



International Maritime Transport In Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007

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1. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRANSPORT

International maritime transport statistics differ according to the source analysed. For the year 2007, for instance, the four sources consulted for this edition give different figures. These figures range from 6.628 billion metric tons (according to Global Insight) to 8.022 billion metric tons (according to UNCTAD), while Clarkson Research Services gives 7.765 billion metric tons, and Fearnleys Review 2007 gives a figure of 7.572 billion metric tons.

According to Global Insight, in 1995 worldwide international trade represented almost 6 billion metric tons, with 66% of that (i.e. 3.96 billion metric tons) being seaborne.¹ In 2005, total international trade was 9 billion metric tons, of which 6.1 billion metric tons was seaborne. This means an average annual increase of 4.18% for total trade and 4.42% for international maritime trade, which shows that maritime freight is playing a growing part in international transport in terms of volumes.

¹ If a metric ton per mile is used as the unit of measurement, the share of seaborne trade increases considerably.

In 2007, international maritime trade reached 6.628 billion metric tons² (all traffic), with the Latin American and Caribbean region accounting for a significant proportion thereof. However, there is a considerable difference between the transportation of merchandise that originates in Latin America and the Caribbean (exports) and merchandise that arrives in the region (imports).

Indeed, while seaborne exports to the rest of the world represented 1.052 billion metric tons, imports amounted to 426 million metric tons, due to the fact that the region is an exporter of voluminous raw materials.

Table 1 shows the share of each subregion of Latin America and the Caribbean in outgoing maritime transport from the region.

Table 1
**Maritime exports from Latin America and the Caribbean,
2006-2007 (metric tons)**

	2006	2007
East coast of South America	497,654,115	543,434,099
West coast of South America	290,662,750	292,470,231
Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean	223,878,122	216,573,826
Total Latin America and the Caribbean	1,012,194,987	1,052,478,156
World total*	6,355,702,872	6,628,359,299

Source: R.J. Sánchez and Maricel Ulloa, ECLAC, United Nations, on the basis of data from Global Insight (www.globalinsight.com).

Note: * estimated value

Countries on the east coast of South America accounted for 543 million metric tons, or 51.6% of the region's maritime exports and 8.2% of the world total. The west coast of South America accounted for 27.8% of the region's maritime exports, a total of 292 million tons, representing 4.4% of the world total. And finally, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean together represent 216 million metric tons, which represents 20.6% of the region's maritime exports to the rest of the world and 3.3% of the world total.

² As explained at the beginning, the figures differ according to the source used. Two sources give a figure in excess of 7 billion metric tons for maritime transport.

Table 2 shows the maritime transportation of goods heading to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 2
**Maritime imports into Latin America and the Caribbean,
2006-2007 (metric tons)**

	2006	2007
East coast of South America	114,571,171	130,540,793
West coast of South America	87,083,648	100,901,186
Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean	182,659,190	195,332,863
Total Latin America and the Caribbean	384,314,009	426,774,842
World total*	6,355,715,096	6,628,372,261

Source: R.J. Sánchez and Maricel Ulloa, ECLAC, United Nations, on the basis of data from Global Insight.

Note: * estimated value

The east coast of South America received 130 million metric tons of merchandise from the rest of the world, while the west coast of South America imported 100 million metric tons and the rest of the region as a whole imported a total 195 million metric tons. This means that the east coast of South America received 30.6% of the region's maritime imports, the west coast received 23.6%, and Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean were the recipients of 45.8%. Out of total world imports, the east coast accounted for 1.97%, the west coast 1.52% and the rest of the region as a whole 2.95%.

Table 3
**Proportion (by volume) of international maritime transport accounted for
by various world regions 2007**

	International maritime transport	
	% of volume	
	Exports	Imports
East coast of South America	8.2	1.97
West coast of South America	4.4	1.52
Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean	3.3	2.95
Total Latin America and the Caribbean	15.9	6.44
Total Europe*	11.8	16.60
Africa/Middle East*	27.5	8.69
Total Asia*	24.8	50.21
Total North America*	9.5	16.64
Total Oceania*	10.6	1.38

Source: R.J. Sánchez and Maricel Ulloa, ECLAC, United Nations, on the basis of data from Global Insight.

Note: * estimated figures

2. MARITIME TRANSPORT BY PRODUCT, 2007

Table 4 shows maritime transport trends for various goods over the last 20 years, broken down by type of product.

Table 4
International maritime transport by type of product, in millions of metric tons
1985-2007

Year	Iron	Coal		Bauxite/ Grains	Aluminium	Phosphate	Total 5 main Commodities	Minor Bulk	Containers	Other dry cargo	Total Dry Cargo
		Coking	Steam								
1985	321	144	132	213	44	46	900	561	160	549	2170
1990	347	153	184	215	55	37	991	606	246	625	2469
1995	402	160	242	216	52	30	1102	681	389	727	2900
2000	448	174	346	264	54	30	1316	778	628	931	3596
2001	451	169	383	260	52	31	1345	799	647	910	3650
2002	480	171	406	271	55	30	1413	811	718	964	3848
2003	517	178	448	264	60	29	1496	854	805	955	4041
2004	587	179	483	275	68	31	1623	918	918	927	4313
2005	661	184	507	272	78	31	1734	930	1020	918	4524
2006	723	190	543	291	79	30	1857	984	1134	882	4776
2007 (e)	785	211	574	300	84	32	1987	1030	1243	878	5011

Year	Crude Petroleum	Total by-products	Petroleum	Gas		TOTAL Clarkson	Total Total UNCTAD	Total Fearnleys	Global Insight	MAX-min
				LPG	LNG					
1985	984	415	1400	22	39	3631	3382			249
1990	1155	448	1603	28	60	4160	4008	3932		228
1995	1400	460	1860	34	69	4862	4651	4712	3958	904
2000	1656	518	2174	39	104	5915	5984	5595	4876	1108
2001	1684	544	2228	36	107	6024	6020	5653	4812	1212
2002	1667	543	2210	36	113	6211	6120	5820	4814	1397
2003	1770	582	2352	36	125	6565	6500	6133	5017	1548
2004	1850	621	2470	38	132	6953	6846	6493	5821	1132
2005	1885	671	2556	37	142	7237	7109	6720	6100	1137
2006	1923	687	2610	39	168	7536	7652	7195	6355	1297
2007 (e)	1920	687	2607	41	206	7765	8022	7572	6628	1394

Source: R. J. Sanchez and M. Ulloa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from Clarkson,³ Global Insight, UNCTAD and Fearnleys
Note: (e) estimated data for Clarkson and Global Insight

As shown in table 4, in 2007 international transport of the five main commodities⁴ stood at 1.987 billion metric tons, minor bulks accounted for 1.03 billion metric tons, containers totalled 1.243 billion metric tons, while dry cargo represented 5.011 billion metric tons. Petroleum reached 2.607 billion metric tons (1.92 billion metric tons of crude and 687 million metric tons of derivatives), while gas totalled 247 million metric tons. In summary, Clarkson gives the international maritime transport figures for 2007 as 7.765 billion metric tons. Of the other sources consulted, UNCTAD is one of the most optimistic, with a total of 8.022 billion metric tons (Fearnleys gives 7.572 billion and Global Insight 6.628 billion metric tons). The difference between the maximum and minimum figures quoted by the sources consulted is 1.394 billion.

³ *Minor bulk*: sugar, fertilizer, cement, forest products, steel products, other grains and agricultural by-products, scrap, etc.

⁴ Iron, coal, grains, bauxite/aluminium and phosphates.

3. MARITIME TRADE OUT OF AND INTO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The following table summarizes international maritime transport departing from and arriving into some subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The figures are based on the most relevant data from 2006.

According to data reported by Fearnleys Review, South America was the source of just over 97 million metric tons of grain, out of a worldwide maritime transport total of 324 million metric tons. This represents 30.1% of the total, with the main destinations being Europe, the Far East and the Americas.

Maritime transport of iron worldwide represented more than 733 million metric tons, 35.1% of which came from South America. The main destinations are in Europe and Asia.

Table 5
International maritime transport originating in Latin American and Caribbean subregions, by main commodities, 2006

COMMODITY	from:	to								Total 2006
		United Kingdom/N. Eur.	Mediterranean	Rest of Europe	North America	South America	India/Far East	Asia	Other Destinations	
Grains	South America	18,035	12,917	5,608	14,920	38,398	1,288	6,541	97,701	
	Total 2006	22,669	21,814	14,819	60,995	120,528	38,477	45,482	324,785	
Iron	South America Atl.	58,457	13,249	10,970	4,555	22,569	109,917	25,528	245,245	
	Total 2006	103,443	22,426	39,116	5,239	68,768	451,551	43,295	733,837	
Petroleum	Caribbean	10,800	8,600	-	178,600	3,000	-	8,900	210,300	
	Total 2006	235,600	220,900	-	524,800	36,400	-	782,100	1,850,800	
Coal	South Amer. Car.	17,602	2,528	5,724	3,731	-	28	27,653	57,265	
	Total 2006	144,922	25,616	65,248	29,815	-	176,993	171,521	754,404	
Bauxite	Jamaica	-	-	-	5,732	-	-	-	5,732	
	Total 2006	-	-	1,933	4,743	-	-	-	6,676	
				18,638	15,897				47,875	

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