

CONTAINERSHIP DATABANK BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER
2026

Global fleet capacity¹

32.6m TEU

Global scheduled capacity²

21.3m TEU

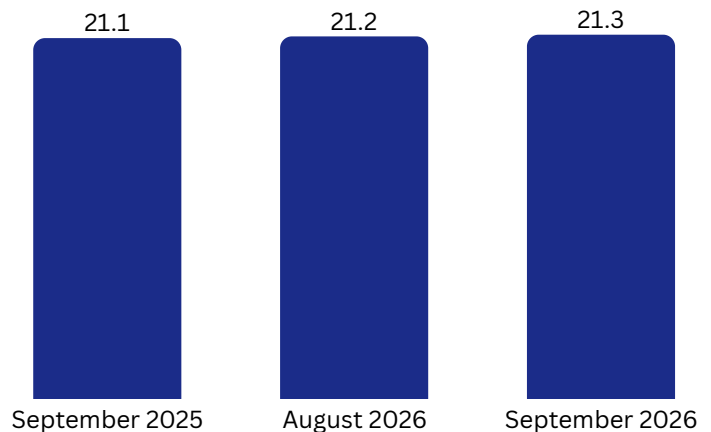
Fleet on order

13.4m TEU

1. Global capacity

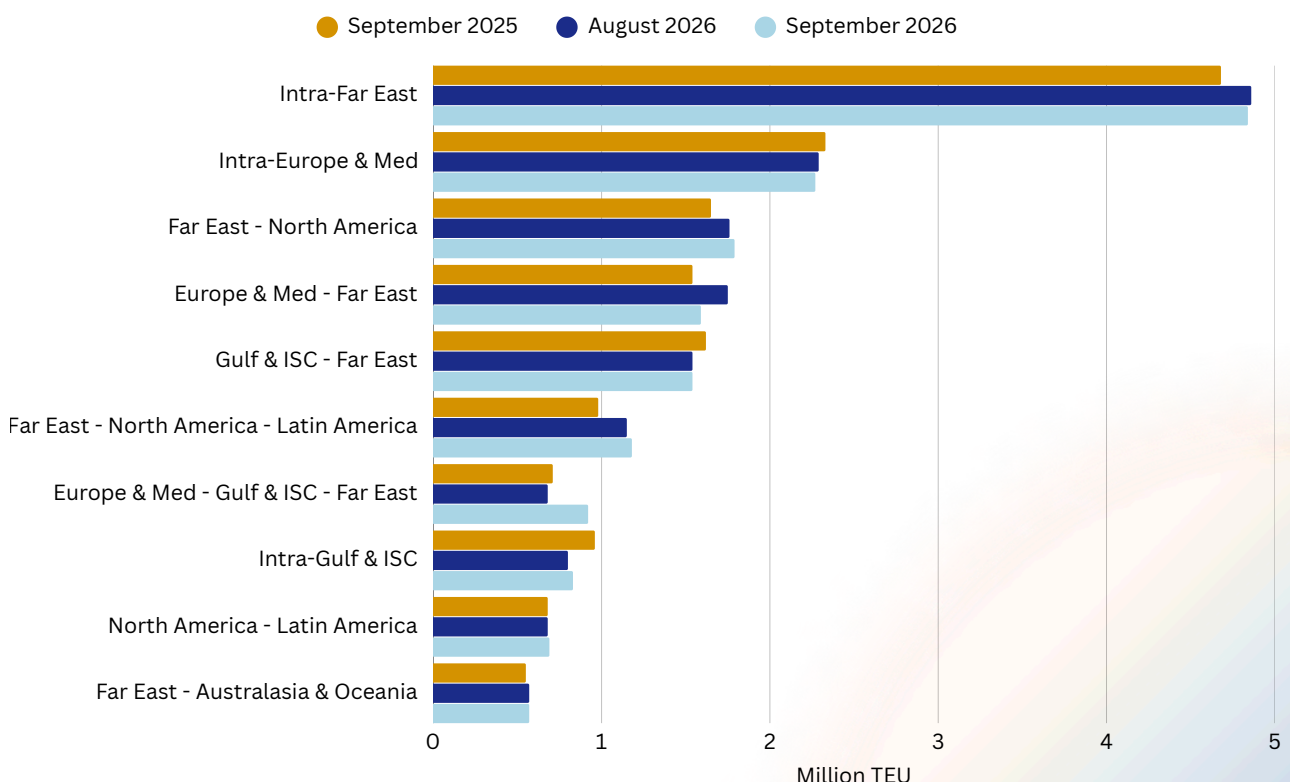
Global scheduled capacity reached 21.3 mn TEU in September 2026, up 0.4% MoM and 1.1% YoY. Growth remained strongest on selected long-haul east-west and regional trades, led by Europe & Med-Gulf & ISC-Far East (+29.7% YoY), Far East-North America-Latin America (+20.5% YoY) and Far East-North America (+8.2% YoY). The intra-Far East remained the largest regional market, accounting for 22.7% of global capacity despite a slight MoM decline. By contrast, Gulf & ISC-related trades continued to contract, with Gulf & ISC capacity down 13.8% compared with last year and Gulf & ISC-Far East down 4.9%.

● Global monthly scheduled capacity (million TEU)



2. Trade corridor breakdown

Monthly scheduled capacity by top 10 trade corridors

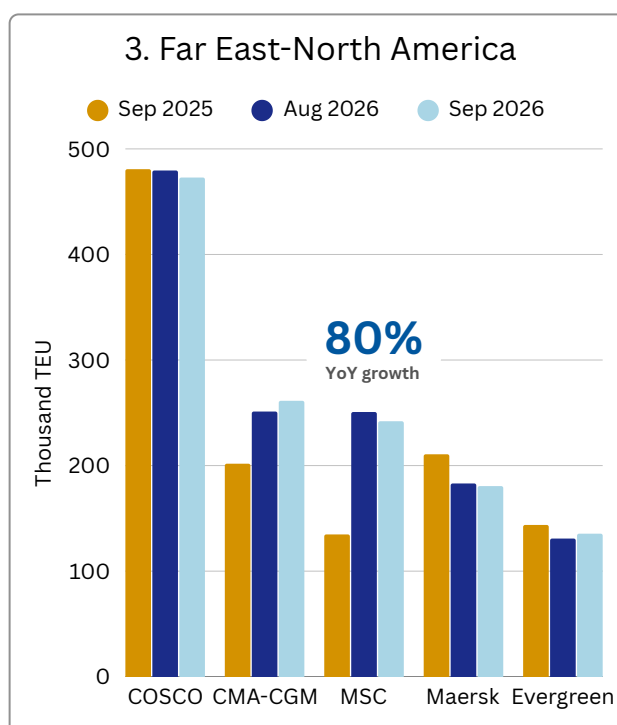
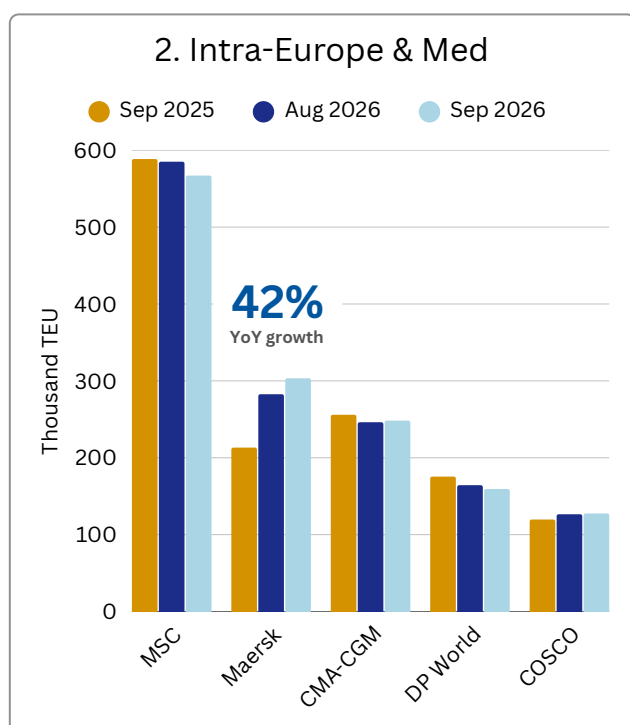
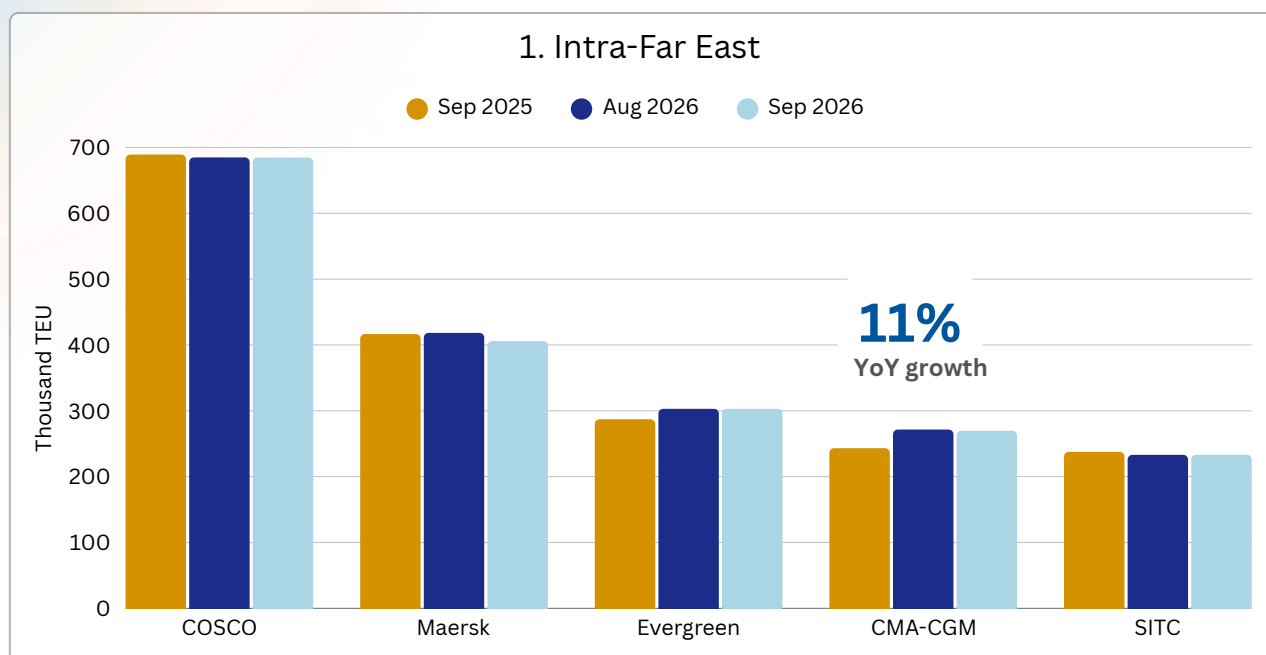


(1) Fleet capacity: Total capacity of containerships available to shipping lines.

(2) Scheduled capacity: Total service capacity that shipping lines allocate to specific trade lanes.

3. Major shipping lines: Top 3 trade corridors

Monthly scheduled capacity by top 5 shipping lines



- In the Intra-Far East market, CMA CGM recorded the largest increase in deployed capacity, up 10.9% year on year. The increase was driven by the introduction of larger vessels, particularly on the KCS service, where average ship size rose from 5,500 TEU to 7,500 TEU.
- Maersk increased its capacity in the Intra-Europe and Med trade by 42.3% year on year. This growth came despite the total number of services remaining unchanged, as the network was modified through the introduction of two new services deploying vessels as large as 9,000 TEU.
- On the Far East-North America trade lane, MSC increased its deployed capacity by 79.6% year on year. The increase was driven by the reintroduction of the Chinook and Pearl services, alongside the deployment of larger vessels on the Orient service.

4. Port connectivity

For each of the 7 world regions, the tables below show the port with the greatest absolute change in their Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) between September 2025 and September 2026.

For the components of the Top 100 container ports visit www.portlsci.com.

- Australasia & Oceania:** Melbourne's LSCI rose 6.7%, supported by more services and calls and a 15.9% increase in scheduled capacity.
- Europe & Mediterranean:** Beirut's LSCI increased 33.6%, driven by broad-based network expansion, with services, calls, operators and scheduled capacity all increasing significantly.
- Far East:** Ningbo's LSCI grew 4.9%, reflecting steady network strengthening, with services, calls and scheduled capacity up modestly, despite fewer operators.
- Gulf & Indian Subcontinent:** Khor Fakkan's LSCI surged 197.3%, reflecting diversions prompted by the Hormuz crisis and strong growth in services, calls, operators and capacity.
- Latin America & Caribbean:** La Guaira's LSCI increased 194.2%, driven by rapid network expansion and substantial increases in vessel and scheduled capacity.
- North America:** Lázaro Cárdenas' LSCI rose 13.6%, supported by higher services, calls and scheduled capacity, while operator numbers remained stable.
- Sub-Saharan Africa:** Tin Can Island's LSCI increased 57.3%, reflecting strong growth in services, calls, capacity and direct connectivity.

Region: Australasia & Oceania

Country: Australia

Port name: Melbourne

+6.7%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	275	294	18
Port in global ranking	80	71	9
<i>LSCI components</i>			
No. of services	26	31	5
No. of port calls	27	32	4
No. of operators	22	21	-1
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	10,034	9,411	-623
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	450	522	71
Direct calls	77	78	1

Region: Europe & Mediterranean

Country: Lebanon

Port name: Beirut

+33.6%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	172	230	58
Port in global ranking	150	100	50
<i>LSCI components</i>			
No. of services	15	22	7
No. of port calls	14	20	7
No. of operators	8	10	2
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	15,363	16,000	637
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	165	302	136
Direct calls	52	74	22

Region: Far East

Country: China

Port name: Ningbo

+4.9%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	2,027	2,126	99
Port in global ranking	2	2	-
LSCI components			
No. of services	272	283	11
Port calls	260	280	20
Operators	66	63	-3
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	24,346	24,346	-
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	6,862.30	7,350.00	488
Direct calls	274	279	5

Region: Gulf & ISC

Country: UAE

Port name: Khor Fakkan

+197.3%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	89	265	176
Port in global ranking	281	81	200
LSCI components			
No. of services	5	20	15
Port calls	6	16	11
Operators	7	17	10
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	10,114	24,346	14,232
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	77.6	407.5	330
Direct calls	15	50	35

Region: Latin America

Country: Venezuela

Port name: La Guaira

+194.2%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	43	126	83
Port in global ranking	439	212	227
LSCI components			
No. of services	5	8	3
Port calls	4	7	3
Operators	5	8	3
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	2,127	15,254	13,127
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	22.8	116.3	94
Direct calls	9	22	13

Region: North America

Country: Mexico

Port name: Lazaro Cardenas

+13.6%

YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	263	299	36
Port in global ranking	88	68	20
LSCI components			
No. of services	20	25	5
Port calls	19	23	4
Operators	14	14	-
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	16,616	16,616	-
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	628	782.9	155
Direct calls	57	63	6

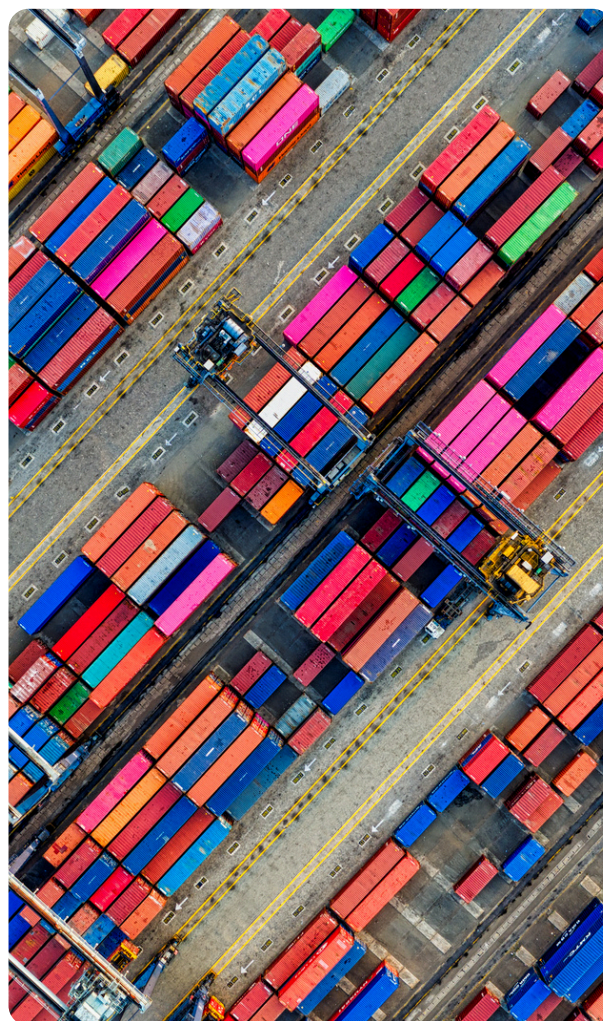
Region: Sub Saharan Africa

Country: Nigeria

Port name: Tin Can Island

+57.3%
YoY Growth in LSCI

	Sept 25	Sept 26	Absolute change
LSCI	89	139	51
Port in global ranking	284	194	90
<i>LSCI components</i>			
No. of services	6	10	4
Port calls	6	10	4
Operators	6	8	2
Max Ship capacity (TEU)	5,762	9,408	3,646
Monthly scheduled capacity ('000s TEU)	106.4	180.3	74
Direct calls	35	54	19



The **Containership Databank** enables MDS Transmodal to produce bespoke analyses of the world's container carrying fleet of over 6,000 vessels based on known service deployment.

Every vessel in service has multiple fields of information including operator, service, route, TEU capacity, service frequency, port rotation and much more.

The **Containership Databank** also includes information about vessels on order and vessels removed from the commissioned fleet.

Service deployment of individual vessels in the fleet frequently changes - the **Containership Databank** tracks these changes and is continually updated.

Analyses that are regularly produced to provide advice for clients include:

- Capacity by operator, route and trade lane.
- Trends on a consistent quarterly basis since 2006.
- Fleet analysis by operator, size, configuration of ships and fuel type.

The Containership Databank is the primary source for global indicators such as the:

- Maritime Trade Connectivity Indicator (MTCI) developed in partnership with OECD/ITF.
- Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) developed in partnership with UNCTAD.

For the components of the LSCI for the Top 100 container ports visit www.portlsci.com.

- Logistics Performance Index (LPI) developed by the World Bank.

If you have any questions or if you wish to explore our services, please don't hesitate to contact us.

+44 (0)1244 348301 

www.mdst.co.uk 

web.enquiries@mdst.co.uk 

MDS Transmodal Ltd 