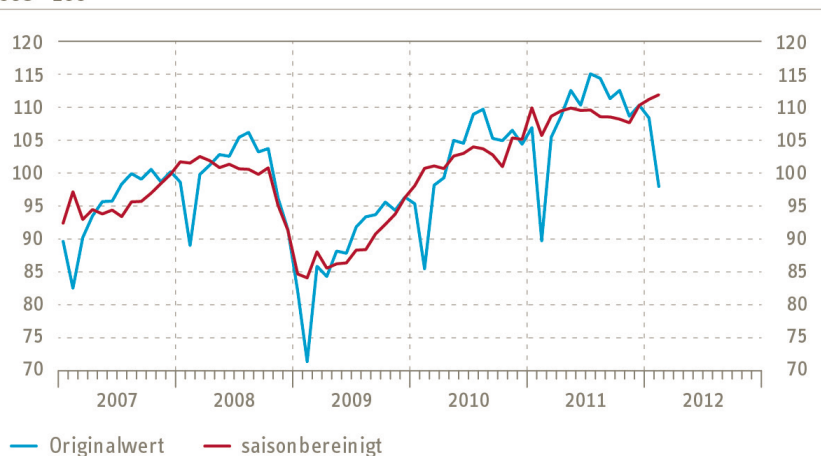


RWI/ISL Container Handling Index: Further growth of global economic activity in February

Essen/Bremen, 21.03.2012 - The Container Handling Index of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (RWI) and the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) has increased again in February, which indicates a further boost in international merchandise trade. The seasonally adjusted index value rose from 111.2 in January to the current value of 111.9. Altogether, the Index has improved about 4% since last year's November. The approximation for February is based upon data of 21 ports which have already released February data and which represent more than half of the total volume covered by the Index. The approximation for January 2012 was confirmed by the extended sample.

RWI/ISL-Containerumschlag-Index
2008=100



Eigene Schätzungen nach Angaben für 72 Häfen; Februar 2012: Schnellschätzung.

The Index is based on data for 72 international ports covering more than 60% of world container handling. These ports are continuously monitored by the ISL as part of their market analysis. Because large parts of international merchandise trade are transported by ship, the development of port handling is a good indicator for world trade. As many ports release information about their activities only two weeks after the end of the respective month, the RWI/ISL Container Throughput Index is a reliable early indicator for the development of international merchandise trade and hence for the activity of the global economy.

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