

Energy-Related Traffic Falls Sharply in 2021, But Overall, The Other Activities Have Returned to Their Pre-Crisis Levels

In 2021, the overall traffic level at the Port of Nantes – Saint Nazaire amounts to 19 million tonnes (MT), which includes 15.2 MT in import traffic and 3.7 MT in export traffic. This year is marked by the suspension of refining activities by TotalEnergies and by the health and economic crises that struck in 2020.

The share of energy-related traffic, which usually represents around two thirds of the overall traffic volume, stands at 55 % in 2021. Hydrocarbon traffic shows a 62 % fall compared to 2020. Imports of crude oil stopped in November 2020 with the cyclical shutdown of the TotalEnergies refinery at Donges, and have not resumed since that time, leading to the suspension of refined petroleum product exports. Imports of refined petroleum products to meet local market requirements amount to 3.9 MT.

The level of activity at the liquefied natural gas terminal was impacted by some substantial tension in the international gas market in 2021, related notably to the economic upturn in certain countries such as China, and to the weather conditions in the USA and in Asia. 78 calls by LNG carriers at Elengy's Montoir de Bretagne terminal were recorded in 2021, compared to 127 calls the previous year. 9 transshipment operations were carried out at that facility during the year, compared to 21 in 2020. LNG traffic amounts to 5.4 MT in total in 2021, representing a decline of nearly 40 % in relation to the previous year.

Supplies of coal to fuel the EDF thermal power station at Cordemais, which has been very much in demand since the previous autumn so as to ensure the security of the electricity supply to Greater Western France, reach a traffic volume of 0.8 MT, compared to 0.2 MT in 2020.

Agri-food product traffic shows a downturn compared to 2020 but has returned to its pre-crisis level. Grain and cereals exports end the year at 0.7 MT and imports of ingredients to be used in the production of animal feed amount to 2 MT, which are the same levels as those in 2019. Related to the effects of the lockdown measures, the progression observed the previous year in the area of animal feed has now waned.

The other dry bulk products progress compared to 2020. Those traffic areas are notably driven by the construction and recycling sectors. Marine sand has increased by 20 %, cement and clinker by 21 %, and recycled scrap metal by 33 %.

Container traffic posts an 8.7 % downturn, amounting to nearly 145 000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

The volume of ro-ro traffic progresses by 4.4 % compared to 2020 but is still far below its pre-crisis level. The number of new vehicles remains stable at 109 000 units, and trailer traffic is also at the same level. As a direct consequence of the pandemic, traffic in the aeronautical sector is severely impacted, just as it was in 2020.

The other general cargo traffic areas are up 34 % overall and furthermore show good prospects going forward. A major proportion relates to imports of industrial components as part of the ongoing construction work on the Saint Nazaire offshore wind farm.

The detailed results for 2021 and the prospects for 2022 will be presented at a press conference to be held on 25th January, at Montoir de Bretagne.

You will be receiving an invitation shortly.