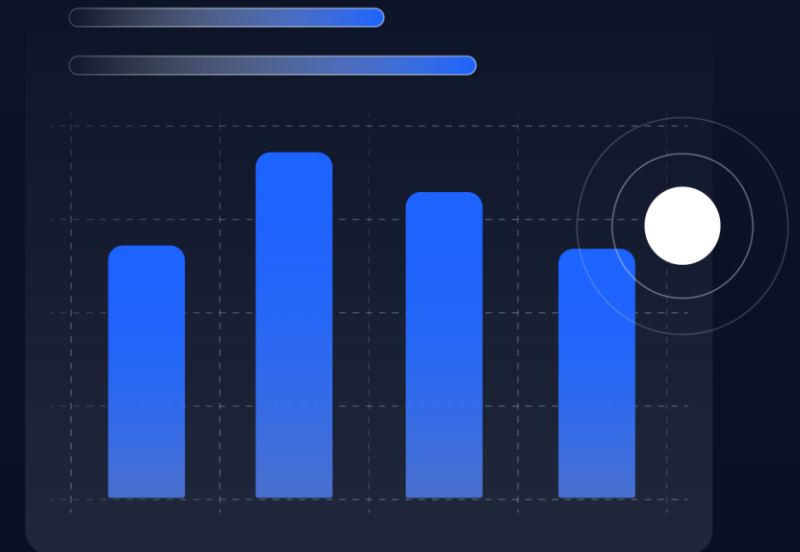
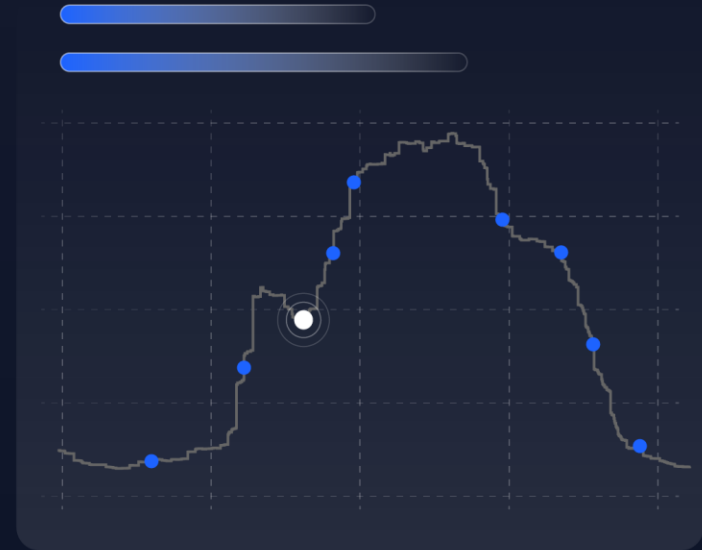
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Ocean container shipping rates can spike unexpectedly – use data and intelligence to understand why and take action

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Monthly Specials!



2026 Ocean Outlook

Customers Exclusive – until 23 October

- **Ask your CSM about it and join the webinar:**
- <https://www.xeneta.com/events/webinar/2026-ocean-outlook>



The graphic features a dark blue background with white text. On the left, the title '2026 Ocean Freight Outlook' is prominently displayed. Below it, a paragraph states: 'Shippers have endured years of chaos. But the tides are changing. Discover what lies ahead in 2026 and how to reimagine freight procurement for greater resilience.' On the right, there is a stack of three overlapping cards. The top card is white with a map of the world. The middle card is white with a line graph. The bottom card is dark blue with the text 'XENETA 2026 Outlook OCEAN FREIGHT' and a white circular button with a right-pointing arrow.

2026 Ocean Freight Outlook

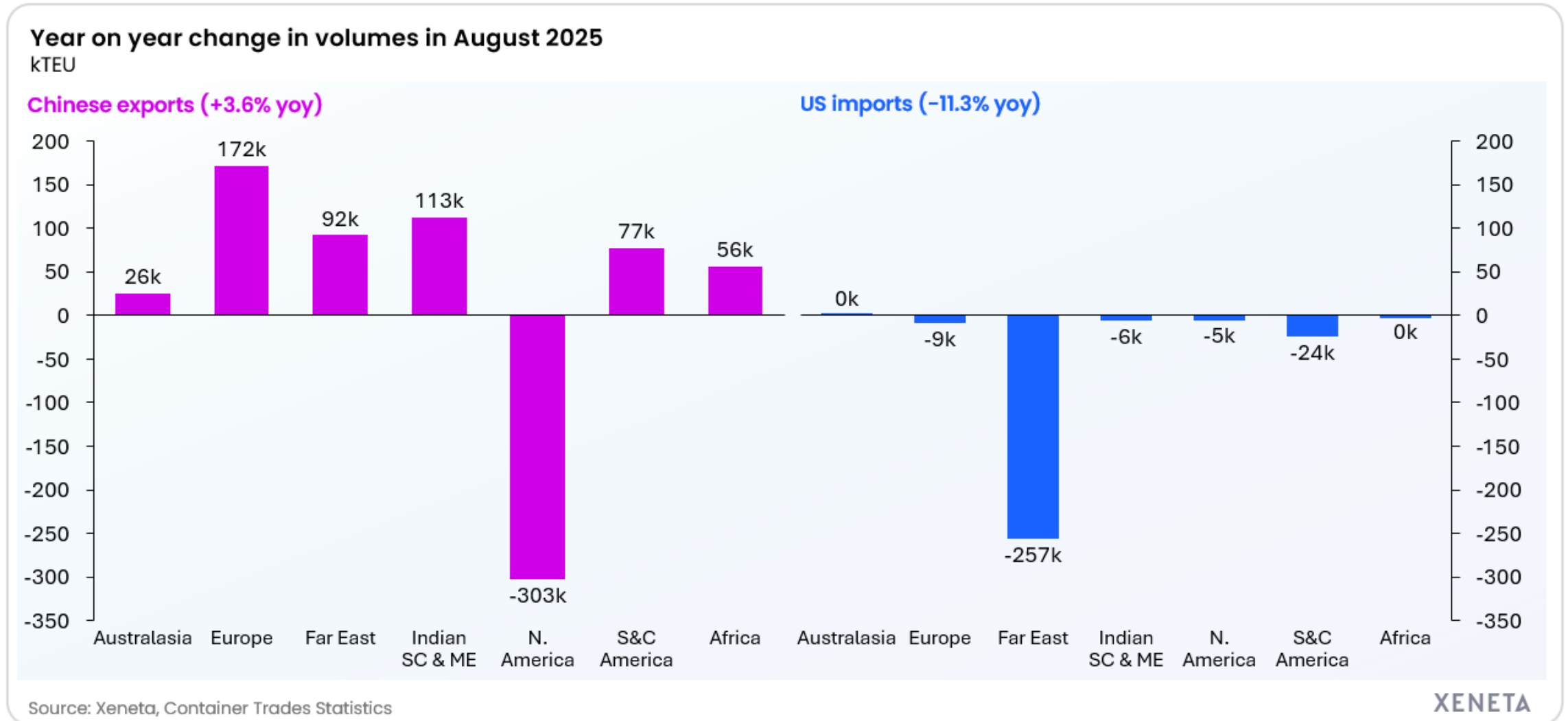
Shippers have endured years of chaos. But the tides are changing. Discover what lies ahead in 2026 and how to reimagine freight procurement for greater resilience.

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2026
Outlook
OCEAN FREIGHT

→

China finding alternatives in 2025 – August import figures

US imports falling across the board

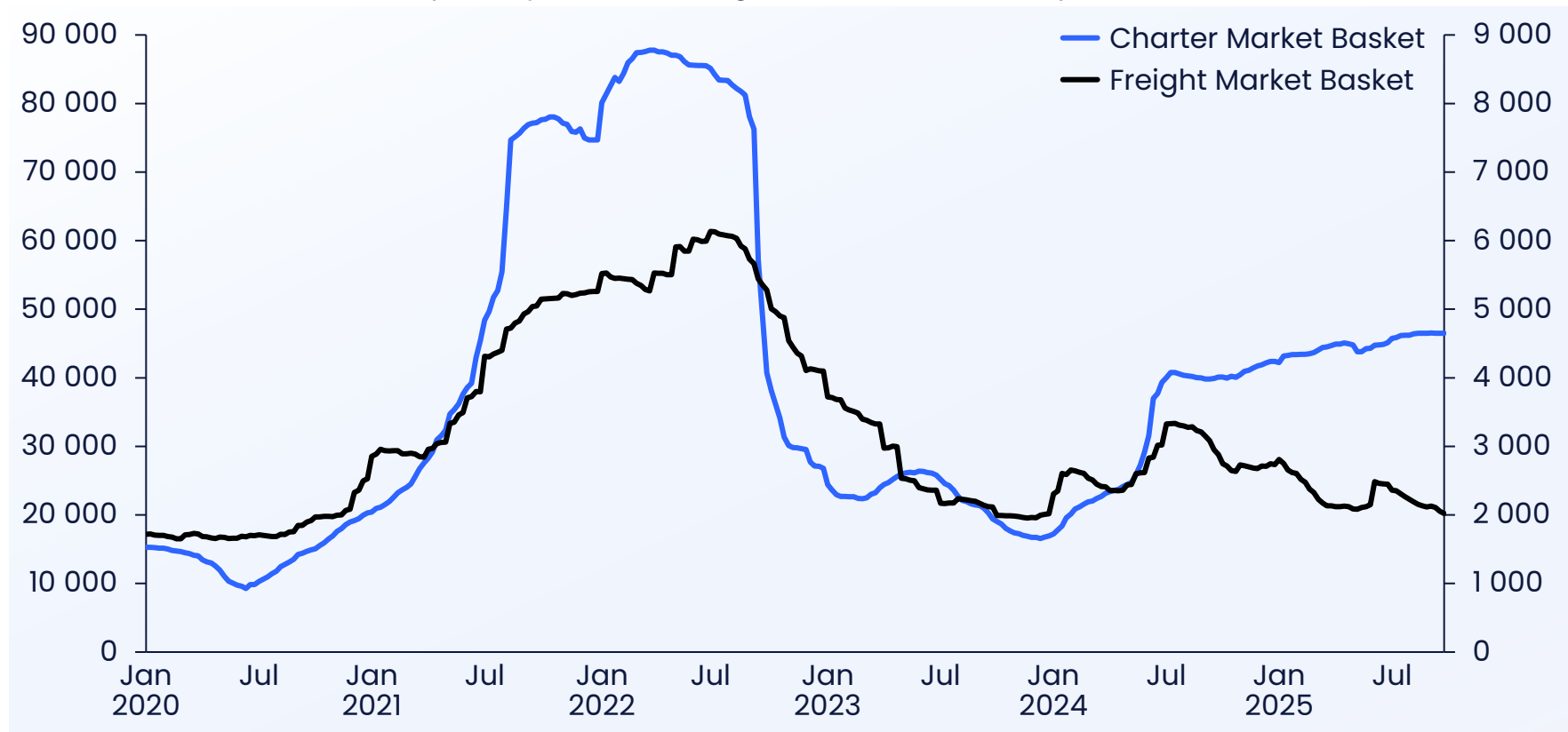


Disconnect between carrier cost and revenue

Could bring tougher contract negotiations as the carrier 'break-even' cost level is elevated

Disconnect between cost and revenue for the carriers?

Charter Market Basket in USD per day (LH axis), Freight Rate Basket in USD per FEU (RH axis)

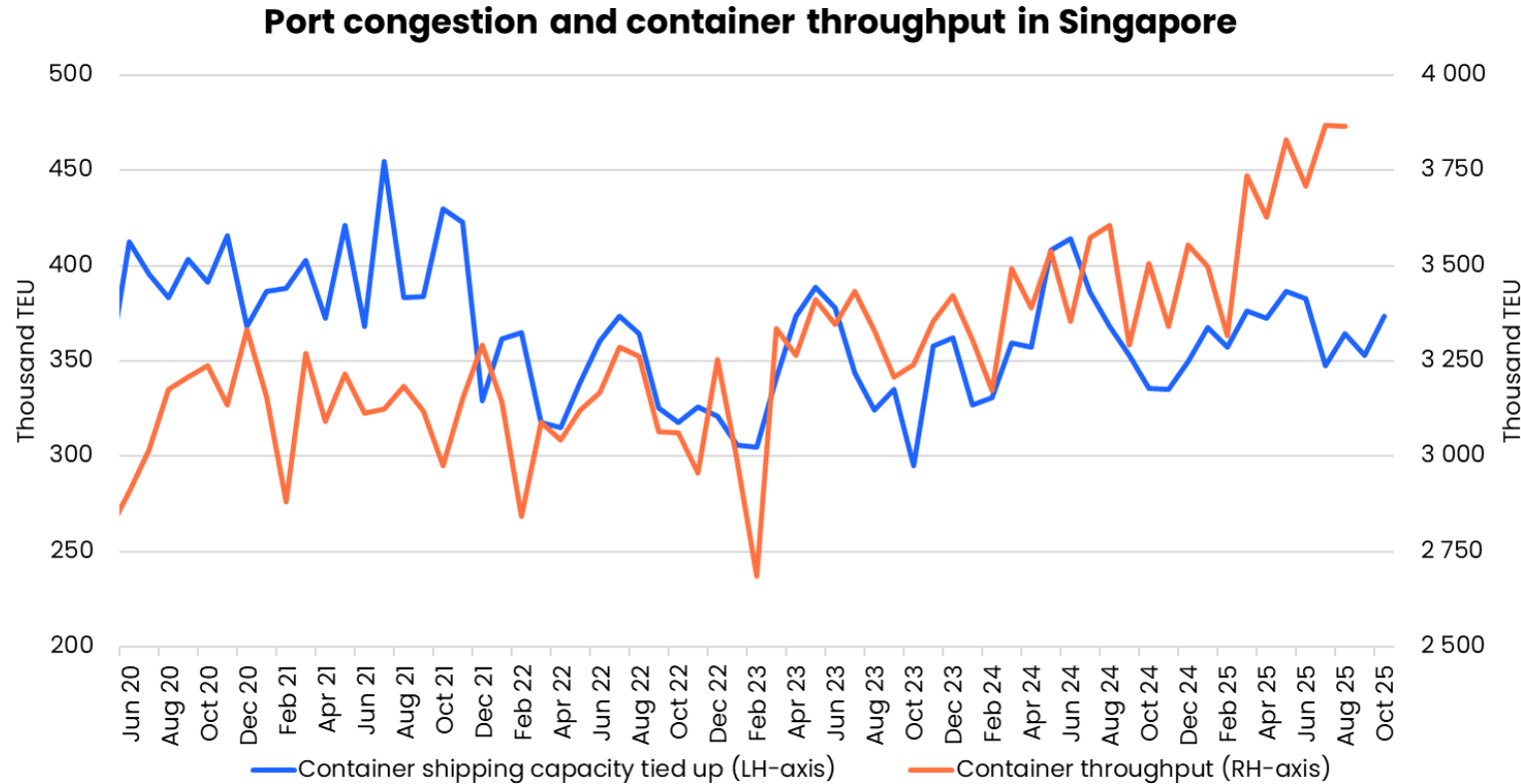


Source: Xeneta, Clarksons

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Singapore port as busy as ever

But this time, without the negative knock-on effect on local and global supply chains



Source: Xeneta, Port of Singapore, Clarksons

Singapore recorded record-high container throughput in March, May and July and almost the same in August – but what were the effects?

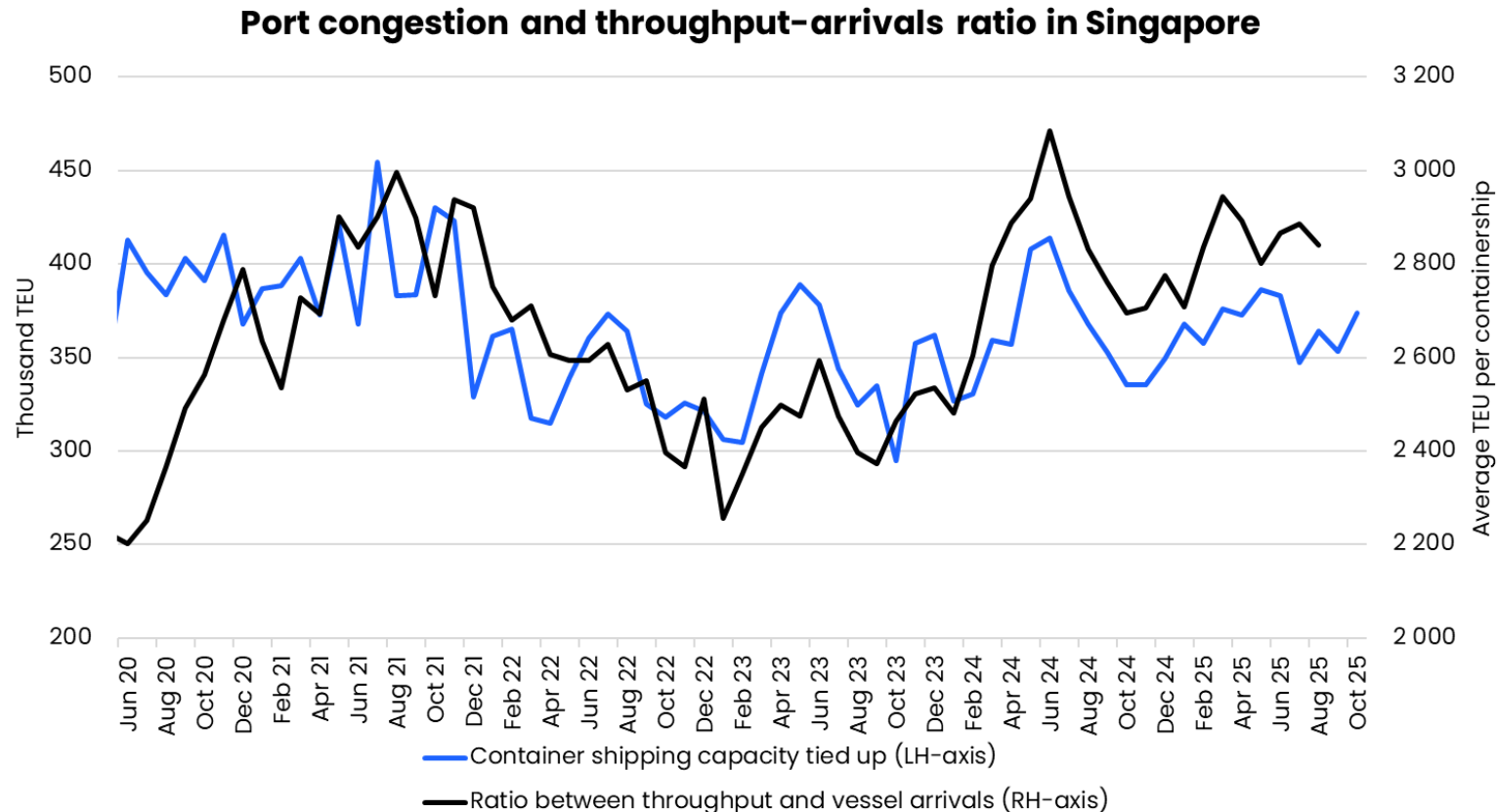
Two conclusions:

1. Congestion did not follow in the wake of the record volumes or bring problems for the local and global supply chains. So, port efficiency gains were instrumental in supporting the record volumes without negative consequences.

2. Average TEU per containership did not soar to levels that could have seen a repeat of the severe supply chain disruptions in Q2-2024. Lower average TEI per ship made faster handling of arrivals possible (see chart on next slide).

Improved balance port calls and average moves

Staying clear of the 2024-peak is essential for port



Source: Xeneta, Port of Singapore, Clarksons

Xeneta data shows Singapore is the world's largest and most important transshipment hub.

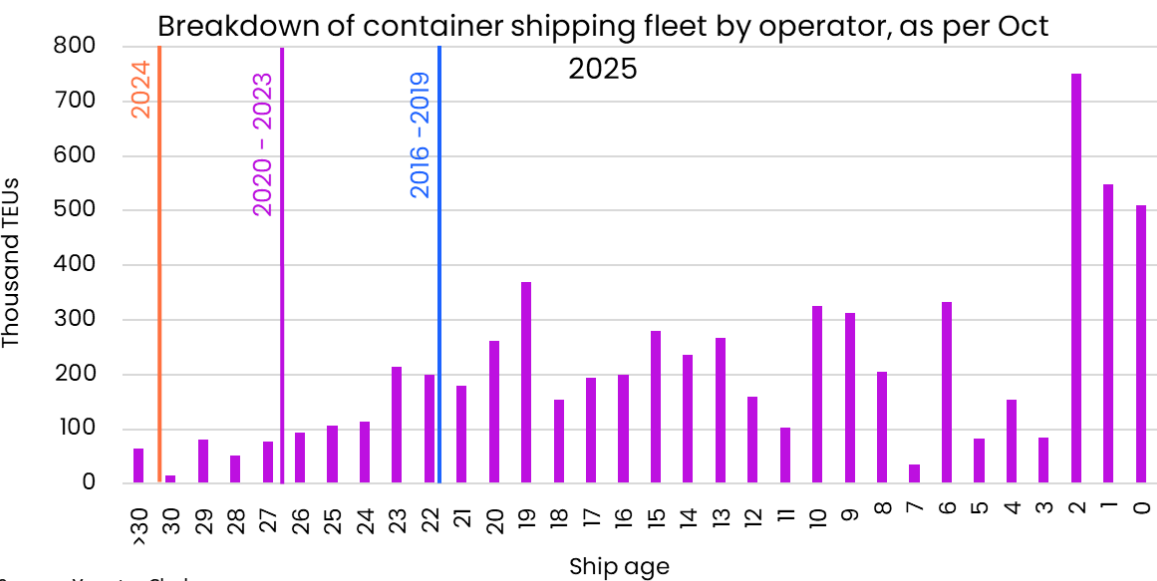
In the context of the tariff war between US and China, it's no coincidence that record high volumes were seen from March onwards. A lot of 'frustrated US-bound cargoes did not cross the Pacific, but instead went in other directions to Europe, Middle East, Africa and South America.

MSC operates 6.7m TEU out of which 55% is owned

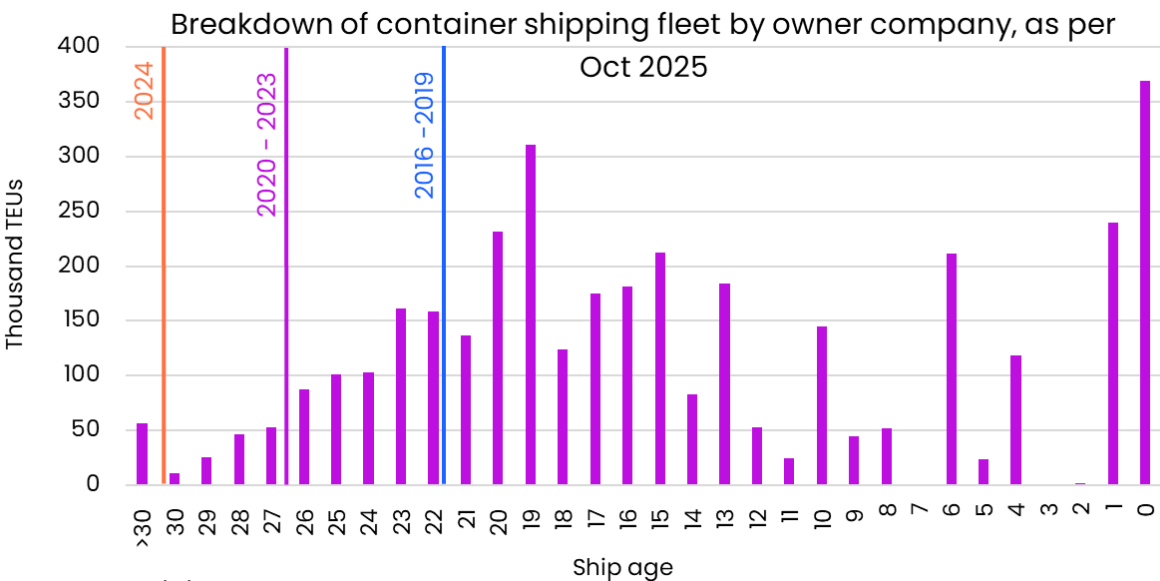
In 2026 carriers own majority of deliveries

Read more about this topic in the Xeneta 2026 Ocean Outlook

Two charts below show the profiles of MSC only. Note that in 2023, 99.8% of deliveries were not owned by MSC.



Source: Xeneta, Clarksons



Source: Xeneta, Clarksons

The vertical lines show the average demolition ages for various periods of time.

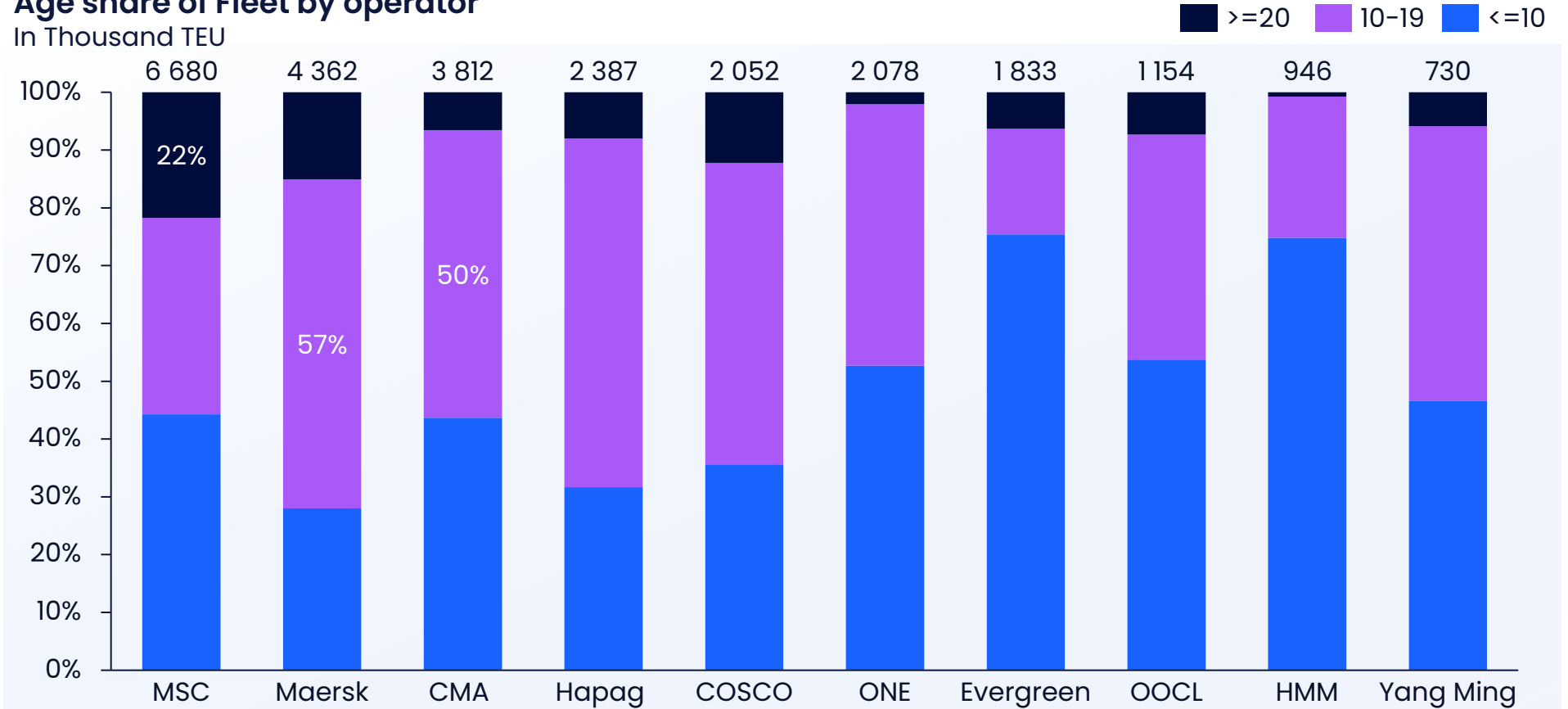
MSC operates fleet with largest of ≥ 20 -year-old vessels

If consider only MSC owned fleet: 31% is 20 years or more – highlighting the demolition potential

- Maersk operates the largest share out of the Top 10 carriers' vessels over the age of 10 years (57%).
- MSC is the only Top 10 carrier with vessel >30 years.
- Way to read this:** 22% of the total 6,680,000 TEU that MSC is operating is at least 20 years old.

Age share of Fleet by operator

In Thousand TEU



Source: Xeneta, Clarksons

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Confused about surcharges? You're not alone

More discussion about surcharges in the "The Freight Debate" Podcast - <https://www.youtube.com/@TheFreightDebate>

There is **significant variance** in not only what different shippers pay for each surcharge, but also which surcharges they are being hit with

- How much a shipper pays in surcharges does not always dictate the **competitiveness** of the all-in rate
- **For example**, in the chart to the right, Shipper B is hit with five different surcharges while Shipper A pays for just two. However, Shipper B has a far more competitive base rate, meaning they pay a much lower all-in rate of USD 2385 per FEU compared to Shipper A at USD 3872 per FEU.
- [Read more](#)

The all-in rate is all-important

The table below shows the all-in rate paid by seven different shippers on the trade from South East Asia to North Europe.

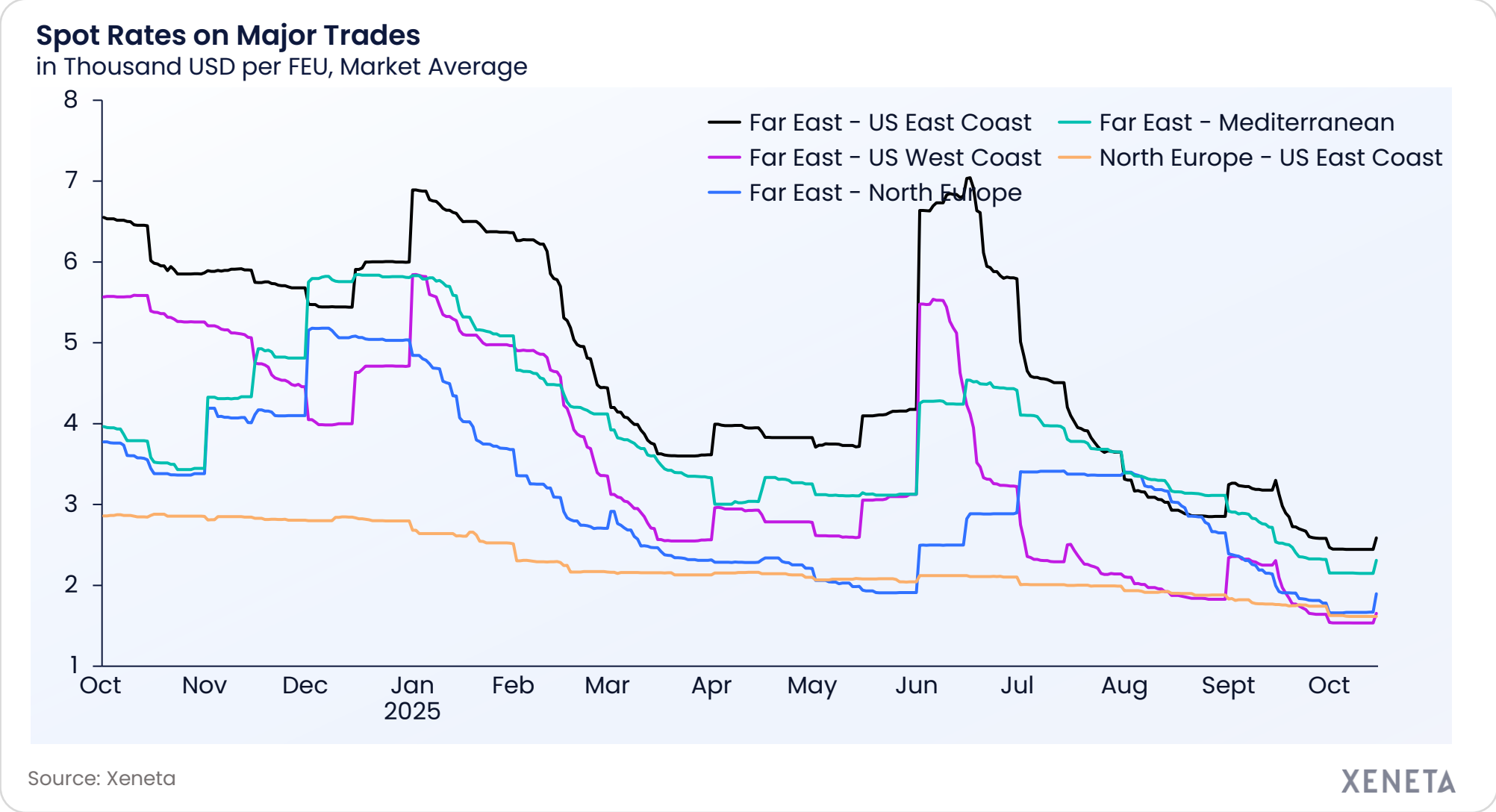
Surcharge (USD / per FEU)	Shipper A	Shipper B	Shipper C	Shipper D	Shipper E	Shipper F	Shipper G
Base rate	3172	795	2800	1430	3592	895	1900
BAF	350	700		700	213	700	
EU ETS		110	52		88	110	
Red Sea	350	110		210		150	
PSS		650	104		20	650	
Other	20			120			
Total	3872	2385	2956	2340	4033	2505	1900

Source: Xeneta

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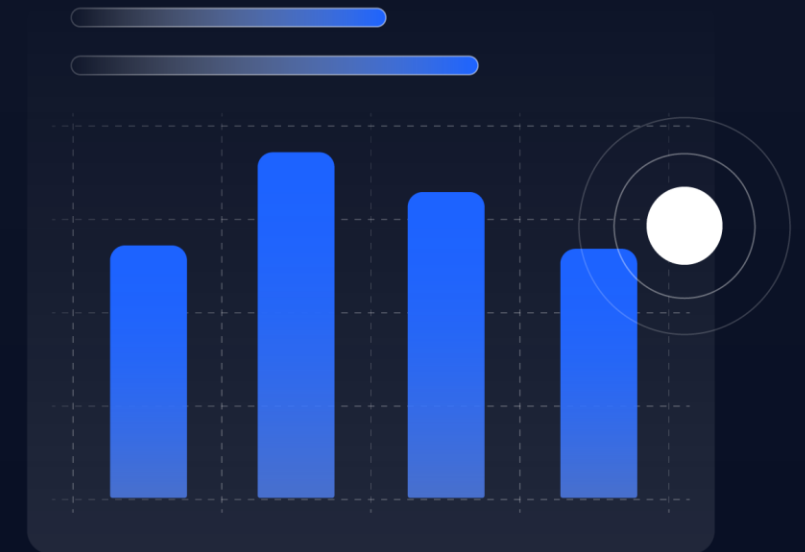
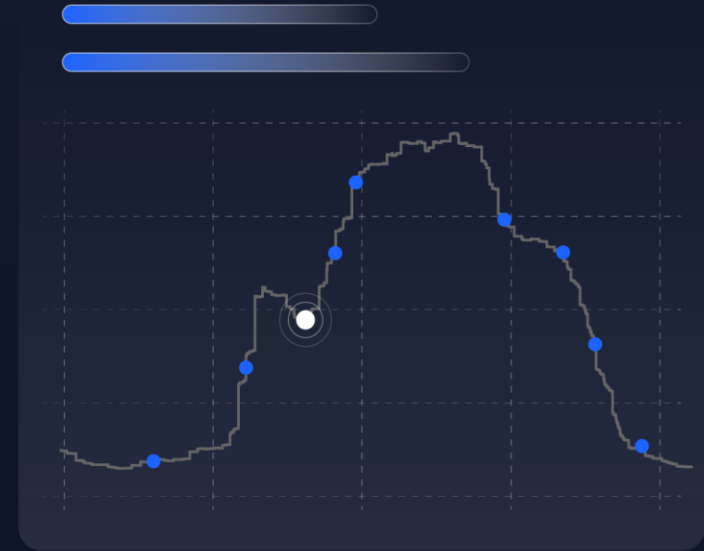
Xeneta Weekly Ocean Container Shipping Market Update

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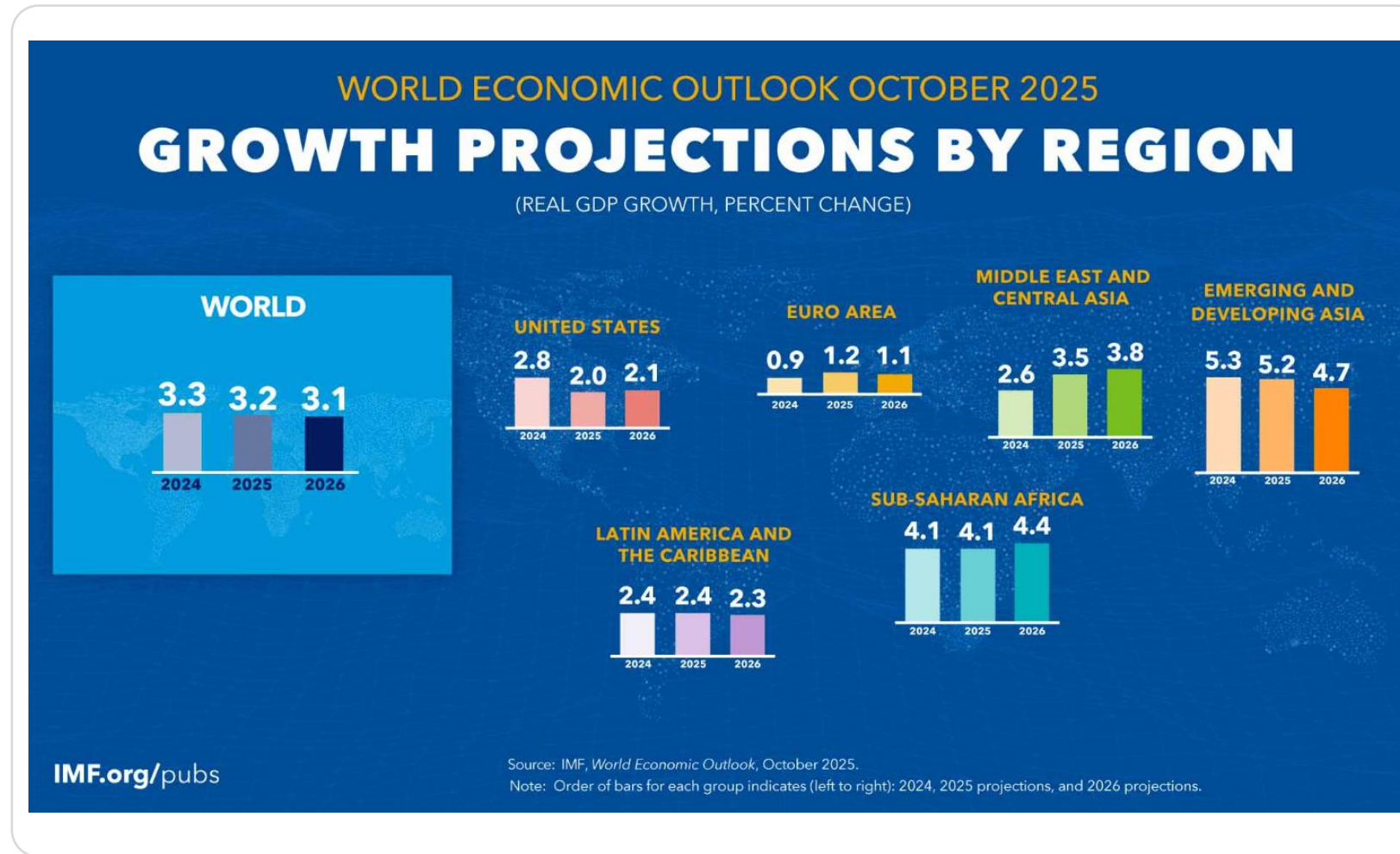
Where's the economy heading?

In the East and in the West



Growth projection for Global Economy revised upwards again

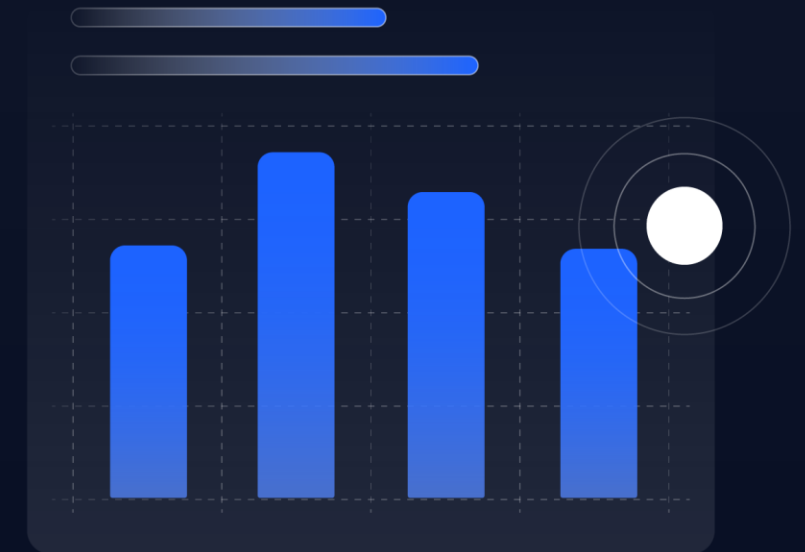
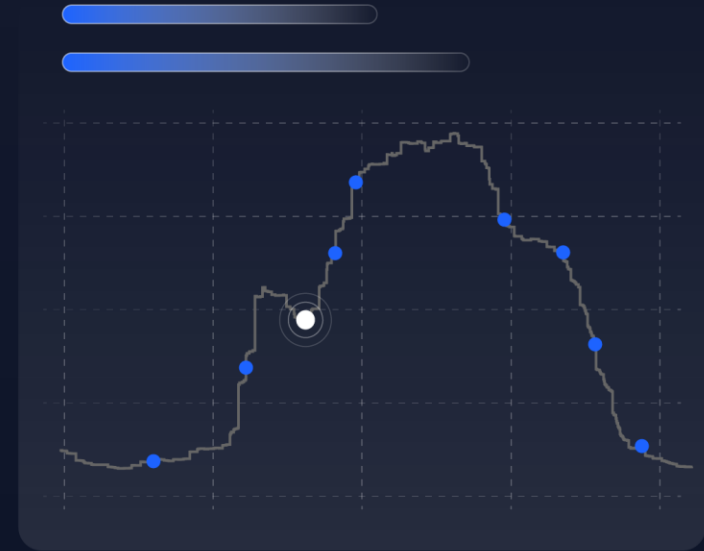
Projection volatility in 2025, second only to that in early Covid-years



- Compared to projections in July '25: 'World' increases again by 0.2 percentage points for 2025.
- United States increases 0.1, Euro Area by 0.2 in 2025.
- Risks to outlook are mainly on the downside, like:
- Prolonged uncertainty, more protectionism, and labor supply shocks could reduce growth.
- Fiscal vulnerabilities, potential financial market corrections, and erosion of institutions could threaten stability.

What's being shipped?

Current Demand Trends

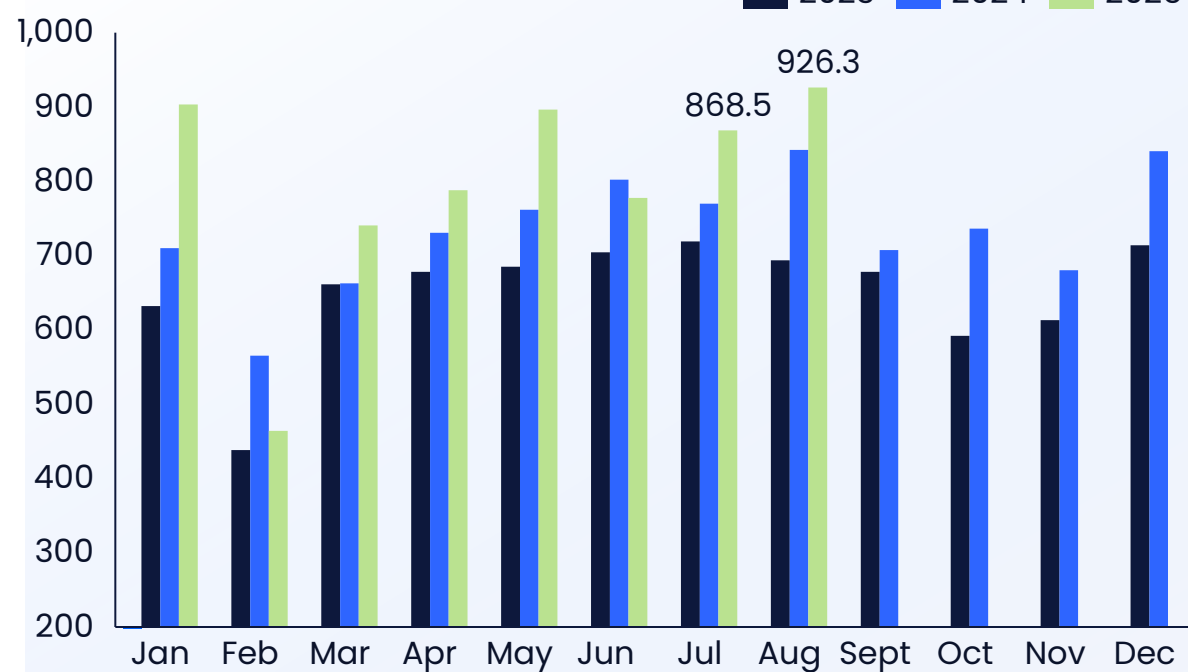


Chinese imports up by 10.3% into Europe – Jan-Aug 2025

- Jan-Aug 2025 volumes rose 8.9% y-o-y from China into North Europe, while jumping 14.1% into the East Med & Black Sea.
- Demand out of Japan/Korea rose 'only' 5.0% in 8m-2025 y-o-y, while falling 7.2% m-o-m.

China to North Europe – Container volumes

in Thousand TEU

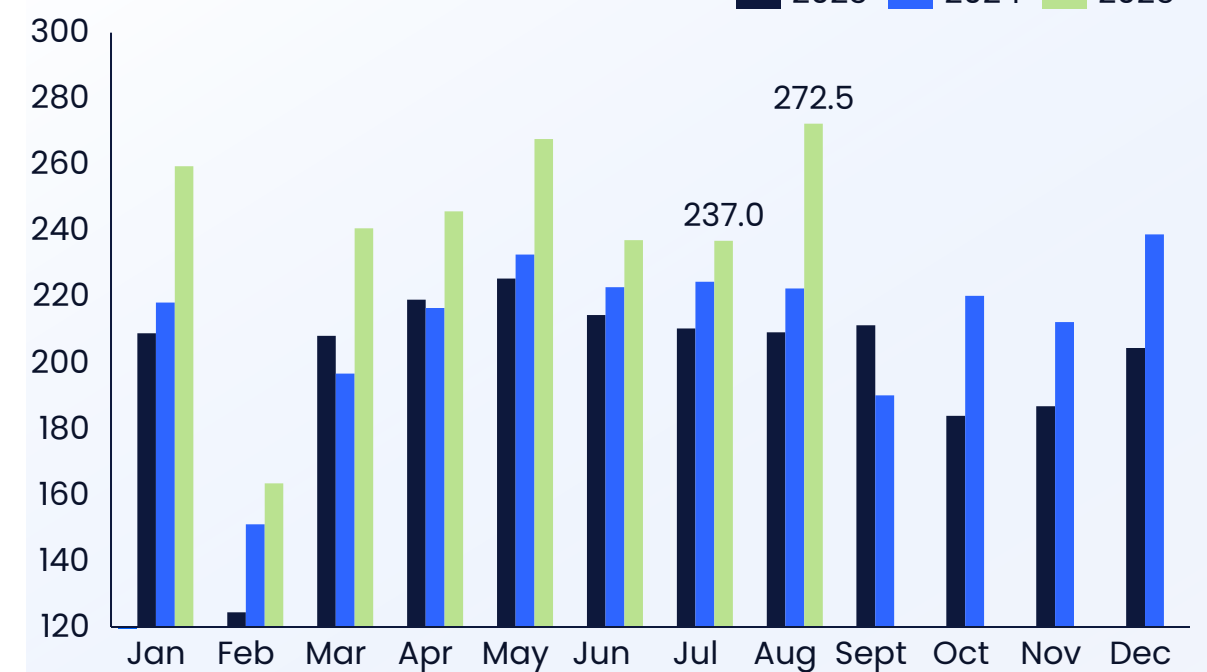


Source: Xeneta, Container Trades Statistics

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China to East Med & Black Sea – Container volumes

in Thousand TEU



Source: Xeneta, Container Trades Statistics

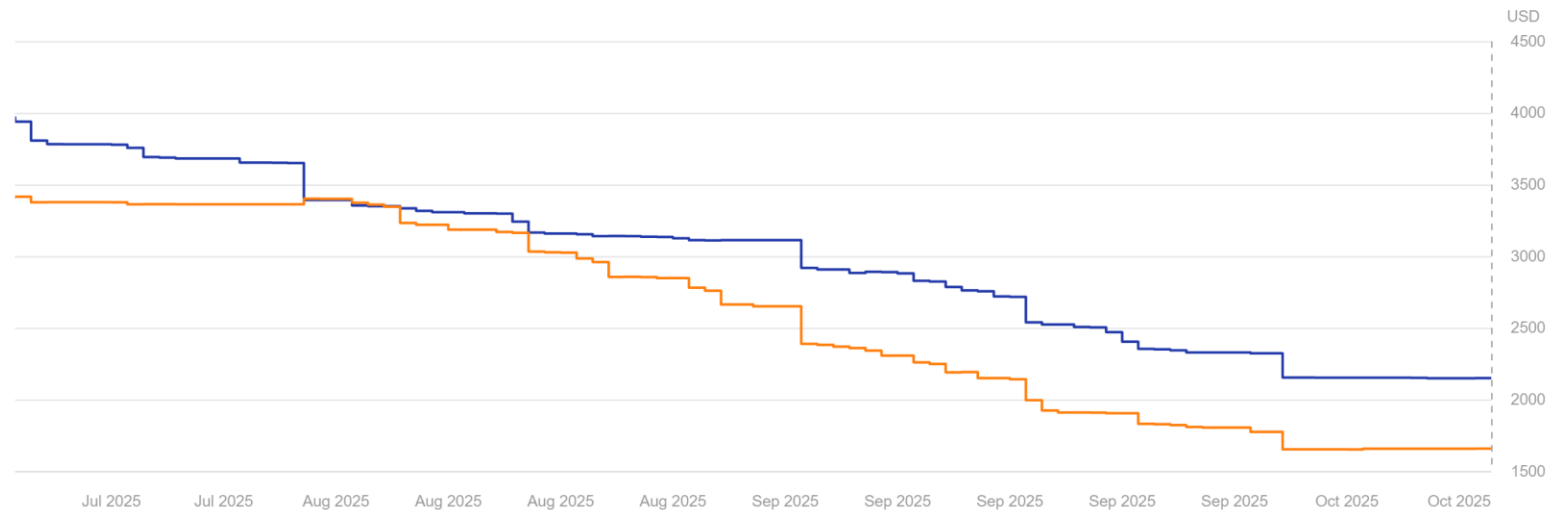
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Short-term rates drop despite strong demand growth

Meanwhile, long-term rates held steady

Market Average⁺ for Short-term⁺ contracts, 40' DC⁺ container type and THC None⁺
from Far East Main⁺ to Mediterranean Main, North Europe Main⁺ trade lane
Jul 14, 2025 - Oct 14, 2025

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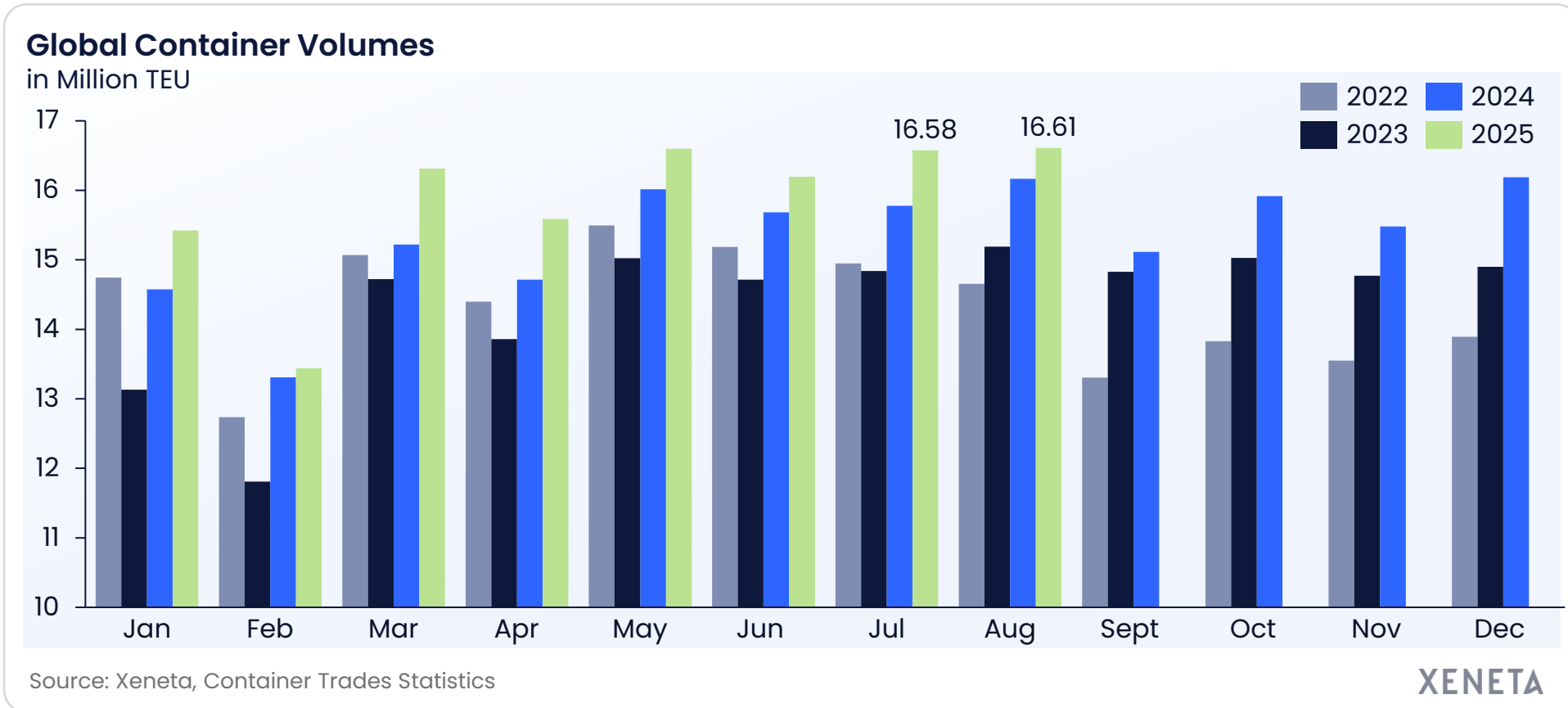
Trade lanes — market rate, average ^

Far East Main to Mediterra — regional
100K+ contracts

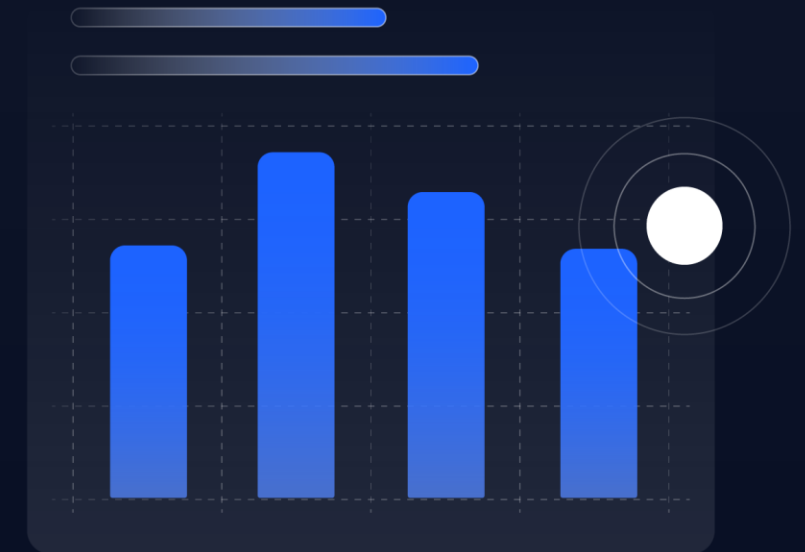
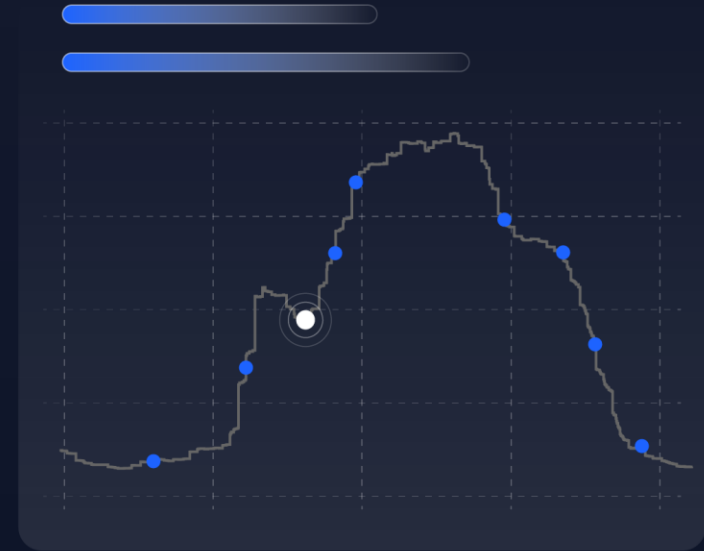
Far East Main to North — regional X
63K+ contracts

August 2025: All-Time high demand

- Jan - Aug 2025 volumes increased 4.4% y-o-y. August volumes up 2.8% y-o-y.
- Despite general economic uncertainties, volumes are rising.



Return to Red Sea?



Red Sea traffic numbers for containerships

Suez Canal weekly transit numbers

Weekly average for Suez Canal transits in 2023 was 117.

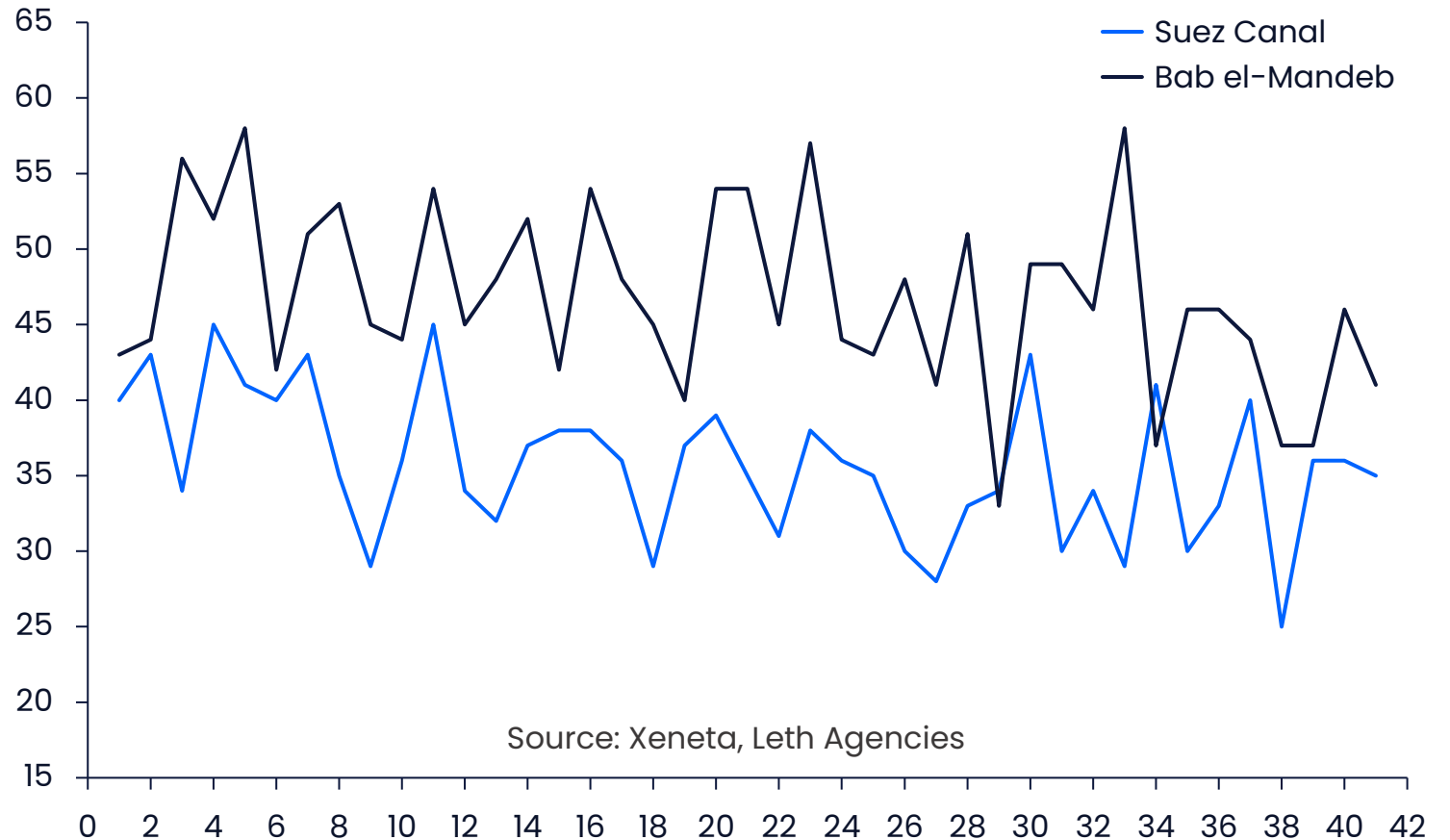
Average for 2025 is 36.

Numbers are not adjusted for vessel size.

Ceasefire in the Gaza brings hope to the region.

However, it is far from certain the Houthi militia cease to be a threat to shipping in the region.

See Xeneta's 2026 Ocean Outlook for more details.



SAVE THE DATE:
XENETA SUMMIT 2026
5-6 November 2025
Munich, Germany
Xeneta Summit 2026
OCTOBER 9-10, 2025
Barcelona

Shippers
Freight Forwarders

Shipping Lines
Airlines



Freight Debate – Podcast

New Episode live on YouTube: The Hidden Leverage in Freight Negotiations

Phil Hennessy sits down with supply chain professional Peter Sundara Swamickannu to examine why procurement can't be a once-a-year exercise.

They break down how real-time data gives shippers credibility in negotiations, why budgets built on last year's averages are doomed to fail, and how smart teams capture savings by acting outside the traditional tender window.

They also explore the hidden risks of chasing the cheapest rates, the importance of factoring in transit reliability, and how scenario planning around tariffs and disruptions can create a lasting competitive edge.

For procurement leaders navigating volatile markets, this episode makes the case for year-round strategy as the only way to stay ahead.

Subscribe for new episodes covering the latest freight trends, market updates and insider insights.



[Watch now](#)

Webinar: Live on October 23rd at 16:00 CET/10:00 EST

LIVE WEBINAR

2026 Ocean Outlook: What Procurement Leaders Need to Know Now

2026 could be the year procurement leaders turn crisis into advantage

23rd October 2025

[Register now](#)

What to expect?

In this session, Xeneta experts reveal:

- Six key forces shaping the ocean freight market in 2026
- How falling rates change the negotiation game
- Where geopolitical flashpoints could derail stability
- Why procurement leaders need to rethink reliance on cost alone

Webinar: Live on November 5th at 16:00 CET/10:00 EST

A promotional graphic for a Xeneta webinar. The background is dark blue with a faint grid pattern and glowing particles. At the top left, a rounded rectangle contains the text 'LIVE WEBINAR'. Below it, the title 'What's New from Xeneta: AI, Rate Management, and Smarter Contracts' is displayed. Further down, the date and time 'Wednesday, November 5th 16:00 CET / 10:00am EST' are shown. On the right side, there are two circular headshots of speakers. The top one is Fabio Brocca, Chief Product Officer, and the bottom one is Shubham Bhattacharya, Lead Product Manager. Both are identified as being from Xeneta.

LIVE WEBINAR

What's New from Xeneta:
AI, Rate Management, and
Smarter Contracts

Wednesday, November 5th
16:00 CET / 10:00am EST

Fabio Brocca
Chief Product Officer,
Xeneta

Shubham Bhattacharya
Lead Product Manager,
Xeneta

What to expect?

In this session, Xeneta experts reveal:

- Reveal what's next and new on the Xeneta Platform
- Introducing AI Agents
- And Smarter Contracts

Registration not
started

Webinar: On-Demand

ON-DEMAND WEBINAR

Explain It to Finance: Freight Decisions That Hold Up Under Scrutiny

September 2025

Learn how to use freight data to:

- Build budgets, forecasts and strategies that align with business objectives.
- Withstand financial scrutiny and defend decisions with confidence.
- Strengthen shipper-carrier relationships with transparent benchmarks.

Speakers



Hugo Grimston

Xeneta

Chief Financial Officer



Antonio Schiano-Lomoriello

Xeneta

Lead Value Engineer

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Thank you!

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