



ANTWERP PORT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Container volume up 20%

During the first six months of this year the port of Antwerp handled 87 million tonnes of freight (86,859,099 tonnes). This represents an increase of 12.7% compared with the same period last year, when the volume came to 77 million tonnes.

The **container volume** in Antwerp was up by nearly 20% in comparison with the period January-June 2010, from 42.9 to 51.3 million tonnes. Expressed in standard containers (twenty-foot equivalent units) the volume was just over 4 million TEU, up 16.2% to 4.2 million TEU. "This result gets us back to 2008 levels and confirms Antwerp's position as Europe's second-largest container port," said Antwerp Port Authority CEO Eddy Bruyninckx. "However, the positive trend in 2010 does not mean that we can afford to be any less careful about further developments."

The volume of **bulk freight** rose by 4.1% in the first half of 2010, to 28.2 million tonnes. The increase was mainly due to the rise in dry bulk, which was up by 24.7% to 9.8 million tonnes. The volume of fertiliser doubled, from just over 1.1 million tonnes to more than 2.3 million tonnes. Good results were also achieved for ore (1,655,495 tonnes, up 24.8%), sand and gravel (773,241 tonnes, up 25.6%) and grain (484,568 tonnes, up 13.9%).

Liquid bulk, however, was down by 4.3% to 18.4 million tonnes, mainly due to lower stocking levels on the oil market. Repair and maintenance work by various companies also contributed to the decline. The volume of oil derivatives fell by 11% to 11 million, while crude oil (2.1 million tonnes) and chemicals (4.9 million tonnes) were up by 2.7% and 14.1% respectively.

The volume of **conventional/breakbulk** freight was up only slightly, with 1.2% more being loaded and unloaded from January to June. The total amount for the first six months was 5.5 million tonnes. This is 43.6% less than in 2007 and 34.8% less than in 2008. Conventional/breakbulk remains an area of concern, as the decline cannot be explained entirely by the state of the economy.

The volume of steel products was slightly down, by 2.4%, to 2,978,504 tonnes. Fruit (675,061 tonnes) and paper (643,607 tonnes) on the other hand were up by 2.7% and 3.7% respectively.

In the **ro/ro** sector the port of Antwerp experienced an expansion of 13.4%, to 1.8 million tonnes. The volume of cars handled rose sharply, by 29.3%, with 442,267 vehicles being loaded or unloaded during the first six months.

The number of **seagoing ships** calling at the port was up by 4.5%, to 7,214. The gross tonnage for its part rose by 5% to 139,949,362 GT.

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