

# Hamburg throughput dropped 2.1% in 2024

Rise in container throughput outweighed by hit to bulk volumes from mild winter and lower German economic and industrial output.

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Image: HHM

The [Port of Hamburg](#) reported a 2.1% drop in throughput in 2024 to 111.8m tonnes with higher breakbulk and container throughput and lower volumes for bulk cargoes.

The port said international trade was affected by the war in Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East. Germany's economic output was 0.2% lower in 2024 and industrial production fell by 4.5% on-year.

Germany's government forecasts 0.3% economic growth for 2025, which will continue to weigh on the port's results, and the global geopolitical situation is expected to remain highly volatile due to a large number of international crises, the port said.

Container throughput in 2024 rose by 0.9% to 7.8m teu, around 87% of which was loaded boxes, throughput of which rose by 1.2% on-year. Trade with [China](#) rose by 0.7% to 2.2m teu, maintaining its position as Hamburg's largest trading partner. Second place [USA](#) saw larger improvement, rising 5.0% to a record 685,000 teu

Red Sea disruption led to fewer megamax containership calls at Hamburg, though per-call throughput for megamaxs rose by more than 20% to over 10,000 teu per ship visit. Overall, containership calls across all sizes rose by 0.3% on-year.

Bulk cargo volumes were 33.1m tonnes, down 8.6% with lower results across liquid cargo, agri bulk, and grab cargo reflecting a decline in the use of fossil fuels, the port said. [Coal](#) imports were down 2.1% to 3.8m tonnes, while mineral oil products fell by 2.17% to 5.7m tonnes, reflecting mild weather, weaker economic performance, and "exceptionally high throughput" in 2023.

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High points in the bulk sector were a 5.6% increase in imports of oilseed crops to 3.2m tonnes and a 9.4% increase in exports of animal feed to 1.4m tonnes, the port said.

Hinterland traffic increased on year, and rail took a larger share of the modal split in both weight and teu terms to retain over 50% of container transport in the Port of Hamburg.