

Market Pulse 2025 Week 17

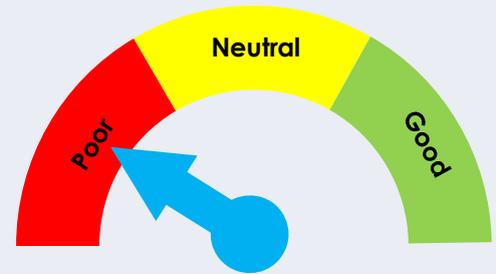
IN FOCUS this week
 US cargo demand drops

MARKET BRIEF 2025 WEEK 17

Carrier are pushing ahead with transpacific rate hikes in May despite the severe drop in Chinese volumes that has forced carriers to slash Transpacific capacity by over 20% while capacity utilization on the remaining services are down by more than 5%. The reduction in the cargo flow to the US will start to impact arrivals in May, raising the likelihood of an imminent Sino-US trade deal that could trigger a sharp rebound in Chinese cargo bookings to the US. This has helped carriers' bid to hike transpacific rates in May, and they have also secured agreements with shippers for new Transpacific service contracts at marginally higher rates than last year.

MSC's fleet has breached the landmark 6.5m TEU milestone as it extends its lead over Maersk to 2m TEU. The global containership fleet has also surpassed 32m TEU for the first time. The rapid rise in global supply amidst a slowdown in global trade volumes threatens to unravel carriers' efforts to hold freight rates, with the conclusion of a Sino-US trade deal becoming the key pivot point for the market.

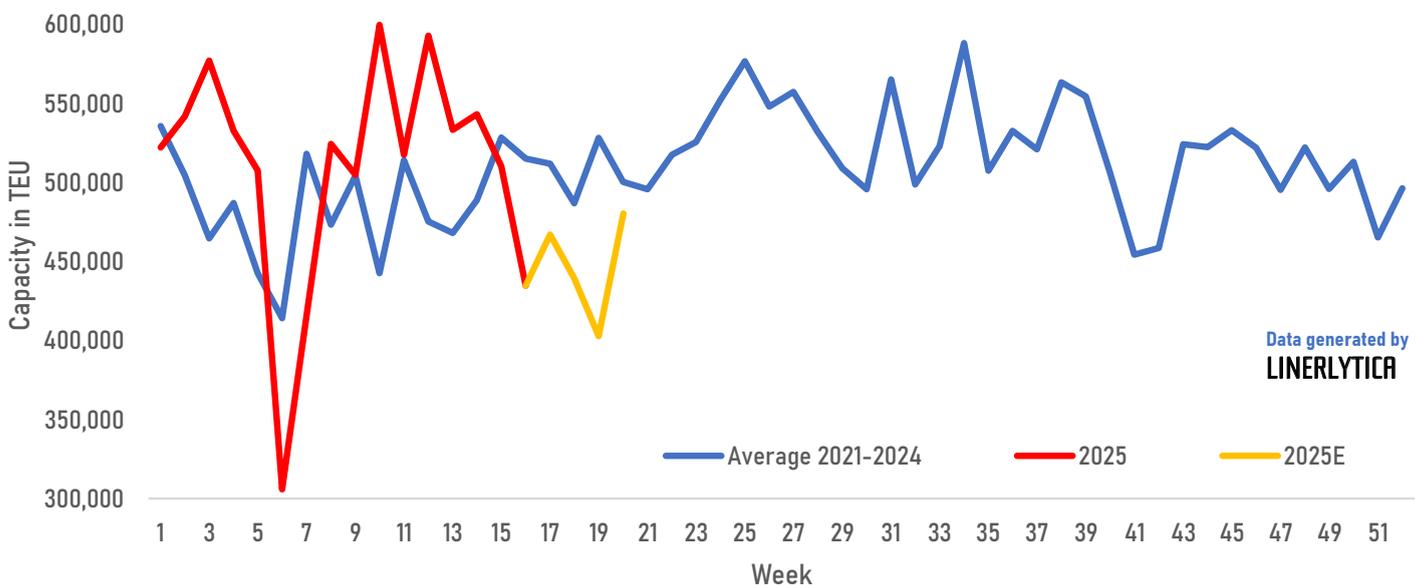
CONTAINER MARKET BAROMETER 2025 WEEK 17



Transpacific sailing cancellations pick up

Carriers have slashed the number of Asia to US sailings in week 16 with total departures from Asia falling to 434,000 teu, with further cuts in week 19 to coincide with the May day labour day holidays across Asia. 6 transpacific services have been withdrawn so far since February, with the remaining services operated on a rolling sliding schedule as carriers are reluctant to take out more services on a permanent basis on expectations of a potential rebound in cargo volumes once a Sino-US trade deal is reached.

Weekly capacity : Far East-North America



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Carrier rate cuts drive EC futures decline

Shanghai–North Europe EC freight futures remain in retreat as carriers continued to lower their FAK rate quotations. Maersk and ONE have reduced their offers for early May shipments to \$1,650 per FEU, with even lower rates offered by Maersk this week at \$1,450 per FEU for mid-May shipments. These moves are expected to prompt further selling by futures traders over the coming week, even after the SCFIS dropped by 5.2% on 28 April.

The EC2506 contract that expires in June now trades at a 3% discount to the spot rate, with the market expecting further rate cuts in the next 2 months before rebounding in August as EC2508 remains at a 10% premium. Average daily trading volumes rose by 9%, and open interest increased by 5% week on week, driven primarily by short sellers.

Contracts	Closing Price			Vs SCFIS 1,429	Avg Daily Volume (contracts)			Avg Daily Turnover (\$M)			Open Interest (contracts)		
	28-Apr	21-Apr	WoW		Week 16	Week 15	WoW	Week 16	Week 15	WoW	28-Apr	21-Apr	WoW
EC2504	1,442	1,415	2%	1%	95	121	-22%	1	1	-21%	860	1,111	-23%
EC2506	1,385	1,522	-9%	-3%	60,074	57,946	4%	600	635	-6%	39,636	37,752	5%
EC2508	1,571	1,713	-8%	10%	24,924	19,762	26%	284	231	23%	32,405	30,256	7%
EC2510	1,301	1,311	-1%	-9%	7,246	7,536	-4%	67	69	-3%	16,078	15,829	2%
EC2512	1,467	1,462	0%	3%	1,531	1,078	42%	16	11	43%	4,018	3,903	3%
EC2602	1315.2	1310.8	0%	-8%	751	608	23%	7	6	25%	2,707	2715	0%
Total													
					94,621	87,051	9%	975	954	2%	95,704	91,566	5%

