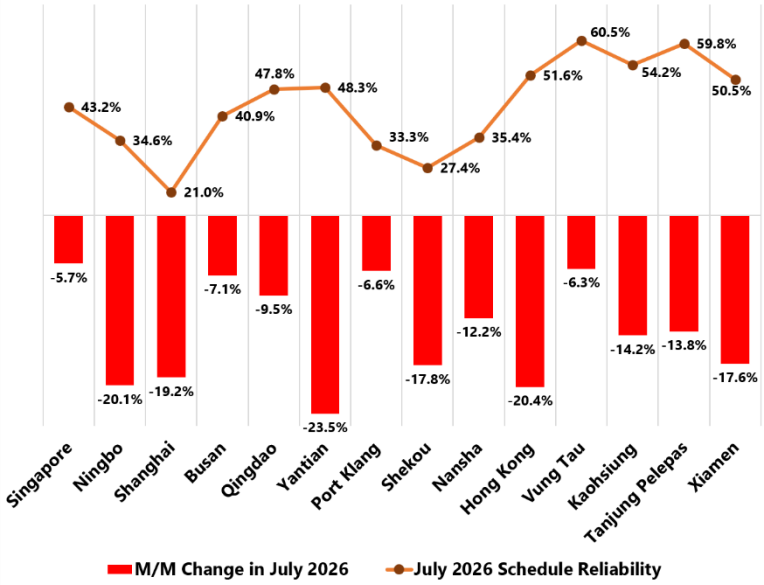
Sharp Reliability Drop from Asian Port Congestion

Global container vessel schedule reliability dropped to 56.4% in July 2026, a decline of -6.1 percentage points (pp) M/M. This is the sharpest single-month decline since January 2021. Concurrently, the average delay for late vessel arrivals climbed to 6.06 days, an increase of 0.59 days M/M. This pronounced drop was driven primarily by congestion across major Asian ports. All 14 of the region's busiest ports experienced a decrease in on-time vessel arrivals.

Fig. 1: July 2026 Asia Schedule Reliability



As shown in Figure 1, these 14 major Asian ports saw severe schedule reliability degradation. Yantian took the hardest hit with schedule reliability plummeting -23.5 percentage points (pp) down to just 48.3%. Hong Kong dropped by -20.4 pp to 51.6%, and Ningbo saw reliability fall by -20.1 pp to 34.6%. The situation in Shanghai is particularly alarming. Following a steep decline of -19.2 pp, a mere 21.0% of container vessels arrived at the port on time in July 2026. Outside of extreme pandemic-era supply chain disruptions, schedule reliability in Shanghai has never dropped this low in 14 years of recorded data. Even ports with less drastic M/M drops operated at relatively lower levels of schedule reliability in July 2026. Singapore recorded reliability of just 43.2% after a -5.7 pp M/M drop. Similarly, Port Klang had 33.3% reliability, and Busan fell to 40.9%.

With the region's busiest ports operating with more than half of their incoming vessels delayed, this backlog will naturally cascade through the maritime network, likely triggering a new wave of delays for critical head-haul trade lanes in the coming months.

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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.