



# Danube Ports Handbook

Edition October 2022

# DIONYSUS

## About the DIONYSUS project

The DIONYSUS project is a follow-up of DAPhNE, having the core objective to address main regional challenges in port infrastructure governance and planning in order to facilitate the integration of the Danube Region ports into smart and sustainable multi-modal transport chains. The project is the result of the fruitful collaboration process among port administrations and operators, business associations, academia and the national authorities of the Danube riparian countries.

The second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook is based on the results of a survey which was carried out twice amongst the ports of the Danube Region to collect information on port traffic in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic covering the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. While Danube shipping is closely correlated with developments in the global and regional economy, the average number of port calls, as well as the amount of handled products and traffic in passenger transport, generated useful insights into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on Danube navigation. The survey furthermore touched upon topics linked to procedural restrictions that have impaired a smooth transport flow.

The survey has been elaborated by the teams of Pro Danube Management (AT) in cooperation with Public Ports (SK), Ennshafen Port (AT), the Hungarian Federation of Danube Ports (HU), Constanta Maritime Ports Administration (RO), and the Port Governance Agency (RS) with the support of the Danube Ports Network (DPN).

## General Info Project

Project title:	Integrating Danube Region into Smart & Sustainable Multi-modal & Intermodal Transport Chains		
Project acronym:	DIONYSUS		
Funding programme:	Interreg Danube Transnational Programme		
Project implementation period:	07/2020 – 12/2022		
Priority:	Better connected and energy responsible Danube region		
Specific objective:	Support environmentally-friendly and safe transport systems and balanced accessibility of urban and rural areas		
Budget in Euro:	Overall:	3,603,511.25	
	ERDF Contribution:	2,261,133.69	
	IPA Contribution:	223,730.59	
	ENI Contribution:	578,120.21	
Project website:	<a href="http://www.interreg-danube.eu/dionysus">www.interreg-danube.eu/dionysus</a>		

## Danube Ports – the backbone of a future-oriented transport system

The Danube macro-region brings together 14 countries along the Danube river, including nine EU member states (DE, AT, CZ, HR, SL, SK, HU, RO, BG) and 5 non-EU countries (BA, ME, MD, RS, UA). More than 110 million people live within the region, representing a fifth of the European Union's population.

The backbone of the Danube macro-region is the Danube river, which has the status of Pan European Corridor VII, being part of the Rhine-Main Danube trans-European navigation system. The international waterway of the Danube is designated as E 80 (according to AGN).

Efficient waterway infrastructure together with high performing ports as regional economic hubs, environmentally friendly and modern inland waterway vessels, an optimum integration of inland waterway transport into the multimodal logistics chains, qualified staff as well as the use of digital services are basic prerequisites for a competitive inland waterborne transport of the future.

Ports represent strategic nodes facilitating cargo flows in international distribution of goods, as a part of an extensive logistic network which enables trade and information flows between different points.

Danube ports have the potential to act as engines of growth in their host cities and regions, being multimodal hubs with varying levels of intermodal facilities, serving as an interface between various transport modes. Of particular importance for Danube transport are the numerous industrial sites that are located along the Danube Corridor. Ports offer sustainable solutions for attracting key industrial players by providing dedicated facilities for manufacturing, processing and handling of logistics operations, acting as convenient regional business platforms for trade and industry.

Danube Ports can handle any type of cargo, offering a full spectrum of logistics and industrial activities, efficiently facilitating well-functioning supply chains operations. Hence, modern waterborne logistics, transportation and port operations lead to ports having a new strategic role to fulfil, facilitating the relocation of production, manufacturing and logistics facilities in or near port areas, supply chain integration, information systems and intermodality/multimodality. This role requires networking not just between ports, but also between ports and other transport nodes, operators and market players.

One of the most important characteristics of Danube ports is that many of them are located on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) transited by several important transport corridors. Supporting the increase of efficiency of transport infrastructure in public ports is therefore in the interest of the development of waterborne transport in the wider European context.

In order to reach this stage, Danube ports need to understand their role and impose it to the logistics industry in the region, through high quality infrastructure, efficient and flexible operations, customer orientation, value added services, stakeholder involvement, flexible planning and less rigid regulatory barriers and obstacles for the creation of real logistics and industrial zones, or clusters, in or near port areas.

# ENNSHAFEN

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information

Port administration: Ennshafen OÖ GmbH & Ennshafen NÖ GmbH  
 Address: Donaustraße 3, 4470 Enns  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 3.530.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: [www.ennshafen.at](http://www.ennshafen.at)



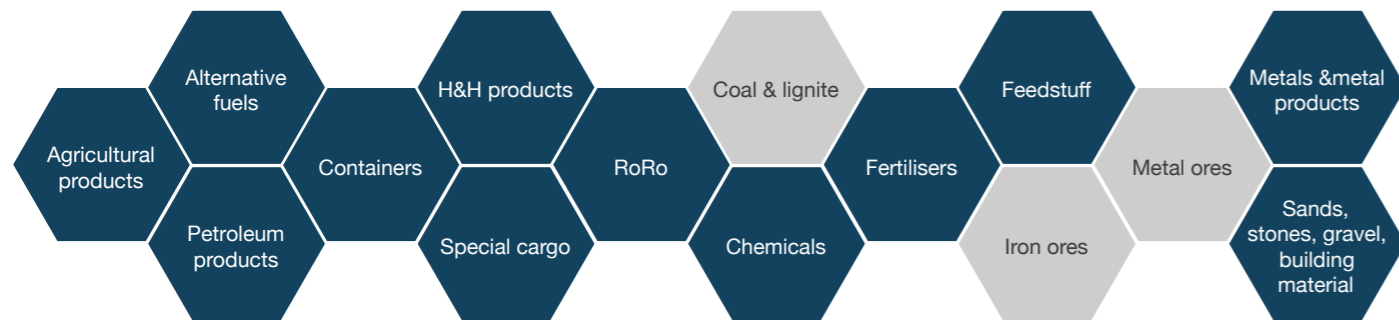
Ennshafen on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

The ENNSHAFEN port is situated in Austria's strongest industrial region. Serving the largest continuous industrial area on the Upper Danube, the port is a trimodal transshipment center and a modern service center for the forwarding industry. Services such as transshipment, heavy cargo transshipment, warehousing, packaging, and bunkering are provided by operators based at ENNSHAFEN. Located in the heart of Europe, the port is ideally linked to the most important inland ports and seaports of the continent. As a multi-modal logistic-hub, within the port area the Container Terminal Enns serves as a major hinterland terminal for big sea ports. The annual container turnover is approximately 400000 TEU (or 2 mio t), mostly using rail and road infrastructure.

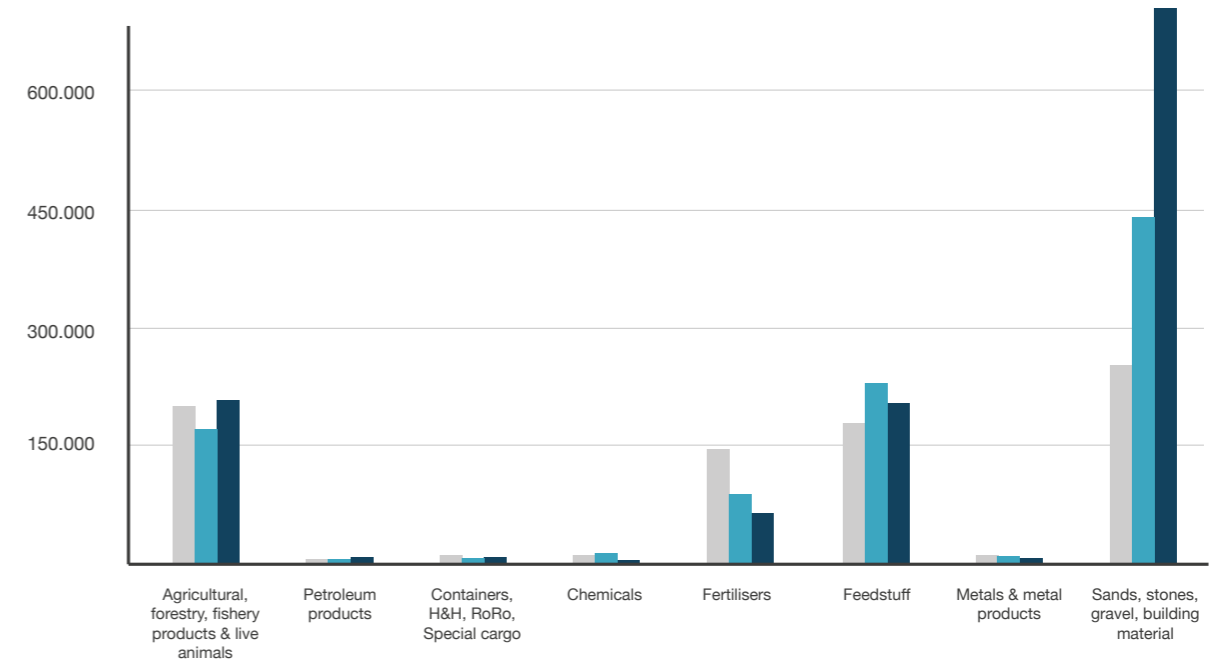
## Access to Transport Corridors

The ENNSHAFEN port enjoys a convenient geographic location at the nexus between two of Europe's main transportation corridors: the Rhine-Main-Danube canal system, which links the North Sea to the Black Sea, and the north-south connection from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic. With direct access to motorways and main roads, the ENNSHAFEN port offers ideal road links. Waterways, rail and road connections empower the port as a transport hub for goods and commodities in international logistics operations and for local businesses. Within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) of waterways, the ENNSHAFEN is defined as one of two Austria core nodes in the Rhine-Danube Corridor.

## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods

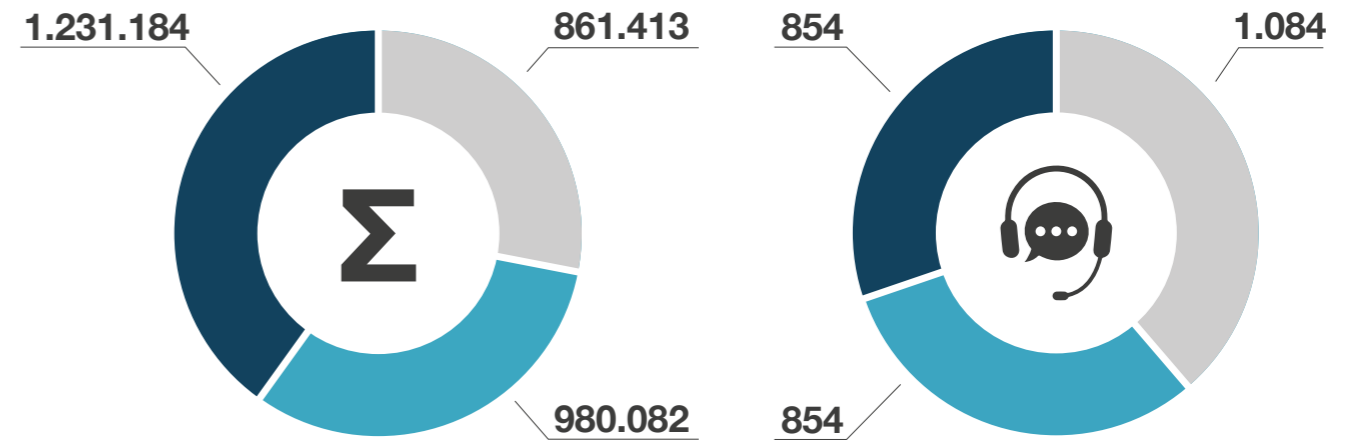


## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



Volumes generated from waterside transshipment

## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



Total cargo volume in tonnes

Port calls

2019 2020 2021

# PORT OF VIENNA

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information

Port administration: Hafen Wien GmbH  
 Address: Seitenhafenstraße 15, A-1023 Vienna  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 3.000.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <https://www.hafen-wien.com/en>



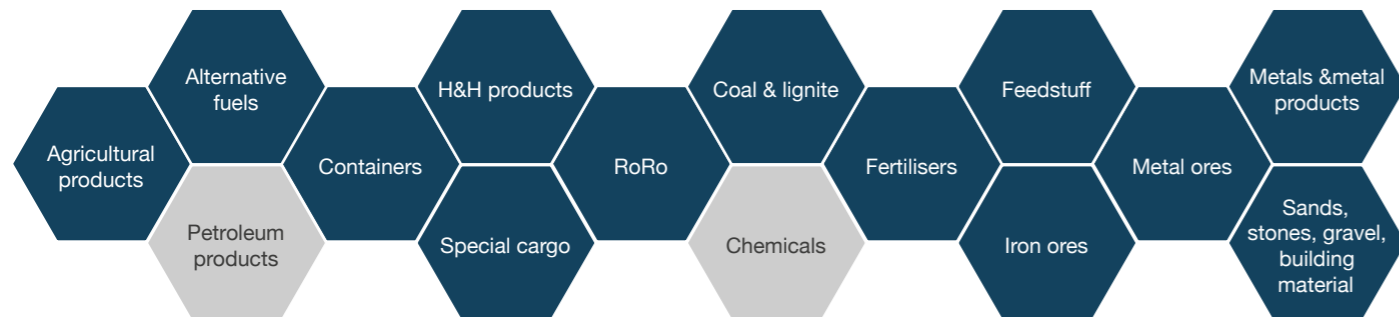
Port of Vienna on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

The port of Vienna is the largest public port on the Danube and consists of the cargo terminals of Freudenu and Albern and the Lobau oil terminal. The three harbours on the Danube in Vienna are notable for their modern handling facilities, excellent infrastructure and dependable, well trained workers, ensuring the reliable and rapid handling of all goods, be they building materials, containers, general cargo or bulk goods. The Port of Vienna is a multifunctional service company offering decades of experience and also the latest technologies. Around 2,000 kilometers from the Black Sea and 1,500 from the North Sea, the harbour in Vienna serves as an optimal direct connection to three modes of transport: ship, rail and truck (keyword tri-modality). In addition, with its proximity to the Vienna international airport as high-performance interface for international trade and transport.

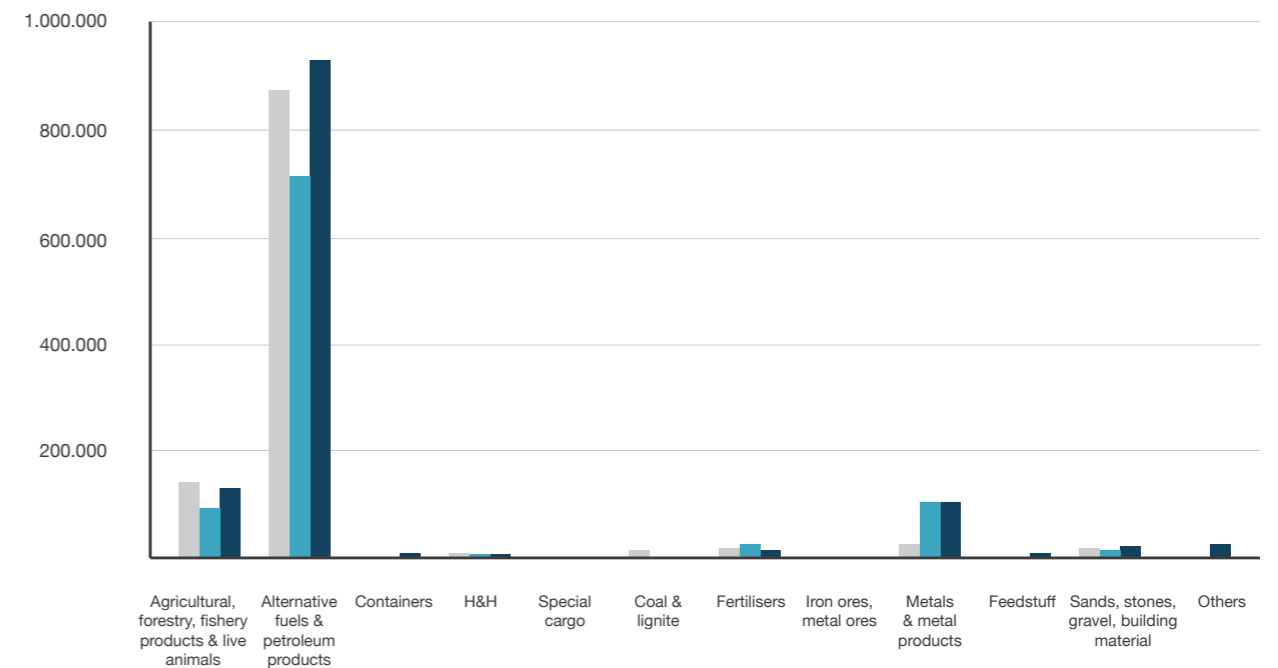
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port of Vienna is a very attractive transport nodal point through its connection to the 3 TEN-T corridors: the Rhine Danube, the Baltic-Adriatic and the Balkans-Eastern-Med. Corridors.

## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods

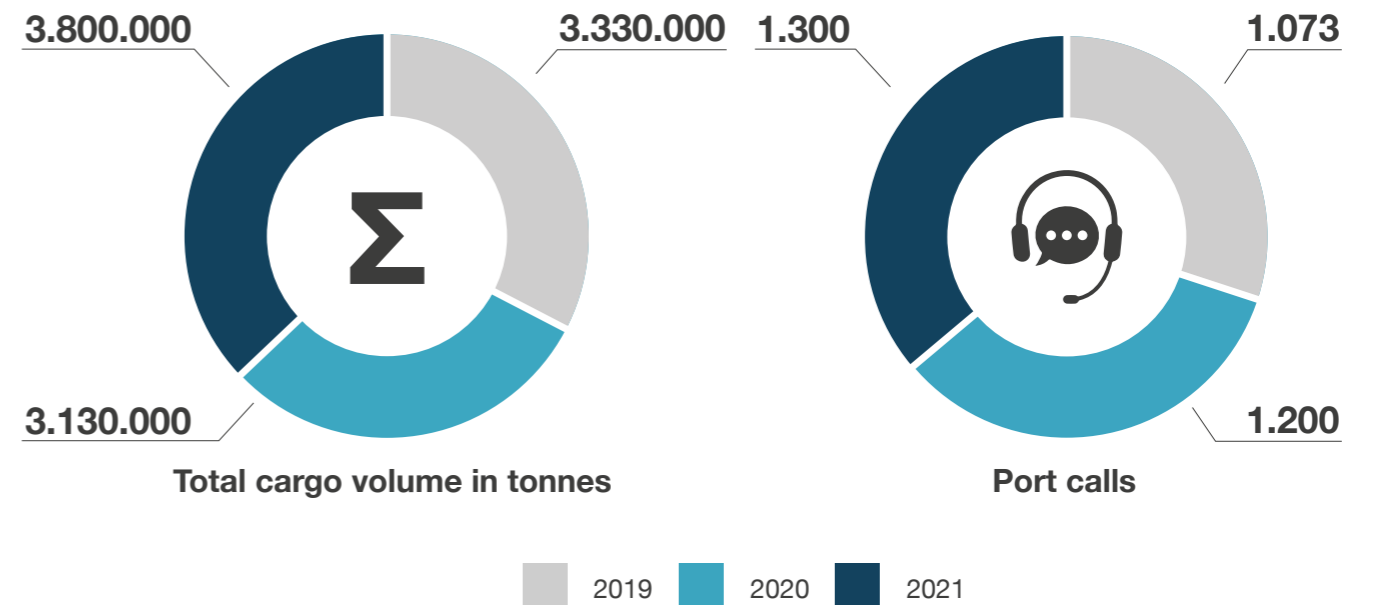


## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



Volumes generated from waterside transshipment

## Cargo volume & port calls (total incl. subsidiaries)



AT

# PORT OF BRATISLAVA

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Public Ports JSC  
 Address: Verejné prístavy, a.s. Prístavná 10, 821 09 Bratislava, Slovakia  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 1.580.079 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <https://www.portslovakia.com/english>

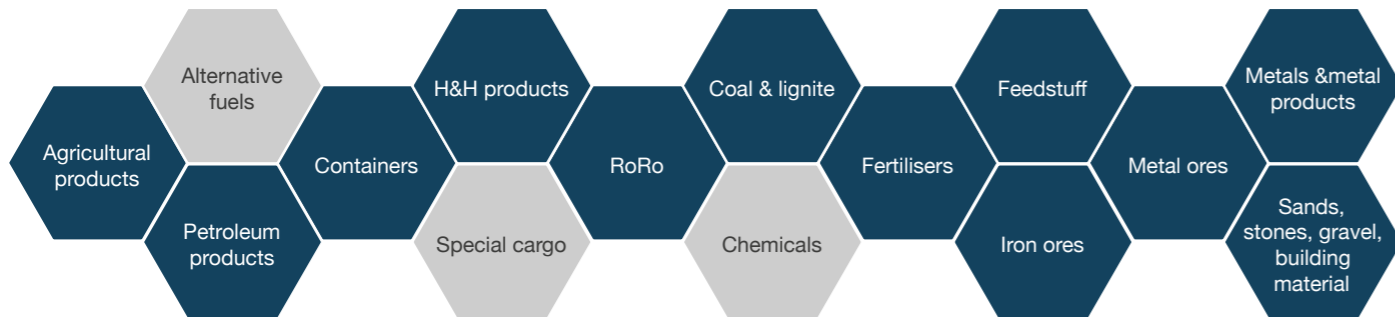
Port of Bratislava on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

Port of Bratislava is the most important strategic port in Slovakia on the international Danube waterway. The port includes four port basins on both banks of the Danube and is situated between rkm 1.867,29 to 1.862,00. It fulfils the functions of a universal cargo and passenger port.

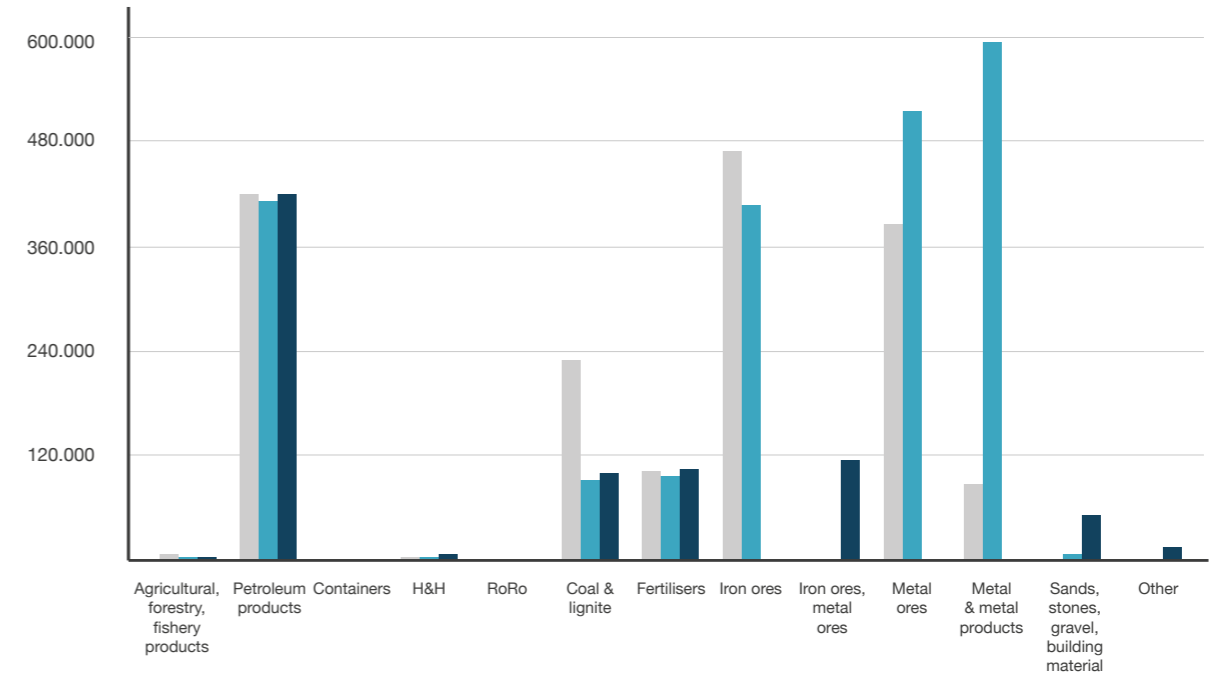
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port's potential is enhanced by its excellent geographical location at the crossroads of the Rhine – Danube and Baltic Sea – Adriatic Sea corridors of TEN-T transport networks and easy access to other European capitals and important ports in Vienna and Budapest. The port has railway connection and direct connection to the motorway.

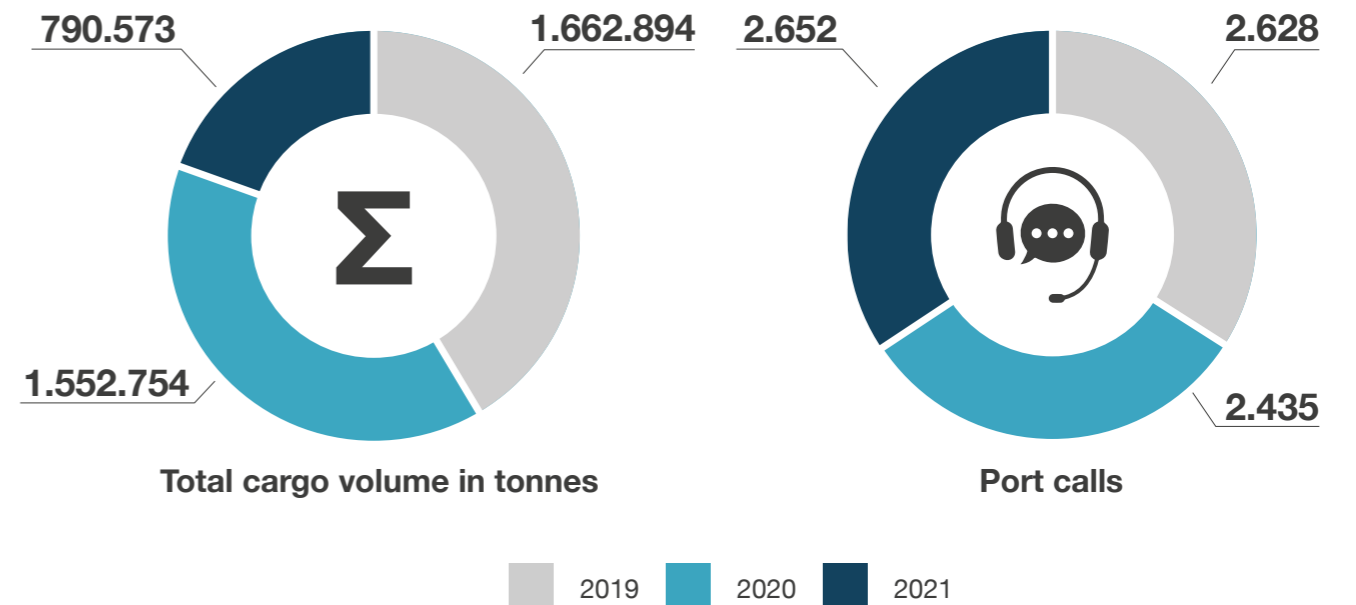
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF KOMÁRNO

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Public Ports JSC  
 Address: Verejné prístavy, a.s. Prístavná 10, 821 09 Bratislava, Slovakia  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 643.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <https://www.portslovakia.com/english>

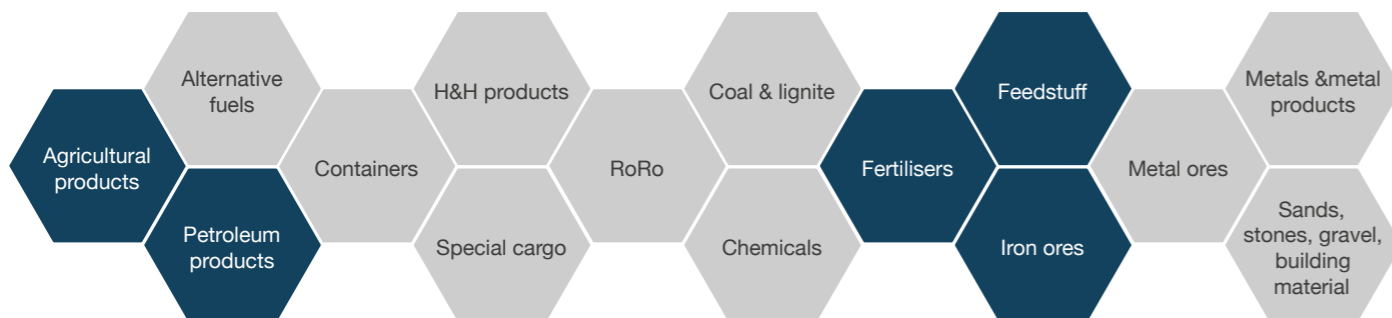
Port of Komárno on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

The port is a public port with two basins used for the transshipment of goods by rail, road and water transport directly or with intermediate storage. Conceptually, technologically and structurally, the port of Komárno is built for the transfer of bulk and loose substrates and is situated between rkm 1770,00 to 1762,00.

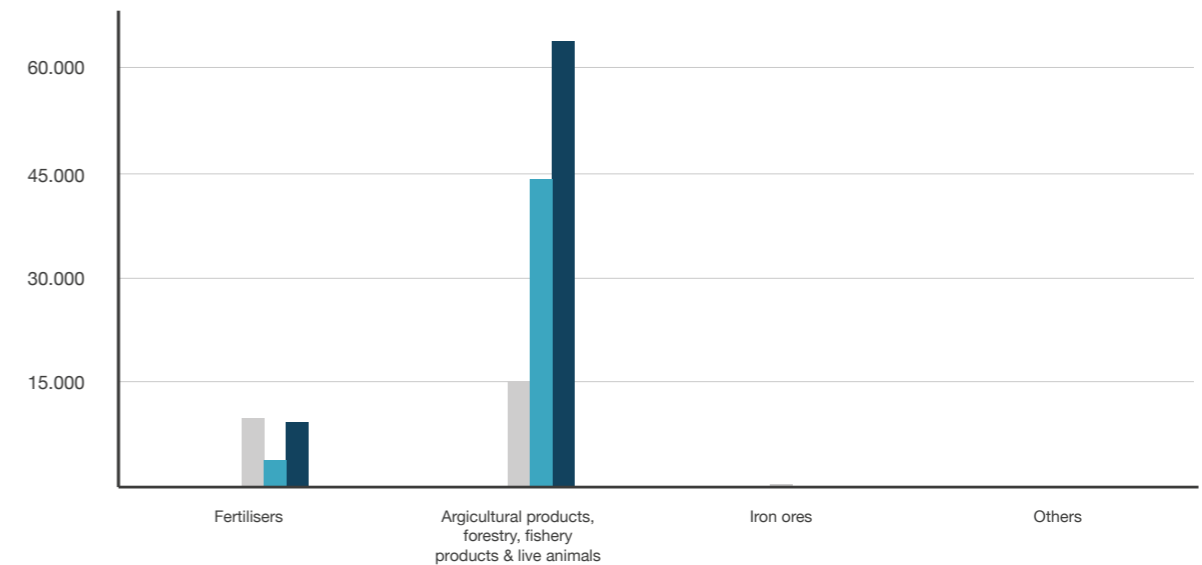
## Access to Transport Corridors

The Port of Komárno is part of the Rhine-Danube TEN-T Core Network Corridor. It has direct connection to railway and road.

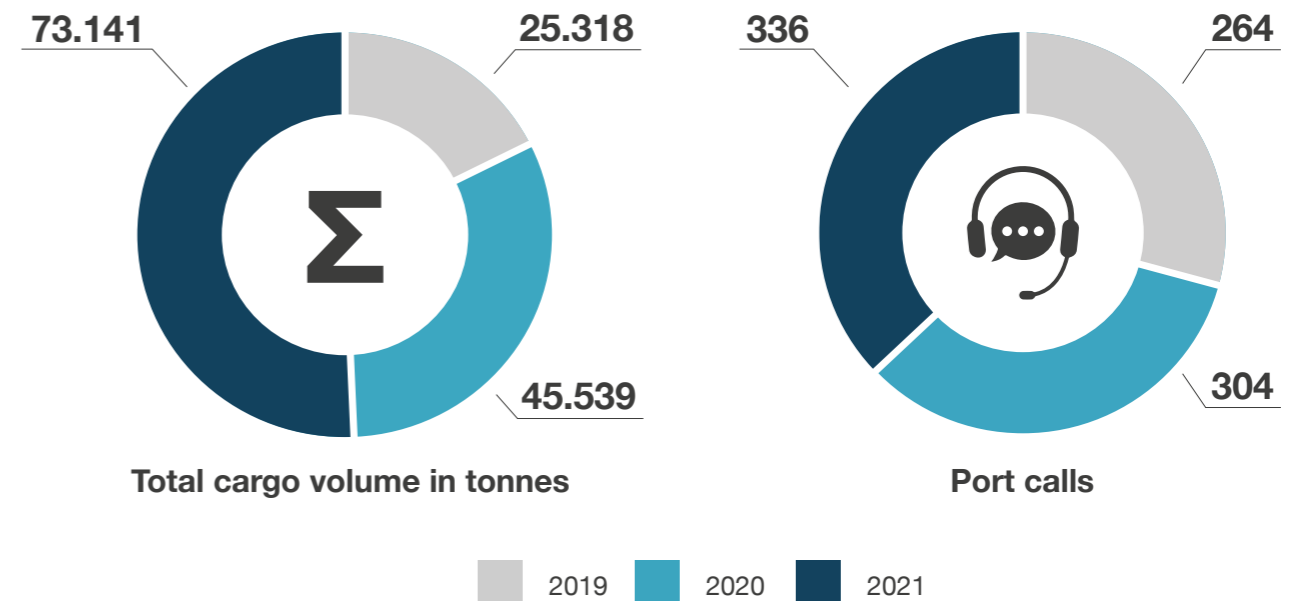
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# CENTROPORT

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Centroport Kft  
 Address: Ruhagyári út 5., H-2400 Dunaújváros, Hungary  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 3.446 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: [Centroport Kft. | HFIP](http://Centroport Kft. | HFIP)

Centroport on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

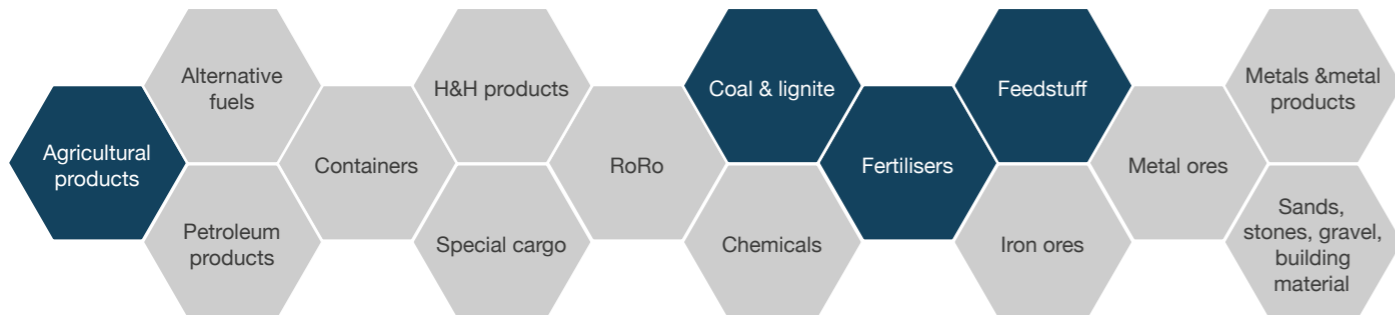
The port is located on the right bank of the Danube, in the bay between 1580-1579 rkm, on the Szalki Island. Centroport is a terminal in the Port of Dunaújváros dedicated to agro-logistic river/rail/road transshipments.

## Access to Transport Corridors

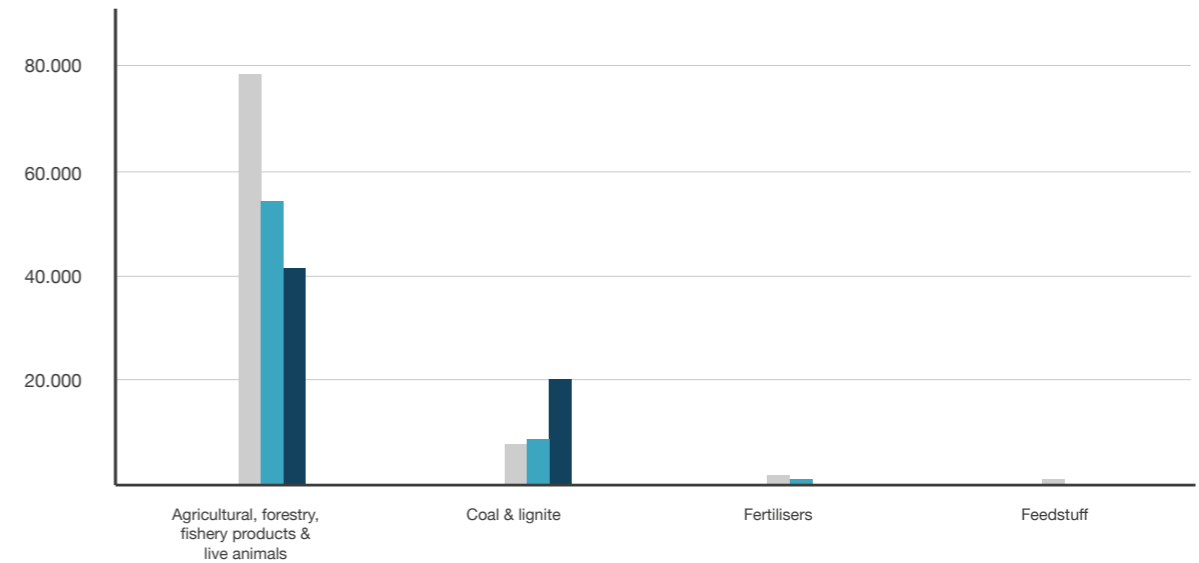
Centroport can be reached by train on Railway No. 42, connecting Pusztaszabolcs and Dunaújváros. Dunaújváros station is in a prominent position among the stations of the major rural cities in terms of volume of freight traffic. Although there are no major upgrades planned for the line, current track conditions are stable.

Regarding road infrastructure, the port is 3-4 km away from the M6 highway and 70 km from Budapest on the right riverbank.

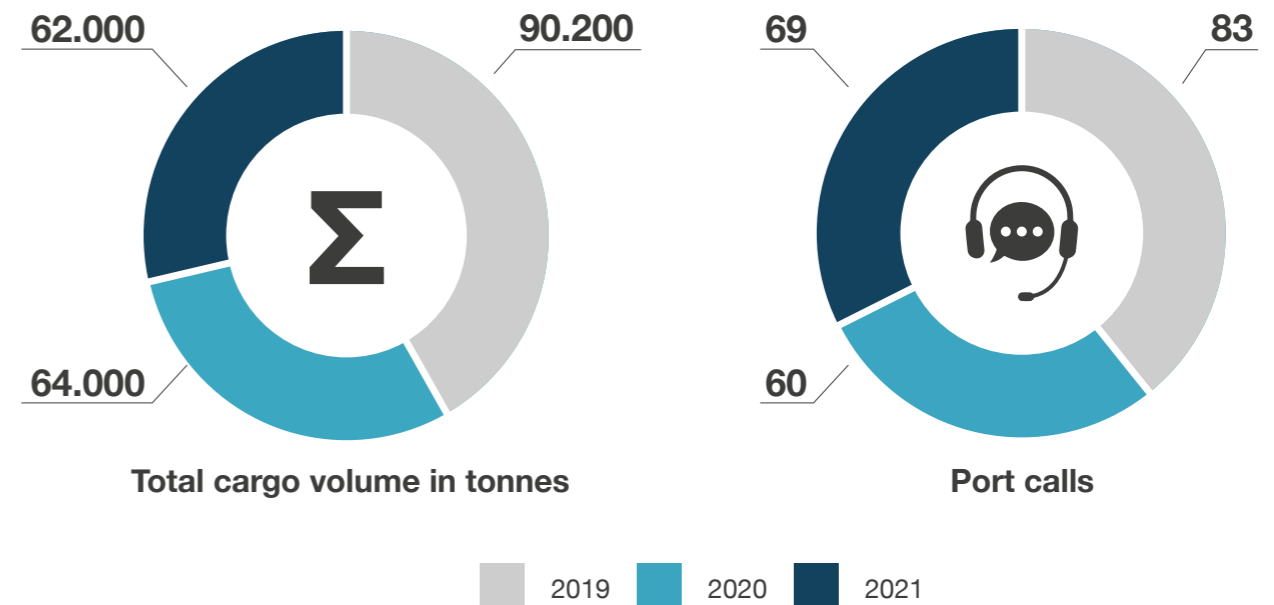
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF NOVI SAD

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Port Governance Agency  
 Address: Carinska 1, Novi Sad, Serbia  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 240.000 m2  
 Website: <http://www.aul.gov.rs/> | <https://www.dpworld.com/sr/novi-sad> | <https://www.nis.rs/en/product/marine-fuel/>

Port of Novi Sad on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

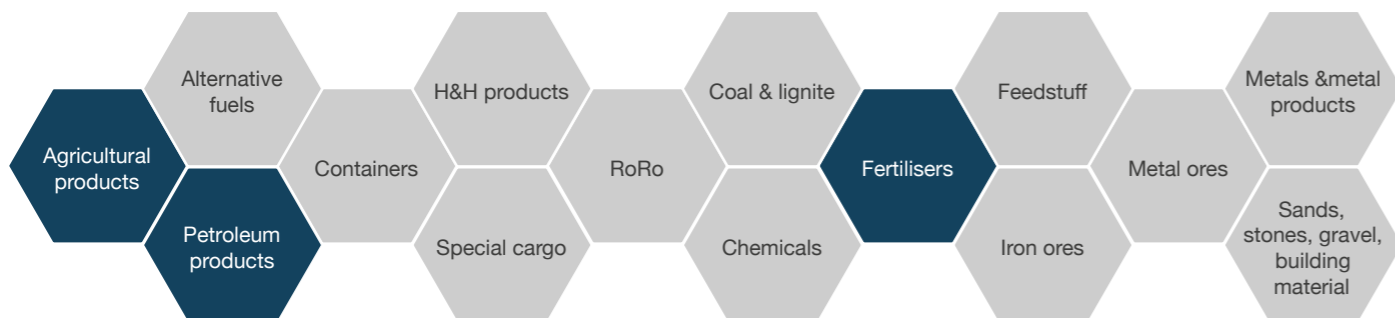
The Port of Novi Sad is positioned in the central part of Vojvodina, the northern province of the Republic of Serbia. It is located at 1,254 rkm of the left bank of the river Danube, at the entrance to the Danube-Tisa-Danube canal.

The port area covers approximately 24 ha on both sides of the canal, and two port operators are providing port services in the Port of Novi Sad (DP World Novi Sad jsc and NIS jsc). The port disposes of a water area of 6 ha, with a depth of 4 - 10 m.

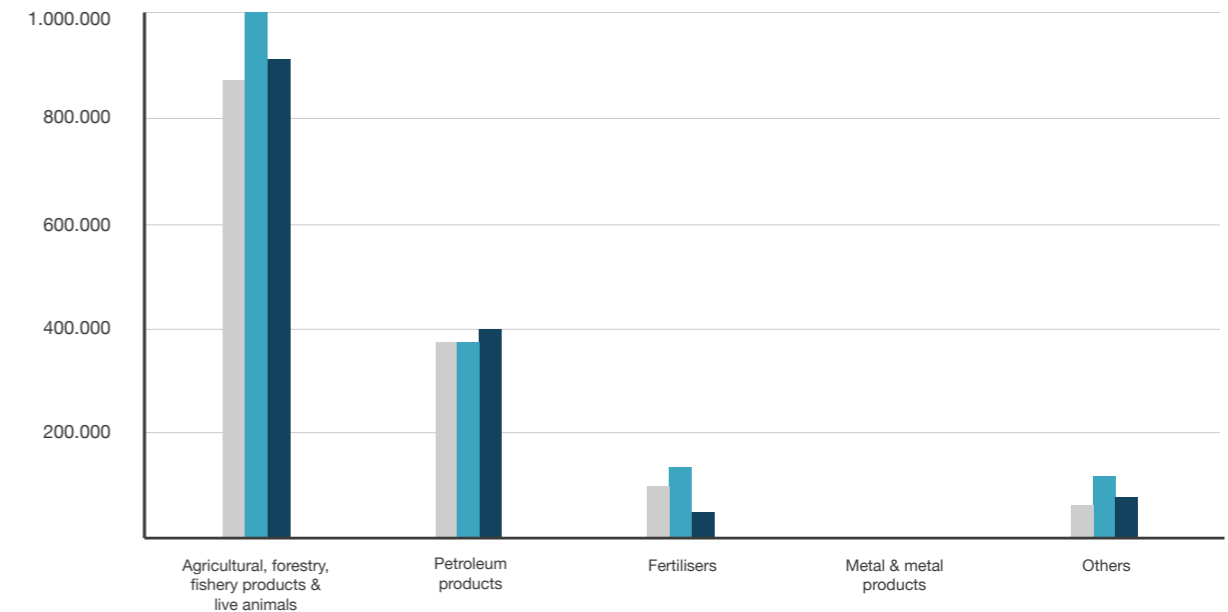
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is situated at the intersection of Rhine Danube Corridor with rail/road Corridor X. Access to railway is just 0.3 km away from Rail Corridor X and access road is 3 km away from Road Corridor X.

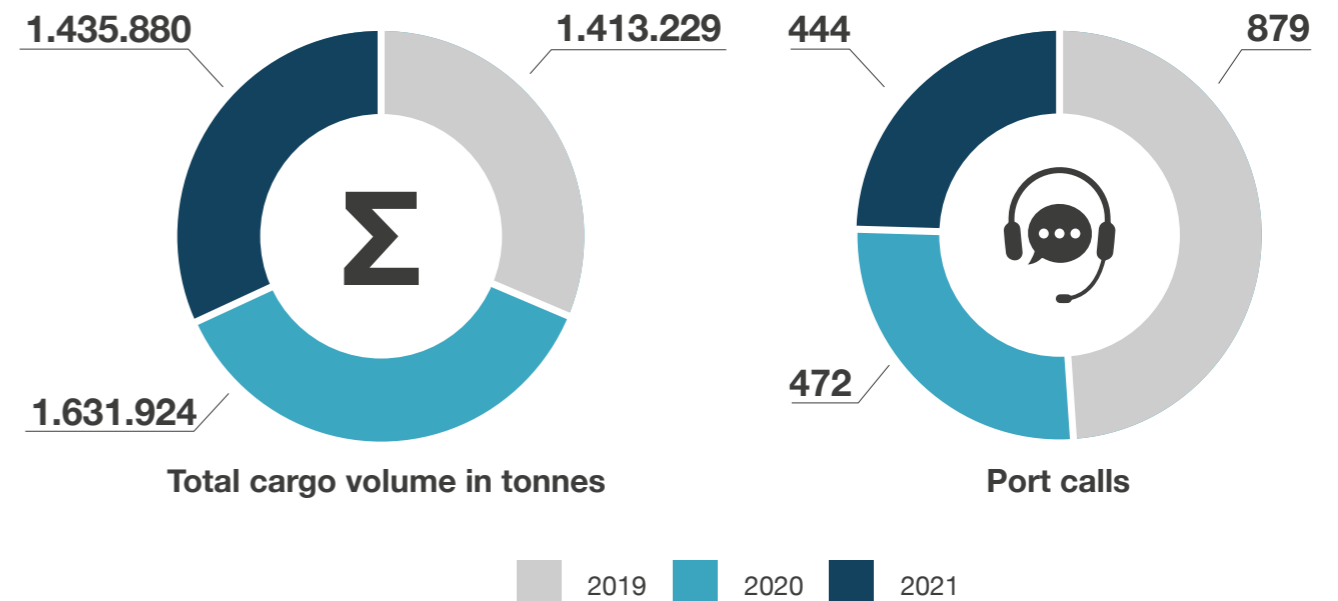
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)





# PORT OF BELGRADE

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Port Governance Agency  
 Address: Žorža Klemansoa 37  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 1.000.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <http://www.aul.gov.rs/> | <http://www.lukabeograd.com/en.html>

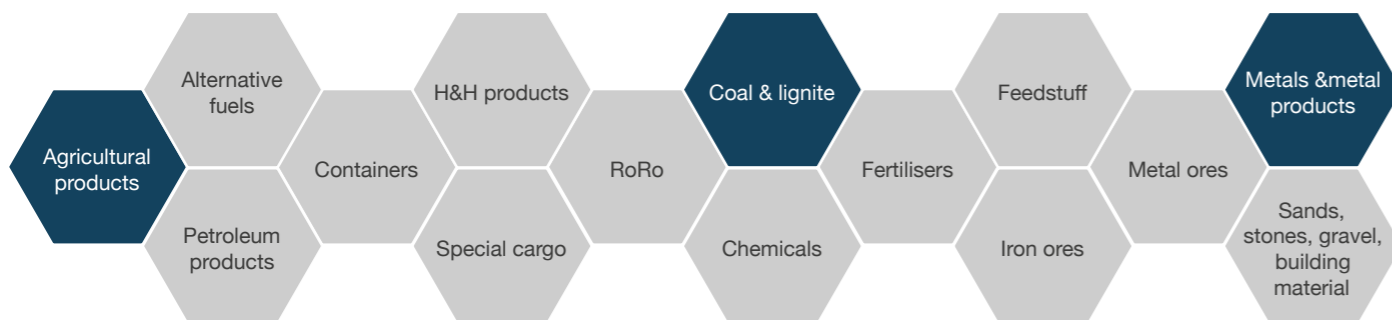
Port of Belgrade on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

Port of Belgrade is positioned on the 1168 km of the right bank of the river Danube, it is a basin type port with a water area of 11 ha and a depth of 4 m at low navigation level. Port operator is Port of Belgrade jsc.

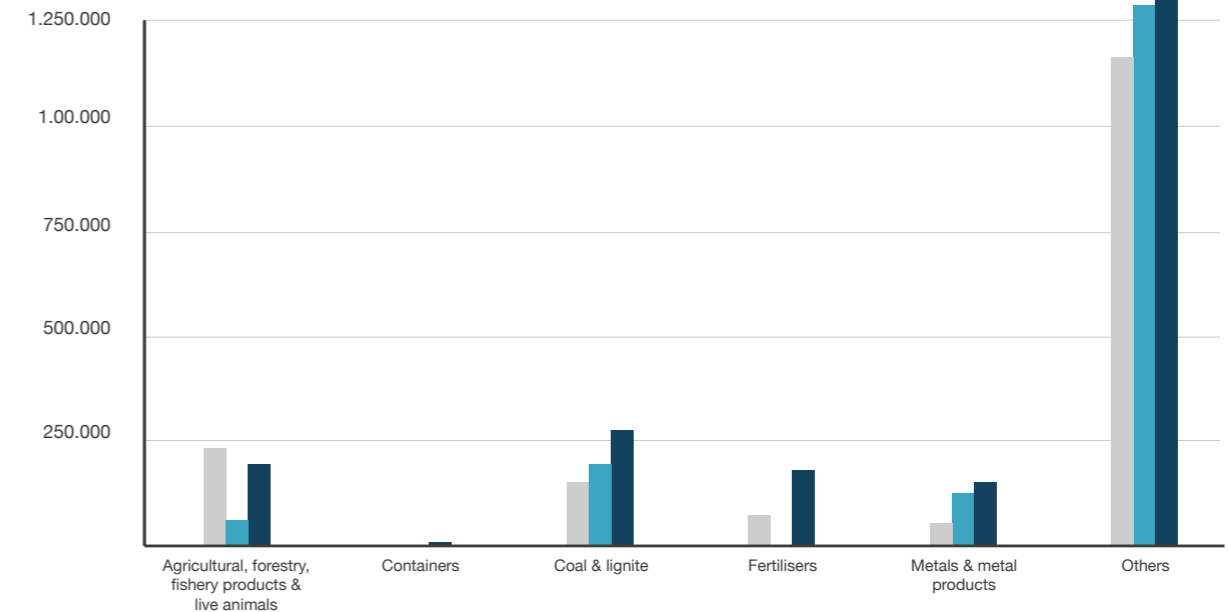
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is situated at the Rhine Danube Corridor with direct access to the road and railway Corridor X.

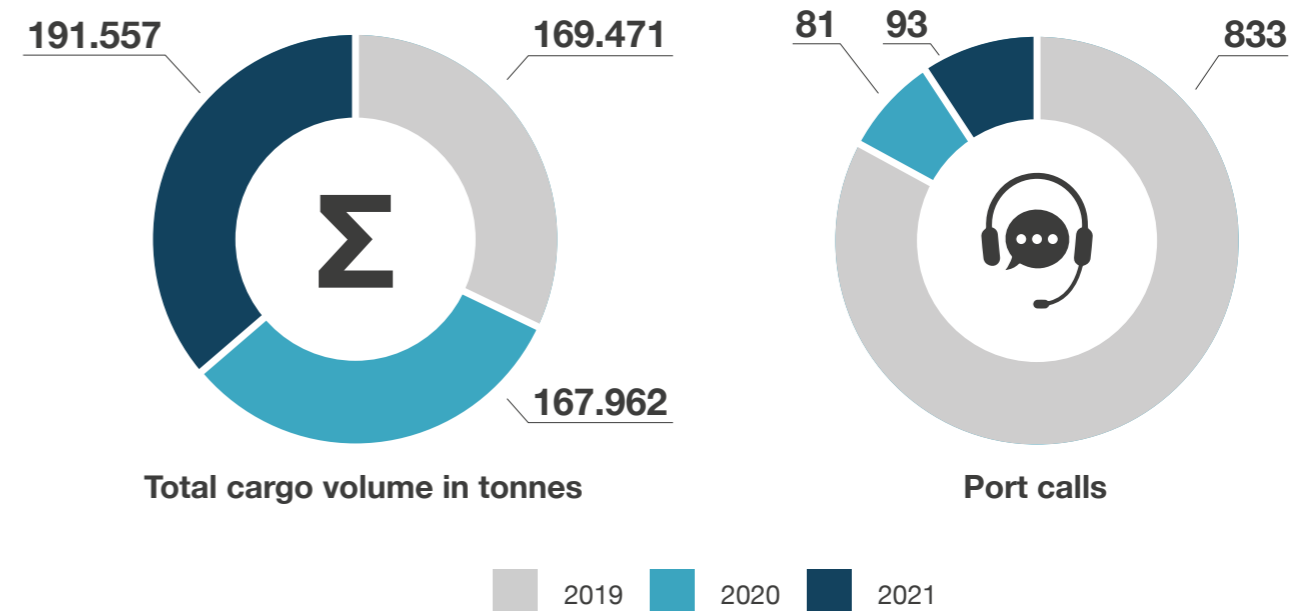
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF PANČEVO

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Port Governance Agency  
 Address: Luka Dunav 1/ Luka Dunav 5/ Spoljnostarcevska 80/  
 Spoljnostarcevska 199, Pancevo, Serbia  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 1.270.296 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <http://www.aul.gov.rs/> | <https://www.specijalnaluka.rs/> | <https://www.nis.rs/en/product/marine-fuel/>

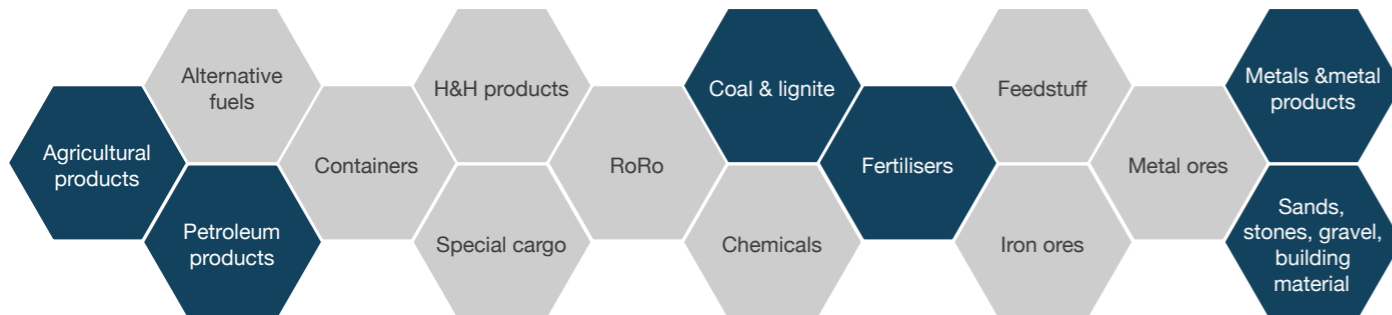
Port of Pančevo on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

Port of Pancevo covers currently the largest port area in the Republic of Serbia (127 ha). Port is located on the left bank of the Danube, at km 1,153, it has two basins and one terminal on the left bank of the Danube main flow. Four port operators are carrying out the port activities: Luka Dunav Pancevo jsc, NIS jsc, Granexport and Specijalna Luka Pancevo.

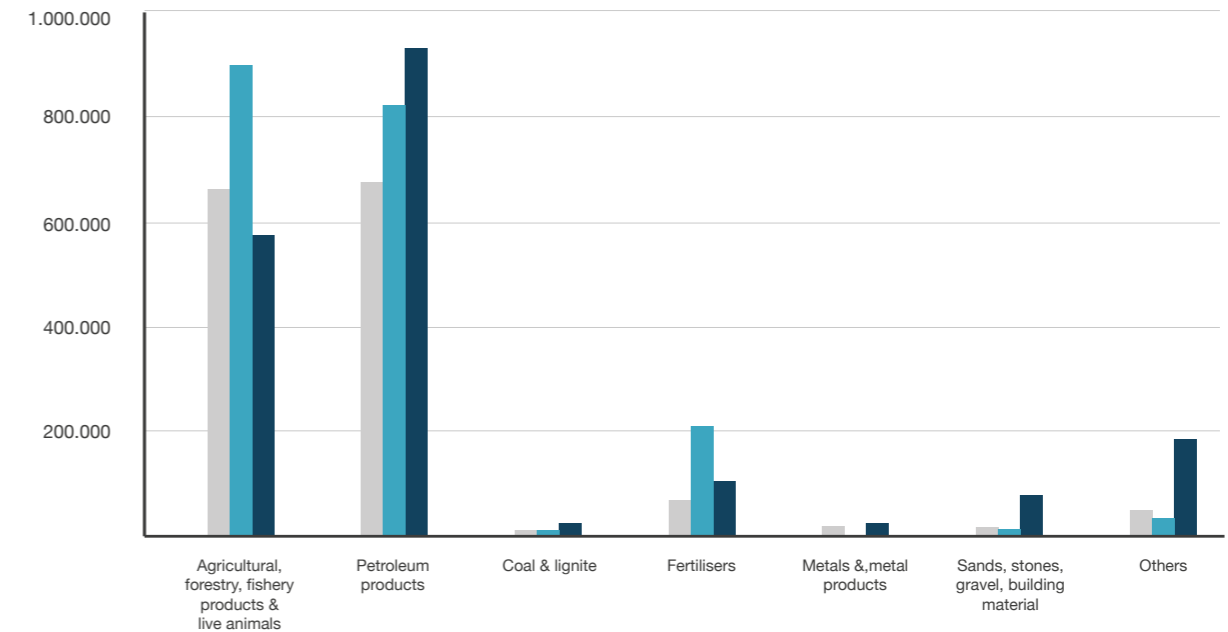
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is situated on the Rhine Danube Corridor with direct access to the road and railway Corridor X. The port is located only 14 km away from Belgrade.

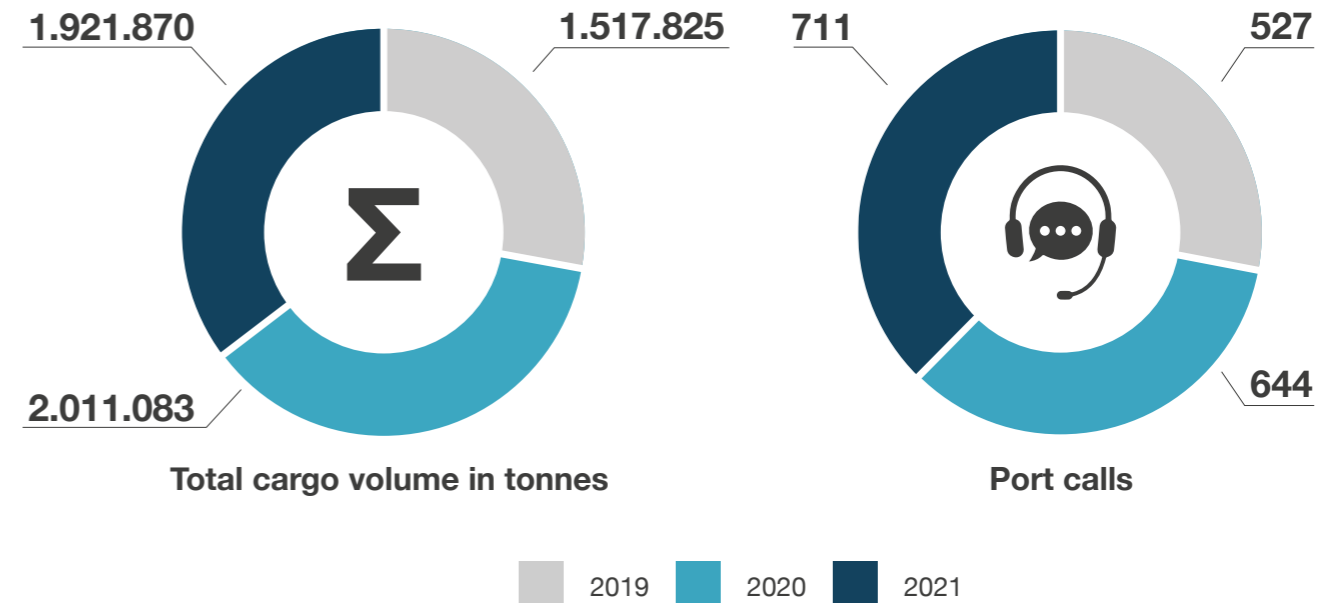
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF SMEDEREVO

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Port Governance Agency  
 Address: Šalinačka bb, Smederevo, Serbia  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 433.384 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <http://www.aul.gov.rs/> | <https://hbisserbia.rs/about-us/> | <https://www.tomitrade.rs/index.php> | <https://mitanoil.rs/> | <https://www.nis.rs/en/product/marine-fuel/>

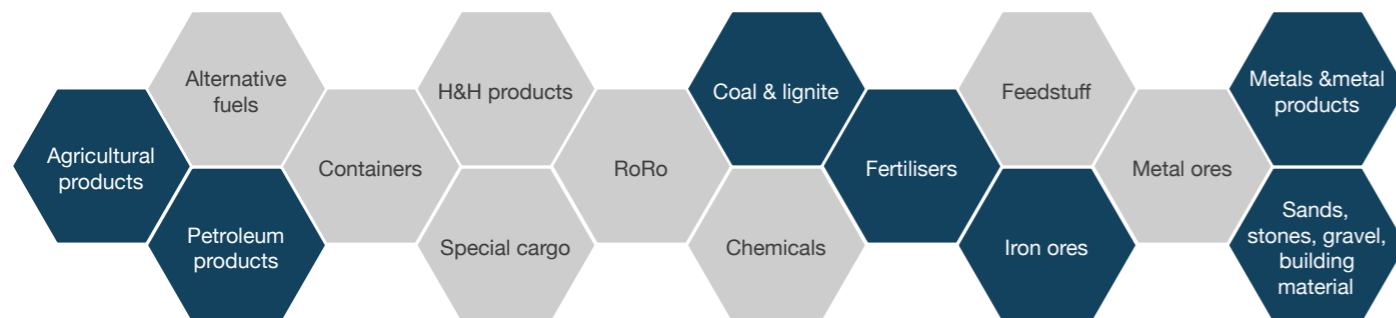
Port of Smederevo on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

The port of Smederevo is positioned on the right bank of the river Danube, on the stretch from rkm 1111 to rkm 1116. Four port operators at five locations are carrying out port activities: HBIS Group Serbia Iron & Steel, Tomi Trade, Mitan Oil and NIS jsc.

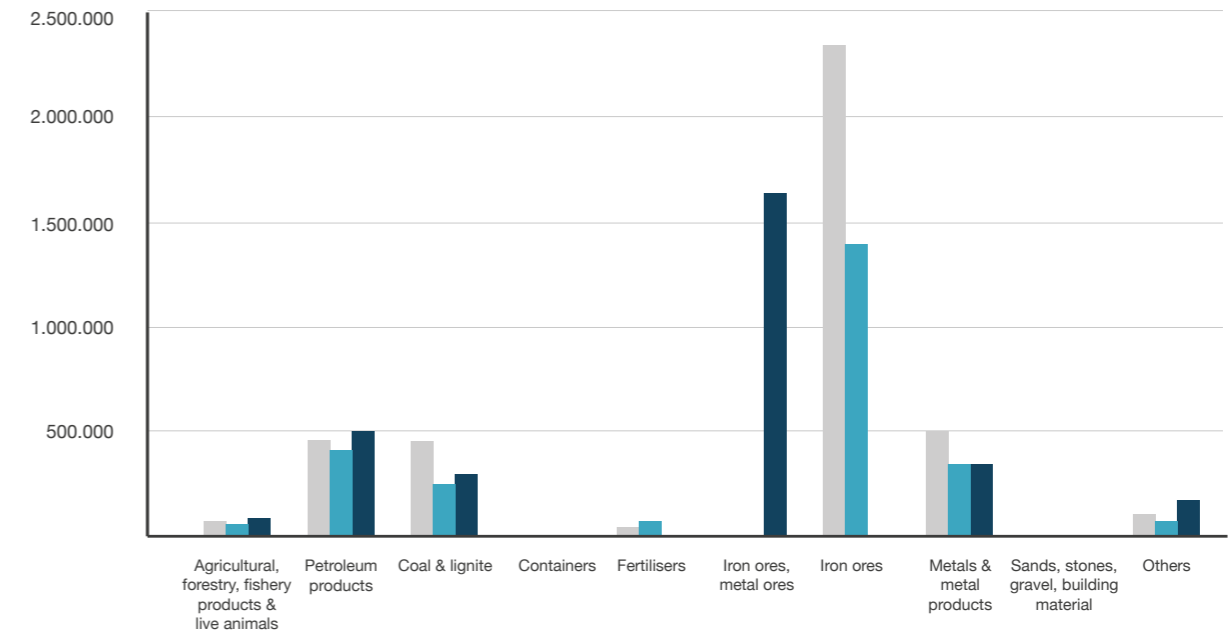
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is situated on the European TEN-T corridor Rhine-Danube, linked to the Pan European Transport Corridor X.

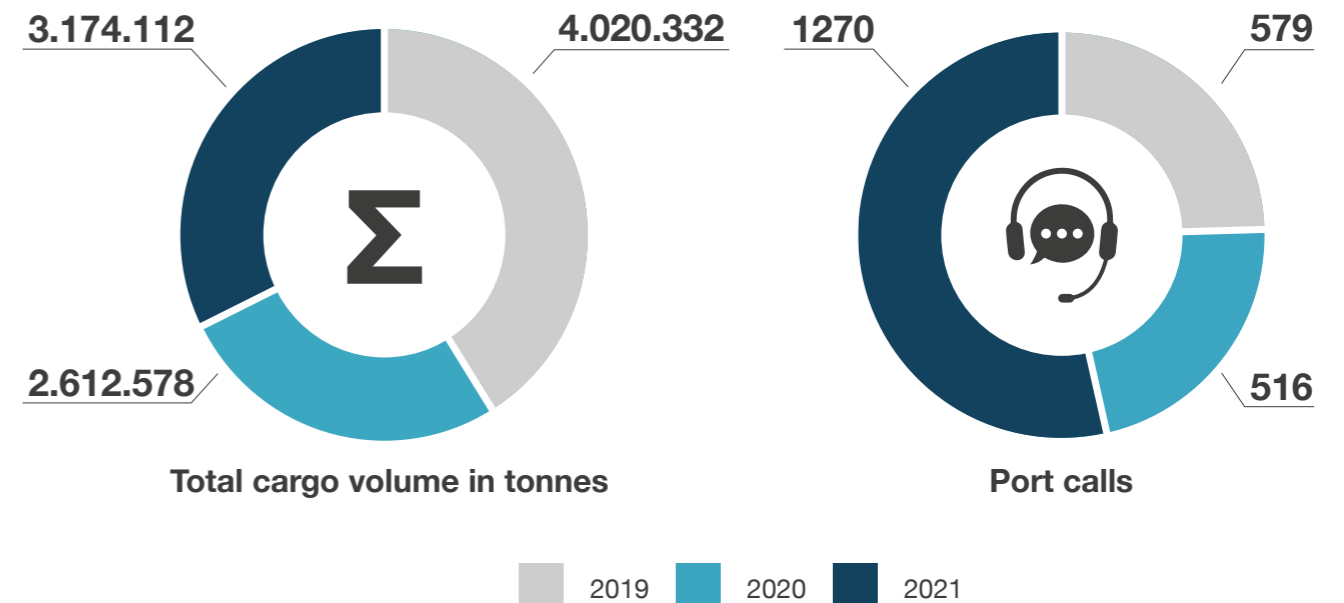
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF LOM



## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information

Port administration: Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company  
 Address: 69 Shipchenski Prohod Blvd., 1574 Sofia, Bulgaria  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 371.129 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: [www.bgports.bg](http://www.bgports.bg)

Port of Lom on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

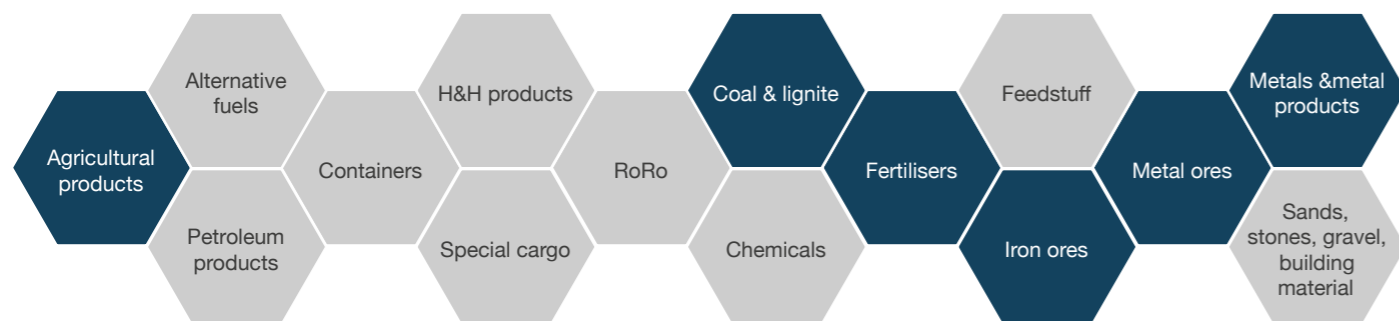
Port of Lom is a port of national importance and is the second largest Bulgarian river port on the Danube. It is a trimodal port – “road-railway-river”. It handles dry bulk cargo (coal, cereals, ore, concentrates, synthetic fertilizers etc.), as well as general cargo (rolled metal sheets, cargo in FIBC bags, palletized cargo etc.). The Port of Lom has the capacity to handle approximately 3 mil. tons of cargo a year. It has 13 berths and it can service 10 vessels simultaneously. The total quay length is 1422 m and the maximum length (LOA) of a vessel, which can be docked at the port, is 135 m. The total storage area (both covered and open) is 132 000 m<sup>2</sup>. The port works 12 hours/day, 7 days/week.

## Access to Transport Corridors

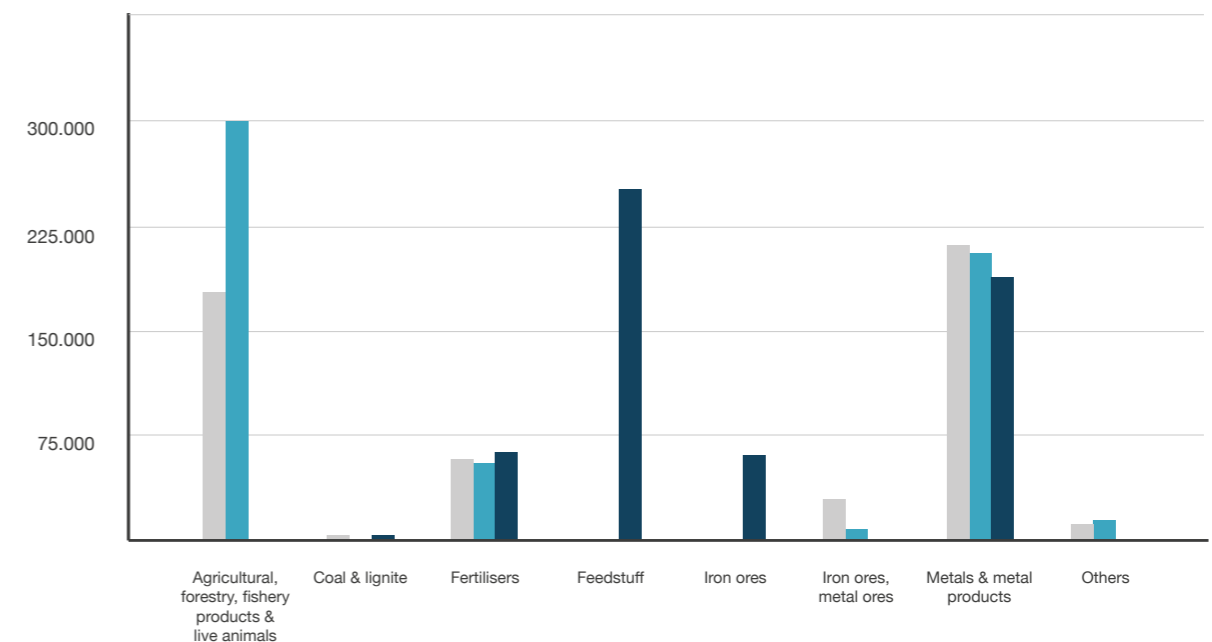
Regarding the access to TEN-T corridors, Lom is located near the Craiova-Calafat section, which belongs to the railway part of corridor Orient/East-Med, as well as the section Maglavit-Craiova, which is part of the road network on the Rhine-Danube corridor.

The port itself is on the right bank of the Danube River on km.742-743 and is in the central part of the town of Lom. It is strategically located to key European transport arteries and it provides the shortest direct land connection with the Mediterranean port of Thessaloniki (460 km.).

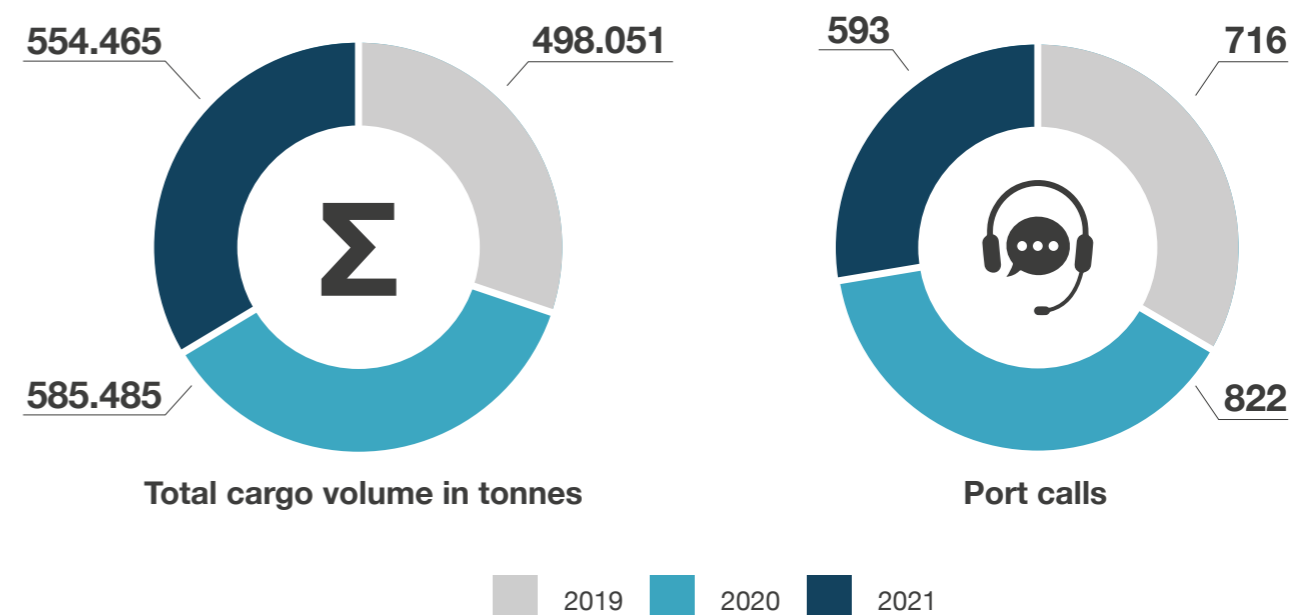
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT BULMARKET

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Bulmarket DM Ltd  
 Address: 100, Tutrakan Blvd, 7000 Ruse, Bulgaria  
 Type of port: inland  
 Total area: 37.645 m2  
 Website: [www.bulmarket.bg](http://www.bulmarket.bg)

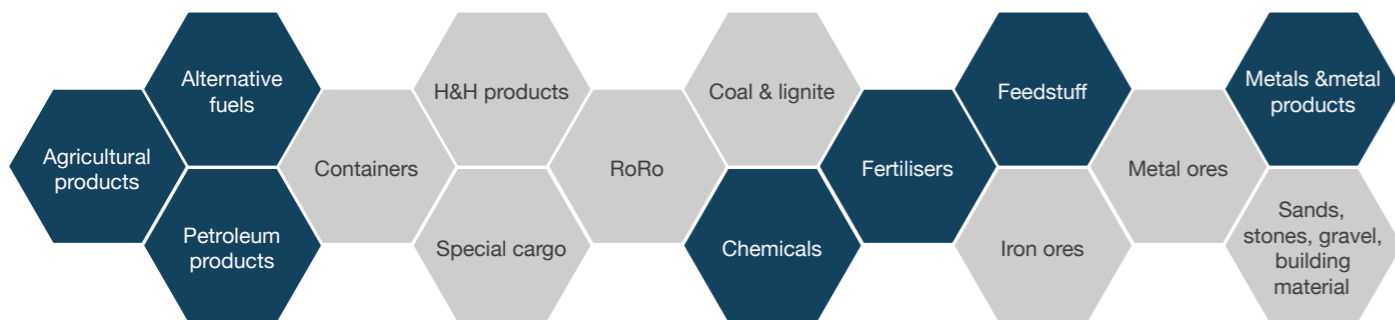
Bulmarket on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

PORT BULMARKET JSC is the largest private port for public transport on the Danube River in Bulgaria. The port is connected through the industrial branch with the railway lines in Ruse and is the owner of this branch - 6 km from Ruse North railway station to BULMARKET railway station and 11 km tracks in the industrial area.

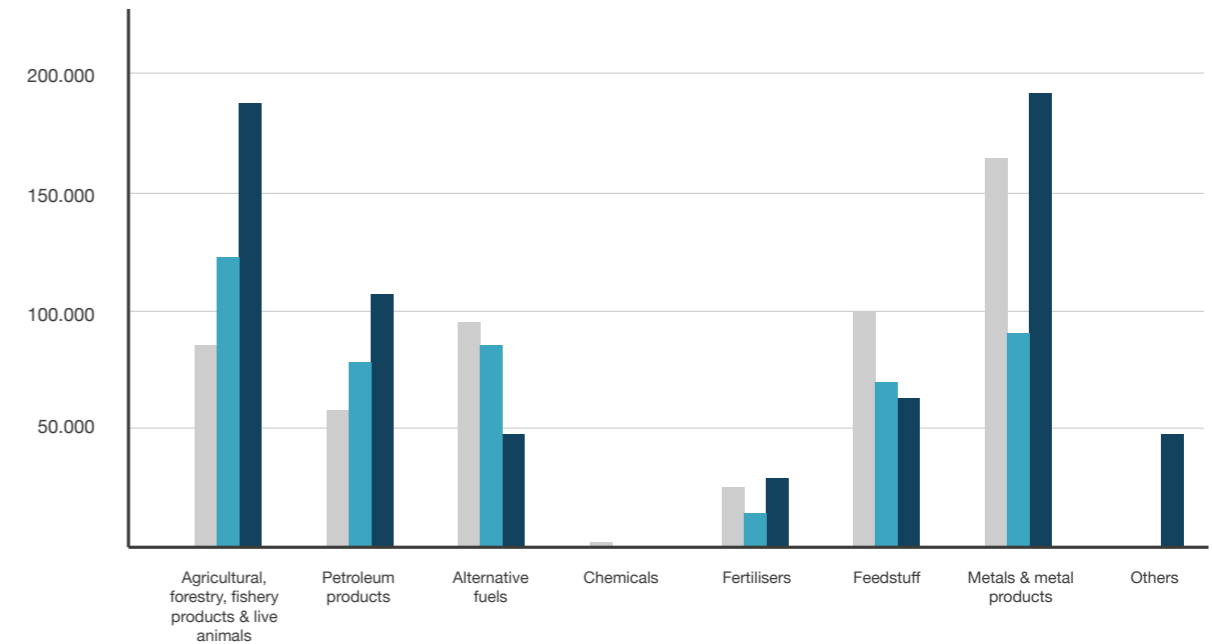
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is located on the crossroad of two European transport corridors – 7 & 9.

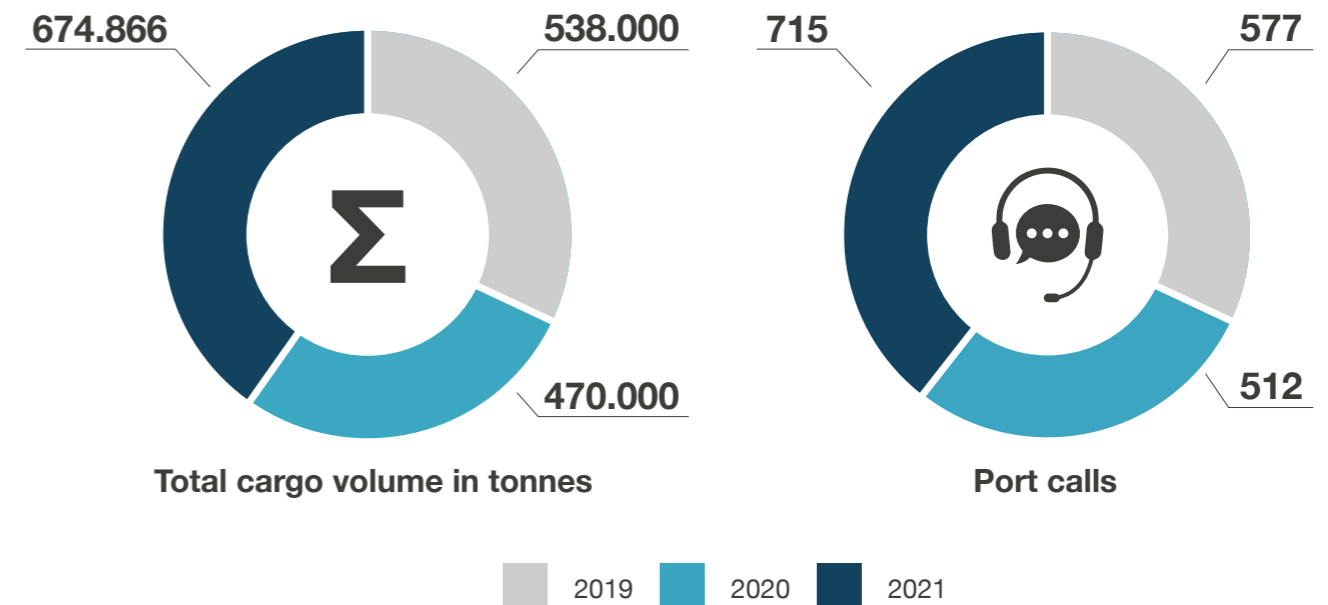
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF CONSTANȚA

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: National Company Maritime Ports Administration Constantza SA  
 Address: Gara Maritimă, code 900900 Constantza  
 Type of port: inland & seaport  
 Total area: 39.264.000 m2  
 Website: <https://www.portofconstantza.com/pn/ro/home>

Port of Constantza on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

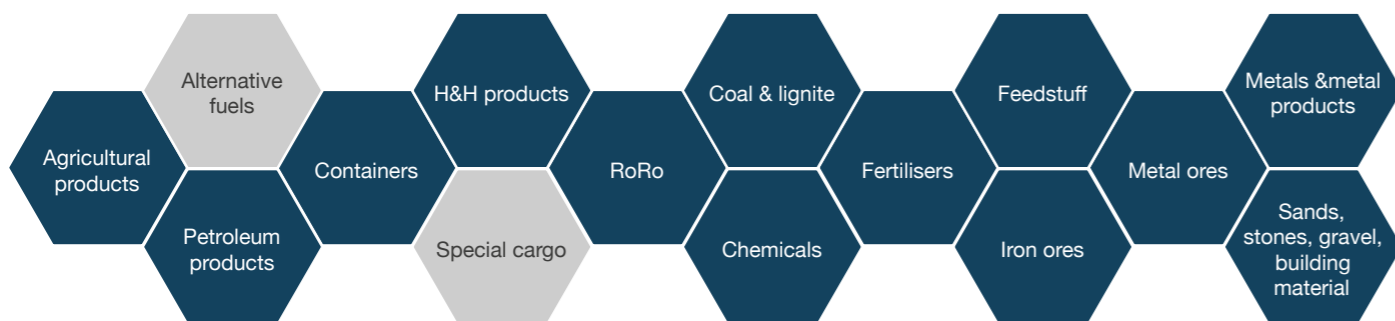
The Port of Constantza is located at the crossroads of the trade routes linking the markets of the landlocked countries from Central and Eastern Europe with the Transcaucasus, Central Asia and the Far East. It is the main Romanian port on the Black Sea, playing a highly important role as the transit node for the landlocked countries in Central and South-East Europe.

Port of Constantza is a hub for container traffic in the Black Sea as well as for cereals in Central and South-East Europe, providing good connections with all modes of transport: railway, road and inland waterway.

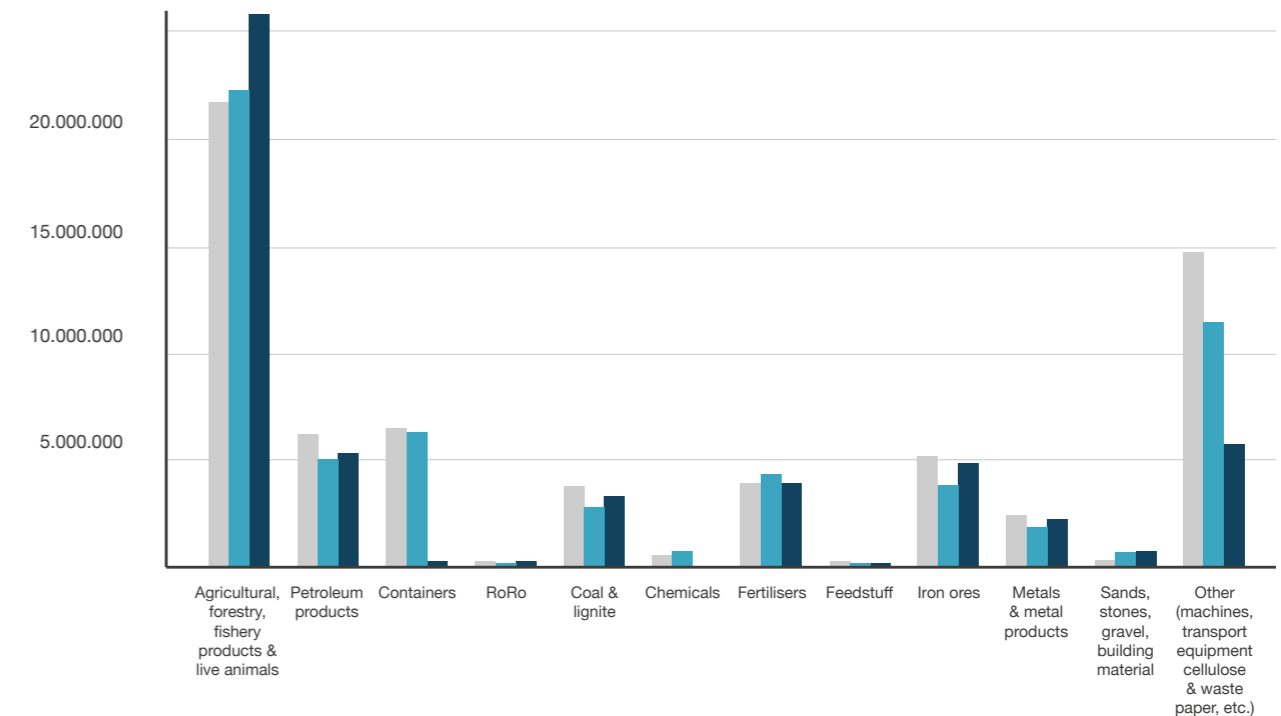
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port has excellent connections with the Central and Eastern European countries through Corridor IV (rail and road), Corridor VII - Danube (inland waterway), to which it is linked by the Danube-Black Sea Canal, and Corridor IX (road), which passes through Romania's capital, Bucharest.

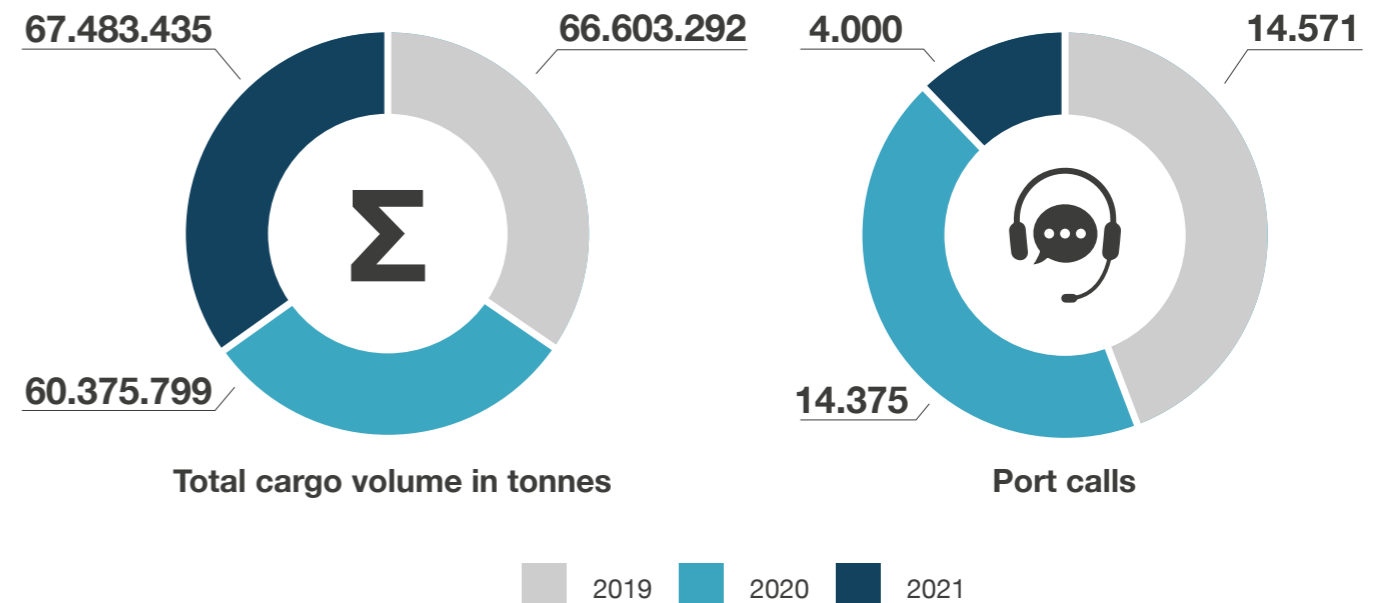
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# PORT OF RENI

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority  
 Address: 188, Dunaiskaya str., Reni, Odessa reg., 68802, Ukraine  
 Type of port: seaport  
 Total area: 940.000 m2  
 Website: <https://www.uspa.gov.ua/>

Port of Reni on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

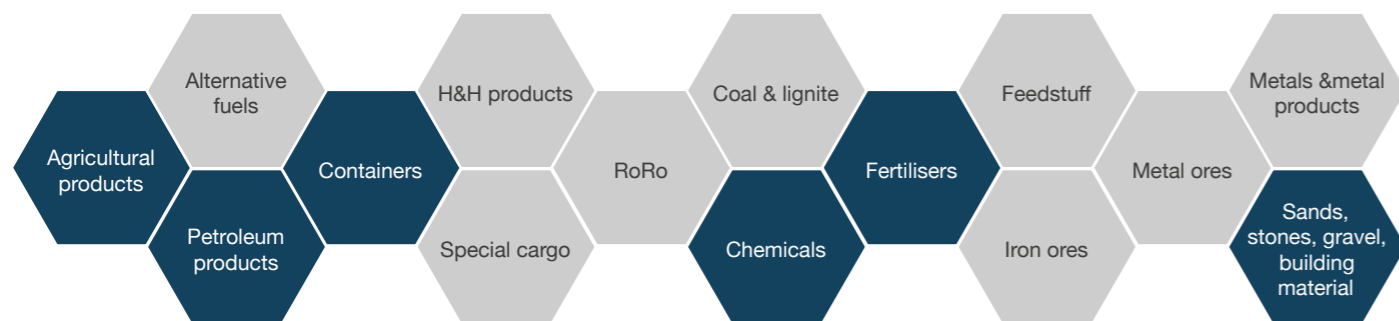
The Reni Port is located in the southwestern part of Ukraine. The design capacity of the port is 14.5 million tons per year. The length of the berth line is 3927 m. The water depth at the quay walls reaches 12 m. Covered warehouses with an area of 30,000 m2. Open storage space - 195,000 m2. The port consists of 3 cargo platforms, an oil loading platform and a ferry complex.

Navigation is possible all the year round. The unique geographical position determined the status of the Reni port as a river and sea at the same time.

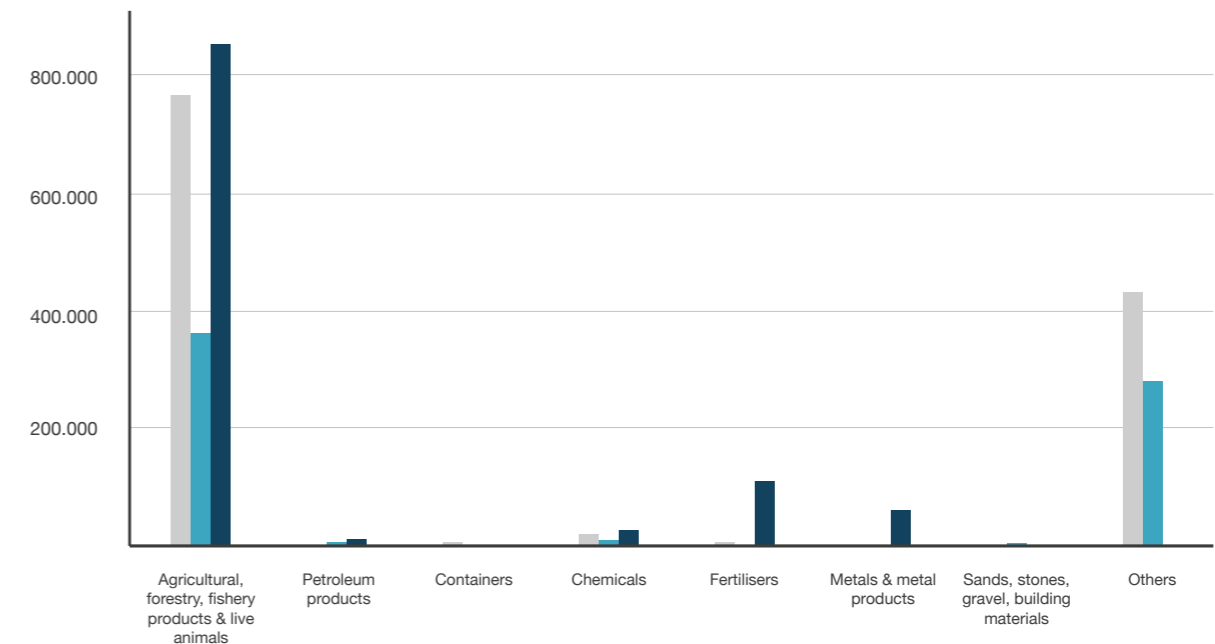
## Access to Transport Corridors

The port is located at the junction of the Ukrainian, Romanian and Moldavian borders and at the intersection of 4 transport corridors: Cretan No. 7 and No. 9, Eurasian and Black Sea. The port of Reni accepts any ships, the draft of which allows to pass the Sulinsky Canal and GSC Bystroe, connecting the Danube with the Black Sea. Access to the Black Sea is provided through a deep-water fairway "Danube River – the Black Sea" along the Bystroe mouth and the Sulina canal.

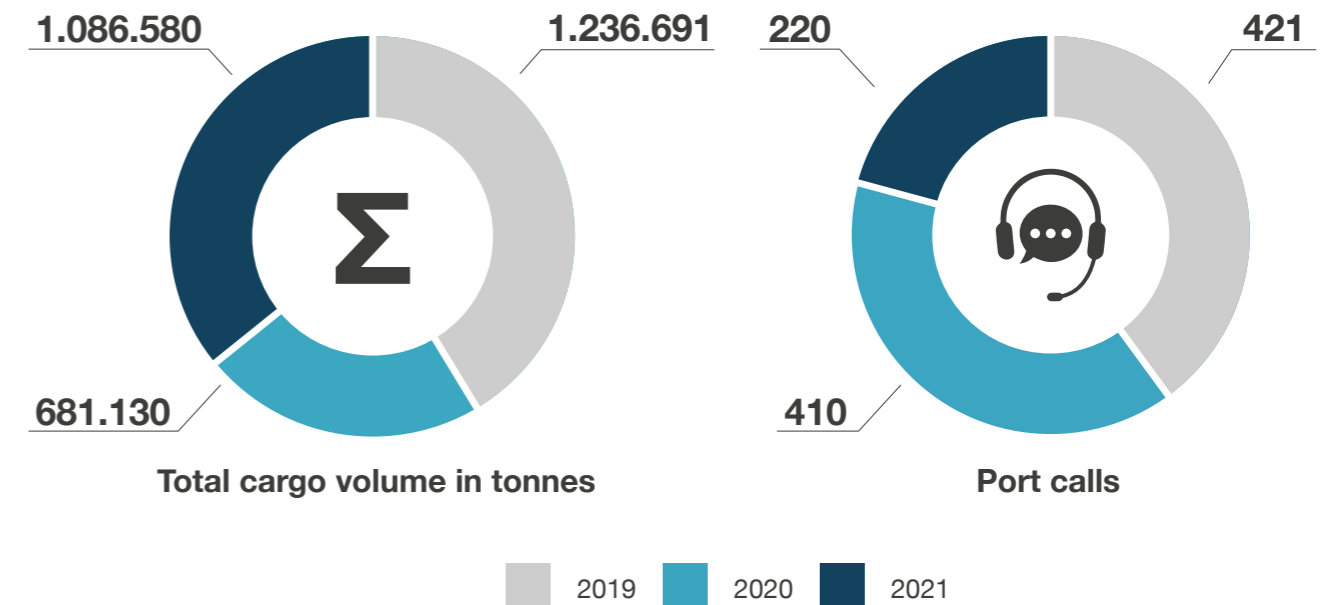
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# IZMAIL PORT

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



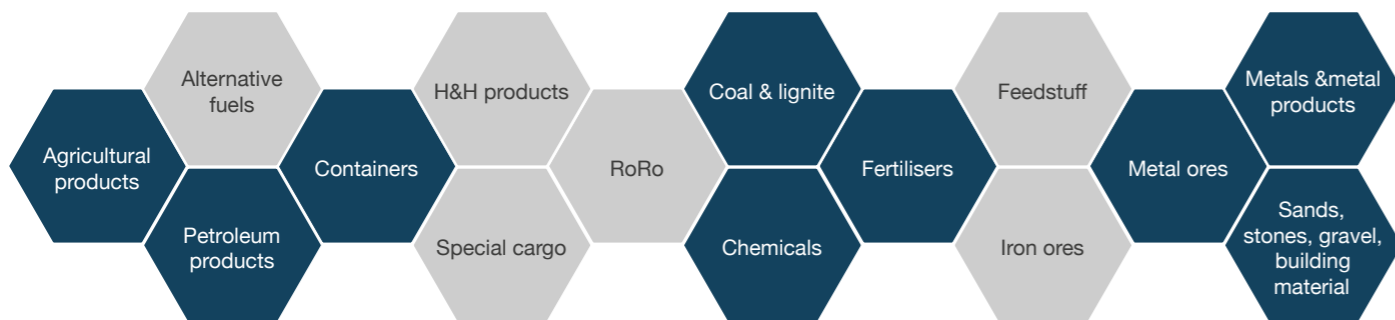
Port administration: Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority  
 Address: 4, Luka Kapikrayan str., Izmail, 68609, Ukraine.  
 Type of port: seaport  
 Total area: 1.074.712 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Website: <https://www.uspa.gov.ua/>

Izmail Port on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

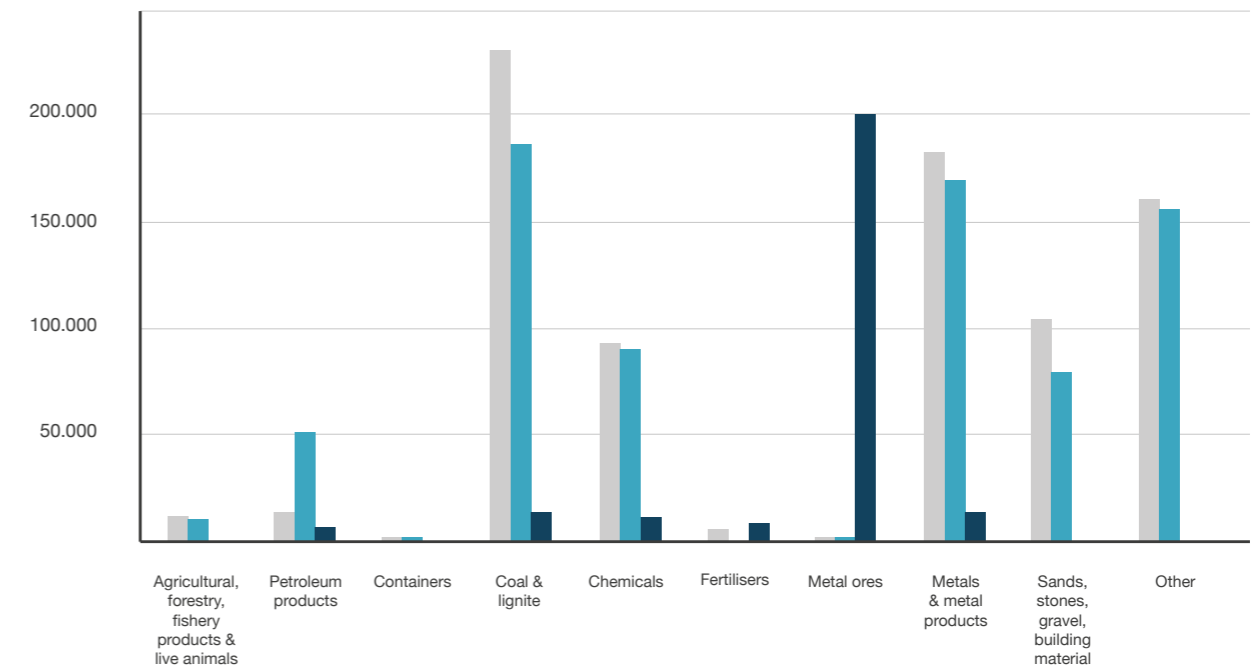
Izmail Sea Port is one of the most modern and highly mechanized port on the Danube River. The most important development period for Izmail Port was between 1968 and 1992, when handling complexes for general cargoes, bulk cargoes and containers were built. The railway station of Izmail-Port Novy, connected with inland port railways, started operation in 1972.

The port of Izmail is the European gateway of the country, an important transport link, which connect the countries of Central and Northern Europe with the countries of the Black and Mediterranean seas. The port of Izmail is a major transport hub, which has closely intertwined the operation of sea, river, rail and road transport. Today, the Port is developing as a multifunctional commercial port for handling iron-ore materials, coal, coke, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper, pulp, fertilizer, g boxes, packets, etc.

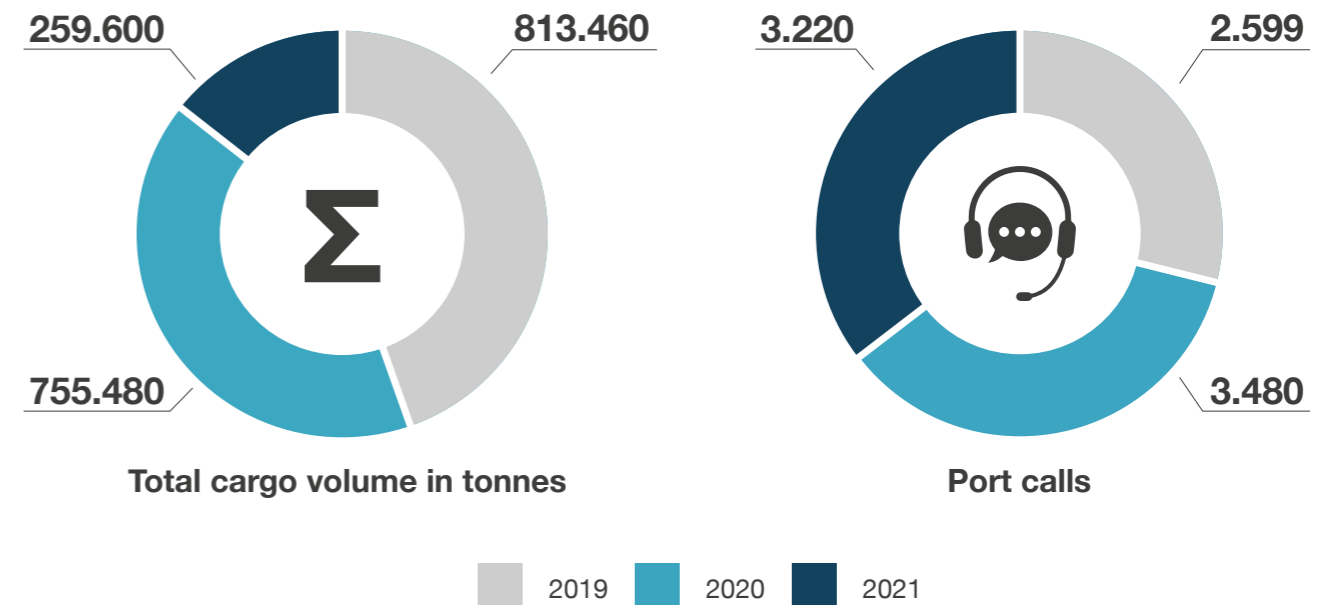
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)





# UST DUNAISK PORT

## Facts & Figures A Glimpse of Information



Port administration: Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority  
 Address: 2, Pridunaiskaya Str., Vilkov, Odessa Region 68355, Ukraine  
 Type of port: seaport  
 Total area: 75.000 m2  
 Website: <https://www.uspa.gov.ua/>

Ust-Dunaisk Port on the Danube Logistics Portal: [click here](#)

Ust-Dunaisk Port is situated in the southern part of Zhebriyanskiy Bay of the Black Sea, adjacent to the Ochakov mouth of the Danube River.

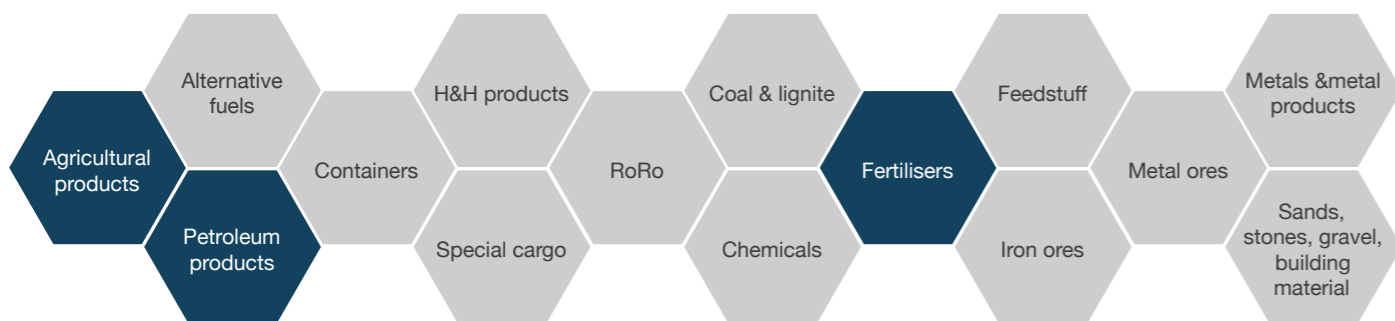
Nowadays, the port specializes in transshipment of cargoes from sea-going to river-going vessels in view of transportation via the Danube and vice-versa.

The port also comprises the port point Kiliya and a berth in Vilkov for handling only river-going vessels.

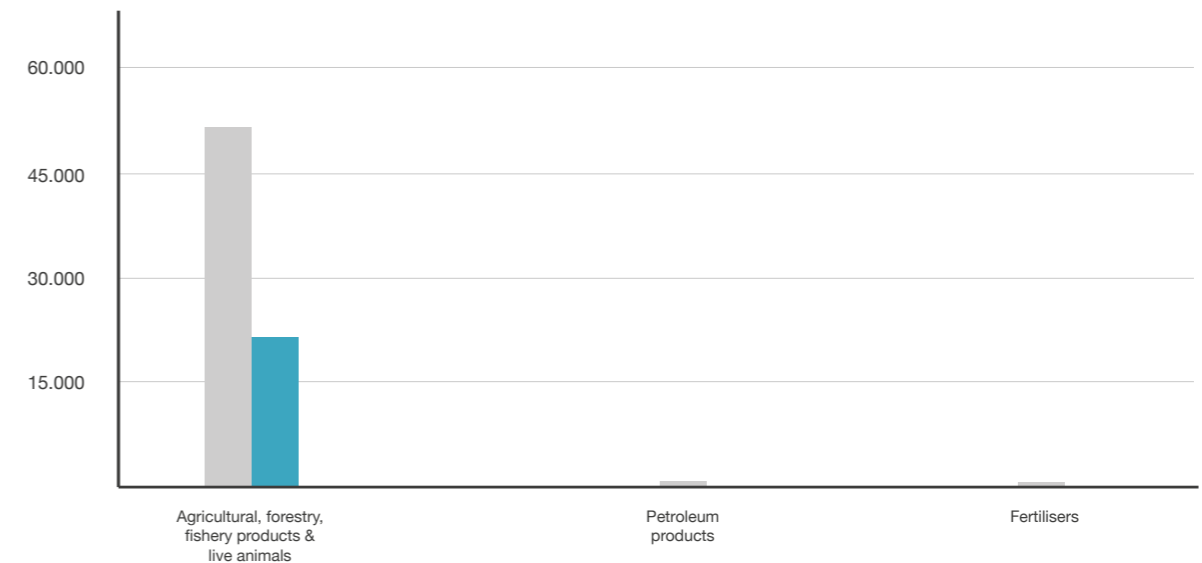
## Access to Transport Corridors

Connects the countries of the Danube basin with the countries of the Black Sea-Azov basin, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Southeast Asia. It is an integrated part of Transport Corridor No. 7.

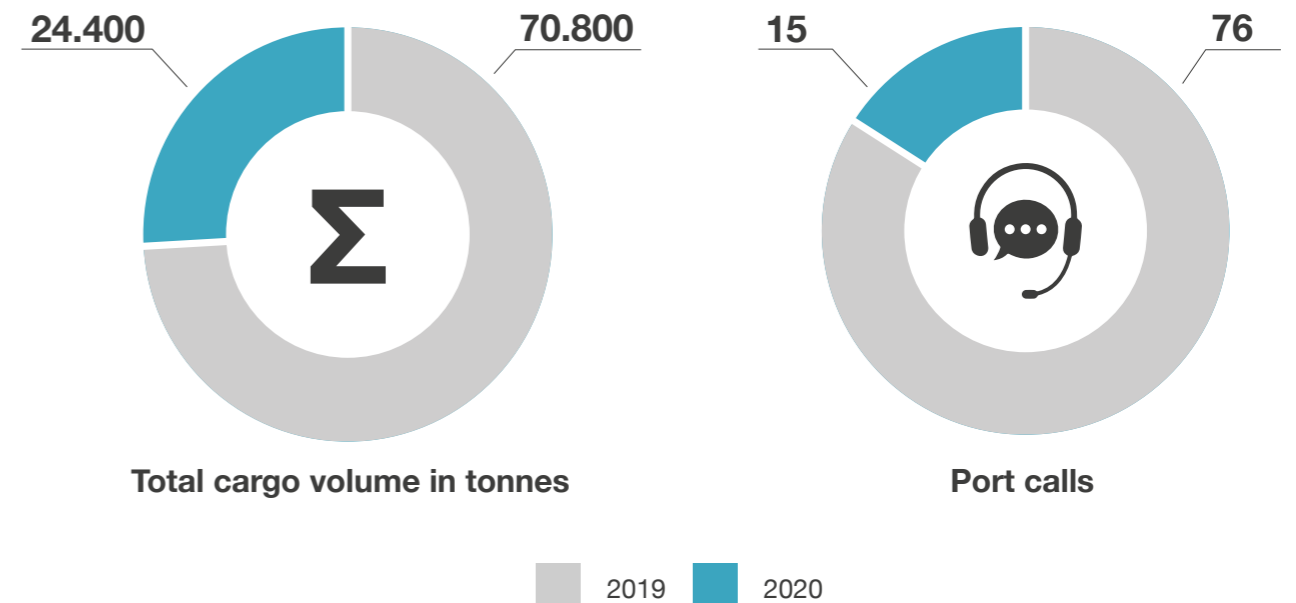
## Transshipment facilities to support the flow of the following goods



## Cargo volume per type of cargo in tonnes



## Cargo volume & port calls (total)



# CONCLUSIONS

Given that 7 different countries of the Danube Region are covered in this statistical handbook (Ust Dunaisk port was unable to participate in the second questionnaire), a high degree of representativity was reached. The findings of this study suggest that the outbreak of COVID-19 put a strain on the freight transport sector. International trade fell by 19% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the year before, displaying the crisis experienced by the freight sector. Goods flows were not only impaired by border closures but also by the supply chain disruptions caused by lockdowns. However, in the second quarter of 2021, the level of EU exports and imports slightly exceeded the level of the second quarter of 2019.

In the Danube Region, both cargo and passenger transportation were affected, with the latter coming to a complete standstill. Despite some drops in transported volumes, **the year 2020 was not as dramatic as expected for cargo transportation**. Transported volumes of petrochemical and agricultural products, as well as minerals and ores, decreased in Q1 - Q3 2020, with up to 30%. The agricultural sector was the only one to give signs of recovery in the fourth quarter of 2020. 2021's first quarter was characterised by adequate nautical conditions and a strong market, while the second quarter was affected by a drop in volumes and the deterioration of freight rates.

COVID-19 had **no significant impact on the port performance of Danube Region cargo ports** and also not on their investments in general. The pandemic facilitated an accelerated adoption and integration of basic digital technologies in the daily business of port administrations and terminal operators which enabled uninterrupted communication, hence ensuring that the port community stays connected.

