

Where are all the containers?

Your monthly update

Reporting on March 2022

Get the latest in:

- CAx of key ports
- Container prices in major areas
- Pick-up charges for one-way moves
- Valuable insights for container users and suppliers

About Container xChange

Container xChange is the world's first online neutral marketplace for all container transactions.

Based on our exclusive data leveraged from our platform, along with our secondary research, we bring you a monthly update on global container logistics, helping business leaders make informed decisions.

1000+ vetted partners use xChange to buy, sell, or lease containers – all in one place.

Using our platform, users can find containers from anywhere in the world, conduct transactions, track their boxes, chat directly online, and grow their network.

Use xChange to gain market transparency, avoid demurrage & detention charges and enhance operational flexibility. Covering the entire transaction process from finding new partners to tracking containers and managing payments, Container xChange makes using 3rd party equipment and now container trading as easy as booking a hotel.

Trusted by leading industry partners



About Container xChange

Lease containers

Increase your operational flexibility with SOC containers and find certified partners for one-way moves.

With xChange, you can send out requests to 1000+ partners within seconds.

The screenshot shows the 'Leasing' section of the platform. At the top, there are two main tabs: 'Use containers' (selected) and 'Supply containers'. Below these are filters for 'Dry container' (selected) and 'Tank container'. A search bar contains the number '20' and a dropdown for 'Container type'. There are also dropdowns for 'Pickup locations' and 'Dropoff locations', followed by a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are three 'Recommended for you' cards. Each card displays pickup and dropoff locations (Bahrain, Barcelona (Spain), Abu Dhabi, Qingdao), container specifications (20 x 40HC Cargo worthy), terms (Freedays: 35, Per diem: \$1.25, Pickup charge: \$80), and a CMA CGM partner profile with a 5.0 rating and 'Online now' status. Each card includes 'Send request' and 'View details' buttons.

Buy & sell containers

Buy containers from certified partners, advertise your stock, and know your counterpart.

xChange Trading protects your payments and connects you to hundreds of partners in 2500 locations.

The screenshot shows the 'Trading' section of the platform. At the top right, there are buttons for '+ New sales offer' and '+ New buying demand'. Below are tabs for 'Search', 'My offers', 'My demands', and 'Inbox'. The main search bar has a dropdown for 'Search for one or more locations' and a dropdown for 'Container type' with a list of options: 20DC (Dry container), 40DC (Dry container), 40HC (High cube), and 20OT (Open top). There is also a 'Special equipment' dropdown. A 'Search' button is to the right. Below the search bar, it says '2,341 sales offers found'. A list of offers is displayed, each with a price per container, location, container type, year of manufacture, and partner information. The first offer is for \$3,410 in Rotterdam, 10 x 40HC Cargo worthy, 2019-zuzo, with a 5.0 rating and 'Online now' status. The second offer is for \$3,410 in Antwerp, 10 x 40HC AS IS, Not specified, with a 5.0 rating and 'Online now' status. The third offer is for \$6,346 in St. Petersburg, 100 x 40HC Cargo worthy, 2019, with a 5.0 rating and 'Offline' status. The fourth offer is for \$9,243 in Hamburg, 10 x 40HC AS IS, 2014, with a 5.0 rating and 'Offline' status. Each offer includes a 'Start negotiation' and 'View details' button.



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March: an overview

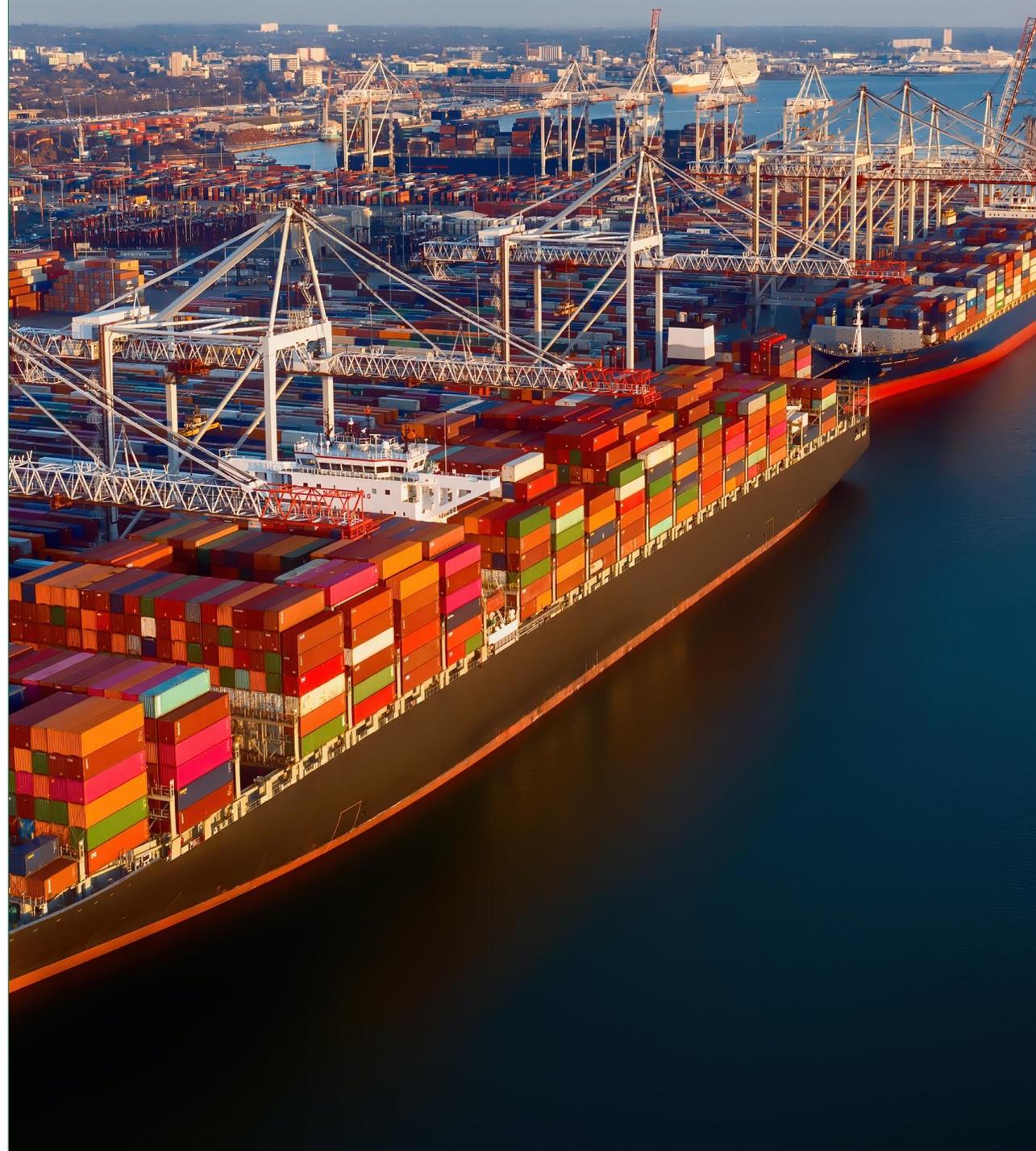
- Sanctions on Russia
- Lockdowns in China
- Wrap up of container prices

Regions: CAx, trading insights, and PU charges for:

- China
- The United States
- Europe
- India
- Middle East & ISC
- South-East Asia

Wrapping up the month

- The most liquid locations
- Great profit options
- Smart container moves



March: an overview

Sanctions on Russia

The global sanctions on Russia have begun market and operational disruptions for the shipping industry. Divestments in Russian commodities, delays and diversions of Russian vessels and restrictions on port access have affected major ports and slowed down trade, not only in Russia and Ukraine, but around the world. Gas, wheat and fertilizer prices continue to soar world-wide.

Major Chinese ports go into lockdown, as of end-March.

Global fret ensues as several cities in China go into strict lockdown, including Shanghai and Shenzhen. "This will further reduce capacity and cause a surge in already inflated shipping prices. The shockwaves will be felt across the U.S., and almost everywhere in the world," said our CEO, Johannes Schlingmeier. Some hypothesize it being "practically impossible" to get containers out of said ports at current.

Noticeable delays on certain routes:

- Major delays expected in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Changchun.
- Because of the above, congestion expected to temporarily ease in the USA West Coast in June, but its contract negotiations coming up in July, alongside China's possible resumption in export, will aggravate congestion once more.
- Because of said contract negotiations, key players are already shipping boxes to the East Coast, worsening gridlock there.
- Congestion on the rise in North Europe again, with terminal and landside congestion at major ports.
- Russia and Ukraine remain a no-go zone, with many vessels and seafarers stuck inside the warzone.



March: an overview

Average Container Prices in March:

Price for a 20 DC is highest in Europe & China:

1. Warsaw	\$2662
2. Guangzhou	\$2588
3. London:	\$2450

For a 40 HC, they're highest in China as usual:

1. Guangzhou	\$5246
2. Chengdu	\$5235
3. Shenzhen:	\$4957

March's Top 10 ports with highest change in price for 20 DC, MoM:

1. Dubai, UAE	↑16.6	from \$2355 to \$2742
2. Miami, FL	↑14,9	from \$2049 to \$2355
3. Duisburg, DE	↑14,4	from \$2208 to \$2525
4. Savannah, GA	↑7.3	from \$1655 to \$1787
5. Los Angeles, CA	↓7%	from \$1847 to \$1717
6. Rotterdam, NL	↓6.4%	from \$2288 to \$2142
7. Qingdao, CN	↓6,3%	from \$2330 to \$2138
8. New York City, NY	↑5,9%	from \$1870 to \$1980
9. Houston, TX	↓4,7%	from \$1841 to \$1754
10. Ningbo, CN	↓4,6%	from \$2424 to \$2312



China – Container availability

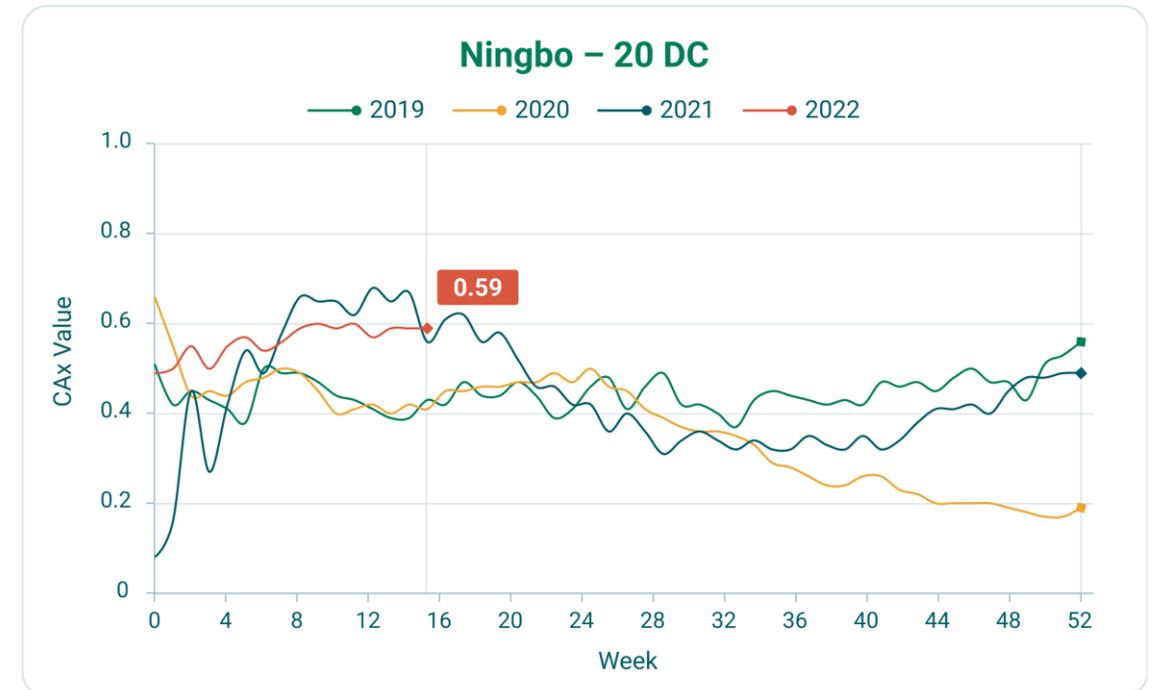
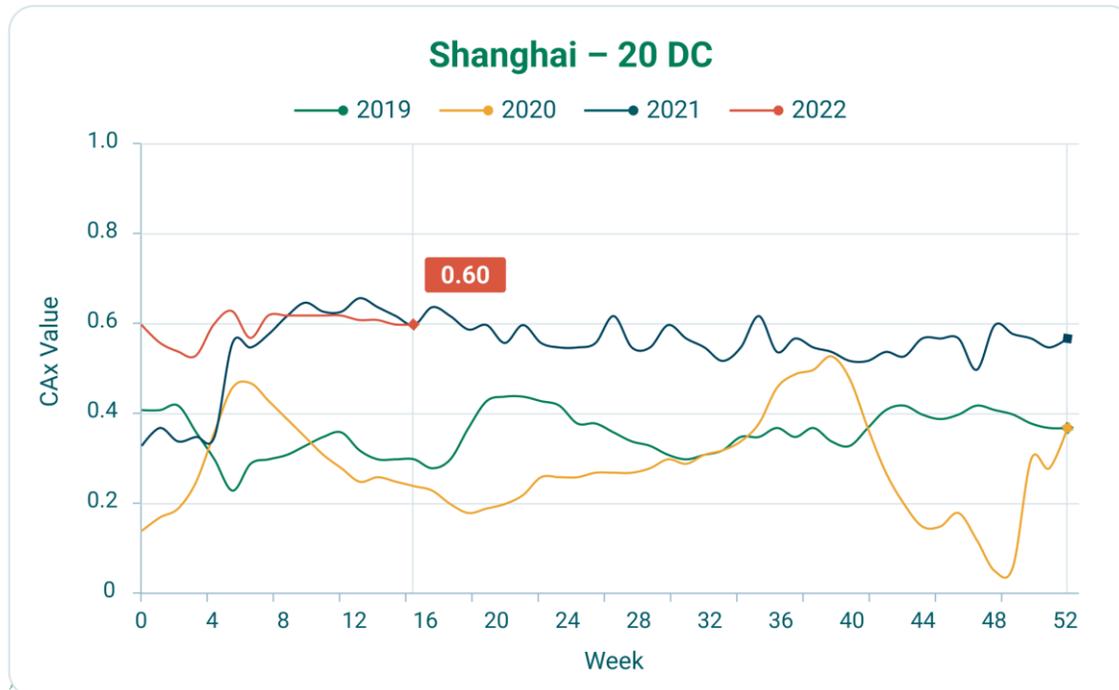
As expected, the CAX for two of East China's major ports remained around the 0.6 mark in March – and with the new lockdowns starting – is not about to drop anytime soon. While Shanghai port is technically "open", port workers, factory workers and truck drivers are locked in their homes. This will limit the capability of factories to deliver containers to the ports. Carriers are already shifting moves to Ningbo and other river ports. ¹

¹ <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/shanghais-2-stage-covid-lockdown-may-make-getting-containers-almost-impossible>

What is CAX?

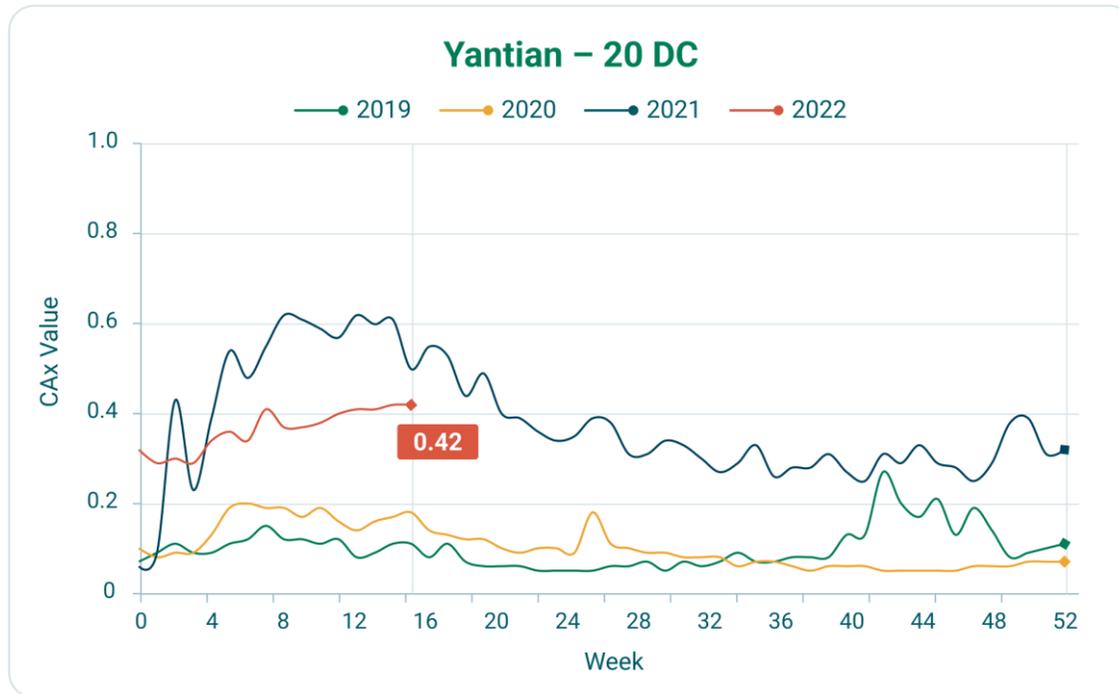
A term coined by xChange, the CAX is a tool used to monitor the import and export moves of full containers around major ports.

A reading of below 0.5 means more containers leave a port compared to the number that enter. Above 0.5 means more containers are entering the port. [Click here to find out more.](#)

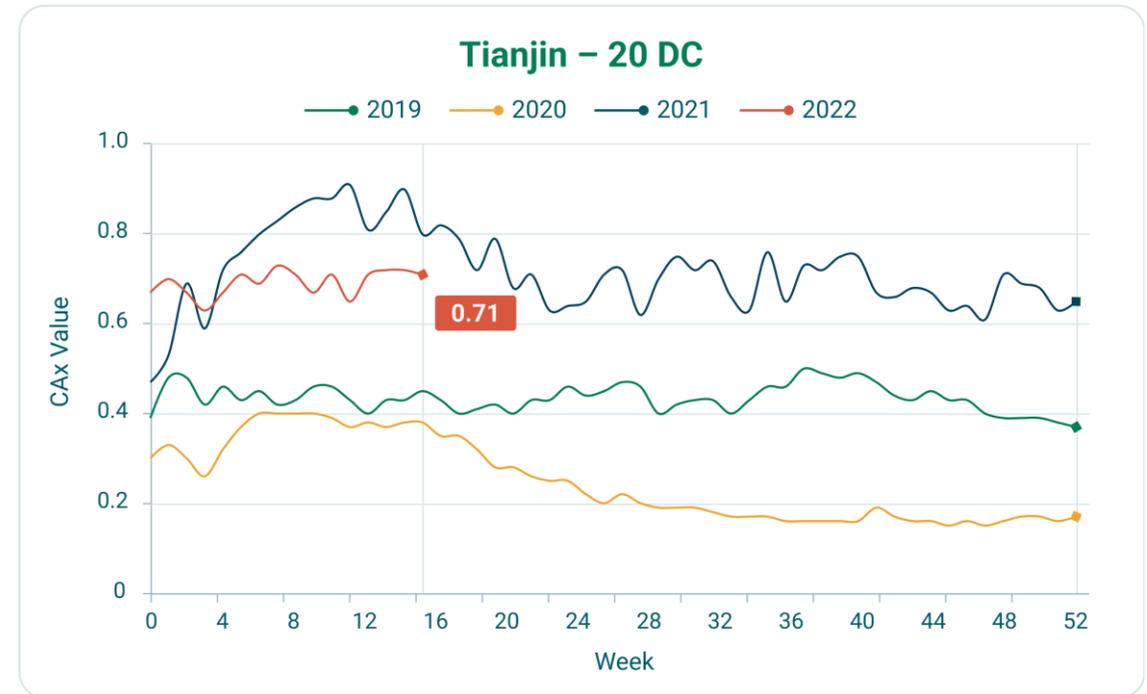


China – Container availability

Due to the lockdowns imposed in Shenzhen, Yantian's CAX value is slowly climbing back up.

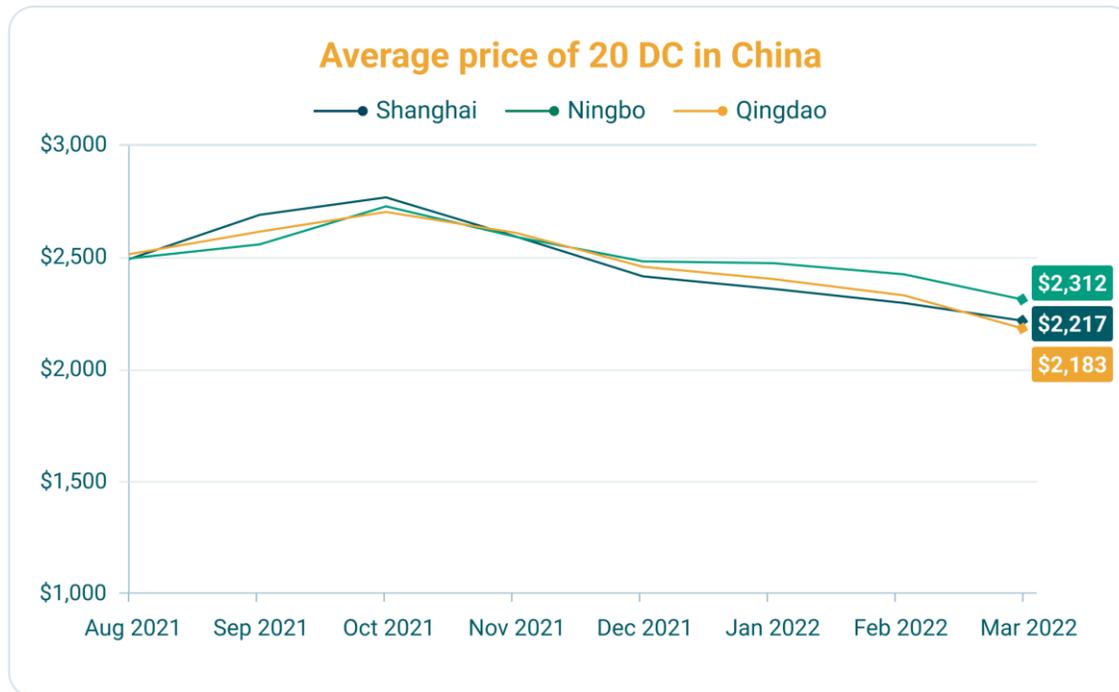


Tianjin was expected to follow a similar trend in March, but dipped a little – although next month it's expected to reach and hover around 0.7.

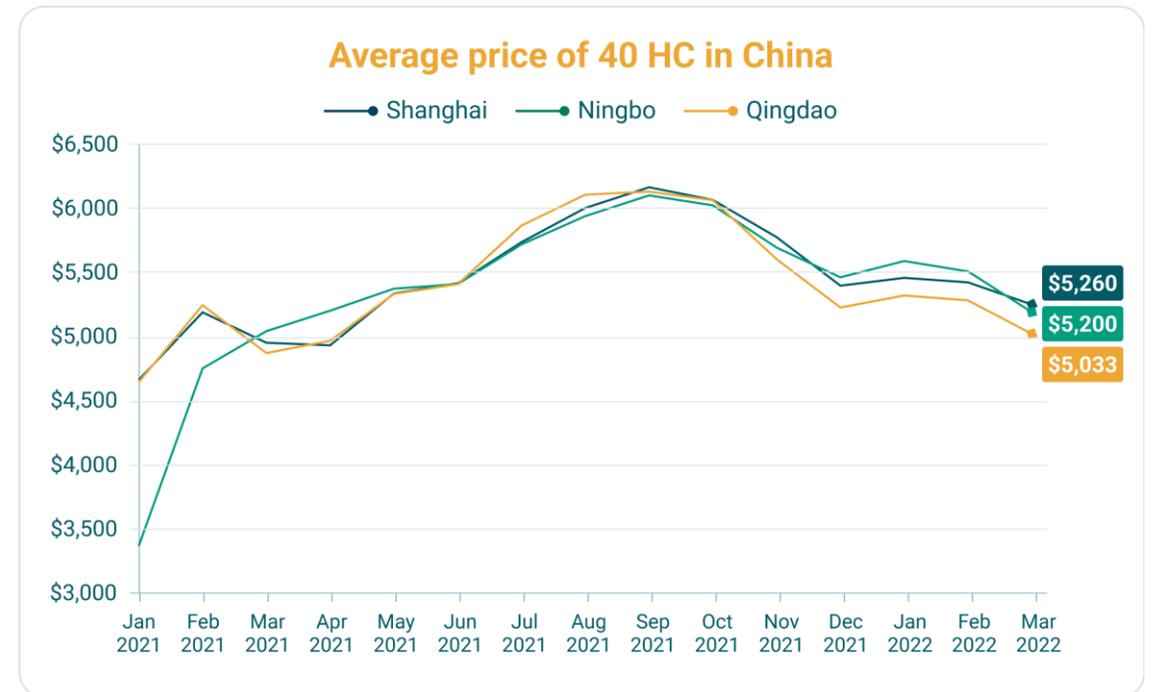


China – Trading: Container prices

As anticipated by our trading insights, the average price for these two standard containers (20 DC; 40 HC) in China continued to decrease slowly in March.

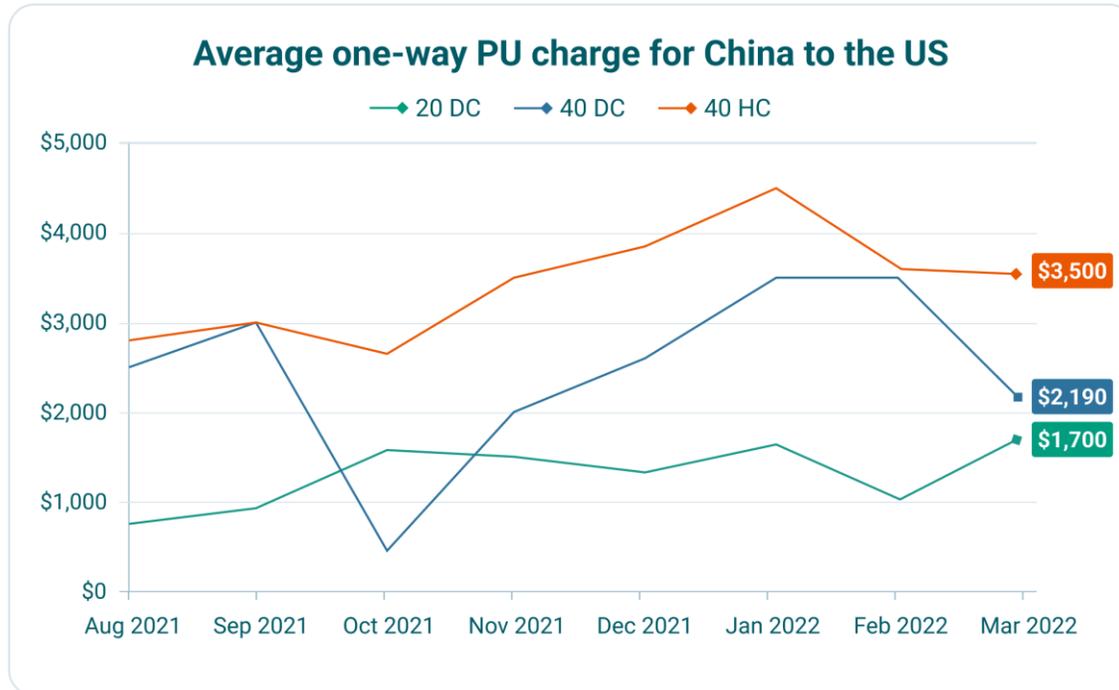


However, due to the aforementioned lockdowns where able container moves will become rare, prices of 40 HC in particular are now expected to increase week on week, reaching as high as \$5,477 in Ningbo in the first week of April.



Buy containers in China

China – Leasing: Pick-up charges



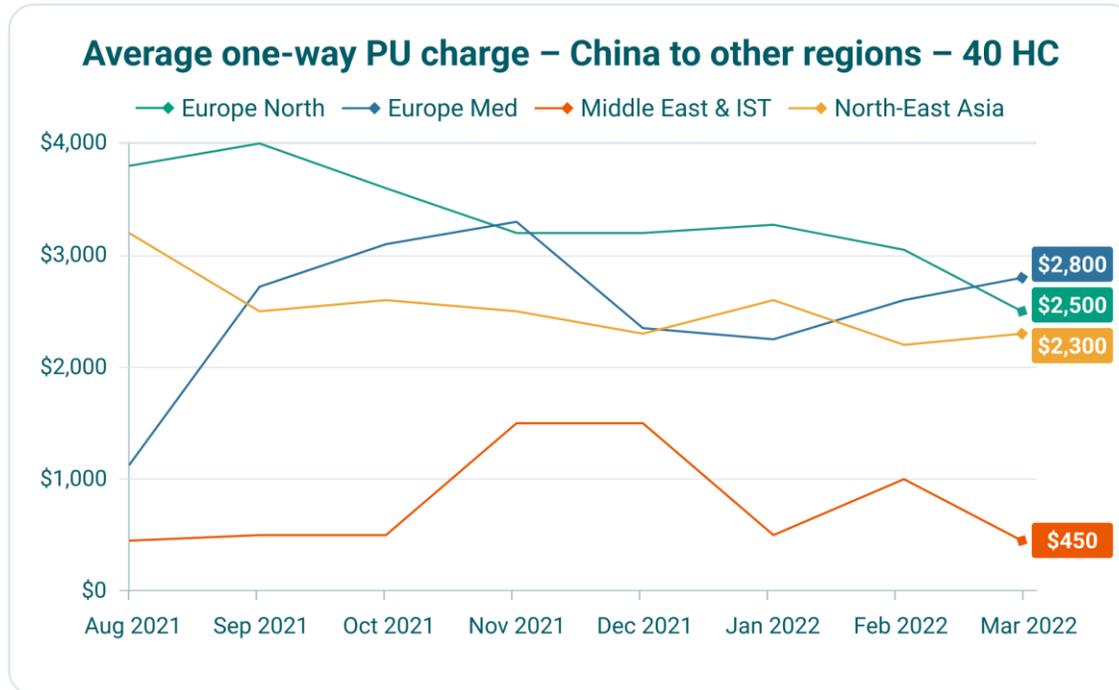
Following the nosedive in pick-up charges for a 20 DC and 40 HC in February, there was a slight change in March. 40 DC price has continued to decrease to as low as \$2190, and 40 HC to \$3500, but the leasing rate for a 20 DC increased by \$650.

A common relationship between container price at destination and PU charge is that it's likely for each variable to follow the inverse trend of the other, 2-3 months later.

Using the above hypothesis, the selling price of a 20 DC in China is expected to decrease in June. While the purchase price for a 40 HC and 40 DC is expected to increase. Again, the lockdowns may disrupt or distort this, depending on how long they last.



China – Leasing: Pick-up charges



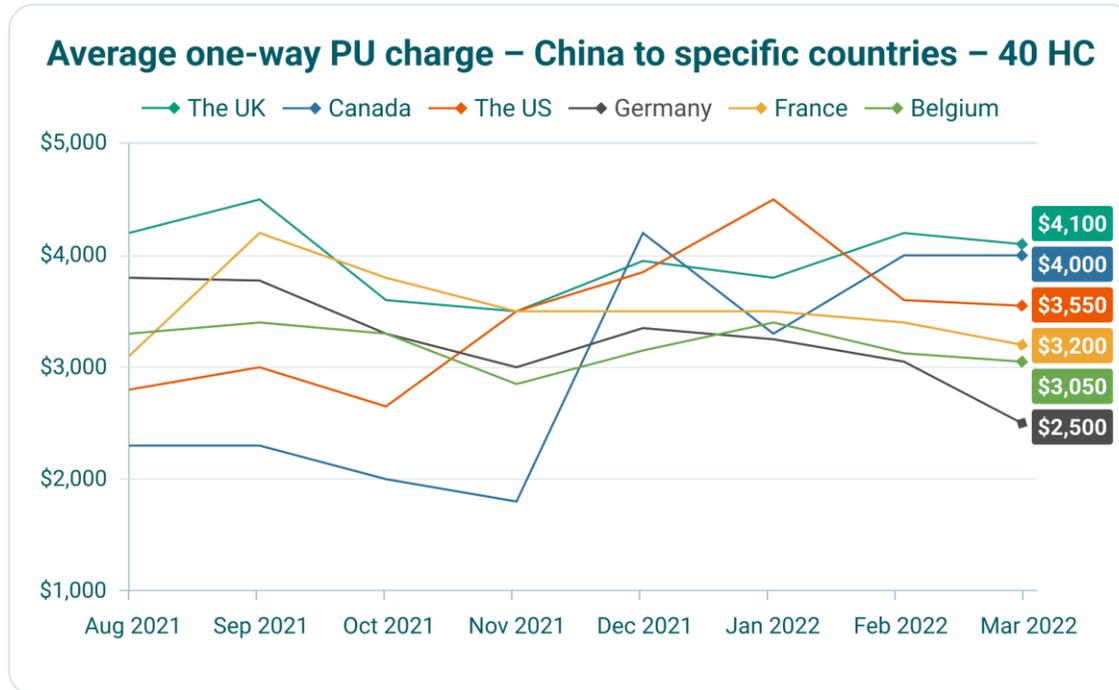
In March, the average PU charge for Europe North continued to decline to by \$500.

Europe Med's leasing rates went up by \$500 while North East Asia remained around \$2300.

The PU charge for Middle East and IST decreased to as low as \$450.



China – Leasing: Pick-up charges



In March, leasing rates from China to all areas stabilized and remained high, with Germany as the outlier with a noticeable \$500 decrease.

According to Bloomberg, Germany is already feeling the "shocks from the industrial war", and perhaps there is some correlation there.

While we hypothesize a surge in both price and pick-up charges from China, If the lockdown doesn't last longer than three weeks, the damage can be limited, according to Raymond Yeung, chief economist for Greater China at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.²

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-29/supply-chain-latest-war-in-ukraine-and-china-lockdowns-add-turmoil>



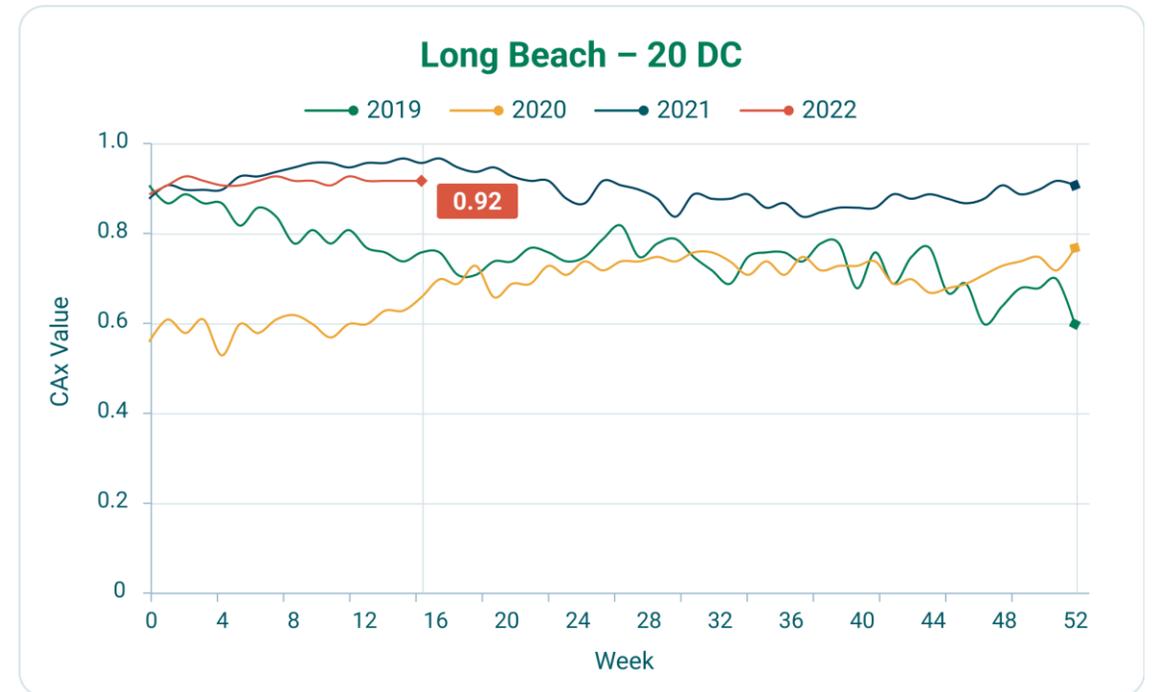
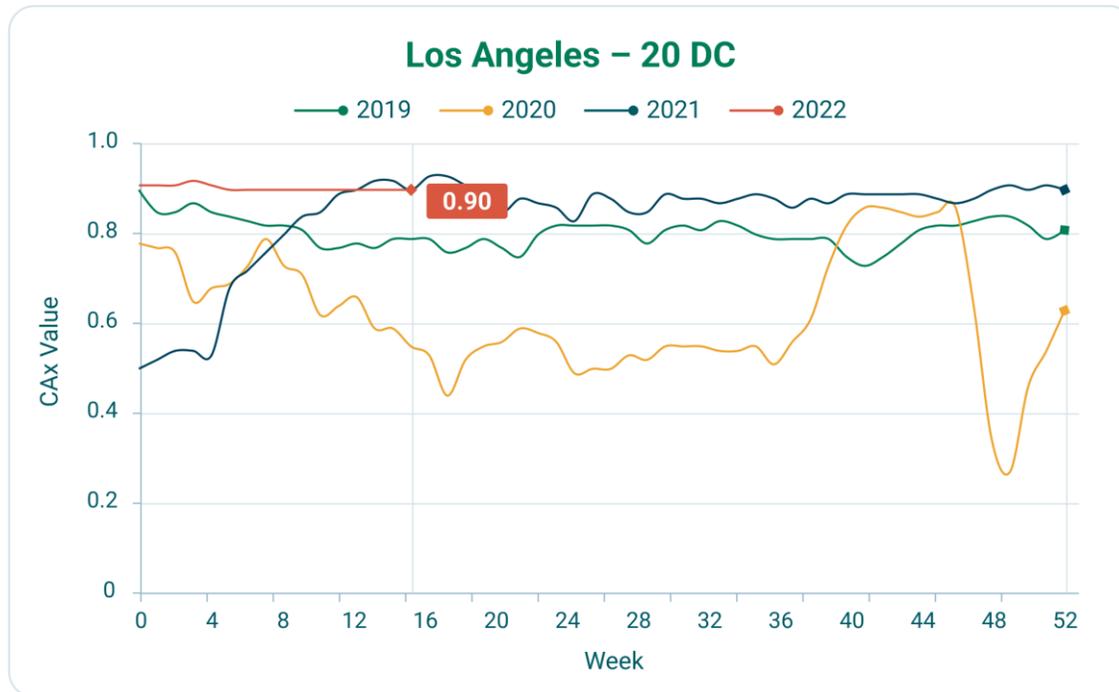
Lease containers in China

The United States – Container availability

Key players in USA ports wait with bated breath to see how lockdowns in China will unfold. If Chinese ports remain open and shipping is only delayed, this could work to steadily dilate bottlenecks in these backlogged American ports. If they close entirely, short-term it will ease the situation, but long-term the crowding will flood back in.³

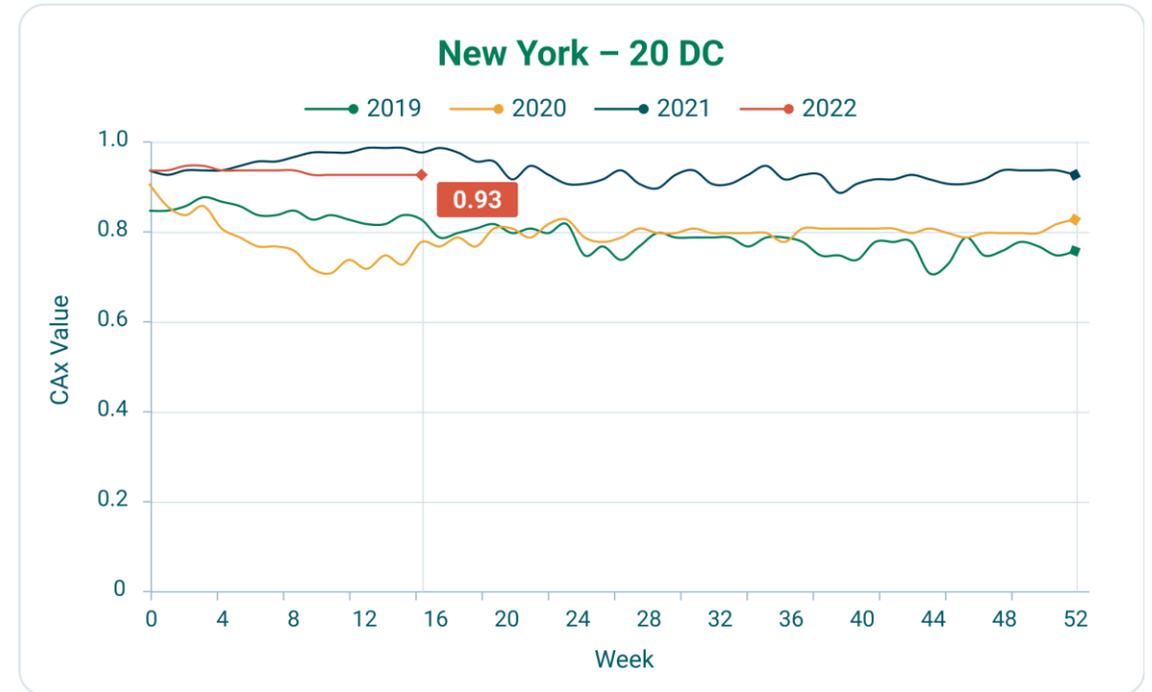
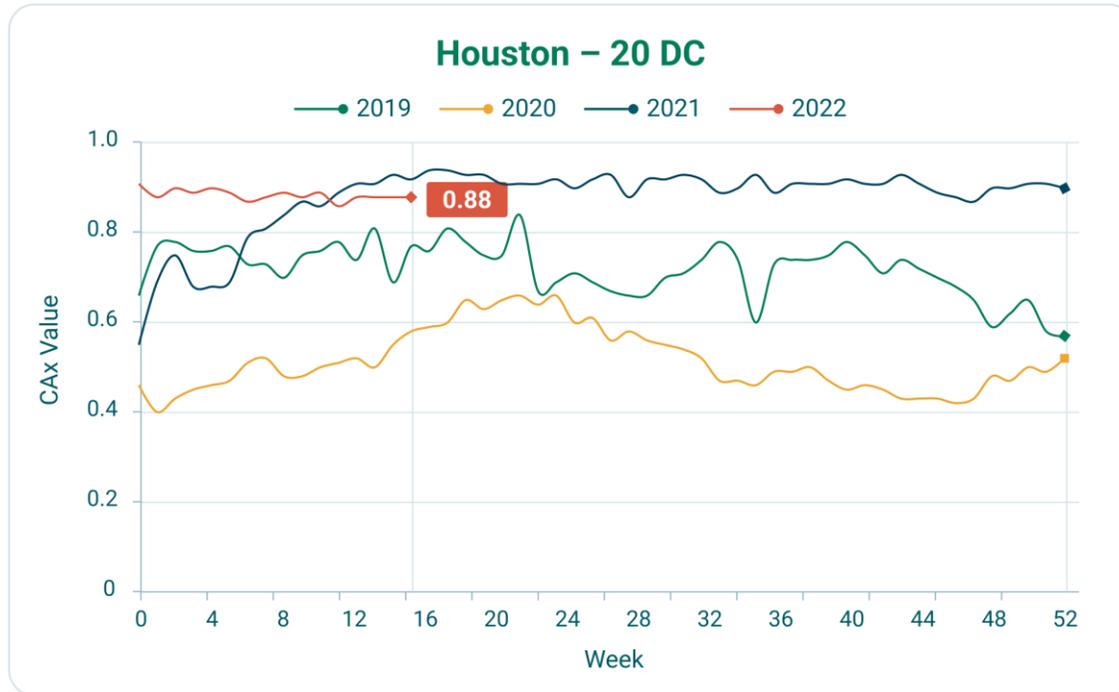
For now, CAx values for both Los Angeles and Long Beach hover around 0,9 showing no real ease of congestion despite forecast of temporary decrease in inbound containers.

³ <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/what-chinas-covid-spike-massive-lockdowns-mean-to-shipping>



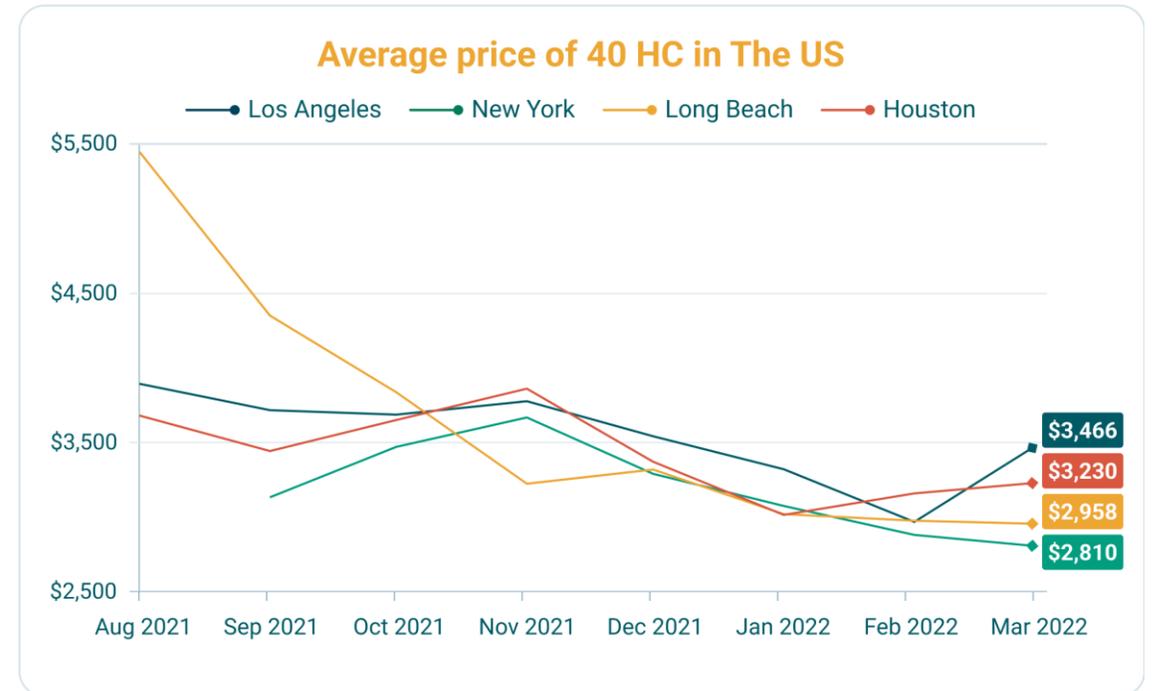
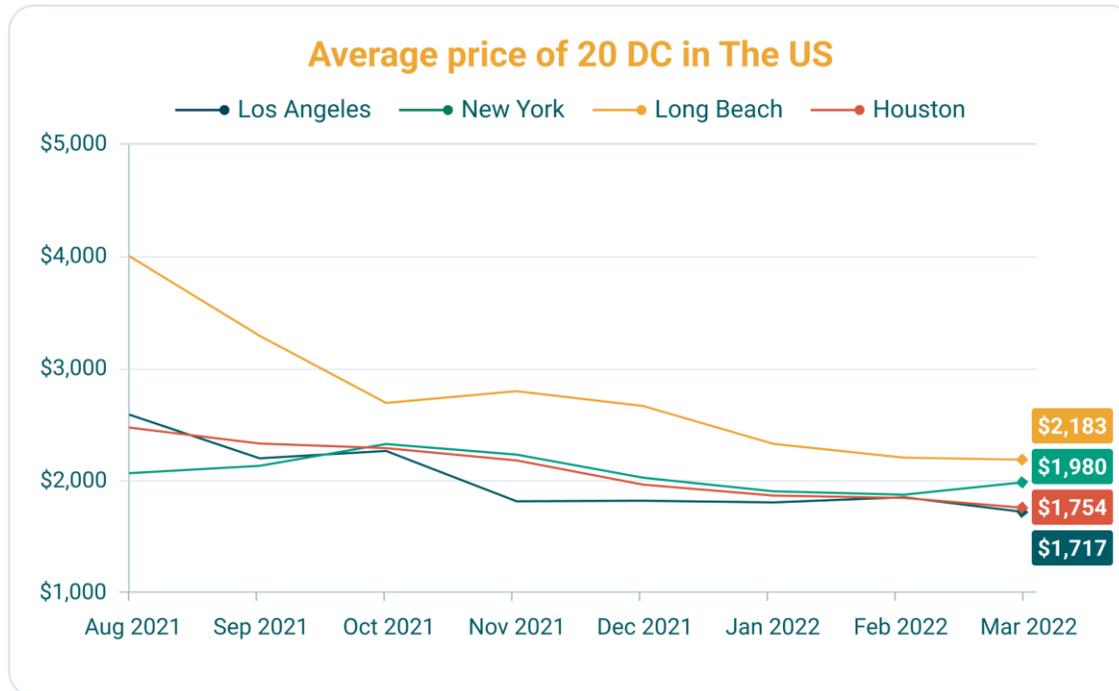
The United States – Container availability

Regardless of the slight dip in Houston's and NYC's CAx to 0,88 and 0,93 in March respectively, both ports continue to face cumbersome amounts of import and congestion, especially as players derail imports from the west coast to the east instead.



The United States – Container prices

Due to the surplus, container prices continued to decrease or stabilize in March for both container types and across all ports, bar two outliers: Prices surged for 20 DC in New York, and 40 HC in Los Angeles. Still, prices are low in the US in general.

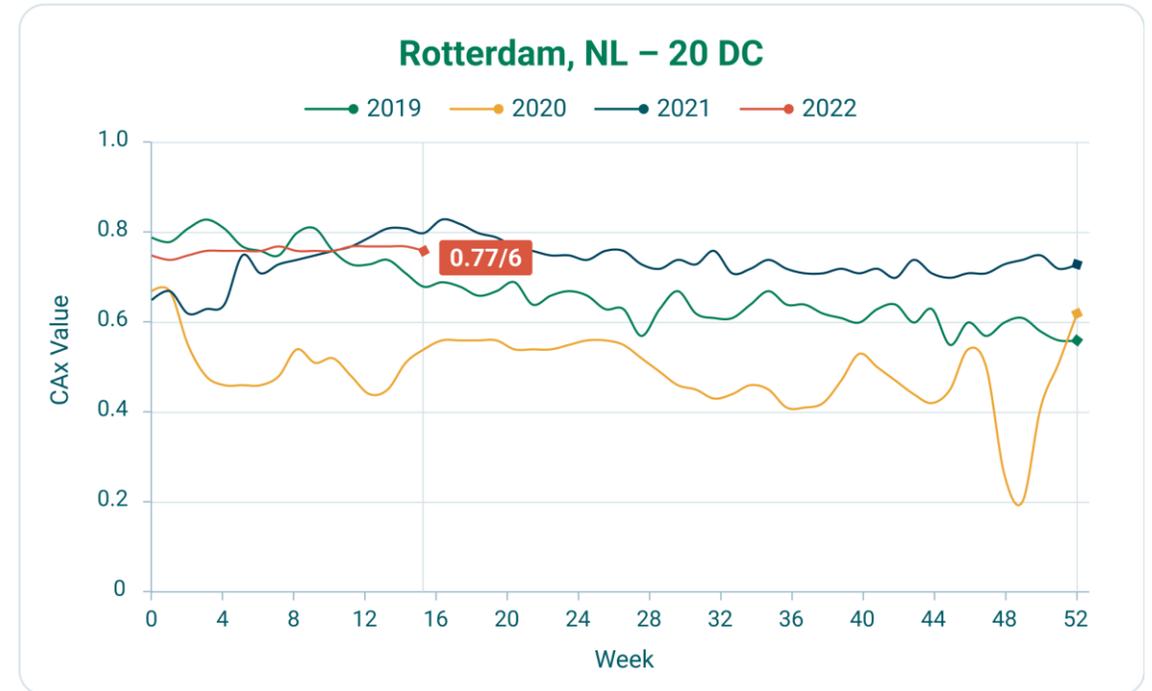
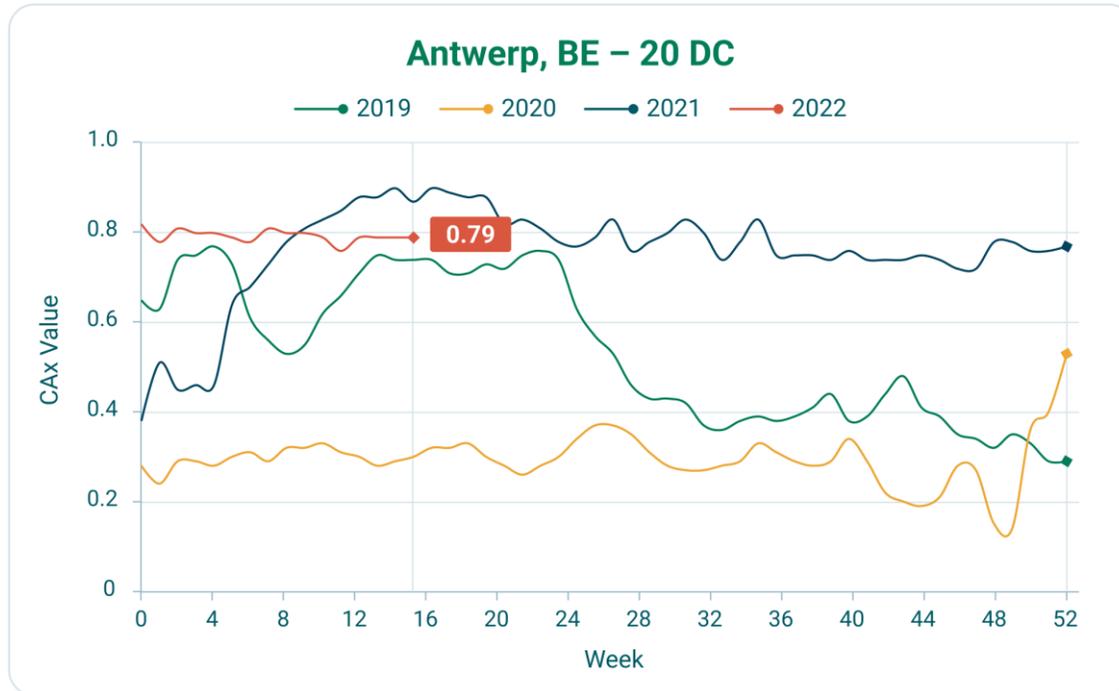


Buy containers in The US

Europe – Container availability

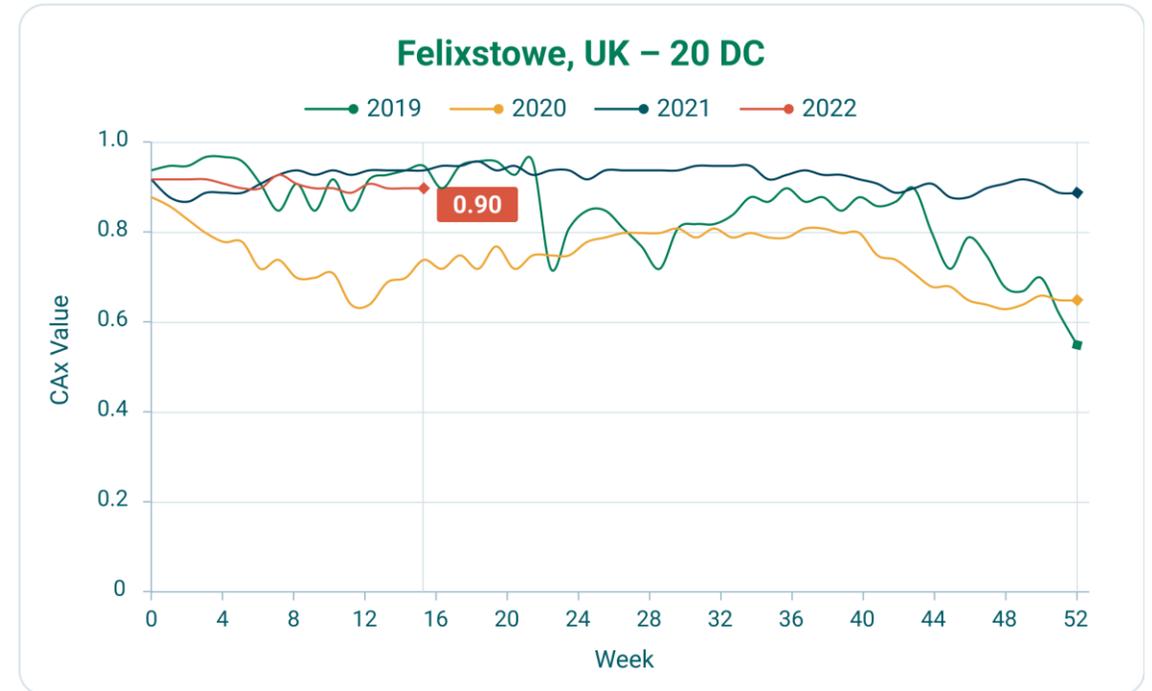
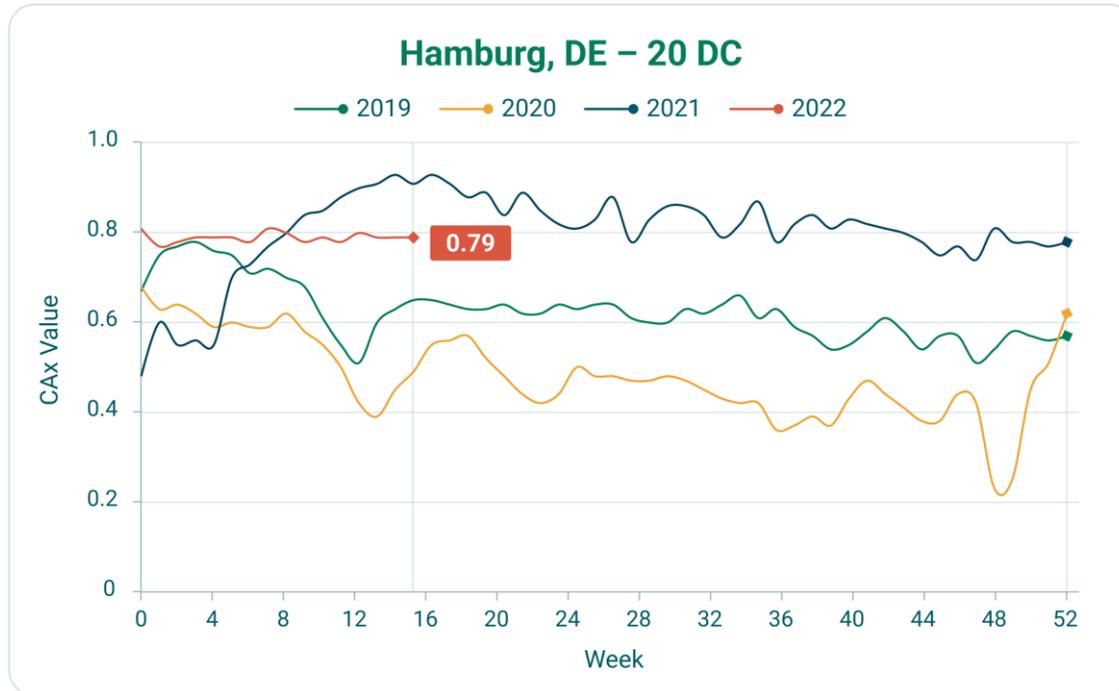
North Europe struggles with both war-stricken trade effects and Chinese lockdowns. ⁴ Although CAx for both Rotterdam and Antwerp look fairly similar to their pre-pandemic values, congestion is expected to return.

⁴ <https://theloadstar.com/carriers-forced-to-juggle-schedules-as-congestion-returns-to-north-europe/>



Europe – Container availability

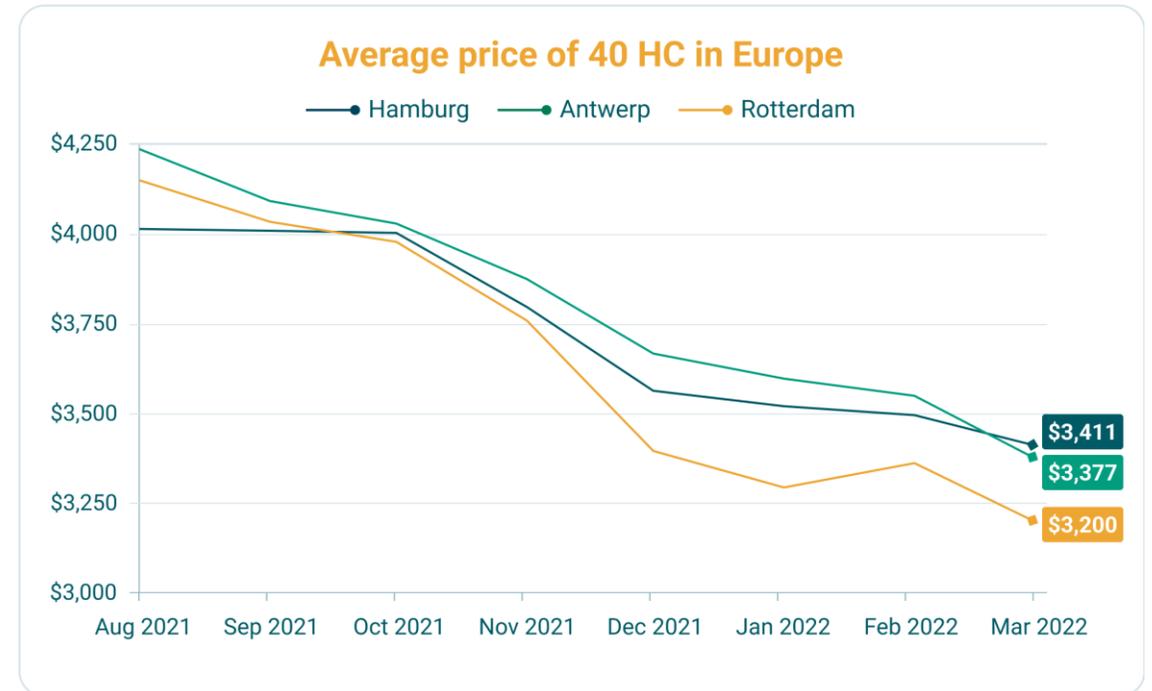
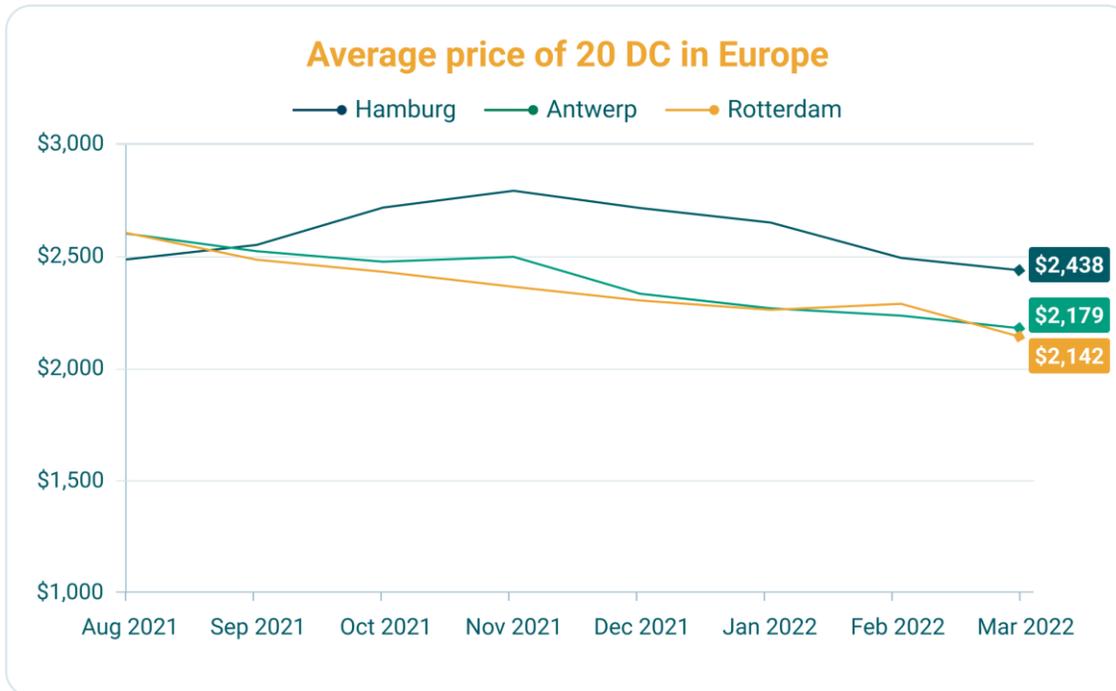
For the UK and Germany's biggest ports, bottlenecks seemed to have eased slightly from the end of last year, but April to June might tell a different story.



Europe – Trading: Container prices

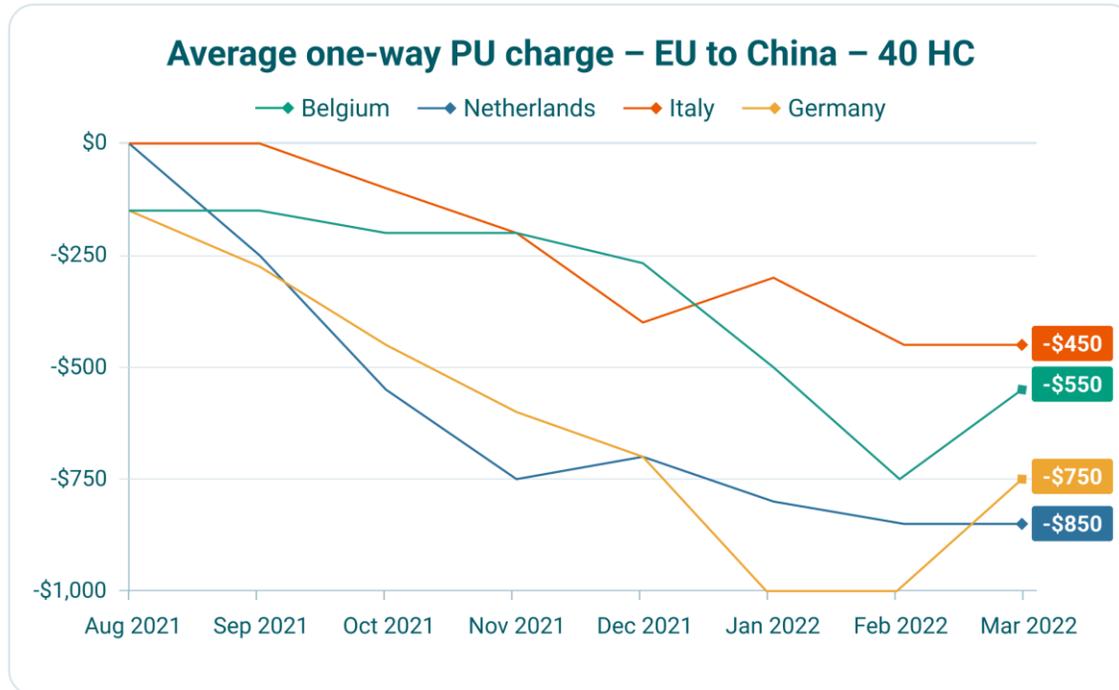
Prices in March continued to decrease for both container types in North Europe. There was, however, a slight increase for 40 HC in the last week of March.

Our trading insights forecast 40 HC prices to stabilize in the first week of April, though. While we anticipate a slight increase in 20 DC costs.



Buy containers in Europe

Europe – Leasing: Pick-up charges



Europe currently has a surplus of containers, as well as a lack of storage space/depots. When leasing from Europe to these other regions, suppliers will actually pay you in PU credits, especially when moving boxes back to China.

However, leasing rates for the user decreased in March, and with the current turmoil in China, you must shrewdly select which Chinese port to export to.



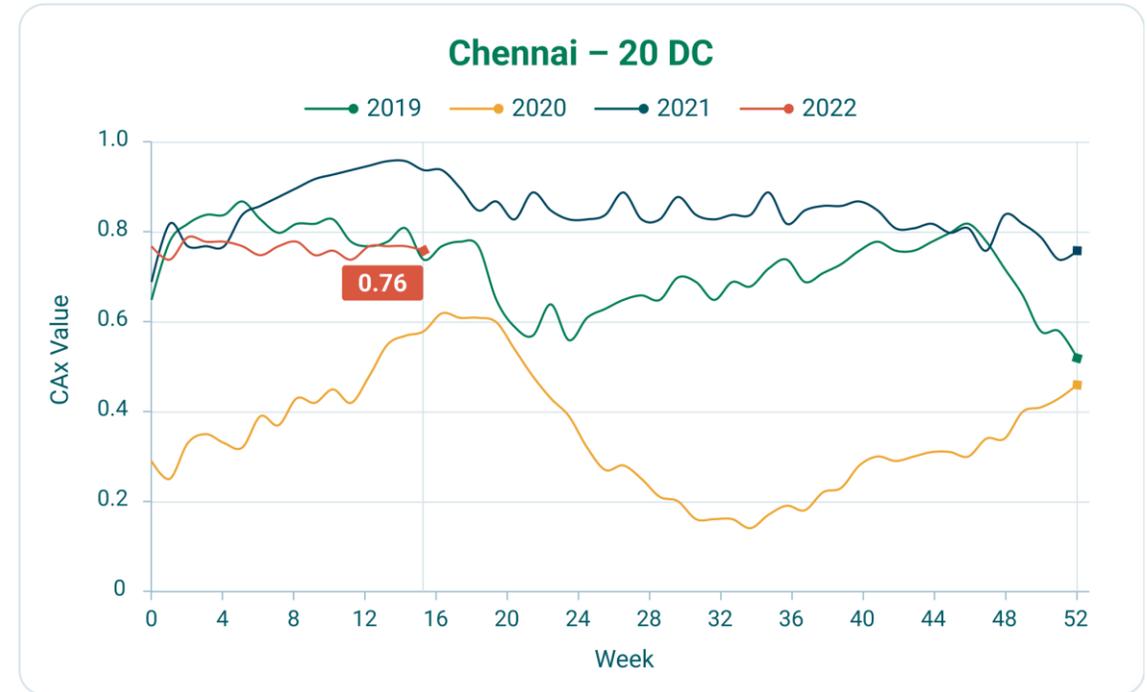
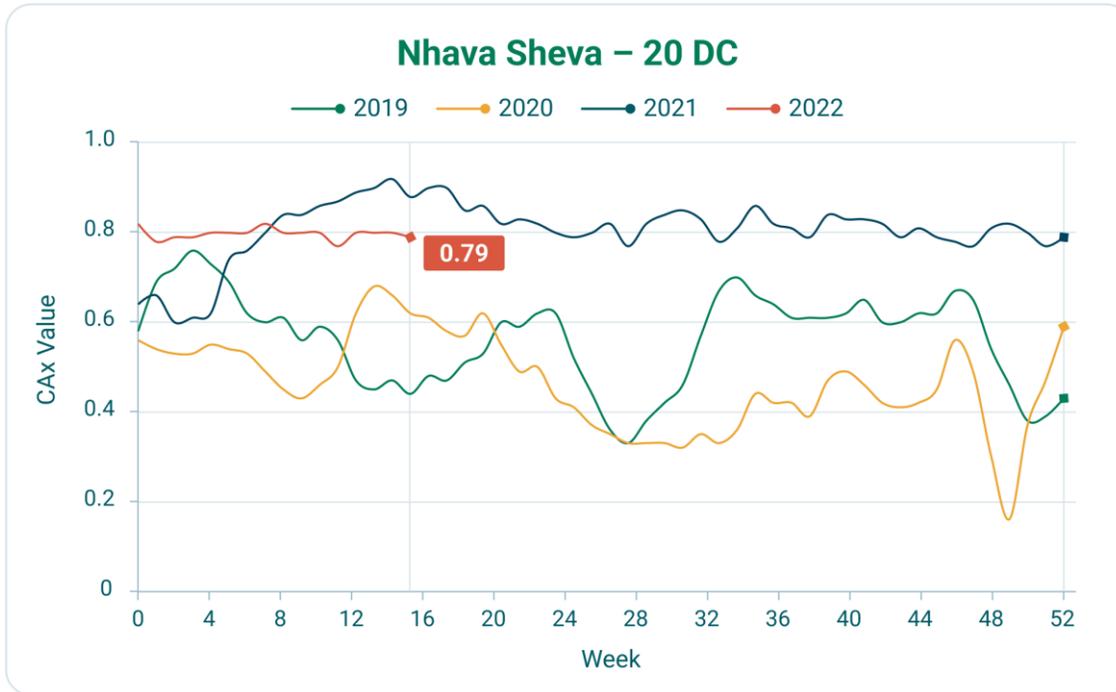
Lease containers in Europe

India – Container availability

Nhava Sheva, India's top container gateway, and Chennai, the gateway to South India, both still see high CAx values compared to the first few weeks pre-pandemic. However, there may be an increase in outbound containers as India makes plans to fix the trade gaps torn by Russia.⁵

Many African countries have approached India to secure wheat supplies, for example.

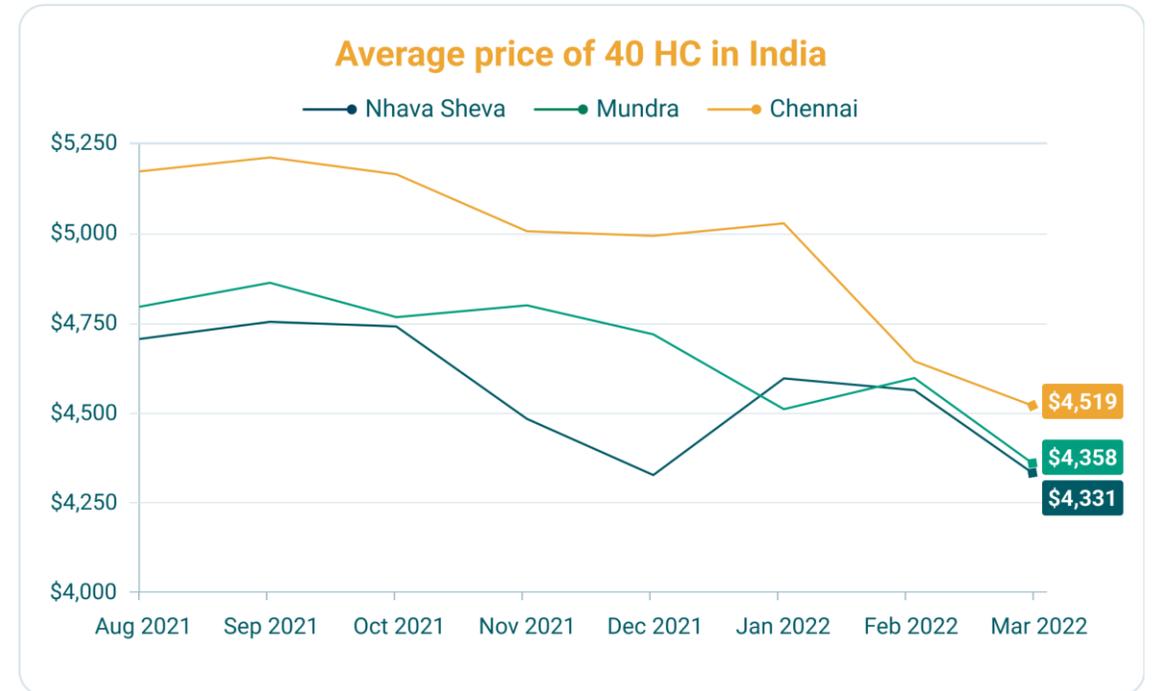
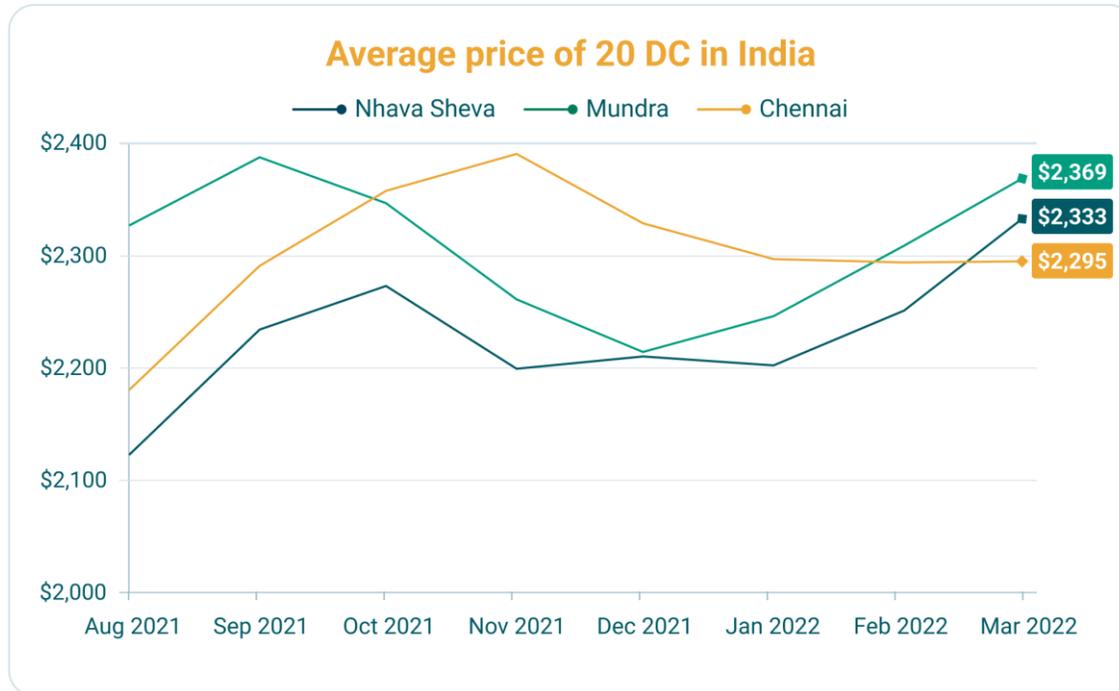
⁵ <https://www.livemint.com/economy/govt-to-help-exporters-get-shipping-access-11646937883320.html>



India – Trading: Container prices

A rollercoaster ride of container prices in India, this month they shot back up for 20 DC, and shot back down for 40 HC.

Our xChange trading insights expect these trends to stabilize in the next week, though.

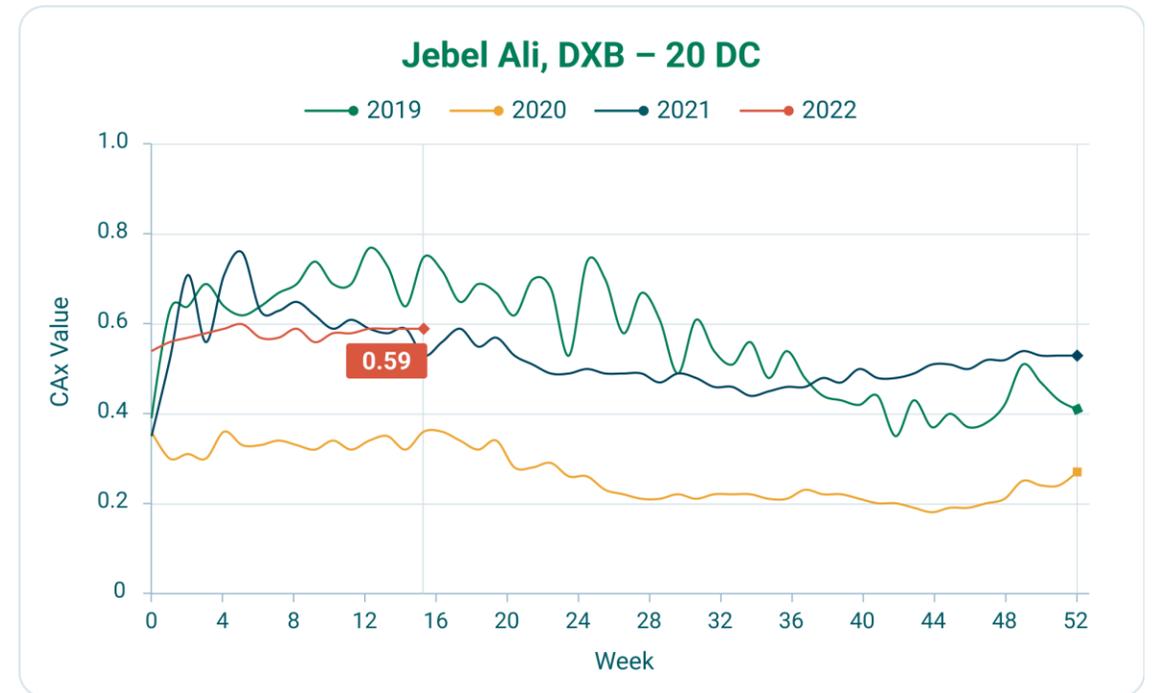
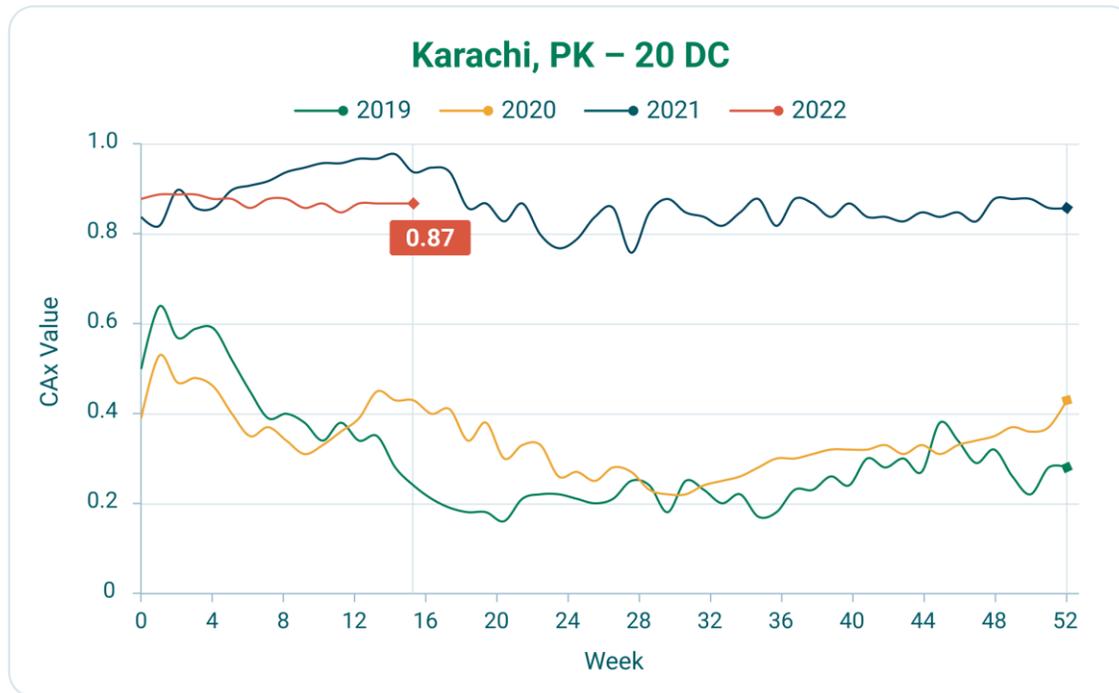


Buy containers in India

Middle East & ISC – Container availability

Pakistan's key port channel was obstructed for a considerable time in the beginning of March, due to a major fishermen's protest.⁶ UAE's Jebel Ali's CAx slightly increased, as well.

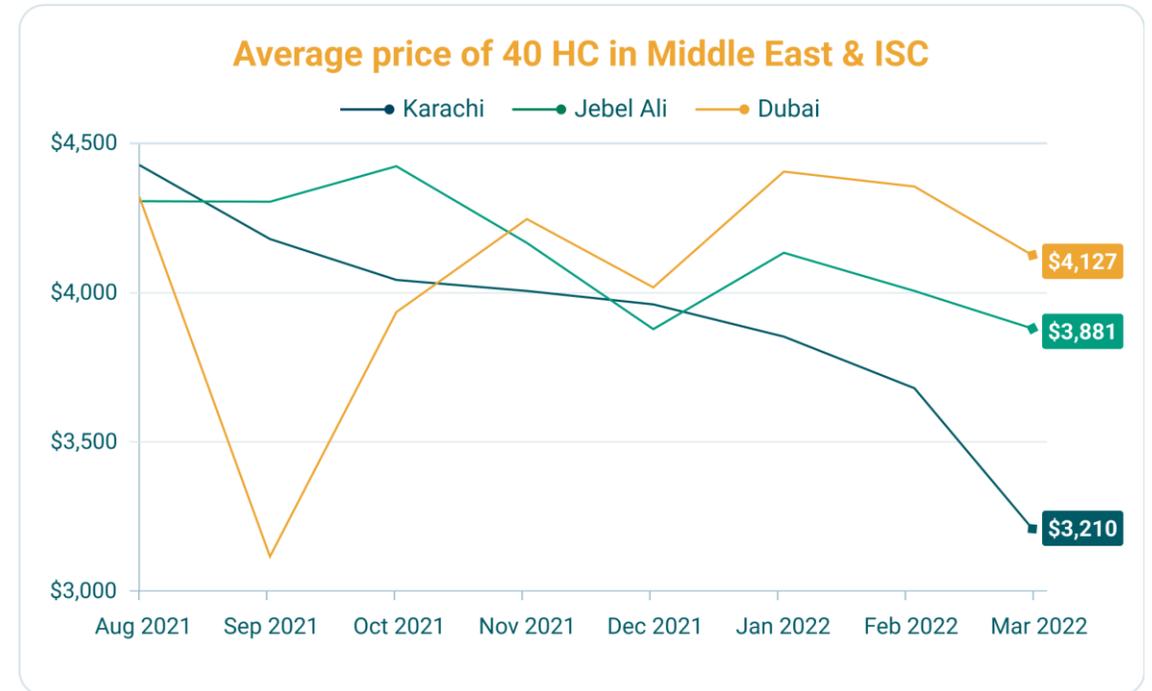
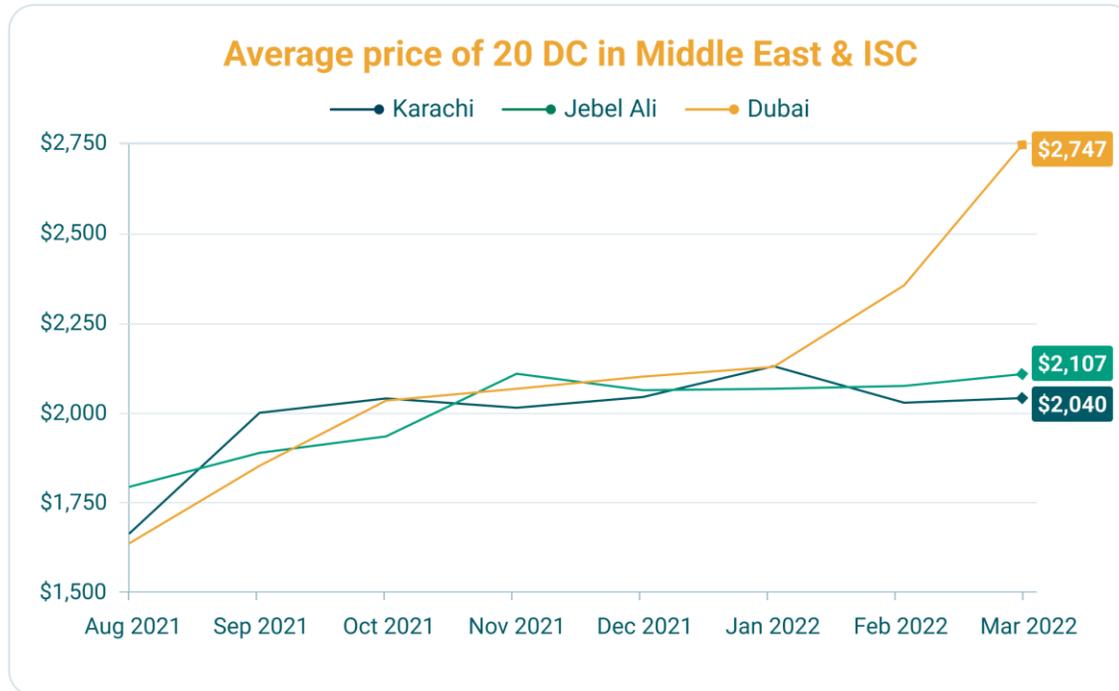
⁶ <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-karachi-port-completely-paralyzed-due-to-closure-of-channel-by-fishermen20220225025312/>



Middle East & ISC – Trading: Container prices

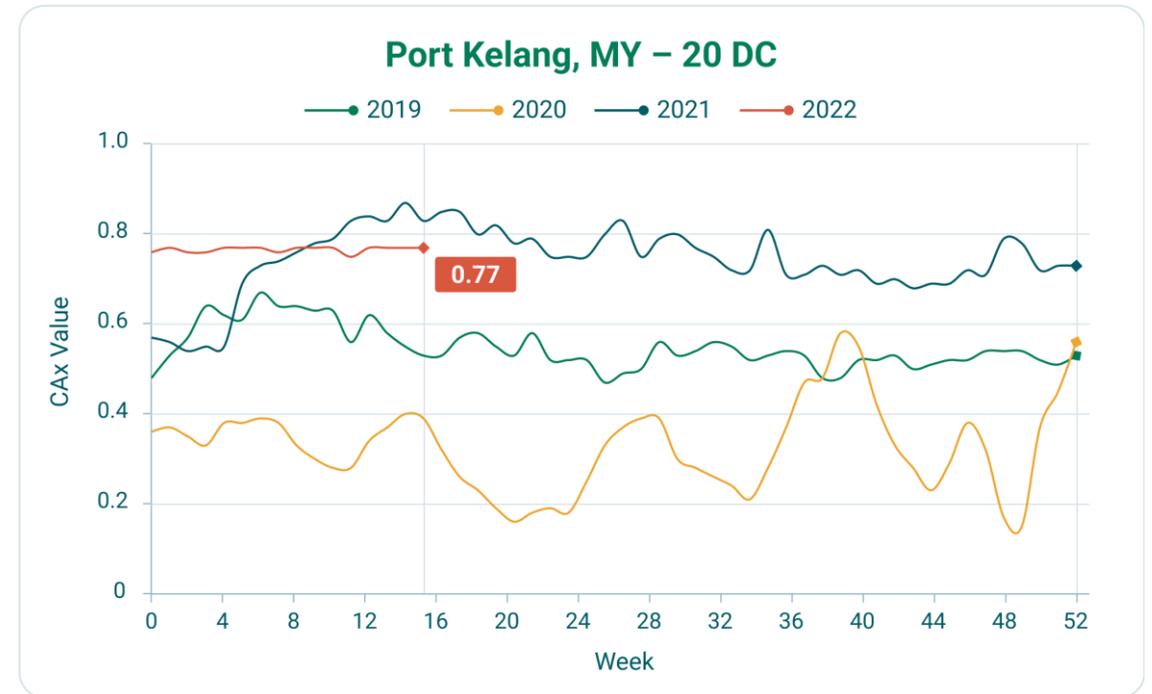
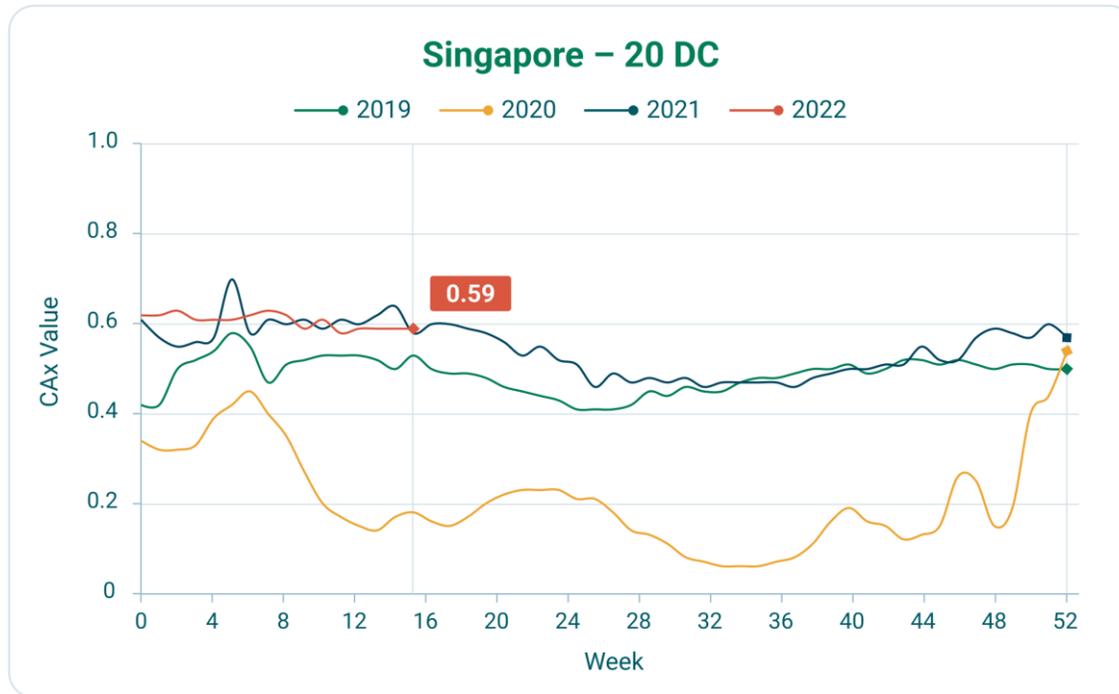
Prices for 40 HC in this region continued to decrease in March, while they rose for 20 DC – and exponentially in Dubai.

This could be linked to a surge in demand for crude oil from this region, following Russia's sanctions.



South-East Asia – Container availability

Singapore, Asia's third largest trade hub, sees a slight drop in CAx. No major change in Port Kelang as it rides out its high CAx value.



Wrapping up the month

The most liquid locations:

(I.e., high quantity and ease of business)

Trading:

- 20 DC containers cheapest in Los Angeles, Houston and Chicago respectively.
- 40 DC containers cheapest in Savannah, Warsaw and Chicago respectively
- 40 HC containers cheapest in Los Angeles, Valencia and Warsaw, respectively

Leasing:

Our platform shows that in March, these routes had some of the highest number of transactions for one-way leases:

- Germany > China
- Belgium > China
- Poland > China
- India > Malaysia

Great profit options?

Trading:

- Most liquid locations at current include China, the US and Europe respectively
- Good time to sell a 20 DC container in Dubai or India, if you're needing to

Leasing:

- As a supplier, leasing out your containers from North Europe to China, or from China to the US

Smart container moves?

- Buying/moving containers from Ningbo or west China **before** the expected lockdown and price surge
- Moving containers to and from India to match new export demand
- Getting containers out of Russia to China via rail, before situation worsens
- Moving containers to middle states in the US like Houston or Savannah instead of to east or west coast at present



Buy / Lease containers on xChange now

**Want to buy, sell or lease containers?
Click on the link below:**

[Schedule a demo](#)



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