Baltic port market in 2022

by Marek Błuś

Last year, we wrote that 2022 might be a completely different animal because of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the subsequent bundle of sanctions imposed on the Kremlin regime. Top view-wise, 2022 didn't bring about any changes, with the total volume of port traffic in the Baltic Sea region advancing by an almost negligible 0.3% year-on-year to 915.52mt. Such a conclusion, however, wouldn't do the market justice: in turbulent times, the regional harbours kept working hard (though there were stark country-by-country differences, from up 23.1% yoy and 15.2% yoy in Polish and Latvian seaports, respectively, down to -15.4% yoy and -18.5% yoy across Estonian and Lithuanian harbours). With 337.62mt (+7.8% yoy), liquid bulk was again the top commodity shipped to & from the Baltic, dethroning general cargo with its 315.94mt (-7.6% yoy). Dry bulk remained at a solid level of 261.96mt (+1.5% yoy).

Tab. 1. Baltic Sea region's (BSR) ports' total cargo turnover in 2021-2022 (thousand tonnes)[1]

№	Country	2022	2021	yoy	Share 2022	Share 2021	Share 2022-2021 [percentage points; pp]
1	Russia	245,500	258,580	-5.1%	26.82%	28.32%	-1.51pp
2	Sweden	168,251	168,181	+/-0%	18.38%	18.42%	-0.04pp
3	Poland	118,972	96,680	+23.1%	13.00%	10.59%	+2.41pp
4	Finland	106,566	103,727	+2.7%	11.64%	11.36%	+0.28pp
5	Denmark	97,196	94,255	+3.1%	10.62%	10.32%	+0.29pp
6	Germany	57,080	60,626	-5.8%	6.23%	6.64%	-0.41pp
7	Latvia	48,078	41,731	+15.2%	5.25%	4.57%	+0.68pp
8	Lithuania	40,537	49,751	-18.5%	4.43%	5.45%	-1.02pp
9	Estonia	33,339	39,404	-15.4%	3.64%	4.32%	-0.67pp
	Total	**915,519**	**912,935**	**+0.3%**			

[1] *All tabs.: only Russian and German Baltic ports; all Danish ports; Russian ports – estimated*

Tab. 2. BSR's ports' liquid bulk turnover in 2021-2022 (thousand tonnes)

№	Country	2022	2021	yoy	Share 2022	Share 2021	Share 2022-2021 [pp]
1	Russia	148,600	134,608	+10.4%	44.01%	42.99%	+1.02pp
2	Sweden	54,740	56,968	-3.9%	16.21%	18.20%	-1.98pp
3	Poland	38,825	29,890	+29.9%	11.50%	9.55%	+1.95pp
4	Finland	32,300	28,000	+15.4%	9.57%	8.94%	+0.62pp
5	Denmark	23,414	22,985	+1.9%	6.94%	7.34%	-0.41pp
6	Lithuania	16,487	14,811	+11.3%	4.88%	4.73%	+0.15pp
7	Estonia	11,610	13,770	-15.7%	3.44%	4.40%	-0.96pp
8	Latvia	8,577	8,824	-2.8%	2.54%	2.82%	-0.28pp
9	Germany	3,063	3,224	-5.0%	0.91%	1.03%	-0.12pp
	Total	**337,616**	**313,080**	**+7.8%**			
	Liquid's share of total	**36.88%**	**34.29%**	**+7.5pp**			



Photo: Port of Helsingborg

Tab. 3. BSR's ports' general cargo turnover in 2021-2022 (thousand tonnes)

№	Country	2022	2021	yoy	Share 2022	Share 2021	Share 2022-2021 [pp]
1	Sweden	83,604	83,652	-0.1%	26.46%	24.48%	+1.99pp
2	Finland	44,666	44,207	+1.0%	14.14%	12.93%	+1.20pp
3	Denmark	40,882	39,720	+2.9%	12.94%	11.62%	+1.32pp
4	Germany	40,656	43,297	-6.1%	12.87%	12.67%	+0.20pp
5	Poland	38,453	38,247	+0.5%	12.17%	11.19%	+0.98pp
6	Russia	26,400	48,850	-46.0%	8.36%	14.29%	-5.94pp
7	Lithuania	13,926	12,462	+11.7%	4.41%	3.65%	+0.76pp
8	Latvia	13,791	13,352	+3.3%	4.37%	3.91%	+0.46pp
9	Estonia	13,559	17,984	-24.6%	4.29%	5.26%	-0.97pp
	Total	**315,937**	**341,771**	**-7.6%**			
	General cargo's share of total	**34.51%**	**37.44%**	**-2.93pp**			

Tab. 4. BSR's ports' dry bulk turnover in 2021-2022 (thousand tonnes)

№	Country	2022	2021	yoy	Share 2022	Share 2021	Share 2022-2021 [pp]
1	Russia	70,500	75,122	-6.2%	26.91%	29.11%	-2.20pp
2	Poland	41,694	28,526	+46.2%	15.92%	11.05%	+4.86pp
3	Denmark	32,900	31,550	+4.3%	12.56%	12.23%	+0.33pp
4	Sweden	29,907	27,561	+8.5%	11.42%	10.68%	+0.74pp
5	Finland	29,600	31,520	-6.1%	11.30%	12.21%	-0.91pp
6	Latvia	25,710	19,555	+31.5%	9.81%	7.58%	+2.24pp
7	Germany	13,358	14,105	-5.3%	5.10%	5.47%	-0.37pp
8	Lithuania	10,124	22,478	-55.0%	3.86%	8.71%	-4.85pp
9	Estonia	8,170	7,650	+6.8%	3.12%	2.96%	+0.15pp
	Total	**261,963**	**258,067**	**+1.5%**			
	Dry bulk's share of total	**28.61%**	**28.27%**	**+1.2pp**			



Photo: Port of Gävle