

Container freight rates on the increase as year starts

Spot container rates were on the rise in the final days of 2024 and start of 2025 as a possible US East Coast port strike looms and the threat of tariffs from incoming US President Trump.

[Marcus Hand](#), Editor

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Credit: ONE

The [Drewry](#) World Container (WCI) posted on 2 January was up 3% at \$3,905 per feu driven by the transpacific trade to both US West and East Coasts from Asia. Meanwhile the [Shanghai Containerized Freight Index](#) (SCFI) was up 1.8% on 3 January 2025 over 27 December 2024 at 2,505.7 points.

According to Drewry spot rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles increased 7% or \$330 to \$4,829 per 40ft container, and Shanghai to New York rose 6% or \$371 to \$6,445 per feu.

By contrast on the Asia – Europe trade Shanghai to Rotterdam rates were down 1% at \$4,774 per feu and rates from Shanghai – Genoa were flat at \$5,420 per feu.

Looking ahead Drewry said it, “expects rates on the Transpacific trade to rise in the coming week, driven by front-loading ahead of the looming ILA port strike in January 2025 and the anticipated tariff hikes under the incoming Trump Administration”.

It also coincides with a traditional increase in activity in the weeks ahead of the Lunar New Year at the end of January.