

## Market Pulse 2025 Week 18

**IN FOCUS this week**  
Capacity shifts out of US

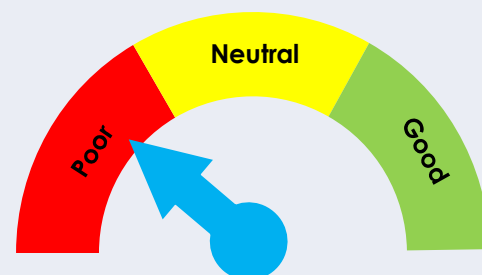
### MARKET BRIEF 2025 WEEK 18

Ocean freight traffic slowed over the past week across Asia due to the Labour Day holidays but average freight rates largely held their ground despite the continuing market turmoil triggered by the US tariffs. Transpacific rates bucked the downward pressure as carriers moved swiftly to remove excess capacity that allowed them to secure rate hikes in both the spot and contract markets, although the rate strength is due more to an anticipated cargo surge if a Sino-US trade deal could be reached.

However, the shifting of excess ships from US to Europe had a detrimental impact on Asia-Europe freight rates, with more downward pressure expected as more capacity shifts away from the US in the next 3 weeks.

The market turmoil failed to deter carriers from resuming new ship orders as 52 ships were added to the orderbook last month, with more than half at Chinese shipyards in defiance against US measures to counter China's dominance.

### CONTAINER MARKET BAROMETER 2025 WEEK 18



Port Congestion  
Week 18

**2.82m TEU**  
8.8% of fleet

Idle  
Containerships

**35 ships**  
**59,818 TEU**  
0.2% of fleet

Ships Delivered  
Last 30 days

**22 ships**  
**181,388 teu**

Ships Deleted  
Last 30 days

**2 ships**  
**949 teu**

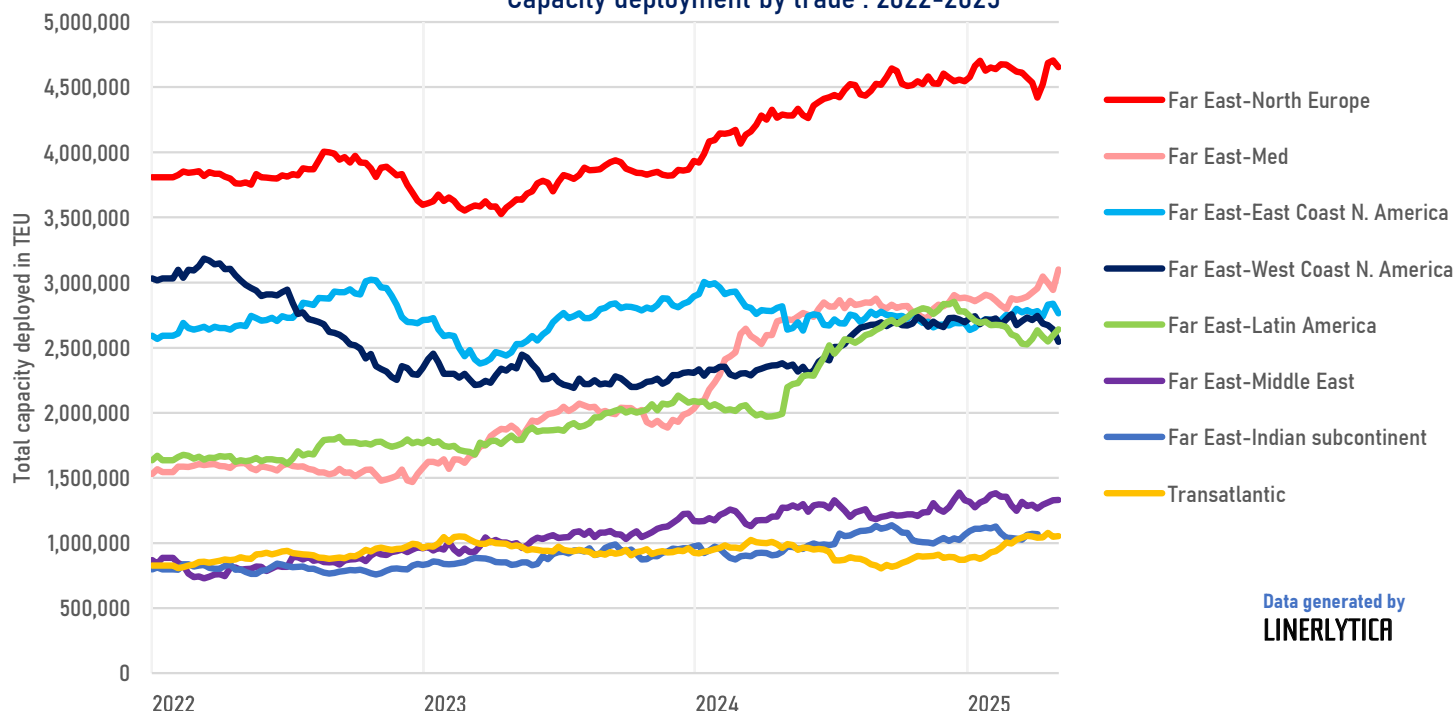
Freight Rates  
SCFI Week 18

**1,341**  
-0.6% WoW  
-30.9% YoY

### Capacity shifts from US to Europe routes

Carriers have reacted swiftly to remove capacity deployed on the US trades, with 8.6% of FE-WCNA capacity removed just 1 month after the US imposed new tariffs on its imports. 27 ships for 200,000 teu have been removed from the West Coast since April, with the bulk of the surplus tonnage redeployed to the Asia-Europe and Med routes.

Capacity deployment by trade : 2022-2025



Data generated by  
**LINERLYTICA**

## EC traders reduce their positions ahead of May Day holidays

Shanghai–North Europe freight futures declined further in a shortened trading week due to the May Day holidays from 1 to 5 May. Open interest dropped by 8% week on week as traders liquidated their positions ahead of the holidays with the market outlook remaining negative. The value of the open EC contracts dropped to \$829m as it closes in on the 18-month lows.

Carriers continue to slash freight rates with capacity utilisation on the Far East–North Europe route remaining subdued as blank sailings originally scheduled for the Chinese holidays have been partly filled by surplus capacity that have shifted out from the transpacific trade. The Shanghai Containerised Freight Index on Settled Rates dropped 3.5% week on week to 1,379, to reach its lowest levels since January 2024, with forward rates expected to remain weak until the end of June.

	Closing Price			Vs SCFIS	Avg Daily Volume (contracts)			Avg Daily Turnover (\$M)			Open Interest (contracts)		
Contracts	30-Apr	28-Apr	WoW	1,379	Week 17	Week 16	WoW	Week 17	Week 16	WoW	30-Apr	28-Apr	WoW
EC2506	1,324	1,385	-4%	-4%	46,044	60,074	-23%	408	591	-31%	33,250	39,636	-16%
EC2508	1,506	1,571	-4%	9%	21,837	24,924	-12%	222	280	-21%	31,243	32,405	-4%
EC2510	1,259	1,301	-3%	-9%	6,894	7,246	-5%	59	66	-10%	15,439	16,078	-4%
EC2512	1,450	1,467	-1%	5%	1,419	1,531	-7%	14	16	-11%	4,027	4,018	0%
EC2602	1,300	1,315	-1%	-6%	839	751	12%	7	7	7%	2,620	2,707	-3%
EC2604	1,194	NA	NA	-13%	594	NA	NA	5	NA	NA	684	NA	NA
Total					77,626	94,526	-18%	715	959	-25%	87,263	94,844	-8%

Shanghai Export Containerized Freight Index based on Settled Rates (SCFIS) vs Futures

