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UK port tonnage off

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United Kingdom ports handled 584 million metric tons of freight in 2006, down by 1 million tons from 2005, according to data collected by the Department of Transport.

Inbound traffic increased by 3 percent to 11 million tons while outbound traffic fell by 5 percent to 12 million tons.

Bulk shipments were off by 1 percent to 5 million tons. Container and roll-on/roll-off traffic gained 3 percent to 5 million tons. Container traffic increased by 129,000 units, up 3 percent. Vehicles and unaccompanied trailers increased by 6 percent to 380,000 units.

Felixstowe, the busiest container port, handled 3 million TEUs, or 1.9 million containers, a gain of 9 percent.

Leading ports by tonnage in 2006 were unchanged from the previous year, led by Grimsby and Immingham, 64 million tons; Teesport and Hartlepool, 53.3 million tons; London, 51.9 million tons; Southampton, 40.6 million tons, and Milford Haven, 34.3 million tons.

Dover, the leading ro-ro port, handled 2.3 million vehicles and trailers, up 14 percent on-year.