

TRADE REPORT QUARTER THREE FY2024

OVERVIEW

Freight volumes for the current YTD Quarter 3 (YTD Q3) as compared to the previous year's Q3 (PY Q3), continue to reflect Tasmania's economic stability across all key sectors, despite global market volatility.

Total throughput for YTD Q3 reached more than 10.8 million tonnes, in line with estimated forecast volumes for FY2024.

Notable differences arising from comparisons of YTD Q3 to PY Q3 volumes are as follows:

Containerised and General Cargo demonstrated a steady 3 percent increase, signalling sustained growth in this sector. While most major customers experienced slight volume increases, there was a notable increase in volumes for TasPorts-owned, Bass Island Line (BIL), servicing the King Island community. This is consistent with additional BIL sailings introduced to support livestock and fodder movements due to ongoing dry conditions.

The forestry sector experienced a significant surge of approximately 33 percent in bulk logs. The woodchips segment however experienced a noticeable decline compared to PY Q3. This downturn is primarily attributed to timing issues, with expectations of partial recovery in the forthcoming months.

The industrial manufacturing segment recorded an 12 percent decrease in cargo compared to the PY Q3, with key customers facing production declines as compared to the prior year.

The mining sector exhibited a 22 percent increase compared to the PY Q3. This is driven by increased global market demand and improved commodity pricing.

In contrast, a year-on-year decrease of approximately 6 percent under 'Other' is to be largely attributed to an almost 40 percent drop in fertilizer exports, hinting at shifts in seasonal agricultural practices or market dynamics.

CONTAINERISED FREIGHT

YTD Q3 saw a positive trend in Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), reaching 467,842 units and surpassing volumes from the previous year. This three percent increase demonstrates resilience and growth in container activity and also underscores adaptability amid shifting consumer sentiment, influenced by rising interest rates and associated cost-of-living pressures. A recent forecast by Deloitte Access Economics predicts a temporary dip, with an anticipated recovery in consumer spending, suggesting potential future growth in container volumes.

VESSEL VISITS

Vessel visits remained stable, showing a minor increase of 2 percent compared to PY Q3. The Aquaculture, Containerised and General Cargo, and Mining sectors saw marginal increases, indicating steady or growing activity in these sectors.

The ports of Hobart and Devonport recorded increases in visits, highlighting sustained maritime activity in these major ports. In contrast, the ports of Bell Bay and Burnie experienced slight decreases, although overall numbers remained relatively stable.

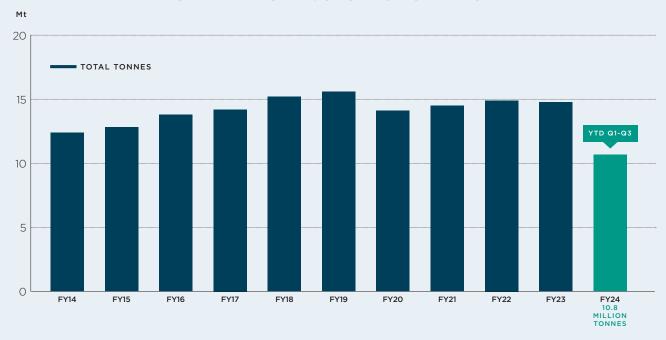
CRUISE

There has been an overall increase in cruise visitation, with cruise experiencing a growth of 18 percent from the previous season (119 to 140). Notably, two new cruise operators joined the Australian market – Disney Cruise Line and Virgin Voyages. Conversely, expedition cruises experienced a slight decrease from 45 to 42, indicating potential shifts in preferences or operational adjustments within this niche market. Despite fluctuations, the overall upward trend in cruise numbers underscores the resilience and ongoing appeal of maritime tourism.

In line with expectations, the Port of Hobart recorded the highest total activity of 86 cruise and expedition vessel visits. The Port of Burnie followed closely with 33 visits, while popular regional destination, Port Arthur stands out with a combined total of 27 visits from both cruise and expedition vessels.

The cruise season generally peaks each year during the summer season, with scheduled cruise ship calls during January and February surpassing all other months. Recent tensions in the Middle East are however set to impact cruise, with major customer, Virgin Voyages announcing cancellations for its 2024/25 Australian season citing potential escalations.

TOTAL FREIGHT VOLUMES 2014 - 2024





TONNAGE BY PORT YTD Q3 FY2024



TEU BY PORT YTD Q3 FY2024



TOP 10 TEU BY COMMODITY YTD Q3 FY2024



VESSEL VISITS & KEY COMMODITIES YTD Q3 FY2024



