



The Port closes 2011 with 4% growth in container traffic

Containerized cargo exports up 14% on the previous year

Container traffic in the Port de Barcelona surpassed 2 million TEU (one TEU equalling a 20 foot container) in 2011, representing a 4% increase on the previous year. The exact container volume handled in the port in 2011 was 2,033.549 TEU. Throughput in the Port de Barcelona (including containers and all other cargo) reached 44.2 million tons, representing a slight increase of 0.4%. The increase in traffic was mainly centred on the first half of the year, while port activity slowed down over the following months to the end of the year.

The rate of growth in exports has significantly determined traffic results in the Port de Barcelona. The Catalan infrastructure channelled a total of 511.096 TEU into foreign markets, representing an increase of 14% on the previous year. China, the Arab Emirates and Turkey were the principal destinations for these goods.

A boost in exports

The remarkable boost in export traffic demonstrates the growing efforts made by Catalan companies to compete on an international level and position their products in the global marketplace. Other key destinations for traffic handled in the Port de Barcelona include Algeria, USA, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, South Korea, and India. Such a variety of markets is testimony to the dynamism of the country's business sector as well as their sales strategy to diversify as much as possible.

Apart from containerized goods, one of the best results in the port area was in the traffic of new vehicles. In 2011 specialized terminals in the Port de Barcelona handled a total of 630.102 cars, representing an increase of 14% in relation to the previous year.

In this case also, growth was principally due to the boost in exports. Last year the Port channelled nearly 350,000 new vehicles into various foreign markets (principally Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, Africa and America), a 25% increase on 2010. However, imported vehicles amounted to 134.720 units in 2011, some 8 per cent over figures for the previous year.

On the other hand, seaborne trade via Short Sea Shipping lines (SSS) has experienced moderated growth at 4%, a figure that remained constant throughout the second half of the year. The Catalan capital has established SSS connections with Italy (Genoa, Civitavecchia, Livorno and Porto Torres) and North Africa (Tangiers and Tunis). These maritime services combine Ro-Ro cargo (trucks, platforms, vans and trailers) with passengers.



Record number of passengers

Furthermore, the 3.8 million passengers who used the Catalan infrastructure in 2011 constitute a historic record in the growth of the port. This result translates into an 11% increase on the previous year. Of this total, 1.1 million people (+6%) were ferry passengers destined for the Balearic Islands, Italy and North Africa. Also, the 881 cruise vessels that berthed in the port's terminals brought a total of 2.6 million cruise passengers to the city, 13% up on 2010.

In 2011, the Port de Barcelona received a total of 8,007 vessel calls from cargo and passenger vessels. The highest proportion of calls corresponds to ferries (31% of the total), container carriers (28%), cruise vessels (11%), and oil tankers (11%). Vessels berthing in the Port de Barcelona are increasingly larger in size: the average tonnage (commercial cargo capacity of ships) in 2011 was up 6% on the previous year.