

Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for first quarter of 2018

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) today (June 5) released the statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for the first quarter of 2018.

In the first quarter of 2018, total port cargo throughput decreased by 0.7% compared with a year earlier to 65.7 million tonnes. Within this total, inward port cargo increased by 1.6% compared with a year earlier to 40.6 million tonnes, while outward port cargo decreased by 4.3% to 25.1 million tonnes.

On a seasonally adjusted quarter-to-quarter comparison, total port cargo throughput decreased by 5.4% in the first quarter of 2018. Within this total, inward port cargo and outward port cargo decreased by 7.7% and 1.6% respectively compared with the preceding quarter. The seasonally adjusted series enables more meaningful shorter-term comparison to be made for discerning possible variations in trends.

Port cargo

Within port cargo, seaborne cargo decreased by 4.8% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with a year earlier to 40.6 million tonnes, while river cargo increased by 6.7% to 25.0 million tonnes.

Within inward port cargo, imports increased by 6.2% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with a year earlier to 24.0 million tonnes, while inward transshipment decreased by 4.3% to 16.6 million tonnes. For outward port cargo, exports (including domestic exports and re-exports) and outward transshipment decreased by 10.9% and 0.3% compared with a year earlier to 8.8 million tonnes and 16.2 million tonnes respectively.

The detailed port cargo statistics are summarised in Table 1.

The main countries/territories of loading of inward port cargo and countries/territories of discharge of outward port cargo are shown in Table 2 and Table 3 respectively.

Comparing the first quarter of 2018 with the first quarter of 2017, double-digit increases were recorded in the tonnage of inward port cargo loaded in Malaysia (+31.7%) and the mainland of China (+14.8%). On the other hand, double-digit decreases were recorded in the tonnage of inward port cargo loaded in Singapore (-23.3%), Korea (-20.5%), Japan (-13.0%) and Vietnam (-10.1%). For outward port cargo, double-digit increases were recorded in the tonnage of outward port cargo discharged in Taiwan (+23.6%) and Malaysia (+12.1%). On the other hand, double-digit decreases were recorded in the tonnage of outward port cargo discharged in Macao (-67.2%),

Thailand (-10.5%) and Korea (-10.4%).

The principal commodities of inward port cargo and outward port cargo are shown in Table 4 and Table 5 respectively.

Comparing the first quarter of 2018 with the first quarter of 2017, double-digit changes were recorded in the tonnage of inward port cargo of "logs and timber; wood, simply worked" (+21.6%), "stone, sand and gravel" (+19.2%), "coal, coke and briquettes" (-16.3%) and "artificial resins and plastic materials" (-19.5%). As for outward port cargo, double-digit changes were recorded in the tonnage of "logs and timber; wood, simply worked" (+31.5%), "metalliferous ores and metal scrap" (-12.0%) and "stone, sand and gravel" (-14.3%).

Containers

In the first quarter of 2018, the port of Hong Kong handled 4.89 million TEUs of containers, representing a marginal increase of 0.2% compared with a year earlier. Within this total, laden containers decreased by 2.0% to 4.14 million TEUs, while empty containers increased by 14.4% to 0.75 million TEUs. Among laden containers, inward and outward containers decreased by 2.3% and 1.7% to 2.12 million TEUs and 2.02 million TEUs respectively.

On a seasonally adjusted quarter-to-quarter comparison, laden container throughput increased by 1.1% in the first quarter of 2018. Within this total, inward laden containers decreased by 0.6%, while outward laden containers increased by 3.1%.

In the first quarter of 2018, seaborne laden containers decreased by 5.7% compared with a year earlier to 2.92 million TEUs, while river laden containers increased by 8.0% to 1.22 million TEUs.

Within inward laden containers, imports and inward transshipment decreased by 2.7% and 2.1% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with a year earlier to 0.63 million TEUs and 1.49 million TEUs respectively. For outward laden containers, exports and outward transshipment decreased by 3.2% and 1.1% to 0.56 million TEUs and 1.46 million TEUs respectively.

The detailed container statistics are summarised in Table 6.

Port cargo and laden container statistics are compiled from a sample of consignments listed in the cargo manifests supplied by shipping companies and agents to the C&SD.

Vessel arrivals

Comparing the first quarter of 2018 with the first quarter of 2017, the number of ocean vessel arrivals decreased by 5.4% to 6 261, with the total capacity also decreasing by 4.5% to 99.0 million net registered tons. Meanwhile, the number of river vessel arrivals decreased by 2.2% to 37 960, with the total capacity also decreasing by 3.4% to 28.5 million net

registered tons.

The statistics on vessel arrivals in Hong Kong are given in Table 7.

Vessel statistics are compiled by the Marine Department primarily from general declarations submitted by ship masters and authorised shipping agents. Pleasure vessels and fishing vessels plying exclusively within the river trade limits are excluded.

Further information

More detailed statistics on port cargo, containers and vessels are published in the report "Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, First Quarter 2018". Users can download this publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp130.jsp?productCode=B1020008).

For enquiries about port cargo and container statistics, please contact the Outward Processing and Shipping Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 2126 or email: shipping@censtatd.gov.hk). For enquiries about vessel statistics, readers may contact the Statistics Section under the Planning, Development and Port Security Branch of the Marine Department (Tel: 2852 3661 or email: st-sec@mardep.gov.hk).