

RWI/ISL Container Throughput Index has decreased slightly in April

Essen/Bremen, 24.05.2012 - In April, the Container Throughput Index of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (RWI) and the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) has decreased slightly to 113.4 from (revised) 114.0 in February. This was the first decline of the indicator since November 2011, indicating that world merchandise trade has lost momentum. The flash forecast for April is based upon data of 36 ports which represent about 70% of the total volume covered by the Index. The March data released one month ago were revised marginally only.

RWI/ISL-Containerumschlag-Index
2008 = 100



Eigene Schätzungen nach Angaben für 72 Häfen; April 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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