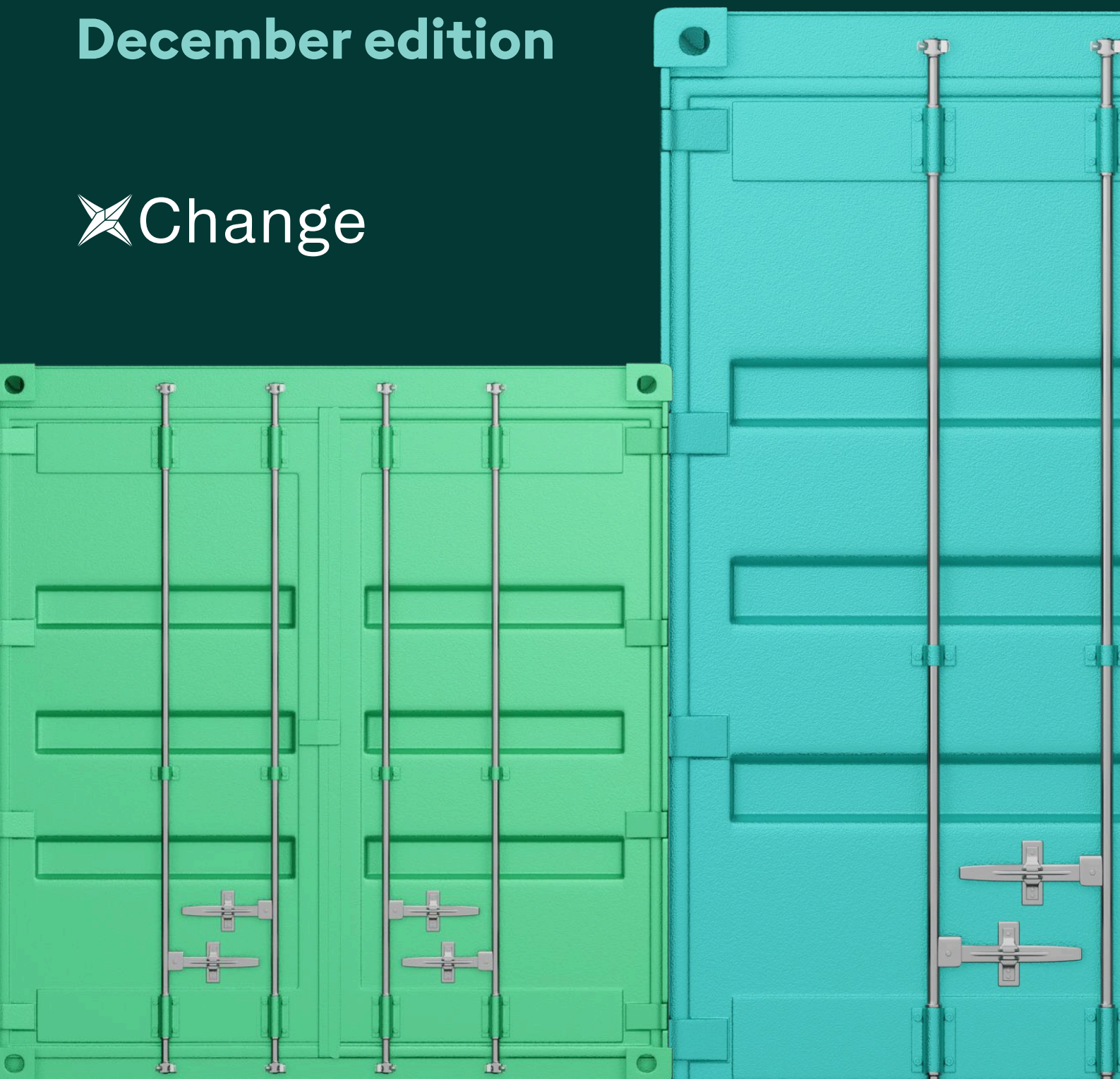


# Where Are All the Containers?

Your monthly global container  
logistics update

December edition

 Change



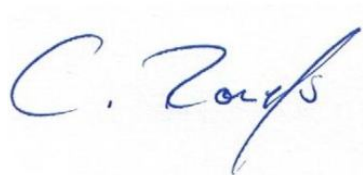
# Letter from the CEO

As we approach 2025, the US shipping industry faces dual challenges: unresolved labor disputes and impending tariffs. While a temporary resolution had ended the strike between the International Longshoremen's Association and the US Maritime Alliance—the critical issue of automation remains unresolved. With the January 15 deadline for a final Master Contract Agreement fast approaching, the potential for further disruptions looms large.

With this in mind, we present the final edition of our 'Where Are All the Containers?' report for 2024. In this concluding edition, we explore the shipping dynamics of each region through 2025, examining the automation dispute threatening US ports; Trump's policies reshaping Asian supply chains; the ongoing impact of Suez Canal disruptions, and the implications of new shipping alliances for shippers in 2025. As usual, you will also find detailed data and forecasts, average container prices, and pickup rates.

At Container xChange, we are a technology company striving to simplify the logistics of global trade by making processes around the container as simple as the box itself. We do that by providing a neutral marketplace for buying, selling, and leasing containers. As part of this mission, we are also continuously studying the industry, market, participants, strategies, and trends, and building reports around them to share these insights with you. We hope you enjoy yet another update from our end.

**Christian Roeloffs**



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# Asia

## Trump's policies to reshape Asian supply chains in 2025

Donald Trump's return to the White House is set to bring substantial changes to Asian trade dynamics in 2025. His "America First" agenda, characterized by protectionist trade policies, higher tariffs, and reshore manufacturing, is likely to affect China and its neighboring economies. Trump's proposed tariffs on imports, ranging from 10-20% on most goods and up to 60% on Chinese products, could further strain trade relations between the US and China.

During Trump's first term, escalating trade restrictions led many businesses to diversify their supply chains away from China. This trend is expected to accelerate, increasing the appeal of alternative manufacturing hubs in Asia. For example, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand are well-positioned to receive increased investment as companies seek to reduce reliance on China.

South Korea and India are emerging as key players in global trade realignments. South Korea's advanced manufacturing capabilities enable it to absorb high-tech production shifts, while India's expanding manufacturing sector and favorable trade policies make it an attractive sourcing destination.

However, Asian countries also face significant risks. Blanket tariffs on key exports such as electronics, apparel, and automotive parts could disrupt trade flows. Less diversified economies such as Indonesia and Cambodia are particularly vulnerable, as their reliance on US demand makes them more susceptible to export declines.

ASEAN Briefing reports, "To mitigate risks related to dips in US investment, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) may need to diversify their FDI sources by attracting interest from the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the Middle East, thereby reducing their dependency on any single market." <sup>1</sup>

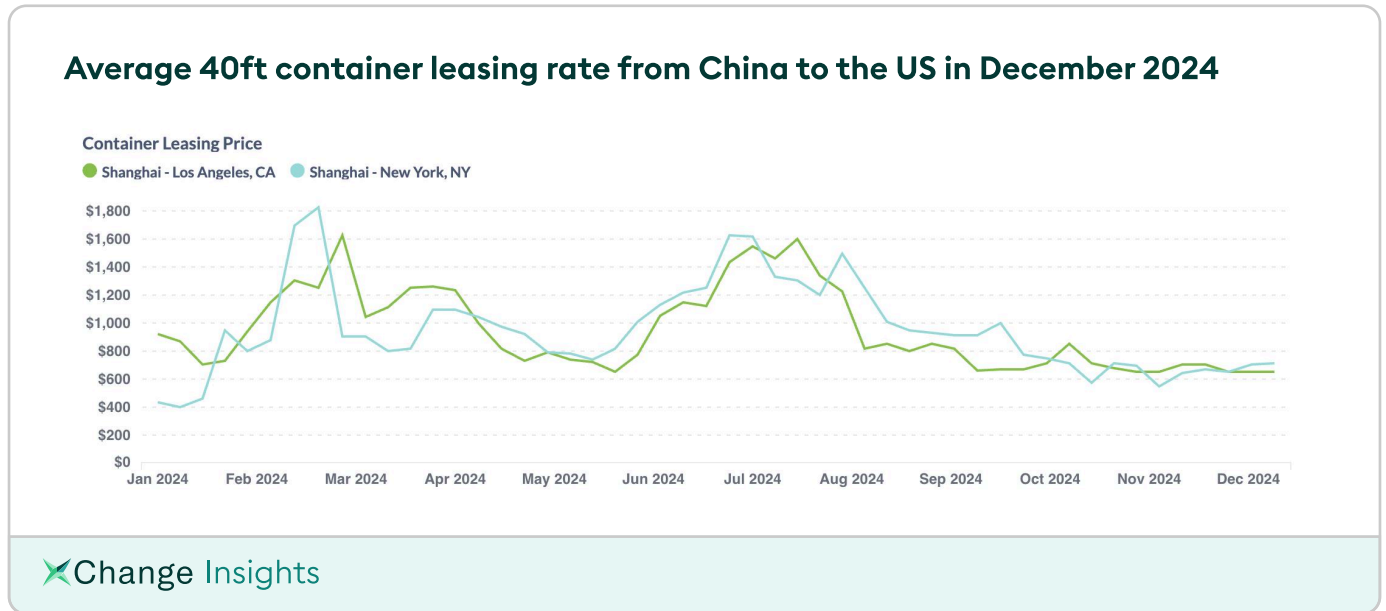
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[1] <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/southeast-asias-balancing-act-in-a-second-trump-presidency/>



## What did Container xChange data find?

Our data reveals that the average container leasing rate for a 40ft high cube container from Shanghai to New York was \$710 in December, while the rate from Shanghai to Los Angeles reached \$650. Leasing rates dropped slightly by 1.5% compared to the previous month.



It is easy to lease containers from China for your shipment through the Container xChange leasing marketplace. Check out leasing offers for your preferred route today!

[Lease containers from China](#)



# The US

## Automation dispute threatens US ports as January deadline nears

Labor unrest at US ports continues to be a pressing concern as negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) face significant challenges. While a three-day strike at East and Gulf Coast ports in late 2024 resulted in a temporary resolution, no final agreement was signed.

The two parties set January 15, 2025, as the new deadline, to finalize a Master Contract Agreement. However, the issue with the proposed use of semi-automated rail-mounted gantry cranes (RMGs) remains unresolved—leaving a potential for another strike on the horizon.

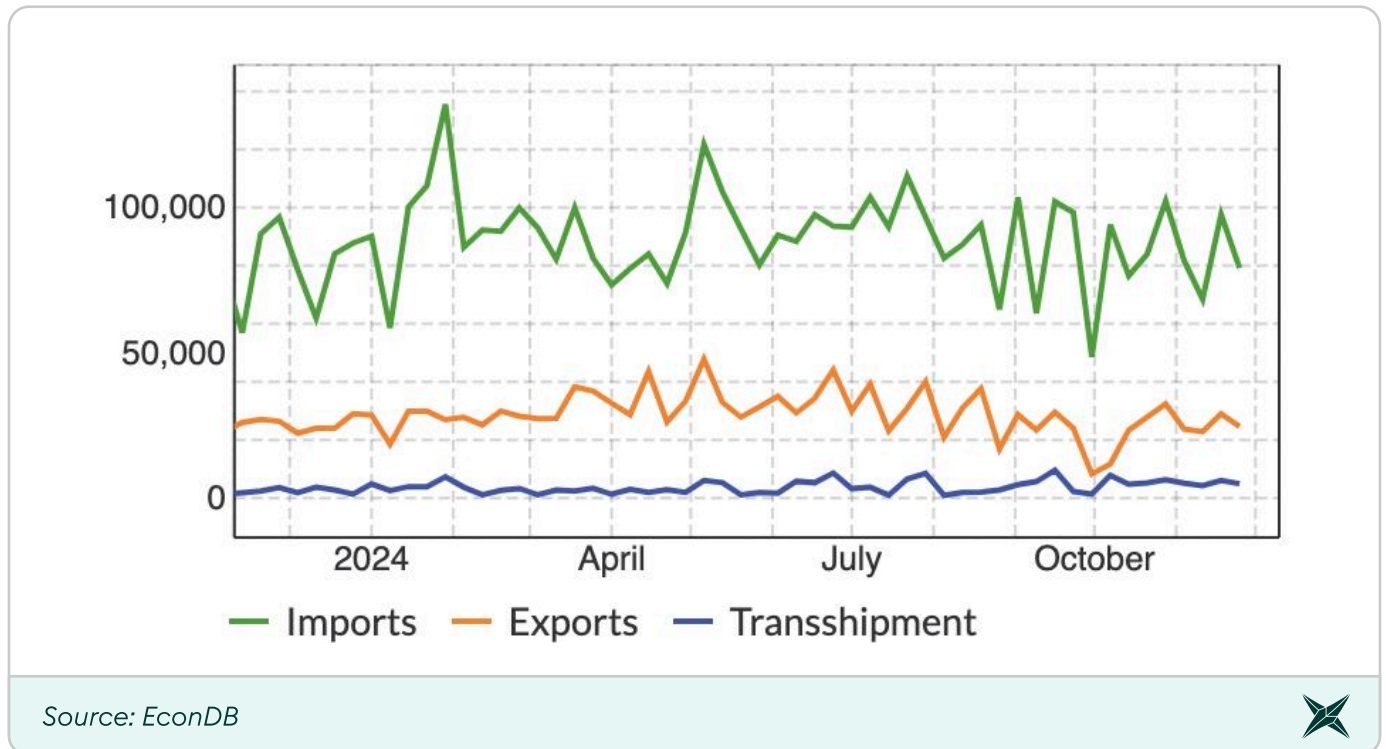
The stakes in 2025 are particularly high as any strike action would coincide with peak pre-Chinese New Year shipping volumes. East and Gulf Coast ports, which handle more than half of US imports, play a pivotal role in maintaining supply chain continuity. Any disruptions to these facilities could lead to shortages and price hikes for essential items such as groceries, clothing, and electronics. J.P. Morgan estimates that the financial impact of a strike could range from \$3.8 billion per day.<sup>3</sup>

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[3] <https://www.worldcargonews.com/news/2024/10/will-port-strike-severely-disrupt-us-economy/>



## Container trade at Port of New York in 2024



The Port of New York handles 4,855,518 TEUs on average each month

The temporary contract extension has delayed immediate disruptions, yet the unresolved debate over automation underscores the fragility of the current agreement. As the January 15 deadline approaches, shippers, importers, and consumers must brace for potential challenges that could impact the stability of US ports in 2025.

## Exporters race to accelerate deliveries ahead of Trump tariffs

Some exporters from China, Canada, and Mexico are expediting shipments to the US in anticipation of potential tariff increases under new trade policies proposed by Donald Trump. These policies, which include additional tariffs on imports from these countries, have led shippers to front-load freight to minimize cost increases.

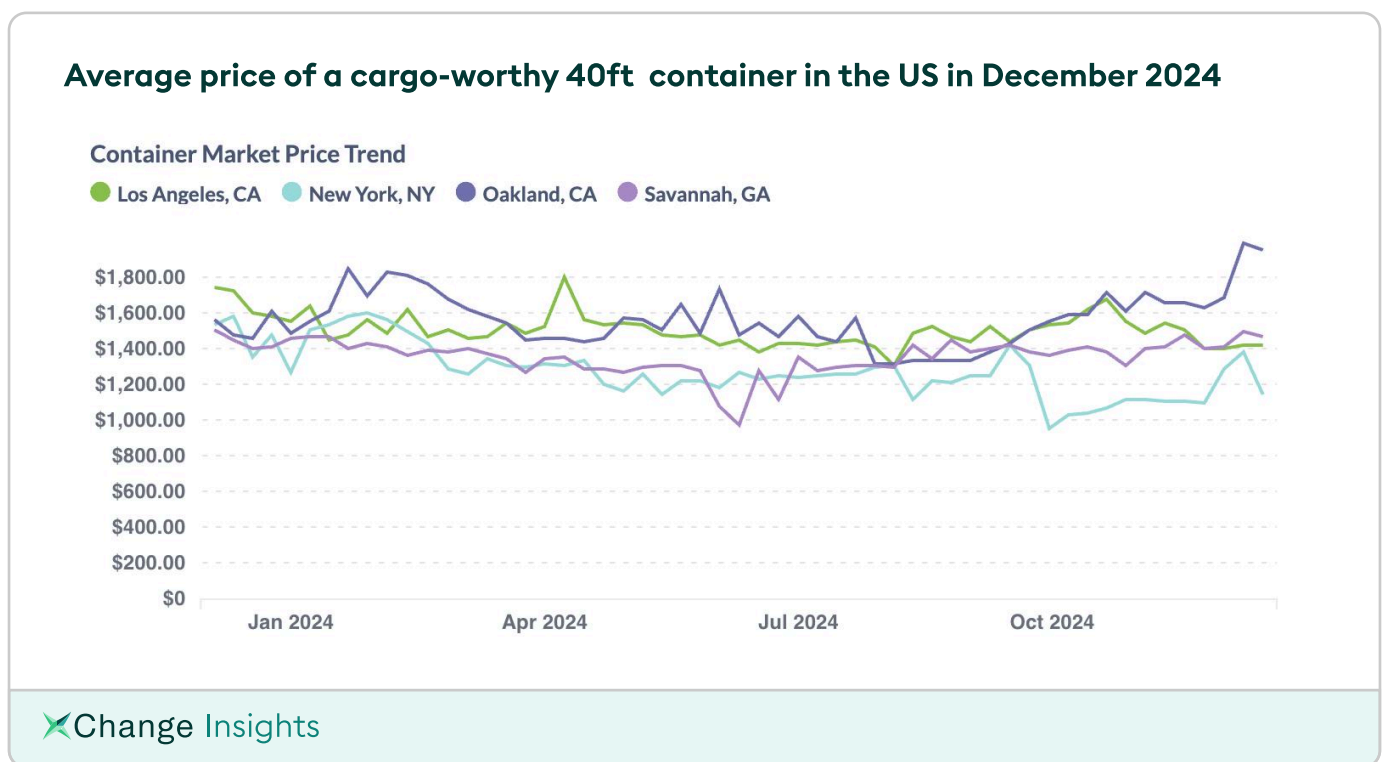
Experts have highlighted that few shippers were already advancing timelines to prepare for a potential second US port strike and the expected tariff increases on Chinese goods. Now, the inclusion of Mexico and Canada in the tariff plans has further amplified the urgency for exporters to move goods ahead of schedule.

Despite the surge in activity, freight rates have remained relatively stable. This is partly attributed to increased vessel capacity across the shipping industry, which has absorbed the rising demand.

Financial Review reported, “Signs of front-loading are evident in US ports. The Port of Los Angeles moved 905,000 shipping containers in October, up 25% from a year ago.” This marked the first time the port surpassed over 900,000 TEUs for four consecutive months, highlighting the scale of the current shipping boom. <sup>4</sup>

## What did Container xChange data find?

As of December 2024, the average price of a cargo-worthy 40ft container on the US West Coast is \$1,685, while prices are lower on the US East Coast, averaging \$1,350.



With anticipated tariffs and trade regulations likely to reduce domestic container availability, demand for used containers may rise in the US, making it a perfect time to invest in shipping containers.

Check out container deals in the US and get units at the best prices.

**Containers at low prices**

[4] <https://www.afr.com/world/asia/chinese-exporters-race-to-dodge-trump-s-tariffs-20241202-p5kv9d>





# Europe

## What 2025's new alliances mean for shippers

New shipping alliances, set to launch in early 2025, are expected to bring significant changes for shippers. February and March may see short-term disruptions as the market adjusts to the changes. This marks the first time in decades that such a wide variety of service models will coexist, highlighting the contrasting approaches of alliances.

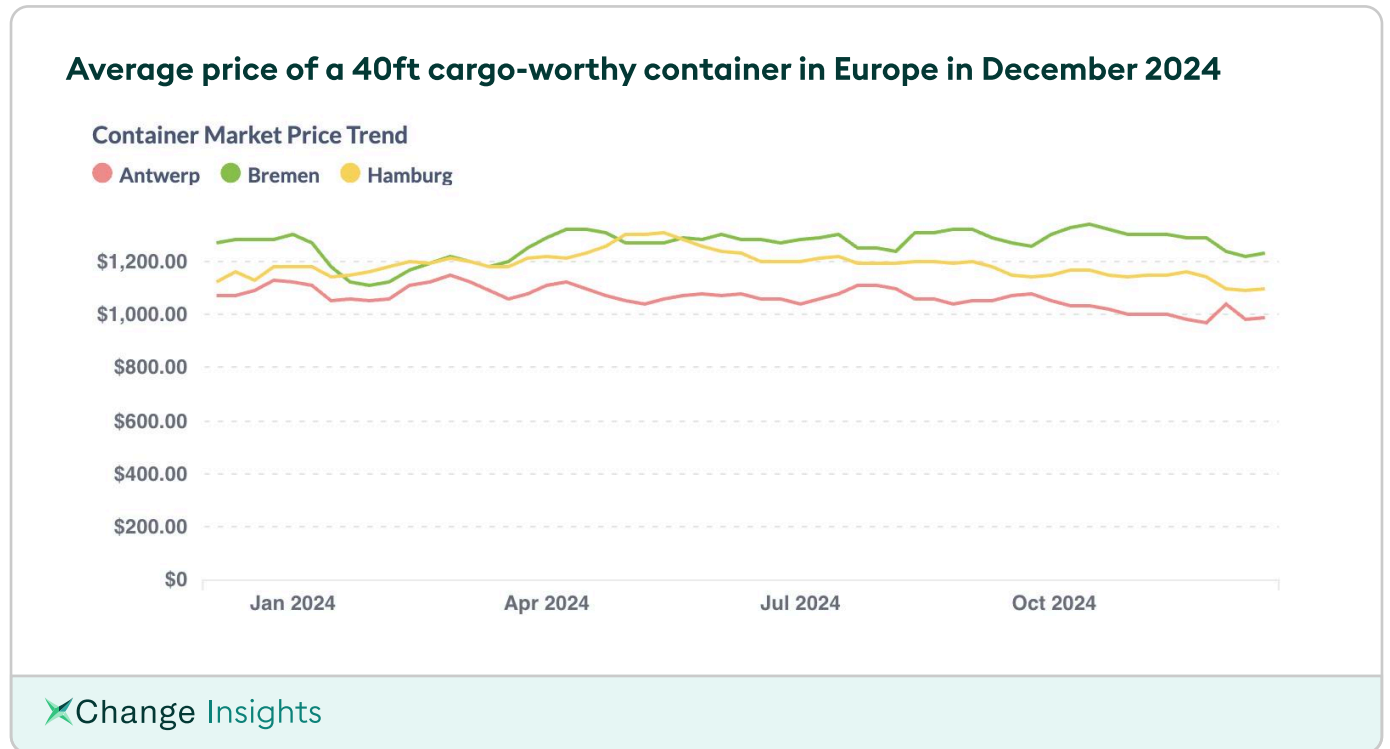
- The Gemini Cooperation, formed by Hapag-Lloyd and Maersk, will launch in February 2025, introducing a combined capacity of 3.7 million TEUs. Operating across 26 mainline services and 32 shuttle routes, Gemini will focus on key east-west trade lanes. Its hub-and-spoke model will utilize large ships to transport goods to major hubs, with smaller vessels distributing cargo to final destinations.
- Following Hapag-Lloyd's departure, the Premier Alliance now includes ONE, Yang Ming, and HMM, collectively offering a fleet capacity of 3.5 million TEUs. Around 65% of this capacity will be allocated to the alliance's shared services, such as Transatlantic routes, while the remainder used for independent operations or vessel-sharing agreements (VSAs).
- MSC, now the largest container carrier with a fleet capacity of 5.7 million TEUs, has opted out of traditional alliances. Following the dissolution of the 2M Alliance with Maersk in January 2023, MSC is pursuing selective VSAs and slot exchanges with carriers, including members of the Premier Alliance and ZIM.
- The Ocean Alliance has remained stable, with its members CMA CGM, COSCO/OOCL, and Evergreen extending their partnership through 2032. It will continue to focus on the Asia-North America and transpacific lanes.

Shippers face a more complex carrier landscape in 2025, requiring careful consideration of network designs and service structures. Beyond cost and transit times, factors such as route reliability, alliance stability, and risk exposure will play a critical role in decision-making.



# What did Container xChange data find?

As of December 2024, the average price for a cargo-worthy 40ft container at European ports is \$1,106, with the highest prices in Bremen and the lowest in Antwerp.



# ISC & Middle East

## Suez Canal disruptions continue to impact shipping in 2025

Global shipping is expected to face persistent disruptions in 2025, driven by continued Suez Canal diversions. The canal, which facilitates 12% of global trade, remains far from resuming normal operations and thus, a continued lack of container traffic in the Red Sea remains a plausible scenario for 2025.

As a result, TEU-mile demand is expected to remain closely aligned with volume growth in 2025.<sup>5</sup> TEU-mile demand measures the total transportation activity performed in the container shipping industry, capturing both the volume of goods moved and the distances traveled. Longer transit routes due to Suez Canal disruptions significantly increased TEU-mile demand.

However, the entry of new vessels will ease capacity constraints. As new vessels enter the market, they are likely to help stabilize supply chains by absorbing excess demand despite longer distances. Freight rates, too, are projected to decline as the growing fleet absorbs the impact of diversions.

Although a complete return to the Red Sea appears unlikely, there is a possibility of a partial return in 2025. This scenario would introduce a complex market dynamic, with shippers weighing the benefits of shorter transit times against the security and reliability of the Cape of Good Hope routes. Carriers that resume Suez services could gain a competitive edge, potentially capturing market share from those maintaining alternative routes.

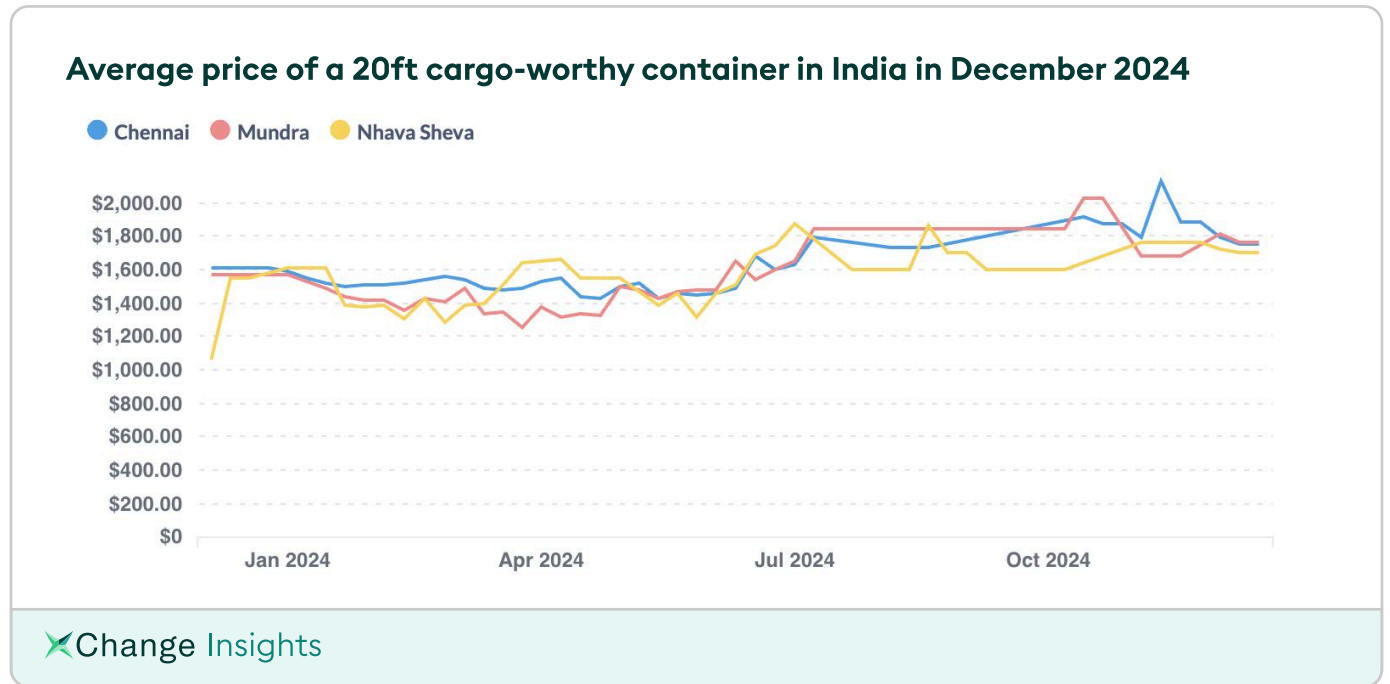
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[3] <https://xeneta.foleon.com/outlook-2025/ocean-market-outlook/impact-of-red-sea>



# What did Container xChange data find?

As of December 2024, the average price of a cargo-worthy 40ft container in India is \$1,740, reflecting a slight decrease from \$1,905 in November.



# Key Findings

## Trump's policies to reshape Asian supply chains in 2025

- Donald Trump's trade policies, higher tariffs, and reshoring of manufacturing are expected to impact China and its neighboring economies. Countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand are poised to gain increased investment as companies pivot away from China.
- However, economies like Indonesia and Cambodia are vulnerable as their reliance on US demand makes them more susceptible to export declines.
- The average container leasing rate for a 40ft high cube container from Shanghai to New York was \$710 in December, while the rate from Shanghai to Los Angeles reached \$650.

## Automation dispute threatens US ports as January deadline nears

- Labor unrest at US ports remains a critical concern as negotiations between the ILA and USMX face challenges. The two parties set a new deadline of January 15, 2025, to finalize a Master Contract but issues on automation remain unresolved
- Exporters from China, Canada, and Mexico are accelerating shipments to the US in anticipation of new trade policies.
- The average price of a cargo-worthy 40ft container on the US West Coast is \$1,685 while prices are lower on the US East Coast, averaging \$1,350.

## What 2025's new alliances mean for shippers

- New shipping alliances set to launch in early 2025 are expected to bring significant changes for shippers—with February and March likely marked by short-term disruptions as the market adjusts to these changes.
- As of December 2024, the average price for a cargo-worthy 40ft container at European ports is \$1,106, with the highest prices in Bremen and the lowest in Antwerp.



## Suez Canal disruptions continue to impact shipping in the coming year

- A continued lack of container traffic in the Red Sea remains a plausible scenario for 2025. Longer transit routes due to Suez Canal disruptions significantly increased TEU-mile demand. However, the entry of new vessels next year is expected to ease capacity constraints.
- The average price of a cargo-worthy 40ft container in India is \$1,740 as of December 2024, reflecting a slight decrease from \$1,905 in November.



# Top 5 container price spikes and plummets

According to our container trading platform, here is the average container price change in different geographical locations in December.

## Locations with biggest Week-on-Week growth

City	Market Price	Week-on-Week change
Indianapolis, IN	\$1,650	1.85%
Baltimore, MD	\$1,480	1.37%
Jacksonville, FL	\$1,950	1.04%
Memphis, TN	\$2,070	0.98%
Miami, FL	\$1,870	0.54%

## Locations with biggest Week-on-Week drop

City	Market Price	Week-on-Week change
New York	\$1,140	-17.39%
Detroit, MI	\$1,770	-15.71%
El Paso, TX	\$2,340	-7.87%
Nashville, TN	\$2,250	-5.06%
Houston	\$1,510	-4.43%

Source: Container xChange Analysis



Leverage this information to buy containers at low prices and sell them for profit.

[Trade containers for profits](#)



# What the X?

## What is a Vessel-Sharing Agreement (VSA)?

A vessel-sharing agreement is a contract signed between partners of an alliance to run a liner service along specific routes. The space for each partner may vary from port to port and depend on the individual input per company. A VSA is limited to a specific trade lane.

## When is the Chinese New Year 2025?

Chinese New Year (CNY) is celebrated in various East-Asian countries including China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and North and South Korea. The exact dates for this holiday change each year, depending on the lunar calendar. In 2025, the first day of the Chinese New Year is 29 January.

## How can businesses prepare for port strikes?

Businesses can prepare for port strikes by diversifying their shipping routes, using alternative transport modes, and using their own containers to avoid extra fees. Staying informed about strike developments also helps in adjusting logistics plans quickly.

*Do you have a question that you want us to answer? Please write to us at:*

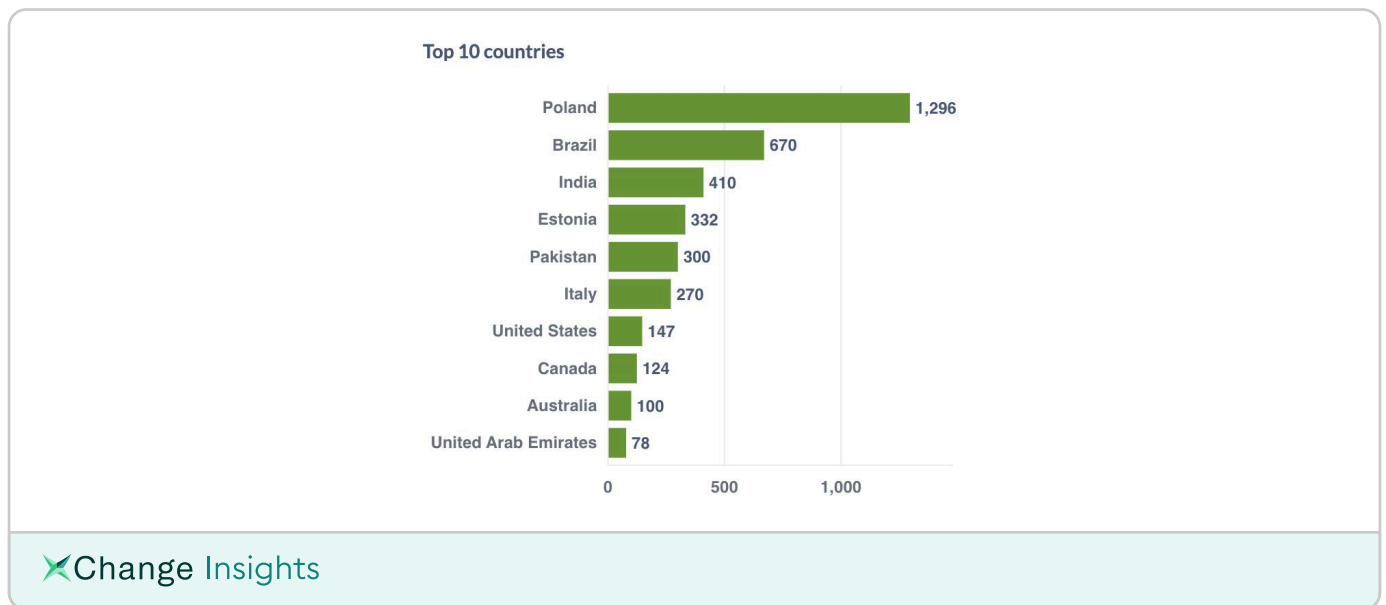
**[communications@container-xchange.com](mailto:communications@container-xchange.com)** and we'll answer it in our next edition.



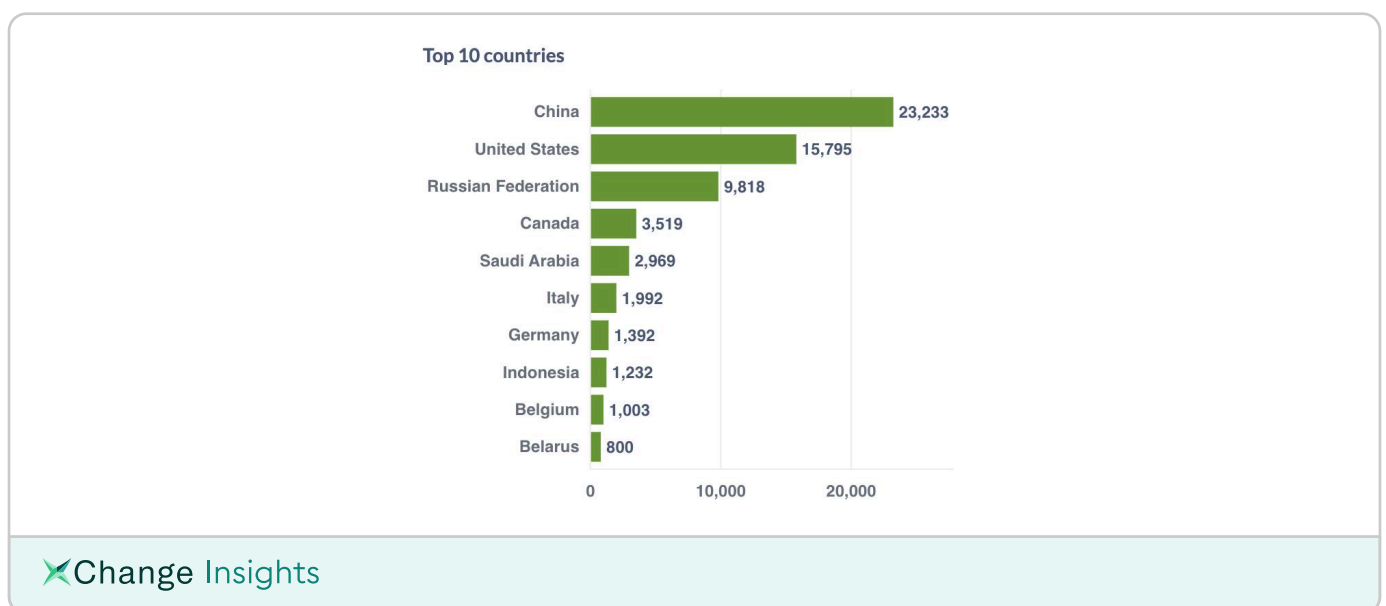


# Top 10 container supply and demand locations

Here are the top 10 container demand locations on the xChange platform in December.



Here are the top 10 container supply locations on the xChange platform in December.



[Start container trading](#)



# Methodology

Container xChange's monthly report – *Where are all the containers?* – offers a commentary on the main events in the global logistics and supply chain industries. With the unique and cutting-edge data that the company has, this report explains how they affect the global economy and consequently, our mundane lives.

We also bring forward valuable insights for users and suppliers of shipping containers as well as update them about the average prices of the 20ft, 40ft and 40 ft HC containers, pick-up charges for one-way moves, and the Container Availability Index (CAx) of key ports. Our analysis is based on global news, industry research material and insights directly from established professionals in logistics and supply chain.

The data in this report as well as the pictorial representation are powered by Container xChange's product, [Insights](#).

## Additional notes for the reader

- All the data that represents average prices refers to different types of containers. Their details are mentioned in the text and the graph headings.
- The prices of buying and selling and PU (pickup) charges for one-way leasing are always the average numbers (in USD) over the month we are reporting on.
- Data representing average prices and average PU charges for one-way leasing of various types and conditions of containers, are based on the containers transacted on Container xChange's trading and leasing platforms.
- A metric created by Container xChange, CAx is the tool or index which we use to measure the import and export of full containers around the major ports of the world. A CAx score of 0.5 means that the same number of containers leave and enter a port in the same week.

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# About Container xChange

The online platform for container logistics and operations



TRUSTED BY 1,700+ LEADING INDUSTRY PARTNERS



Buy, sell and lease containers in just a few clicks with Container xChange Marketplace

Buy containers | Sell containers | Search locations | All container types | Search

**40HC, Cargo Worthy** | 25 In stock  
Year of manufacture: 2019-2023  
Location: **Hamburg**  
Container seller: [Profile] 5.0 Online  
\$ 2,250 Per container  
Negotiable price  
View details →

**INSTANT SALES OFFER** Buy these containers instantly without waiting for seller confirmation  
**40HC, Cargo Worthy** | 25 In stock  
Year of manufacture: 2019-2023  
Location: **Hamburg**  
Container seller: [Profile] 5.0 Online  
\$ 2,250 Per container  
Negotiable price  
View details →



## Container Trading

Buy containers at the best prices with 100,000+ containers up for sale globally. Or quickly sell your stock to 1,700+ certified companies.



## Container Leasing

Lease one-way containers and grow your business. Choose among 2,500+ global locations, connect with only certified companies, and negotiate the best terms.

Use containers | Supply containers | Pick-up location | Drop-off location | Search

**40HC, Cargo Worthy** | 44 Containers  
Pick-up: **Tianjin**  
Drop-off: **Melzo** 2 more  
Container supplier: [Profile] 5.0 (4k) Online  
\$ 900 Pick-up charge  
Supplier pays  
60 Freedays | \$5 Per diem  
View details →

**45HC RF, IICL-6** | 13 Containers  
Pick-up: **Hamburg**  
Drop-off: **Antwerp** 2 more  
Container supplier: [Profile] 5.0 (4k) Online  
\$ 0 Pick-up charge  
Supplier pays  
30 Freedays | \$21 Per diem  
View details →



Payment protection



Customer support on all deals



Certified companies only

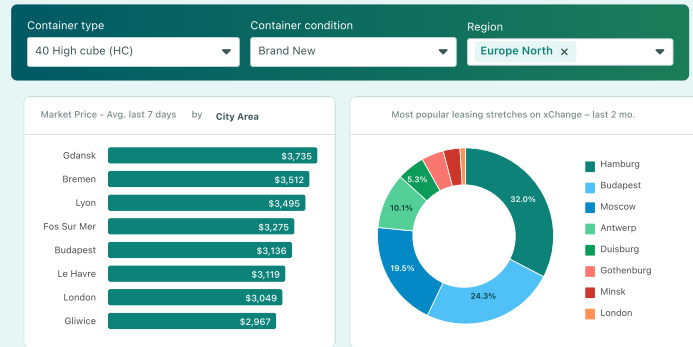


# Find the best locations to buy, sell or lease containers



## Insights

With Insights, learn and compare the container prices and one-way leasing rates for best deals.



Daily data updates



Global coverage



Various data sources

## How container providers, freight forwarders, NVOCCs win with xChange



Scaled up their business **5 times**

*"Finding reliable partners is just one click away with xChange"*



— Mr Supal Shah  
CEO, ARCON



Made **130 online deals**

*"xChange supported us to improve our reputation on an international level"*



— Andrea Monti  
CEO, Sogese



Found **54 new partners** in just a year

*"xChange has been a massive help in helping me find containers all over the world"*



— James Grunsky,  
CEO, GRUNSKY

# Maximize your container profits with xChange

[Learn more](#)

[www.container-xchange.com](http://www.container-xchange.com)

# Contact us

Established in 2017, Container xChange is a technology company headquartered in Hamburg, Germany. It is the world's first online marketplace for buying, selling and leasing shipper owned containers (SOCs). At present, we have more than 1,500 international companies on our platform.

We offer our members efficient digital processes and market transparency to enhance their operational flexibility. We cover the entire transaction process, from finding new partners to do business with to tracking containers and managing payments.

We are working towards a mission to simplify the logistics of global trade. And we are creating an ecosystem of products and services for container logistics companies to empower them with digitalization and help them reduce their manual workload.

*For questions about this report, our products and to request a demo, please write to:*



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*For press inquiries, please write to:*



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