

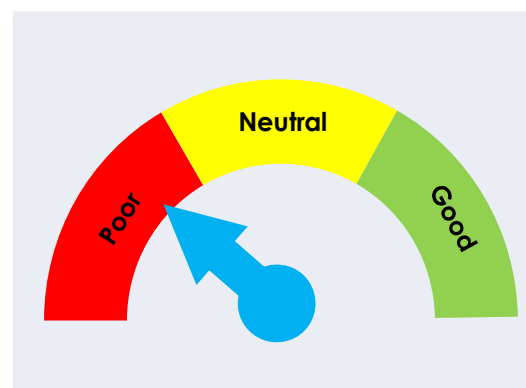
Market Pulse 2025 Week 38

MARKET BRIEF 2025 WEEK 38

Although global container volumes have remained resilient so far this year, freight rates continue to be beaten down. The SCFI rally was short-lived as the composite index slumped by 14.3% last week in its 3rd worst weekly drop since 2009 as carriers gave up all their Transpacific rate gains in early September and resumed their price war ahead of the Golden Week holidays in China. Rates from China to the emerging markets were not spared, as carriers slashed rates across the board in the absence of capacity discipline.

With no substantive announcements following the discussions between the leaders of China and US last week, COSCO has already signalled their intention to match their US rivals' rates and committed to retain their transpacific network despite the looming USTR service fee that will be implemented on 14 October, setting the stage for a protracted price war.

CONTAINER MARKET BAROMETER 2025 WEEK 38



Port Congestion
Week 38

2.83m TEU
8.6% of fleet

Idle
Containerships

56 ships
151,811 TEU
0.5% of fleet

Ships Delivered
Last 30 days

19 ships
152,321 teu

Ships Deleted
Last 30 days

No ships
deleted

Freight Rates
SCFI Week 38

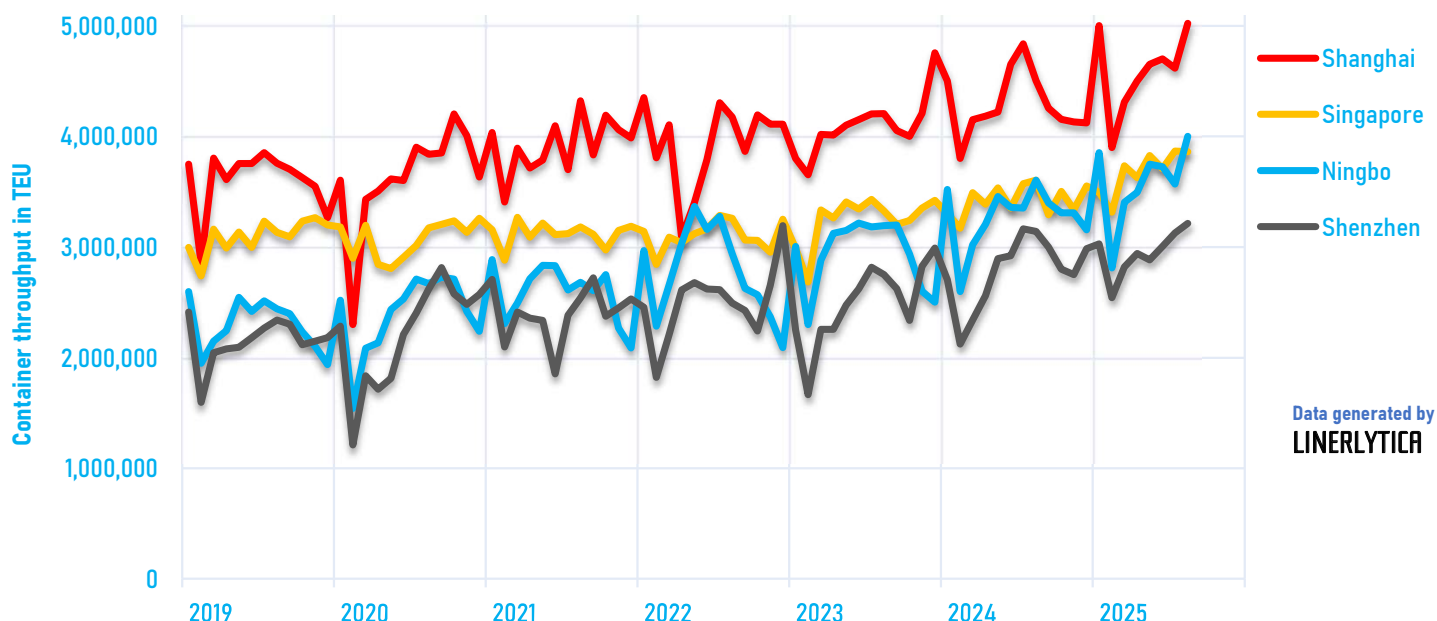
1,198
-14.3% WoW
-49.4% YoY

Chinese container volumes at record high despite US tariffs

Shanghai and Ningbo recorded their highest ever monthly container throughput in August, as global container volumes have remained resilient despite the gloomy trade and economic outlook. Total volumes at the 2 largest Chinese ports exceeded 5m teu and 4m teu respectively in the past month and continue to defy the impact of the US tariffs, with significant growth recorded on the Intra-Asia, Indian subcontinent, Latin America and Africa routes.

In the first 7 months of 2025, container volumes handled at Chinese ports (including Hong Kong) grew by 5.9% and the relative strength is expected to be maintained through the end of this year. Global container throughput is expected to grow by a better than expected 3.2% for the full year as the US tariffs have failed to dampen global volume growth.

Top 4 Container Ports – Monthly throughput 2019 to 2025 (to August)



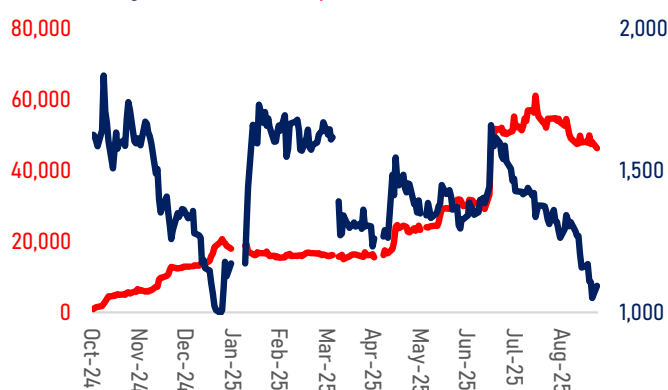
EC futures rally on short-covering amid Sino-Polish rail closure

After declining nearly 18% over the past two weeks, EC2510 rebounded on 22 Sep as market attention shifts to Poland's decision to shut its border with Belarus from 13 September that has blocked a critical segment of the China-Europe Railway Express. The Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Poland on 15 September failed to reopen the rail link which transported 95,798 TEUs (+2.5% YoY) in August westbound to Europe even as year-to-date rail volumes fell to 655,058 TEUs (-15.4% YoY). The EC futures price movement was driven largely by short-covering as the closure of the rail link could temporarily boost ocean volumes.

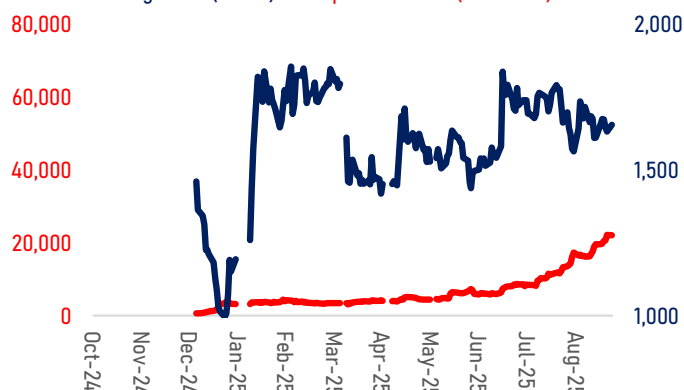


For the week, EC2510 fell 6% week-on-week, tracking ever-lower FAK quotations from liners. Long-dated freight futures contracts rebounded 2–4% week-on-week, with a spike on 16 September also attributed to short-covering. Despite bearish sentiment among traders, there remains no shortage of speculators wagering on a rate rebound by December. The SCFIS dropped 12.9% week-on-week, which will trigger further declines in the EC market.

EC2510 Closing Price (SCFIS) and Open Interests (contracts)



EC2512 Closing Price (SCFIS) and Open Interests (contracts)



	Closing Price			Vs SCFIS	Avg Daily Volume (contracts)			Avg Daily Turnover (\$M)			Open Interest (contracts)		
Contracts	22-Sep	15-Sep	WoW	1,255	Week 37	Week 36	WoW	Week 37	Week 36	WoW	22-Sep	15-Sep	WoW
EC2510	1,094	1,163	-6%	-13%	34,759	23,117	50%	274	198	38%	46,030	47,772	-4%
EC2512	1,654	1,656	0%	32%	14,515	9,655	50%	171	112	53%	21,956	19,598	12%
EC2602	1,574	1,517	4%	25%	2,761	1,512	83%	31	16	90%	7,398	6,330	17%
EC2604	1,275	1,254	2%	2%	1,486	800	86%	13	7	90%	8,922	8,066	11%
EC2606	1,455	1,432	2%	16%	124	90	37%	1	1	40%	950	994	-4%
EC2608	1609	1603.7	0%	28%	76.6	57	34%	1	1	36%	487	429	14%
Total					53,721	35,232	52%	491	335	47%	85,743	83,189	3%