

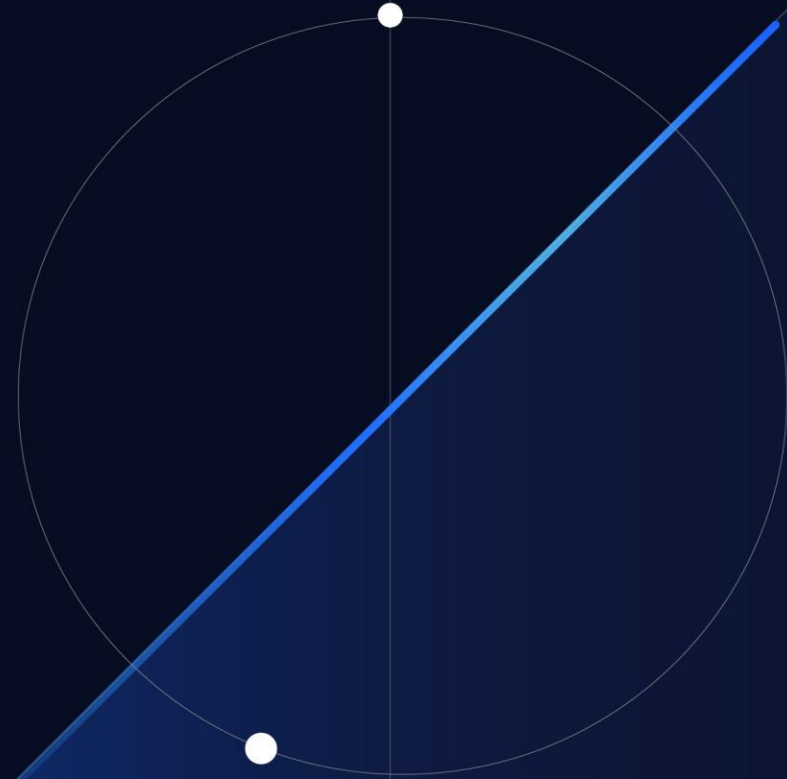


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May 2025 | Container Shipping Trends

Despite the massive uncertainty around US trade policies, businesses keep finding solutions to complex issues.

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**Xeneta Weekly Ocean Container
Shipping Market Update –
2.5.2025**

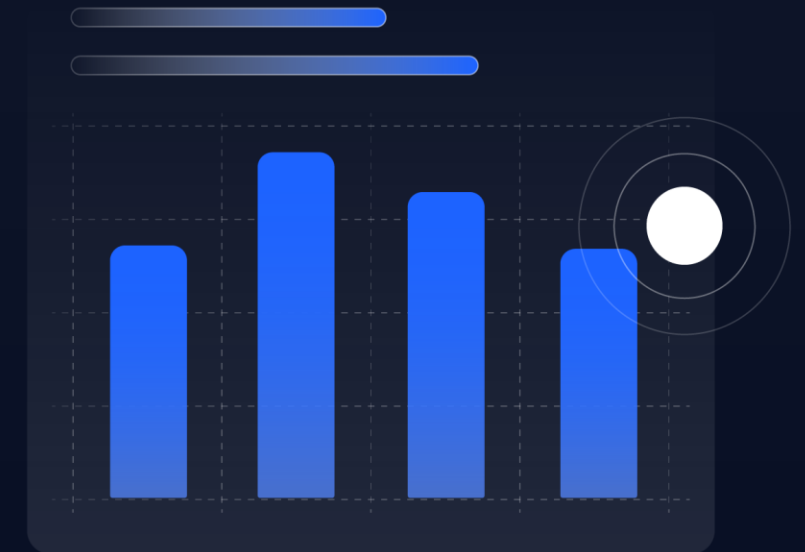
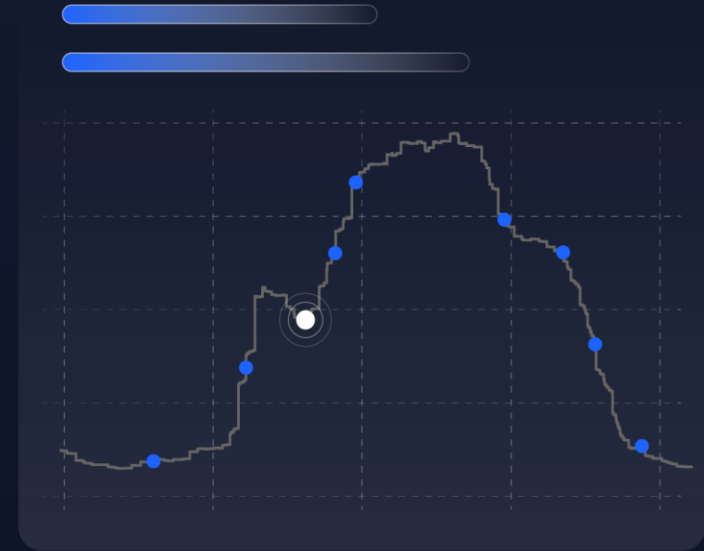
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**Xeneta unveils index-linked
contract simulator, back by
industry's most
comprehensive and neutral
ocean container freight data**

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Monthly Specials!



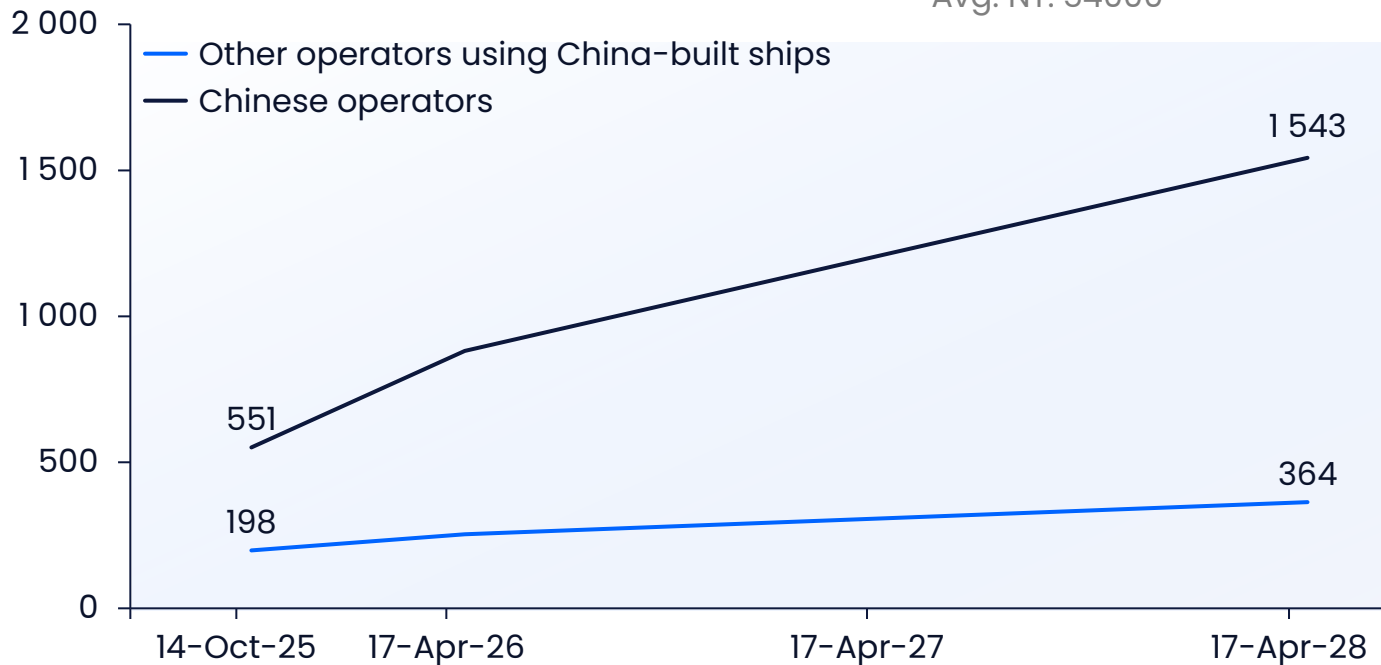
USTR 301 – US port fees to hit alliances and carriers differently

Estimated additional cost

Avg. fee per FEU in USD

Assumptions:

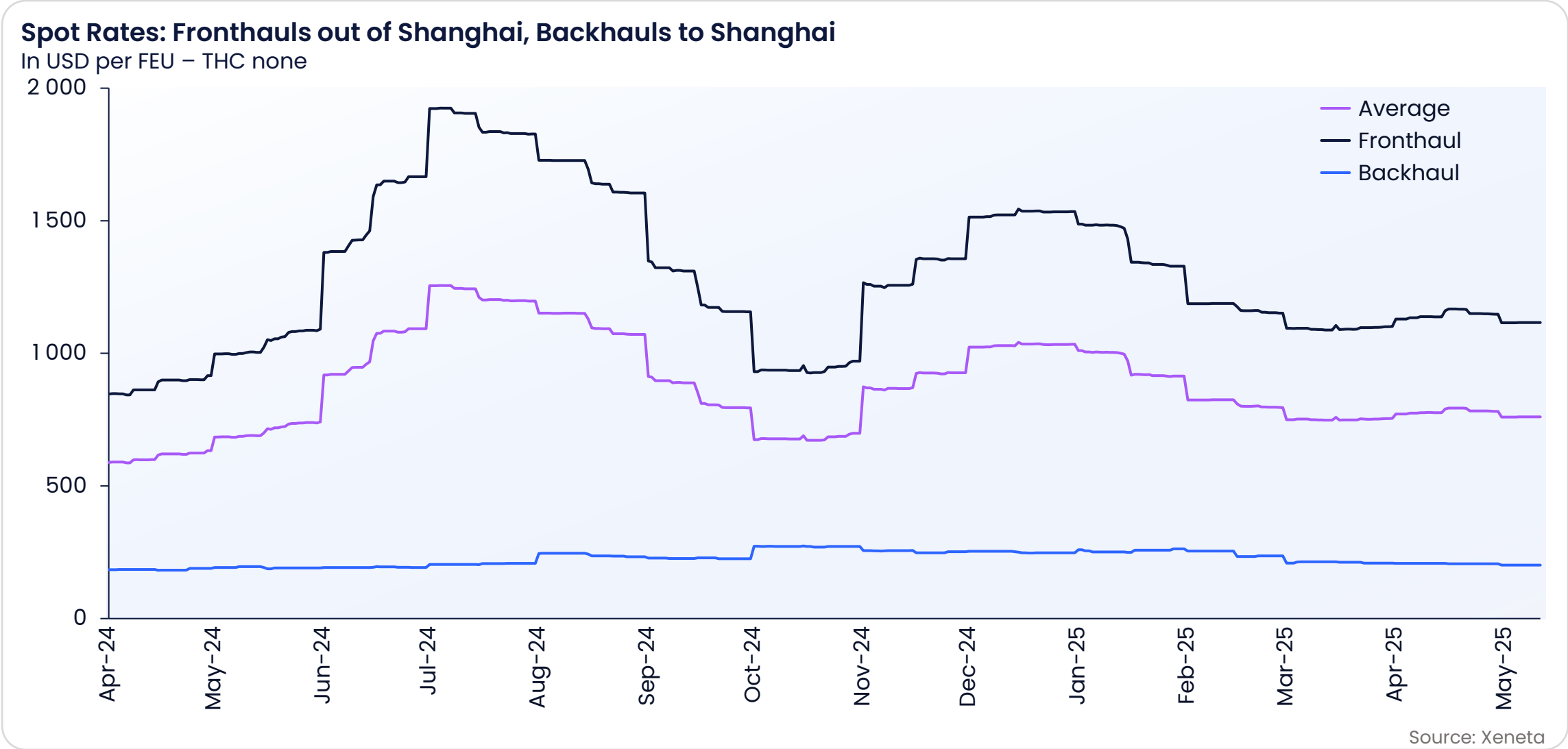
- Avg. ship capacity: 9800 TEU
- Avg. NT: 54000



Source: Xeneta

- Revision of USTR port fees from 17 Oct 2025
- *Excludes* fee based on percentage of active fleet and orderbook
- Fees for Chinese operators & owners based on net tonnage (NT)
- Non-Chinese operators using Chinese built ships either NT or per container, whichever higher
- Charged up to 5 times per year per ship
- Separate scheme: SHIPS of America Act for fees based on active fleet and orderbook, on top of USTR fees
- *More in detail [here](#).*

Intra-Asia spot rates from and to Shanghai

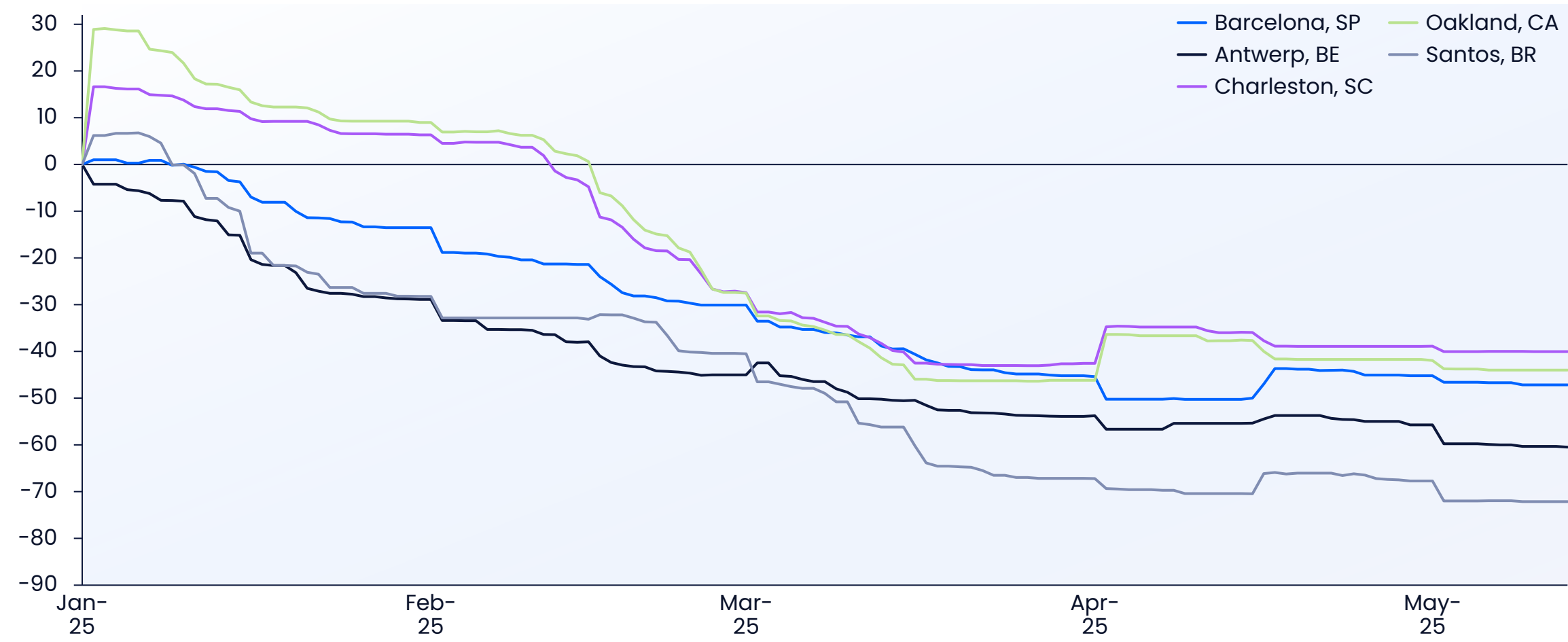


Note: The data in the chart above, consists of 11 Fronthaul trade lanes, and 7 backhauls trade lanes

Fronthaul rates out of Shanghai decline 40-70% since January

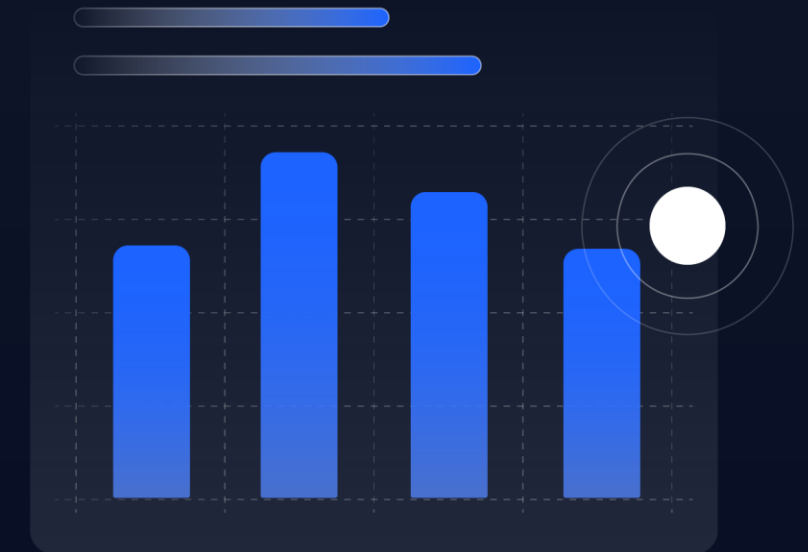
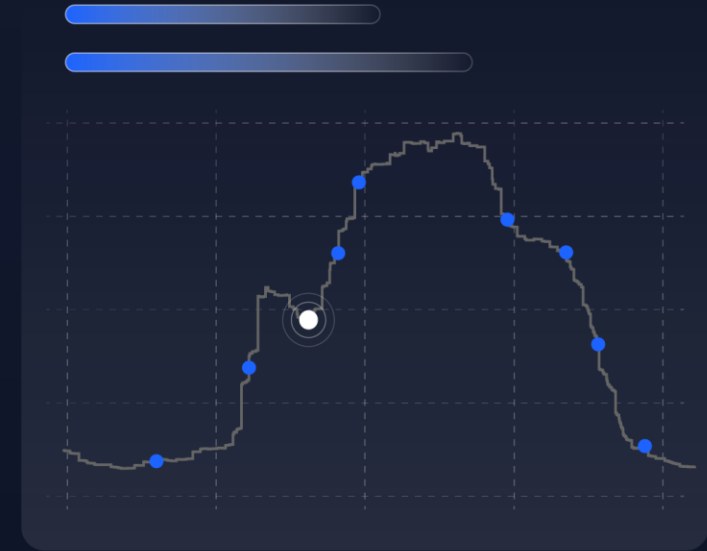
Spot Rates out of Shanghai

Changes in %, since 1 January



Fronthaul vs. Backhaul

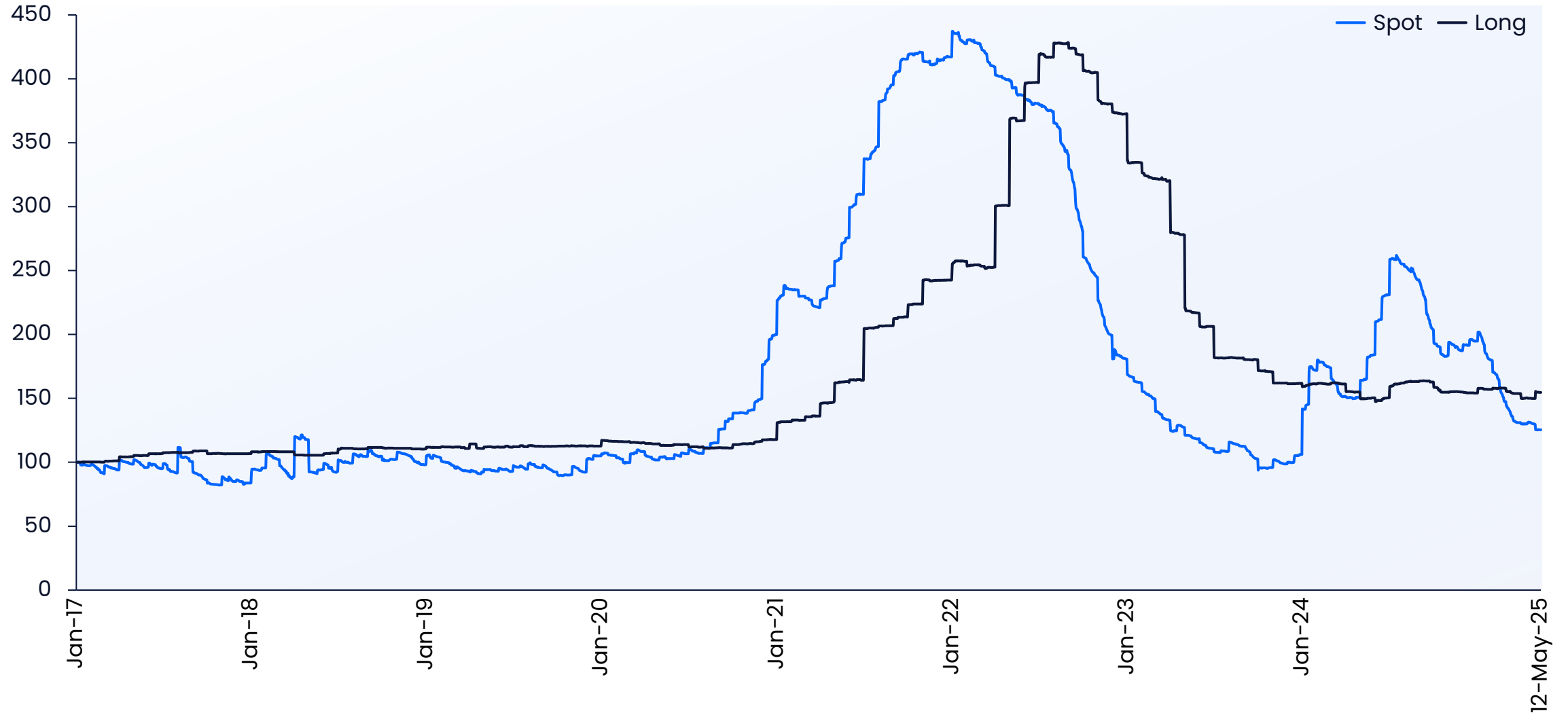
Current Freight Rate Trends
- short and long term



Development of global spot and long-term rates

Global Average Rates

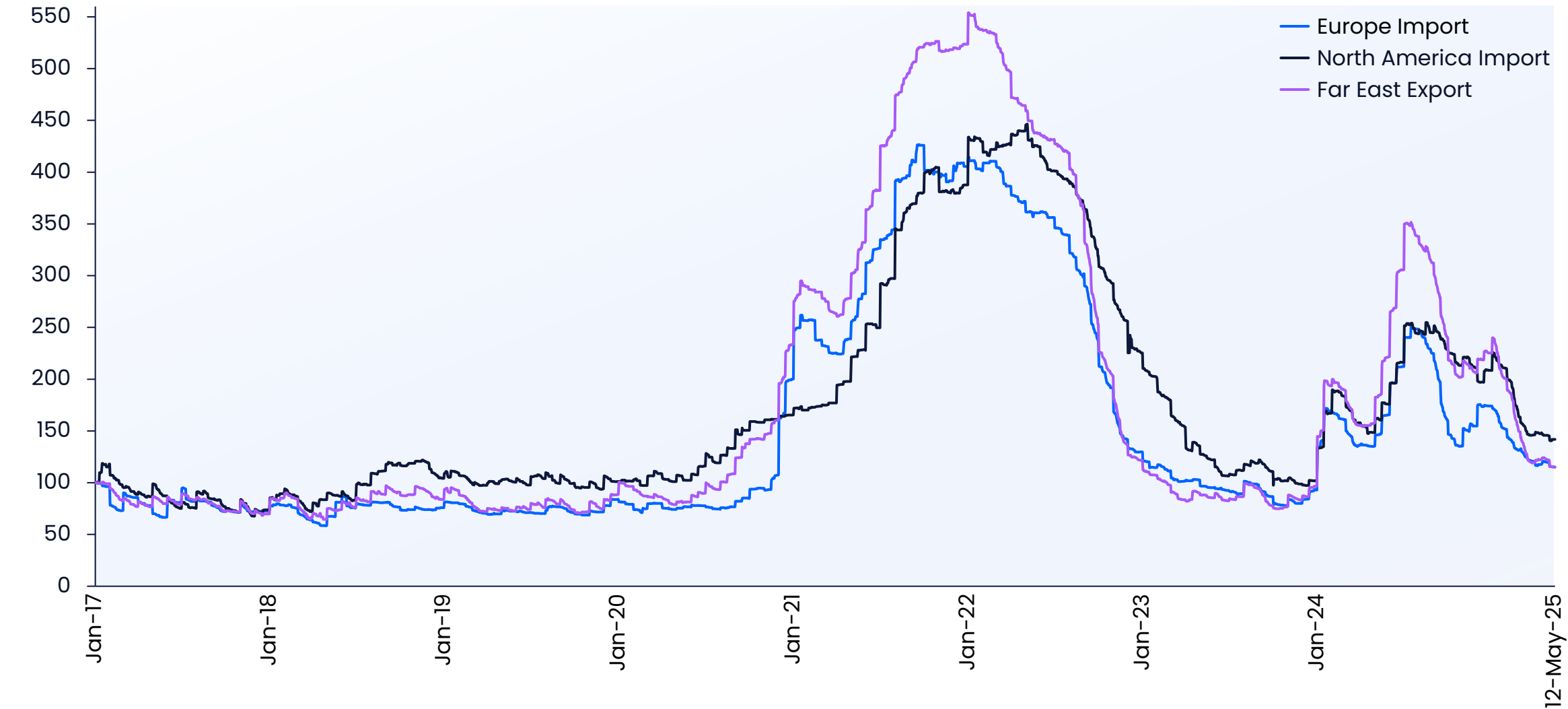
Index 100 = 2017



Development of fronthaul spot rates

Fronthaul Average Rates

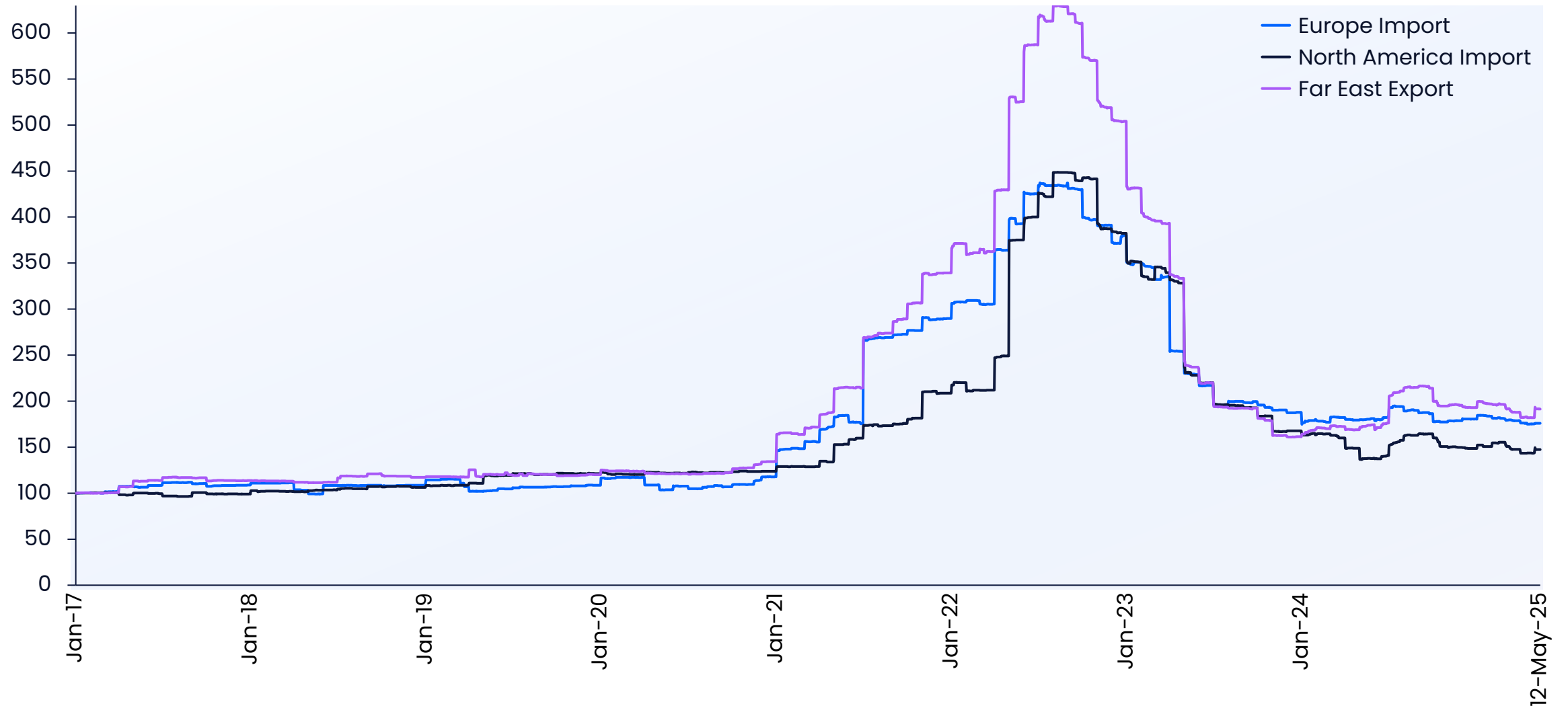
Index 100 = 2017



Development of fronthaul long-term rates

Fronthaul Average Rates

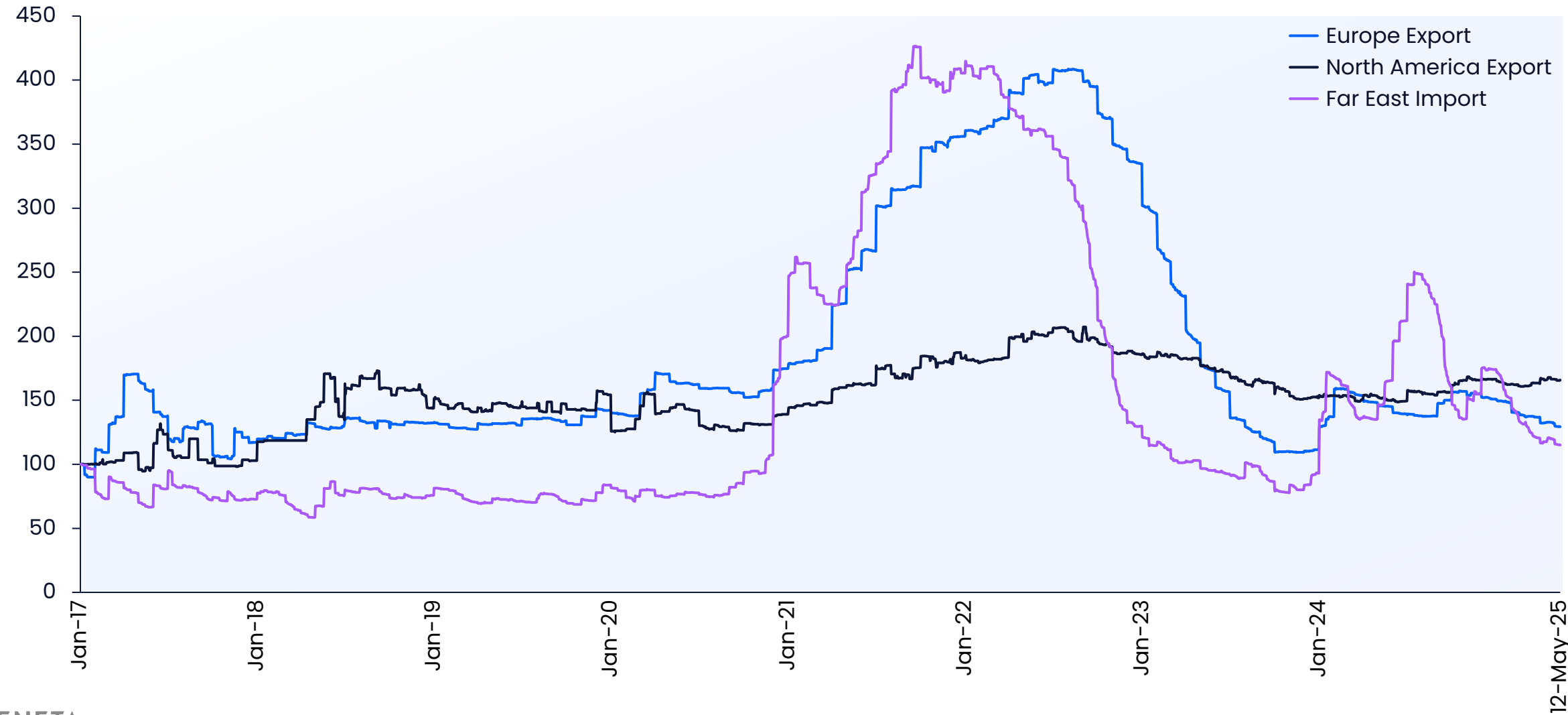
Index 100 = 2017



Development of backhaul spot rates

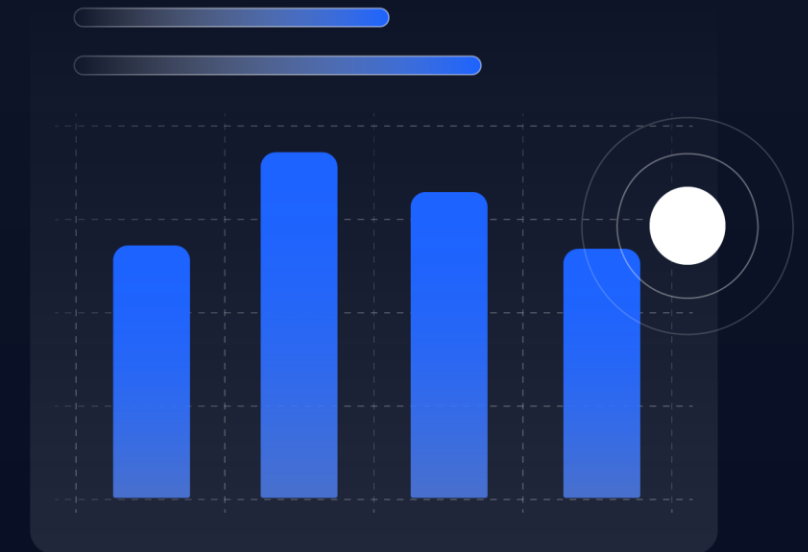
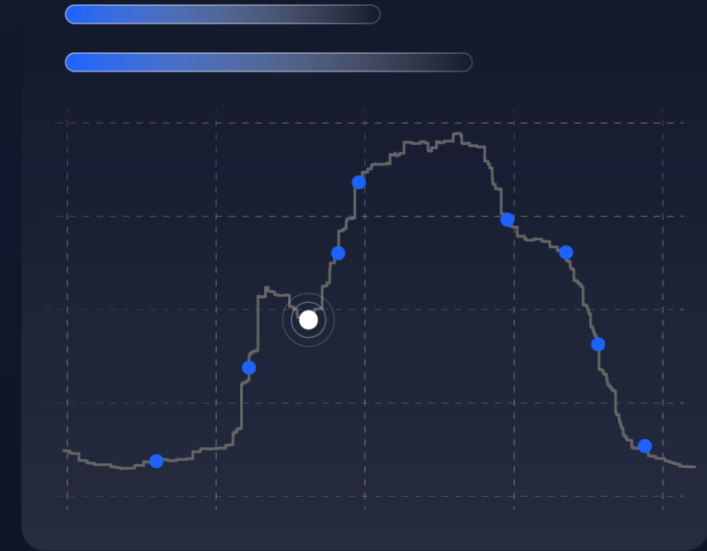
Fronthaul Average Rates

Index 100 = 2017



Supply Chain Heat Maps

Xeneta Shipping Index by Compass (XSI-C)



XSI®-C: US East Coast to North Europe rising for past 3 weeks

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Xeneta Shipping Index by Compass (The XSI-C)

		Week 9 ending 28/Feb	Week 10 07/Mar	Week 11 14/Mar	Week 12 21/Mar	Week 13 28/Mar	Week 14 04/Apr	Week 15 11/Apr	Week 16 18/Apr	Week 17 25/Apr	Week 18 02/May	Week 19 09/May
Origin	Destination											
Far East	to US West Coast	-11.1%	-16.2%	-5.7%	-12.3%	-2.3%	14.1%	4.4%	-2.3%	-3.1%	-2.6%	-7.0%
Far East	to North Europe	-3.5%	1.3%	-10.1%	-6.2%	-4.0%	-1.3%	5.2%	1.8%	0.4%	-4.8%	-7.7%
Far East	to South America East Coast	-8.4%	-11.1%	-10.0%	-16.2%	-10.8%	-2.2%	-7.2%	3.5%	5.8%	-4.8%	-10.6%
North Europe	to Far East	-1.7%	-3.3%	2.3%	2.9%	2.5%	-11.8%	-1.0%	3.6%	1.3%	-7.4%	-10.0%
North Europe	to South America East Coast	0.1%	-4.7%	-0.1%	4.2%	-0.1%	9.3%	-5.5%	1.7%	-2.5%	2.1%	-2.2%
North Europe	to US East Coast	-1.1%	0.5%	0.2%	-0.3%	-1.8%	-1.9%	1.6%	0.8%	0.2%	-2.2%	-2.6%
US East Coast	to North Europe	0.4%	0.0%	2.9%	-1.1%	-0.3%	-2.3%	-1.5%	-0.7%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%
US West Coast	to Far East	-1.4%	-0.9%	-1.3%	-0.1%	0.6%	2.4%	-0.4%	-2.7%	2.3%	-0.9%	-0.6%

Powered by XSI.Xeneta.com

Note:

Weekly average

Rates falling by more than 0.4% are GREEN

Rates going down OR up by less than or equal to 0.4% are YELLOW

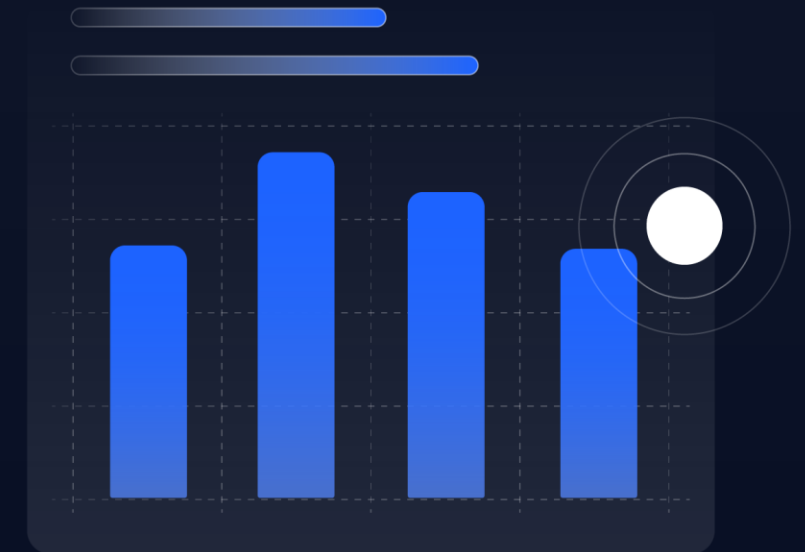
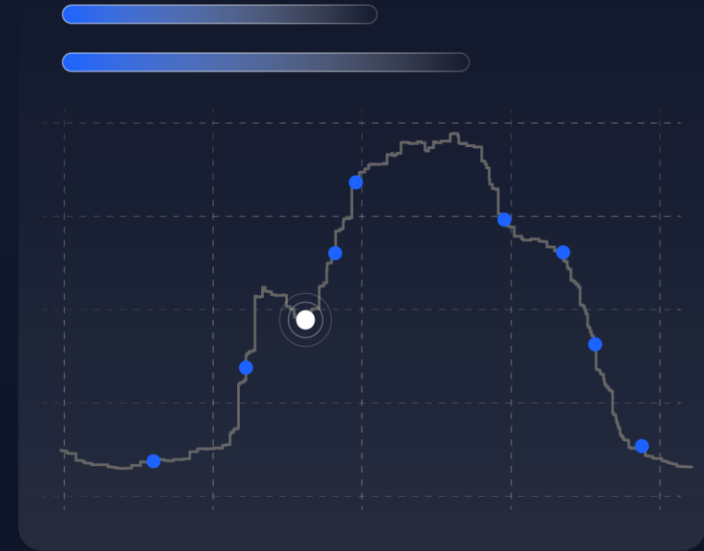
Rates climbing by more than 0.4% are RED

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Bunker Fuel Prices

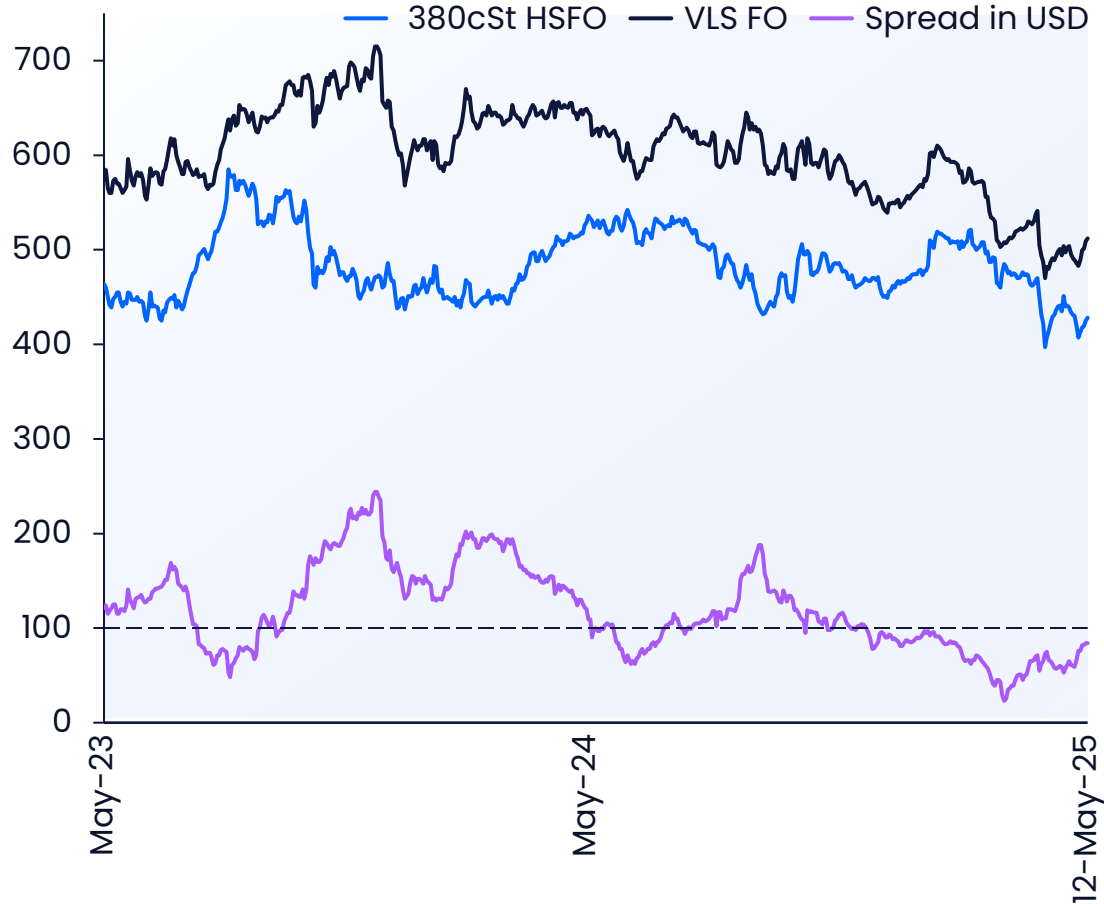
Main Ports in Asia and Europe



Bunker fuel market trends: Rising spread in Singapore

Singapore

Bunker Fuel Prices: USD per Ton



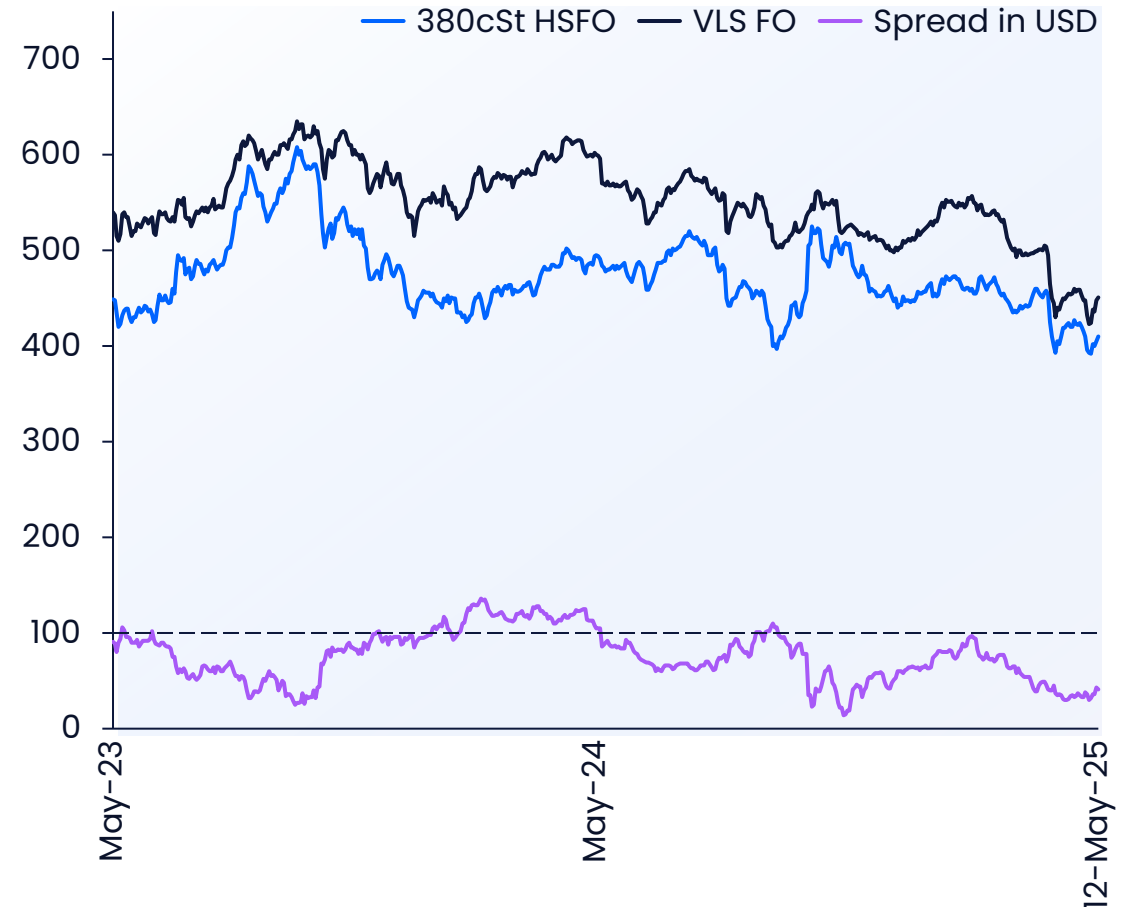
Source: Xeneta, MABUX

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Rotterdam

Bunker Fuel Prices: USD per Ton

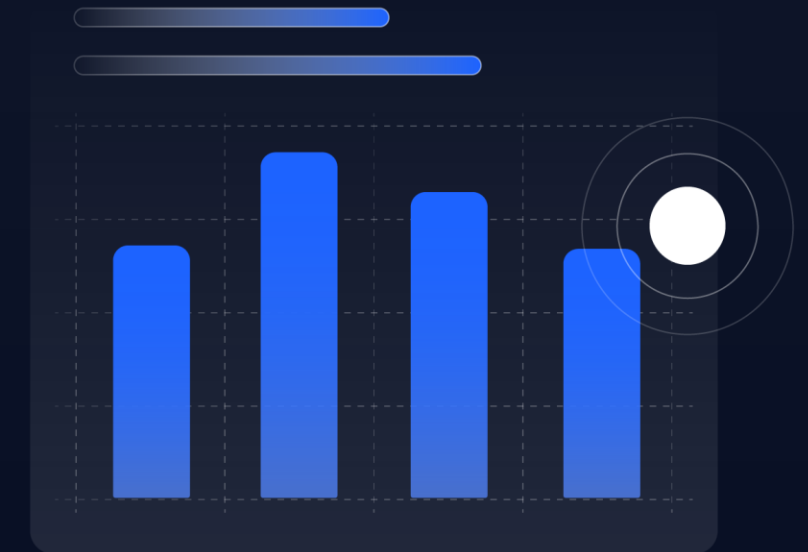
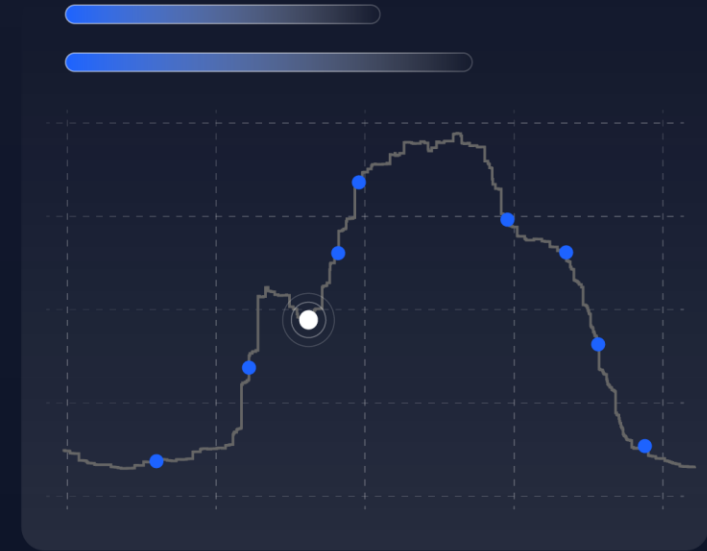


Source: Xeneta, MABUX

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What's being shipped?

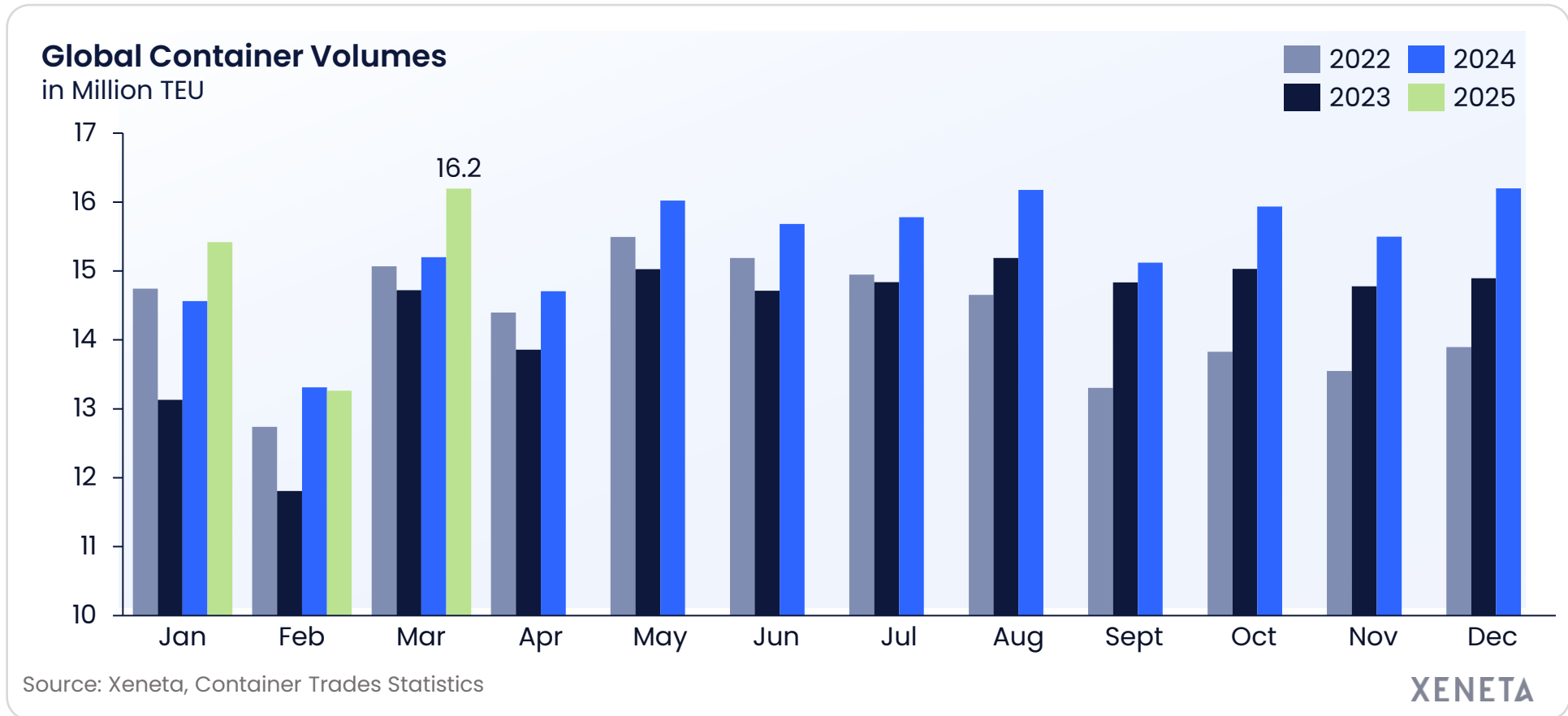
Current Demand Trends



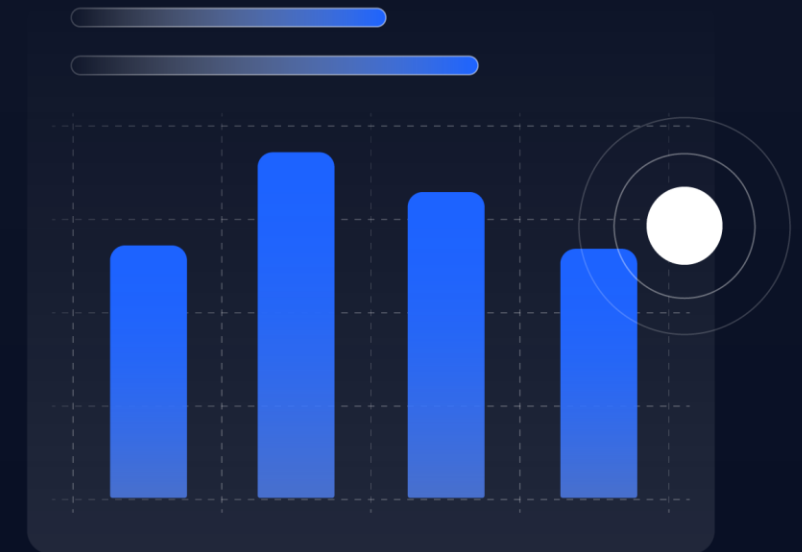
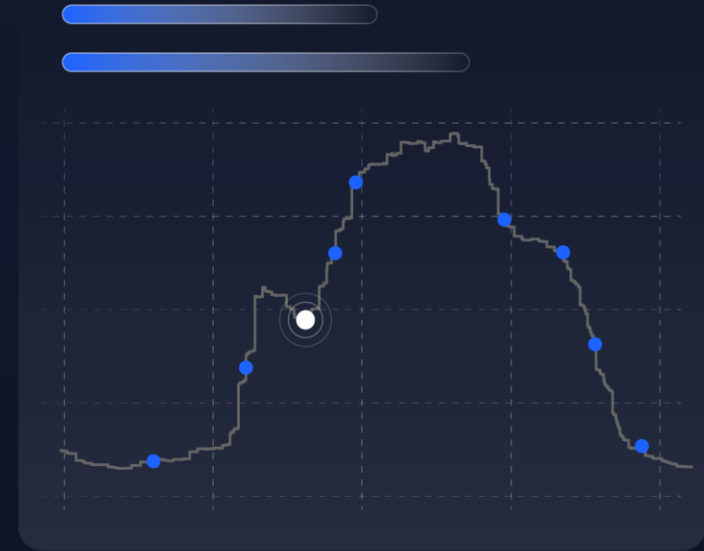
March 2025: Highest March on record

Takeaways

- March 2025 volume increased 6.5% compared to March 2024
- Second highest volume per month, only December 2024 higher

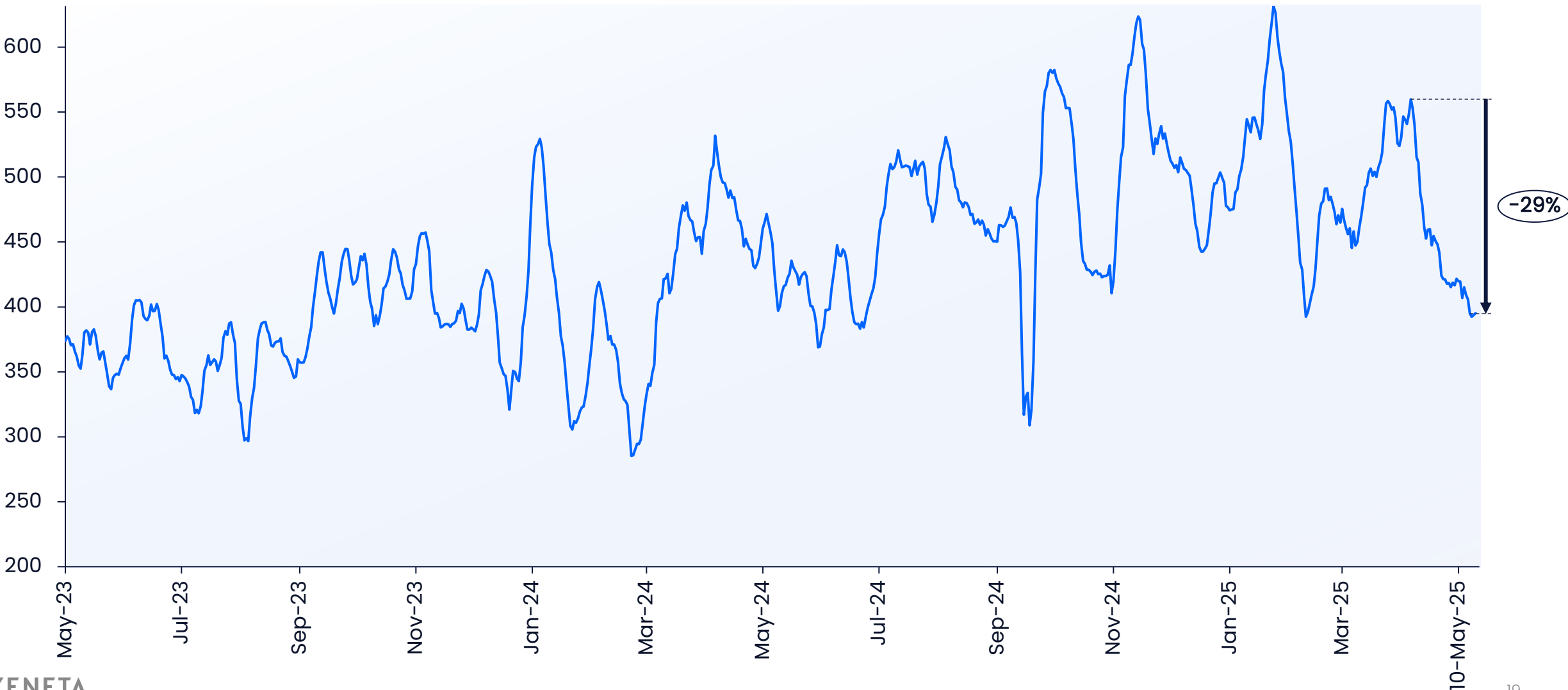


Where's the congestion?



Congestion drops in Shanghai

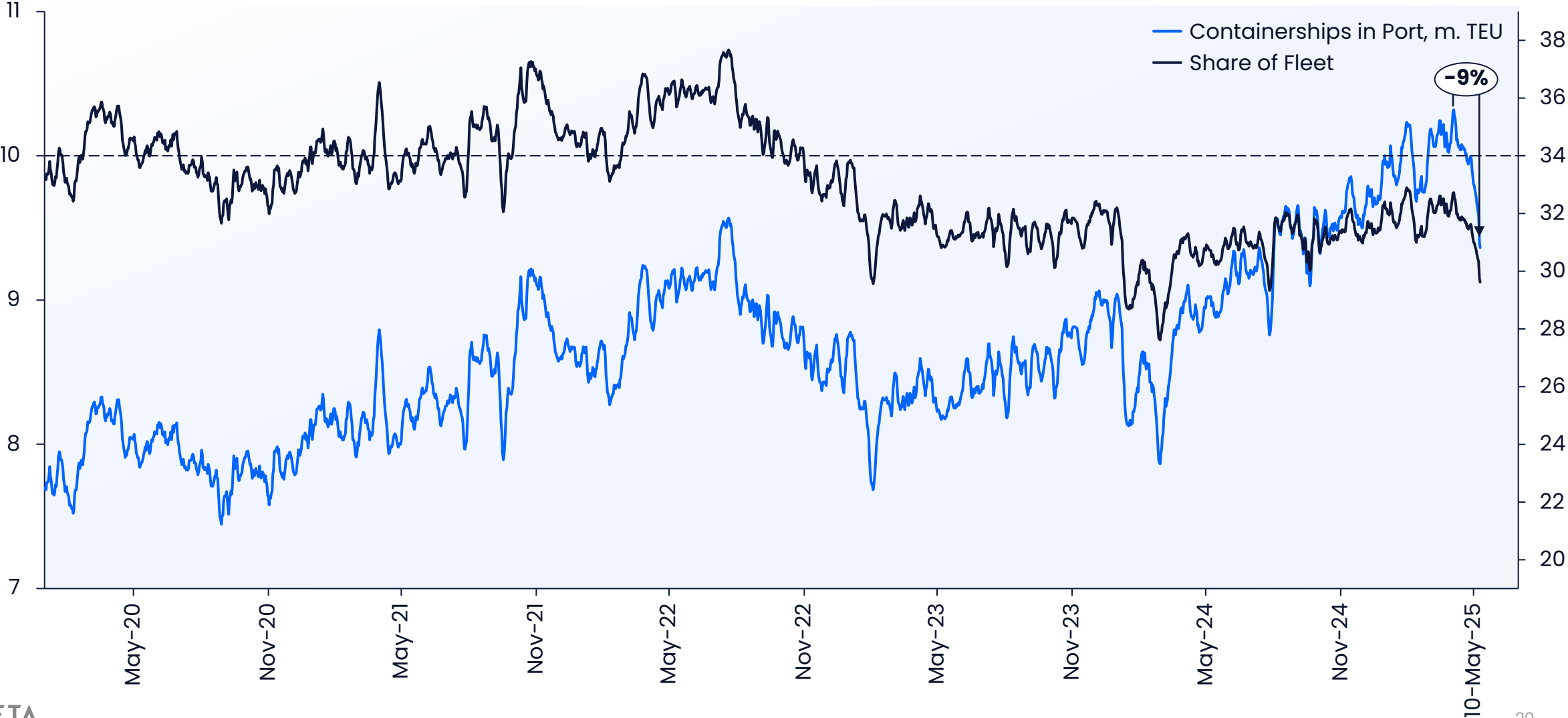
Port Congestion – Shanghai
in Thousand TEU



Global Congestion dropping due to easing in Chinese ports

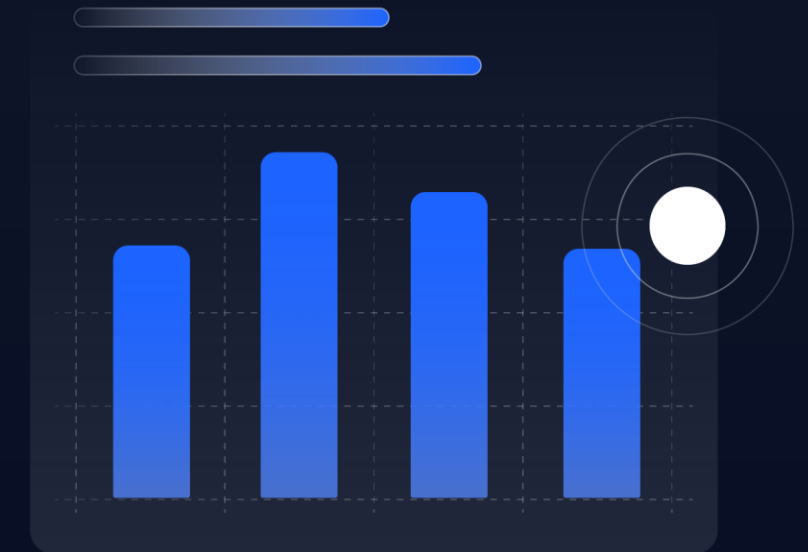
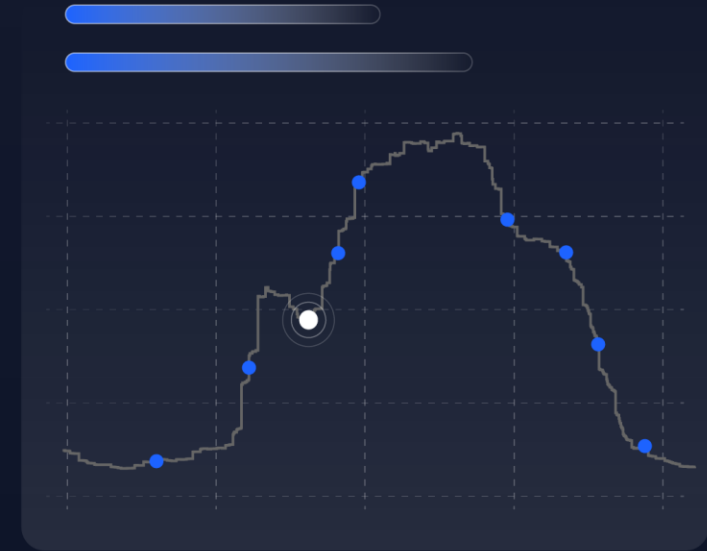
Global congestion in container shipping

Million TEU (LH-axis), % share (RH-axis)



Where's the economy heading?

In the East and in the West



Inflation easing in Euro Area and US – Deflation easing in China

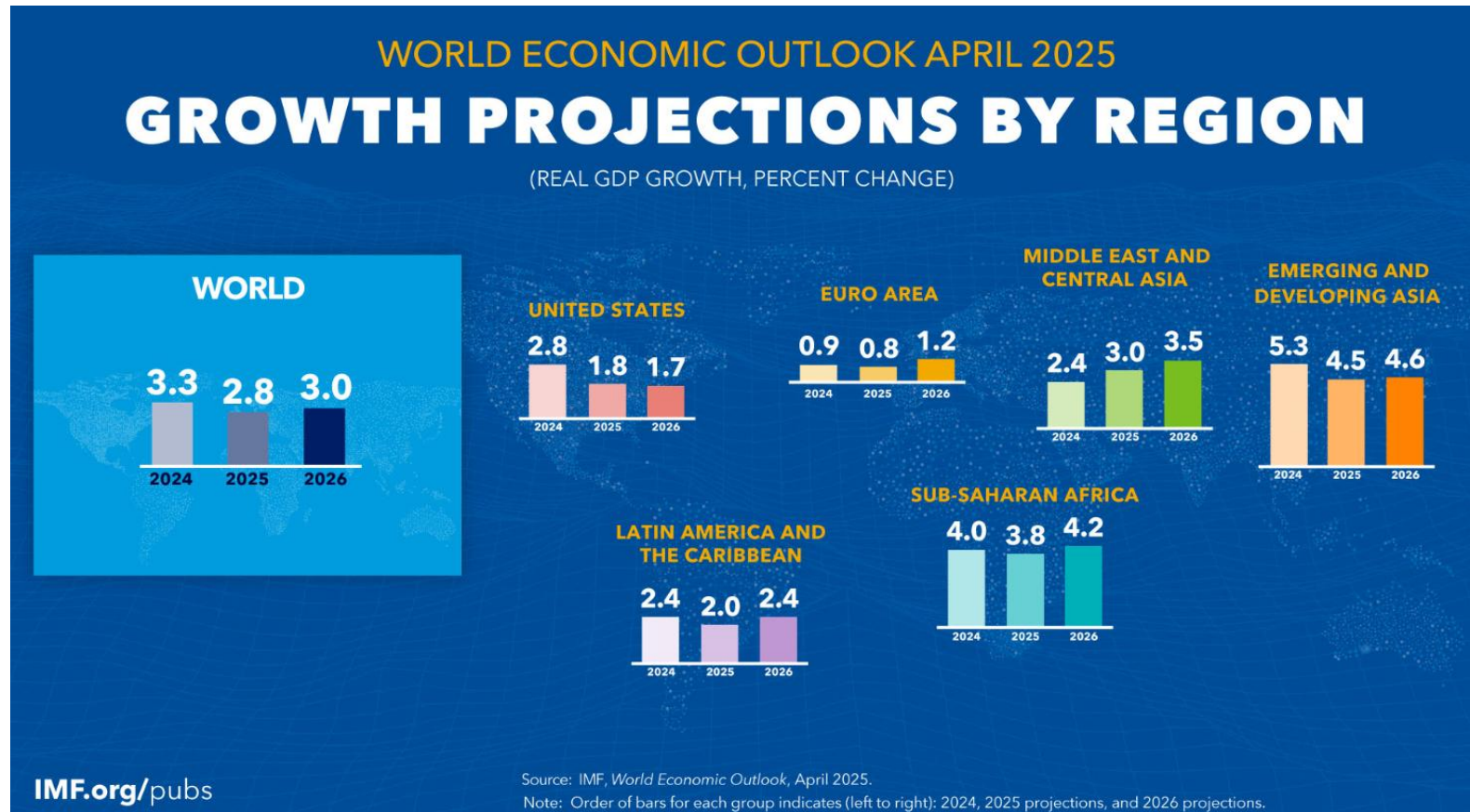
Inflation and Forecast – China, Euro Area, US

Annual Growth in %



Source: Xeneta, OECD, NBS and Eurostat

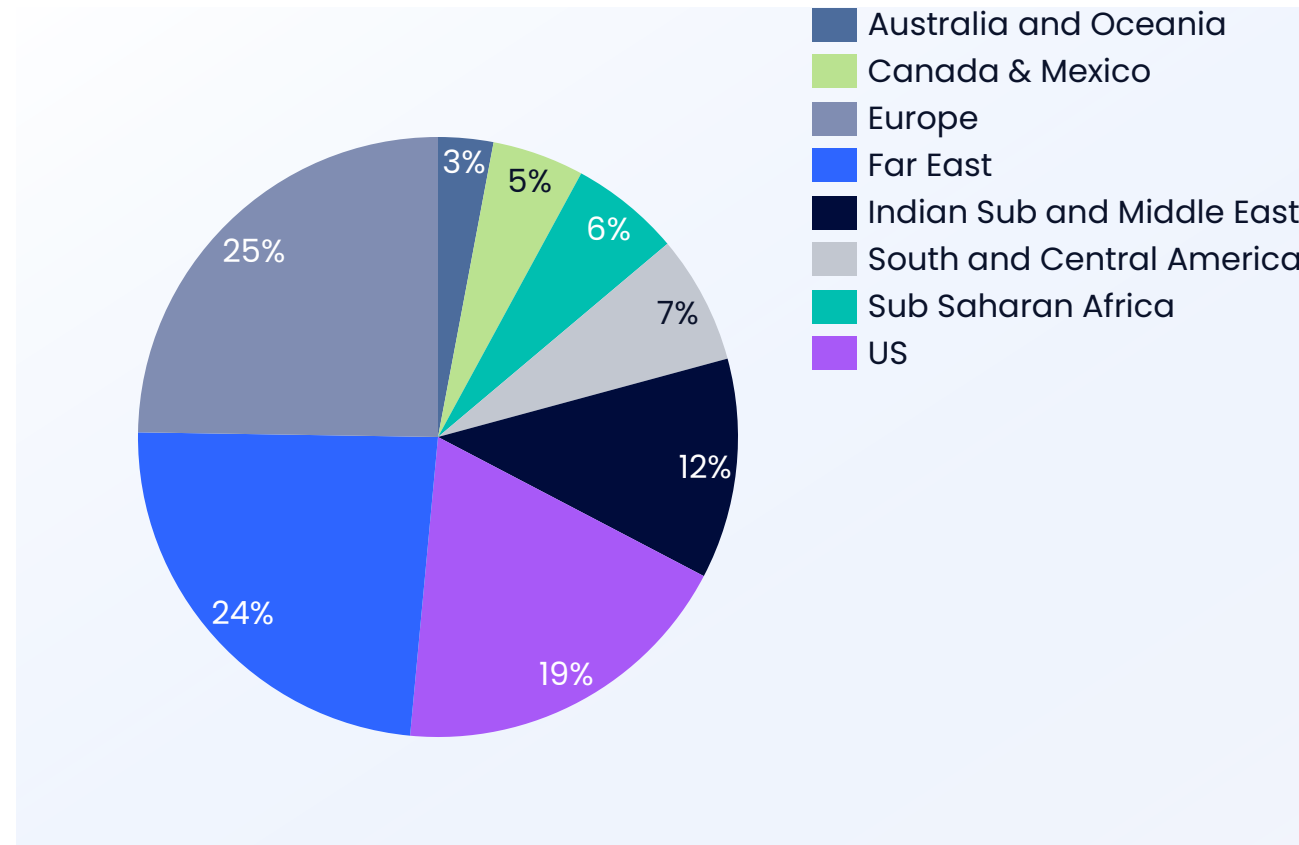
Growth projection for Global Economy decreasing



- **Broader update on macro-economics provided in XODD report**
- Compared to projections in Jan '25: 'World' decreases 0.5 percentage points. United States decreases 0.9.
- Tariffs cause major negative shock to growth, outlook, and consumer confidence
- High policy uncertainty is expected to significantly impact economic activity

Most Chinese exports shipped to Europe in March 2025

Share of Exports from China by region in March 2025



Source: Xeneta, CTS

XENETA SUMMIT 25

OCTOBER 9-11 2025,
Barcelona

Shippers
Freight Forwarders

Shipping Lines
Airlines



Freight Debate – Podcast

First Episode live on YouTube: Is the shipping industry ready for 2025?



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Key Insights:

- Phil, Kim, and Emily dive into why the 2025 freight procurement season is unlike any other. They discuss how European and American tender strategies are diverging, with rates falling by up to 50% post-tender in some regions.
- Listeners will learn why strategic timing is critical for 2025 tender negotiation tactics and how new trends like shipper consortiums, 4PL partnerships, and indexed freight contracts are reshaping the game.
- The episode also addresses external disruptions like the ongoing Red Sea crisis, newly imposed tariffs, port congestion, and shifts in carrier alliances. Emily and Kim explain how smart shippers are baking flexibility into their contracts and adjusting sourcing strategies to avoid getting trapped by sudden rate changes or political shocks.

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LIVE WEBINAR

The Risky Business of Softening Rates: Freight Strategies for an Uncertain Market

April 24, 2025

Key Insights:

- *Why “falling rates” don’t equal reduced risk*
- *How new US tariffs are reshaping freight strategies*
- *How to balance cost savings, risk mitigation and improved supply chain visibility*
- *How leading BCOs use data to adapt, improve forecasting and avoid costly missteps*

[Watch now](#)



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