



The annual accumulated amount for the year from January-May, with more than 220 million tons of merchandise, reaches an increase of +3.2%

## Port traffic grew by 19% in the month of May

- **Francisco Toledo: The ports, which are a true reflection of how the economy is progressing, continues to gain ground as we overcome the effects of the pandemic.**
- **The differences with 2019 traffic levels continue to decrease and stand at -7.3% in terms of total traffic.**
- **All forms of presentation grew, especially solid bulks, by +38.6%, and general merchandise by +19.3%.**

22-06-2021 (Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda). The traffic of goods through the 46 general interest ports of the State managed by Puertos del Estado reached **45,344,757 during the month of May**, which meant **an increase of 18.8%** compared to the same month in the previous year. The president of Puertos del Estado, **Francisco Toledo**, sees these data as being very promising: **as we overcome the pandemic, the ports will continue to gain ground and, as a faithful reflection of the progress of a country's economy, they forecast a fiscal year in positive numbers.**

**If the data for 2021 are compared with the year 2019**, prior to the pandemic, it can be seen that there is still a long way to go to surpass the data for 2019, which was a record year for the port system which exceeded 564.5 million tons. In the first five months of this year, **the difference between the two years reflects a decrease of -7.3%**, although there are certain forms of presentation such as general merchandise in containers that recover more quickly, growing slightly by +0.04 %, or import-export containerized goods which grew by +0.73%. Notwithstanding the foregoing, **according to the forecasts made it is very possible that at the end of this fiscal year we will reach figures very similar to 2019 in terms of freight traffic**, but we will have to wait until 2022 for this recovery to be reflected in passenger traffic.



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All forms of presentation of merchandise show an improvement in data compared to the same month of the previous year, especially solid bulks, which with 6.8 million tons grew by +38.6%. Moreover, with the progressive elimination of mobility restrictions, passenger traffic has largely been restored and went from 216,936 passengers in May 2020 to 1,074,549 in May 2021.

**General merchandise**, which features the highest numbers with more than **23.2 million tons** in the month of May, **grew by +19.3%**, and **added 114.2 million tons in the first five months of the year**. Products such as construction materials (+32.5%), iron and steel products (+11.7%), feed and fodder (+10.5%), and to a lesser extent paper and pulp (+2%) were the ones that grew the most.

**Liquid bulk**, the second largest group of merchandise, **added 14.4 million tons in May which represented an increase of +10.2%**. In the annual accumulated amount of **the first five months, 67.5 million tons were recorded, which represents a decrease of -7.8%** compared to the previous year. Among the main products of this group, the decrease in gasoline (-19.3%), natural gas (-15.4%) and crude oil (-6.8%) were of special note, while biofuels increased (+14.2%).

**Solid bulk**, with figures of **6.8 million tons in May, grew by +38.6%**, accumulating **33.7 million tons in the first five months of the year and resulting in an increase of +9%**. In this group, the decrease in coal, which remained at -14.5%, was offset by the rise in iron ore (+78.8%) and construction materials, especially cement and clinker (+26.8%) and feed and fodder (+16%).

The increases experienced by goods in transit (+4.2%), roll-on/roll-off traffic (+36.1%) and container traffic (+16.2%) confirm the data obtained in the month of May.

Finally, the improvement in **passenger traffic** has been reflected both in the traffic of **regular lines** and in the traffic of national **cruise ships that added more than 1.1 million passengers in both regards**. We predict



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that over the next few months there will be a progressive recovery of international cruise ships once the lifting of the ban on their operation was announced on 7 June.

For more information:

[http://www.puertos.es/es-es/estadisticas/Paginas/estadistica\\_mensual.aspx](http://www.puertos.es/es-es/estadisticas/Paginas/estadistica_mensual.aspx)