The Top 20 ports in Latin America and the Caribbean

TEU (a standard unit of measurement, equivalent to a container of 20 feet, or 6.25 meters)

- More than 3 million TEU
- Between 2 and 3 million TEU
- Between 1 and 2 million TEU
- Between 0 and 1 million TEU

ECLAC updates every year its report of container port throughput, which shows the cargo volume in containers in the ports of the region, based on data obtained directly from port authorities and terminal operators.

In 2018 this activity rose 7.7% in the 118 ports analyzed, with a total volume of approximately 53.2 million TEU.

This infographic displays the first 20 positions according to the cargo volume operated in ports.

Source: ECLAC
Transhipment in the Latin America and the Caribbean region represents an important share of the total regional throughput. In 5 of the cases it stands for the 50% of the country’s throughput, and in 3 cases the 80%. From the 20th first places of the studied countries in terms of transhipment volume, the total cargo movement reached in 2018 was 15.4 million TEU, 11.5 million of which were from Caribbean countries, out of a total throughput of 53.2 million.

(*) Transhipment refers to the operation of moving cargo from one ship to another in order to reach its final destination in other port. This operation is usually done in an intermediate port, which serves as transhipment port.
A high heterogeneity was observed in the behaviour of ports cargo movements in 2018, both individually and by country. Also, the 10 ports with larger container movements represented the 84.1% of the total regional throughput. The region reached cargo movements up to 53.2 millions TEU, representing 7.1% of the global throughput. This shows an interesting rise compared to the previous year, when it reached 6.6%.

(*) In thousands or millions of TEU.