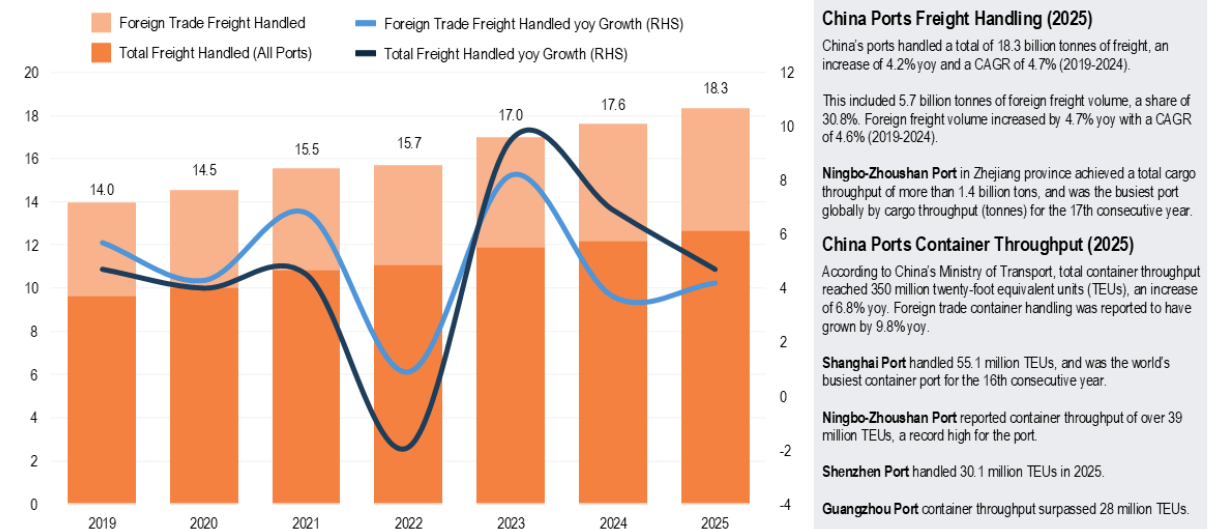


China's Ports Reached Record Throughput in 2025 as Freight and Container Volumes Hit New Highs

China handled 18.3 billion tonnes of port freight in 2025, including 5.7 billion tonnes of foreign trade cargo, while container throughput rose to 350 million TEUs driven by record volumes at Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

Volume of Freight Handled at China's Ports, Tonnes bn (2019-2025)



Note: Foreign trade freight refers to import/export cargo throughput, per NBS definition. Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China, China Ministry of Transport, Container Trades Statistics Ltd, Various Media, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

China's ports reached record scale in 2025, underscoring the continued expansion of the world's largest logistics system. Total freight handled rose to 18.3 billion tonnes, up from 14 billion tonnes in 2019, while foreign trade freight reached 5.7 billion tonnes—around 31% of total port throughput—highlighting China's sustained role at the centre of global trade flows.

Container activity also remained exceptionally strong, with total throughput rising to 350 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), up 6.8% year-on-year, supported by record volumes across China's leading gateways. Shanghai handled 55.1 million TEUs, remaining the world's busiest container port for the 16th consecutive year, while Ningbo-Zhoushan surpassed 39 million TEUs and maintained its position as the world's largest port by cargo tonnage for the 17th year.

Shenzhen reached 30.1 million TEUs, and Guangzhou exceeded 28 million TEUs, confirming that China's coastal port network continues to scale in both domestic and international freight handling.

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