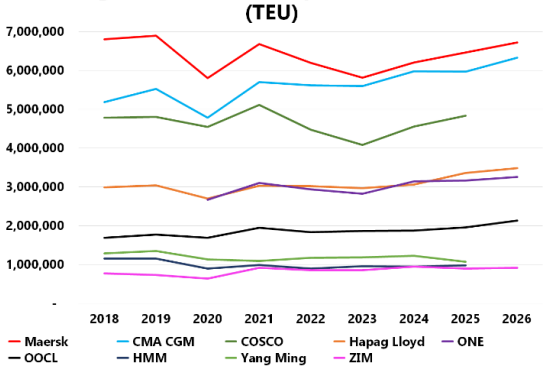
Carrier Financials: Market Recovery in 2026-Q2

Following a challenging 2025, the container shipping industry is exhibiting strong signs of recovery in 2026-Q2, characterized by substantial Y/Y increases in combined revenues, operating profits, and global transported cargo volumes.

The 2026-Q2 financial data underscores a significant positive turnaround in industry profitability. The reporting shipping lines generated a combined 2026-Q2 revenue of USD 43.4 billion, which marks a notable 15.9% increase Y/Y. Furthermore, the eight carriers that have published their earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) reported a combined EBIT of USD 2.69 billion, a 58.2% increase compared to the USD 1.70 billion these same shipping lines posted collectively in 2025-Q2.

Fig. 1: Q2 Global Transported Volumes (TEU)



A closer examination of the global transported volumes reveals that this financial rebound is actively supported by an expansion in overall TEUs transported. As shown in Figure 1, all six of the shipping lines that have so far reported on their volume figures experienced positive Y/Y growth in 2026-Q2. Figure 1 is missing 2026-Q2 figures for COSCO, HMM, and Yang Ming, as these shipping lines have not yet published these figures.

While none of the reporting shipping lines reached double-digit global volume growth Y/Y, volumes remained resilient across the board. OOCL led with the highest global volume expansion at 8.8%, followed closely by CMA CGM with a 6.0% increase. Conversely, ONE recorded the smallest global volume growth in 2026-Q2 of 2.9%. Overall, global volumes grew by 4.7% Y/Y in 2026-Q2 across the same set of shipping lines. This was facilitated by an 8.9% Y/Y growth on the Transpacific and 4.9% Y/Y growth on Asia-Europe in 2026-Q2. These volumes figures suggest that the market has regained a solid footing following last year's disruptions.

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Sea-Intelligence is a leading provider of Research & Analysis, Data Services, and Advisory Services within the global supply chain industry, with a strong focus on container shipping. Combining strong quantitative analytical skills with a deep understanding of the supply chain industry, based on many decades of experience at all central parts of the Ocean supply chain, Sea-Intelligence supports customers across all stakeholder groups.