

# GLOBAL TANK CONTAINER FLEET

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The tank container continues to prove its value as a shipping tank, a road/rail intermodal tank, and as a temporary storage tank

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Great care has been taken to ensure the information published in this Survey is accurate, but the International Tank Container Organisation accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. All responsibility for action based on any information in this Survey rests with the reader. ITCO accepts no liability for any loss of whatever kind, arising from the contents of this Report.

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## ITCO Survey reveals industry growth of 5.81% in 2023 compared to 8.65% in 2022

#### Global Tank Container Fleet reached 848,400 by 1 January 2024

The tank container industry has grown significantly in recent years, driven by increasing global demand for bulk liquid and liquified gas transport, the recognition of the tank container as a safe, flexible and efficient mode of transport; and, during the 2020-2022 Covid-19 period, by disruptions in the logistics supply chain.

However, with supply chains returning to normality last year – and volumes of bulk liquids suitable for tank container transport not increasing – there was a slow-down in the rate of growth in 2023.

According to this year's ITCO Survey of the Global Tank Container Market, some 46,600 tank containers were added to the global tank container fleet in 2023, compared to 67,865 in the previous year.

This year's Survey estimates that, at 1 January 2024, the global tank container fleet stood at 848,400 units, compared to 801,800 tanks on 1 January 2023 – a growth of 5.81%.

During the global Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain disruption led to a tendancy by chemical companies to overstock and use the tank container as a storage unit. This resulted in an increased demand for tank containers – and, in turn, a demand by both operators and BCOs for tank equipment.

With the general trend by chemical companies to "de-stock", 2023 saw a decrease in the number of tank containers being held on demurrage – indications at one time were that up to 15% of the global operators fleet was on demurrage. With the de-stocking, equipment was returned to operators (and, when leased equipment), back to leasing companies.

The net result has seen a reduction in tank container utilisation by both operators and leasing companies – and more equipment standing "idle". Although tank container manufacturers have maintained reasonably high production figures, the rate of growth of new tanks entering the market has decreased – while depots have experienced a huge demand for storage at their facilities. With large numbers of tank containers – which over the last two years were being held on demurrage by chemical companies on a "just-in-case" basis – now being returned empty to operators, pressure is being put on put on operators and leasing companies to maximise utilisation, and on depots to find storage space.

At the time of publishing this Report, it is apparent that he impact of the Red Sea crisis is less severe than Covid-19, although the TEU-mile boost (the additional miles required by vessels to go via the Cape of Good Hope) has been significant).

Clarksons' February 2024 Container Intelligence Monthly stated that compared with December 2023, TEU-miles have gone up by around 11%, as around 620 ships of 8.5 million TEU are rerouting from the Suez Canal to the Cape of Good Hope to avoid attacks from Houthi rebels.

Despite the slow-down in the growth of the industry, the massive disruption and challenges in the supply chain over the past three years have proved that the tank container can play a critical role in the "just-in-time" business philosophy of the major end users - the shippers.

The industry continues to be dominated on a global level by a relatively small number of major tank container operators and leasing companies.

The top 10 tank container operators account for over 297,000 tanks, representing over 50% of the global tank container operators' fleet. The top 10 leasing companies account for 317,740 tanks, representing about 85% of the total leasing fleet.

As in previous years, this Survey lists those companies which are operating or leasing tank container fleets of over 1000 units. Companies with tank container fleets of less than 1000 units, (about 200 companies) have not been named individually, but an "educated estimate" has been made for the combined fleets.

The International Tank Container Organisation would like to take this opportunity to thank the various companies who have contributed to this study. Your input and information, statistics and ideas are very much appreciated.



## The Global Tank Container Fleet at the beginning of 2024: Overview

#### Table 1: Global Tank Container Fleet (1 January 2024)

Total Global Tank Containers	848.400
Approximate number of tanks added to the global fleet in 2023	46,600
Approximate number of tanks disposed of in 2023****	10,000
Approximate number of Tanks built in 2023	56,600
Manufactured and Disposals	
Total number of Shipper and "Others" (Owned and leased-in)	196,477
Shippers** and Others***	
"Idle" leasing company tanks* (undergoing M&R, testing, storage)	63,953
Tanks on Lease to Operators, Shippers and Others Users	312,242
Number of Tanks in Lessor Fleets	376,195
Number of Tank Lessors Worldwide	38-plus
Number of Tanks in Operator Fleets (Owned & Leased -in)	587,970
Number of Tank Operators Worldwide	240-plus

(Fleet size calculated as follows: Tanks in Operator Fleets + Lessors "Idle" Tanks + Tanks in BCOs/Shippers/"Others" Fleets.)

Table 1 shows the estimated global number of tanks by industry sector.

- The total operator and leasing fleet is based on the industry response to the Survey and other research.
- The leasing fleet is accounted for within both the "operator" and also the "shipper" fleets, except for those tanks which are "idle". (Definition of "idle tanks" - see next column)
- "Shipper" and "others" fleet is estimated in accordance with the methodology detailed on page 13 of this Survey.
- The Survey indicates that there were 848,400 tank containers worldwide at the beginning of 2024 including approximately 56,600 new tanks manufactured in 2023

- Taking into account an estimated 10,000 tanks which were either scrapped or sold out of the industry, the global fleet on 1 January 2024 had grown to 848,400 tanks, compared to 801,800 at the beginning of 2023.
- This represents a growth of 5.81 % from 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2024.

#### Notes:

#### \* Idle Tanks

- Tanks might be "idle" because they are in the process of preparation such as maintenance and testing or in the process of being repositioned to a demand area or remaining as new manufacture stocks.
- The idle fleet of leasing company tanks at 1 January 2024 is calculated at 63,953 TEU (17%)

#### \*\* Shipper (also referred to as "Beneficial Cargo Owner", producer or consignor) fleet

- The "Shipper" fleet comprises tanks owned or leased-in by producers of bulk cargoes, for shipment in tanks especially chemical and food/drinks companies.
- These tanks may be operated by the shipper themselves, or by an operator on their behalf
- These tanks can be units for specific logistics operations, dedicated services or for use within a company's own production process. They are also sometimes "special" tanks - manufactured or modified to meet a specific need and include tanks designed to transport liquefied and refrigerated gases.

#### \*\*\* Others

- "Others" (ie "Other Tank Users") include the many tanks operated by organisations such as military, shipping and barge lines, rail, oil and mining industries, China domestic and companies that use tanks for storage or special transport operations such as bitumen.
- Some of the tanks disposed from operator and lessor fleets might be modified and utilised within this category. \*\*\*\* Disposals

- Tank containers are normally depreciated over a residual life of 20-25 years - but often remain in service for a longer period. Operators have recognised that the operational life of the tank can be extended. Evidence indicates that tanks can now last longer
- The service life of the tank can be extended by remanufacture or refurbishment. This is an especially viable option when the price of new tanks is at a higher level.
- Owners might dispose of tank containers for commercial and technical reasons. These might be repurposed into other uses, such as storage.
- Some tanks are sold for re-cycling as scrap metal, especially if the tank is seriously damaged beyond economic repair.
- Scrap might be a viable economic option when the commercial price of scrap stainless steel rises.
- Precise data about tank disposal and scrapping is difficult to research. For this year's survey, we have estimated a nominal figure of 10,000 tanks being disposed of in 2023, which is higher, compared to previous years.



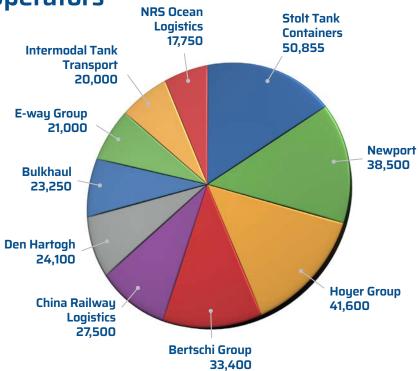
### **Top Ten Tank Container Operators**

There are over 240 operators of tank containers known to ITCO, ranging from very large global companies to relatively small niche and regional players.

Shown by Figure 1, at 1 January 2024, the top ten operators accounted for over 297,955 tanks representing over 50% of the global tank container operators' fleet (587,970 tanks).

At the same time last year, the top ten operators accounted for over 287,250, tanks representing over 50% of the global tank container operators' fleet (568,760 tanks).

Figure 1: Top Ten Tank Container Operators (at 1 January 2024)

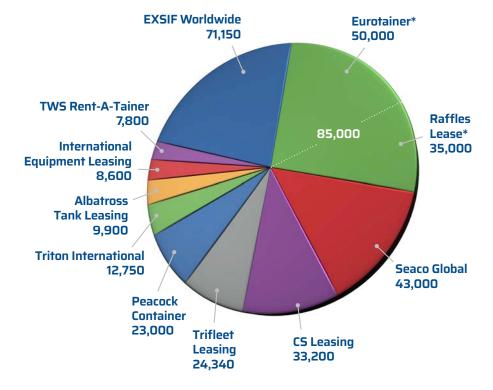


## **Top Ten Leasing Companies**

At least 38 companies worldwide provide tank container leasing services. These range from large global lessors to regional and local companies.

As shown in Figure 2, at 1 January 2024, the top 10 lessors accounted for 317,740 tanks, representing about 85% of the total leasing fleet (372,195 tanks).

Figure 2: Top Ten Tank Container Leasing Companies (at 1 Jan 2024)



(\*Same owner)

#### Table 2: Annual Global Tank Container Growth (1 Jan 2013 - 1 Jan 2024)

Year												
Players/Tank Type	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Operators - Number	240	240	235	230	218	212	210	209	205	194	176	116
Total Operators Fleet (Owned and leased-in)	587,970	568,760	489,895	443,110	418,500	381,750	365,000	342,500	329,080	305,700	265,550	228,460
Leasing Companies - Number	38	38	37	37	37	35	36	36	36	33	34	27
			57	37	57				50	33	54	
"Idle" Leasing Company Tanks	63,953	36,930	38,755	44,400	45,840	42,785	32,000	28,500	20,175	23,400	17,650	15,000
On-lease to Operators, Shippers, Others	312,242	323,995	284,195	272,310	259,775	243,200	213,000	186,765	181,575	171,600	158,850	135,400
Total Lessor Fleet	376,195	360,925	322,950	316,710	305,615	286,000	245,000	215,265	201,750	195,000	176,500	150,400
Shipper / Others												
Total (Owned and Leased)	196,477	199,110	211,285	199,140	188,010	180,165	155,000	137,400	110,950	107,460	103,000	94,800
Manufactured (in previous year – approx)	56,600	67,865	53,285	35,800	54,650	59,700	48,500	44,500	43,780	48,200	42,620	39,700
												_
Disposal*	10,000	4,000	3,000	1,500	7,000	7,000	4,500	4,500	2,000	5,000	1,000	-
Grand Total	848,400	801,800	737,935	686,650	652,350	604,700	552,000	508,000	458,200	427,560	385,200	338,260
Growth % compared with preceding year**	5.81	8.65	7.3	5.26	7.88	10.81	8.66	8.5	7.16	10.99	13.87	n/a

#### Notes:

\* **Disposals:** This year, we are again looking more closely at the disposal of older tanks, as some equipment built over 20 years has started to move towards the end of their operational lives. Up until now this has not been a big issue, but unlike box containers, the tanks normally have a much longer life span. We had started to see more of the older tank containers being disposed because of age related problems, or with too heavy a tare weight or smaller capacity barrels or too expensive to repair etc.

In its research for this edition of the fleet survey, ITCO has added a question to our members requesting data to include how many tanks have been disposed from their fleets. In addition we have the input from a new ITCO member, who is in the business of disposing of old tanks.

We believe this data will prove very useful for our members who are now being requested to provide information on the sustainability of tank containers. During the past year, because of the pandemic, we have noted that older, smaller capacity, tank containers are not being disposed of at the previous rate. In many cases, they are being repaired and put back into service because of the high demand for the equipment . In addition many of them may even be remanufactured if the price of new tanks continues to increase at the current high level through this current year.

**\*\* Growth:** Percentage growth is reported showing the growth for the year compared with the preceding Survey.

**Table 2** summarises ITCO Surveys completed since 2013. The 2014 and 2015 "shipper & others owned fleet" has been adjusted, to reflect a static position, but the leased part of the fleet shows a percentage increase in line with the methodology.

#### Table 3: Tank Container Production and World Fleet (1991 – 2023)

1991 6,500   1992 8,000 67,000   1993 9,000 73,000   1994 11,000 81,000   1995 12,500 88,800   1995 12,500 88,800   1995 14,000 97,800   1995 14,000 97,800   1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 236,000   2010 22,000 236,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 382,200	Year	Production	Fleet at 1 January (of year shown)
1993 9,000 73,000   1994 11,000 81,000   1995 12,500 88,800   1995 12,500 88,800   1995 12,500 88,800   1995 13,000 97,800   1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 220,000   2010 25,000 220,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,50	1991	6,500	
1994 11,000 81,000   1995 12,500 88,800   1996 14,000 97,800   1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   1999 9,500 129,640   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 145,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2010 25,000 236,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 508	1992	8,000	67,000
1995 12,500 88,800   1996 14,000 97,800   1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   1999 9,500 129,640   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 588,000   2017 48,500 508,000   2018 59,700 55	1993	9,000	73,000
1996 14,000 97,800   1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   1999 9,500 129,640   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 588,000   2017 48,500 598,000   2018 59,700 552,500   2019 54,650 6	1994	11,000	81,000
1997 15,000 110,650   1998 13,000 121,960   1999 9,500 129,640   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2010 25,000 236,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 582,000   2017 48,500 508,000   2018 59,700 552,500   2019 54,650	1995	12,500	88,800
1998 13,000 121,960   1999 9,500 129,640   2000 10,500 136,440   2001 9,500 144,140   2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2010 25,000 236,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 582,000   2017 48,500 508,000   2018 59,700 552,500   2019 54,650 604,700   2020 35,800	1996	14,000	97,800
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2002 9,000 149,240   2003 11,000 157,400   2004 13,000 164,000   2005 14,500 172,000   2006 16,000 178,400   2007 14,000 190,000   2008 15,000 206,000   2009 20,000 220,000   2010 25,000 236,000   2011 28,000 257,000   2012 39,700 282,000   2013 42,620 338,260   2014 48,200 385,200   2015 43,780 427,500   2016 44,500 508,000   2017 48,500 508,000   2018 59,700 552,500   2019 54,650 604,700   2020 35,800 652,350   2021 53,285 686,650   2022 67,865 737,935   2023 56,600 801,800	2000	10,500	136,440
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201448,200385,200201543,780427,500201644,500458,200201748,500508,000201859,700552,500201954,650604,700202035,800652,350202153,285686,650202267,865737,935202356,600801,800	2012	39,700	282,000
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2020 35,800 652,350   2021 53,285 686,650   2022 67,865 737,935   2023 56,600 801,800	2018	59,700	552,500
2021 53,285 686,650   2022 67,865 737,935   2023 56,600 801,800	2019	54,650	604,700
2022 67,865 737,935   2023 56,600 801,800	2020	35,800	652,350
2023 56,600 801,800	2021	53,285	686,650
2023 56,600 801,800	2022	67,865	737,935
	2023	56,600	
	2024		848,400

Data Source: tank container manufacturers, operators and leasing companies.

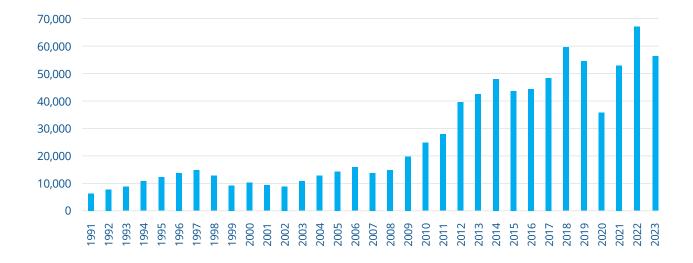
#### Table 3 shows:

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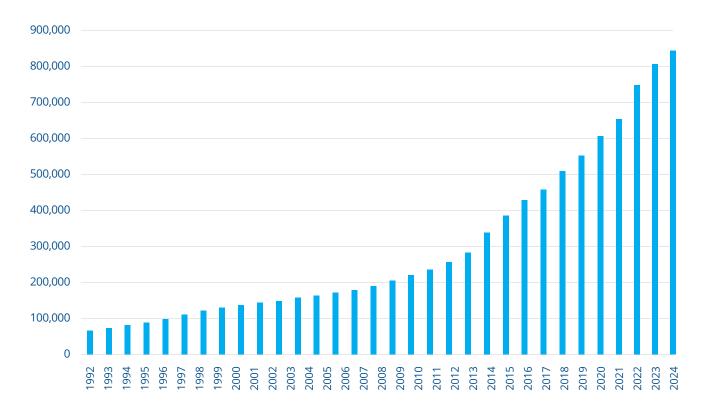
- The estimated annual tank production since 1991. The ability to increase economic production of new manufactured tanks has been one of the drivers of the tank container industry growth.
- 2. The estimated global tank container fleet since 1992
- 3. A figure of 10,000 tanks being disposed in 2023 from the world fleet

#### Figure 5: Tank Container Production (1990 to 2023)

Tank production is largely centred in China where there are several manufacturers building tanks for the international and domestic market. Tanks are also manufactured in South Africa and Europe. Tanks manufactured in other parts of the world tend to be for local shippers and the domestic market.



#### Figure 6: Total Fleet size (at 1st January of each year)





## Global Tank Container Fleet: Tank Operators Fleet at 1 January 2024

**Tank Container Operators** are third party logistics companies that provide a door-to-door service to shippers and others that require transport of bulk liquids, powders or gases. The fleet listing for each company includes all tanks operated by that company, regardless of whether the tanks are owned outright, managed, leased or any other financial structure used to acquire the asset.

#### Table 4: Tank operators' fleets (at 1 January 2024)

*Criteria: Companies with over 1000 tanks in their fleet* 

OPERATOR	Head- quarter	Fleet
Agmark Logistics	USA	1,600
Alfred Talke	Germany	1,200
ATI Freight	UAE	1,200
Baltica Trans Logistics	Russia	1,500
Bertschi Group	Switzerland	33,400
Bolt	Singapore	2,600
Bulk Tainer Logistics	UK	10,255
Bulkhaul	UK	23,250
Celerity Tank	China	2,200
Chemical Express	Italy	3,700
Chemion Logistik	German	1,000
China Railway Logistics	China	27,500
Contank	Spain	1,200
Crossover	Singapore	6,500
Curt Richter	Germany	2,710
Daelim	Korea	7,000
Dana Liquid Bulk	USA	8,600
Deccan Transcon	India	2,510
Den Hartogh	Netherlands	24,100
DHL Global Forwarding	Netherlands	3,150
Dinges	Germany	1,000
DJD International Logistics	China	7,100
Eagletainer	Singapore	13,200
EHS Logistics	China	1,050
Eway	Malaysia	21,000
Flexitank	USA	2,500
GCA Trans	France	4,000
General Tank Containers	China	1,350
Goodrich Maritime	India	6,200
Gruber	Germany	1,300
Hengcheng	China	5,000
Hoyer Group	Germany	41,600
Infotech-Baltika M	Russia	5,400
Intermodal Tank Transport	USA	20,000

OPERATOR	Head- quarter	Fleet
JOT Japan Oil Transport	Japan	9,000
Katoen Natie	Belgium	2,825
Kube & Kubenz	Germany	1,100
Lanfer	Germany	8,500
Legend	Singapore	12,500
Leschaco	Germany	5,000
M&S Logistics	UK	9,715
Milky Way	China	5,000
Meurer Intermodal	Germany	1,200
Newport	Netherlands	38,500
Nichicon	Japan	10,000
Niyac	Japan	2,500
NRS Ocean Logistics	Japan	17,750
Paltank	UK	2,475
Pan Bridge	Korea	1,000
Protank Liquid Logistics	Taiwan	1,200
R.M.I Global Logistics	Netherlands	4,600
Radix	Korea	1,500
Ravian	India	2,120
Rinnen	Germany	3,500
Sinochem domestic	China	1,000
Sinotrans	China	1,360
Spectrans/RailGarant	Russia	5,275
Stolt Tank Containers	UK	50,855
Suttons International	UK	12,995
Ueno	Singapore	1,000
Van den Bosch	Netherlands	6,500
Other Under 1000		
Estimated*	Asia Pacific	25,000
Estimated*	Europe, RU	16,000
Estimated*	Americas	12,700
Estimated*	India/Mid-East/Africa	9,250

Note: \*There are a number of regional operators that are not readily contactable. Accordingly an estimate has been included.

TOTAL



587,970

## Global Tank Container Fleet: Leasing Companies Fleet at January 2024

**Tank Container Leasing companies** provide tank containers to operators, shippers and others - usually on a contractual term basis, where the lessee takes "quiet" possession and operates that tank as if it were owned. Leasing company fleet listings include all tanks within the leasing company fleet including owned outright, managed on behalf of investor owners and any other financial means of acquisition.

#### Table 5: Leasing companies' fleets (at 1 January 2024)

Criteria: Companies with over 1000 tanks in their fleet

LESSOR	Headquarters	Fleet
Albatross Tank Leasing	China	9,900
Combipass	France	1,500
CS Leasing	USA	33,200
Eurotainer*	France	50,000
EXSIF Worldwide	USA	71,150
International Equipment Leasing	USA	8,600
Matlack Leasing	USA	2,500
MCM Management	Switzerland	2,600
Modalis	France	5,000
Multistar Leasing	South Africa	4,955
Noble Container Leasing	Hong Kong	2,180
NRS Lease	Japan	5,000
Peacock Container	Netherlands	23,000

LESSOR	Headquarters	Fleet
Raffles Lease*	Singapore	35,000
Seaco Global	Singapore	43,000
Tankspan Leasing	UK	2,020
Trifleet Leasing	Netherlands	24,340
Tristar Engineering	Switzerland	1,100
Triton International	USA	12,750
TWS Rent-A-Tainer	Germany	7,800
Unitas Container Leasing	Bermuda	1,600
VTG	Germany	4,000
Total (above 1000)		351,195
Estimated total for others u	nder 1000**	25,000

TOTAL

376,195

Notes:

\* Same owner

\*\*There are a number of regional lessors that are not readily contactable. Accordingly, an estimate has been included.



## Methodology

The global tank container fleet comprises a range of tank types including tanks for liquids, liquefied gases, powders, swap tanks and specials. Tanks below 20ft length such as those typical of the offshore oil industry are not included in this Survey.

The tank container is highly regulated and is required to meet stringent standards of operation, including statutory periodic inspection and renewal of test certification. However, there is no global register of tank containers. Data must be collected by systematically requesting tank owners and operators to provide company fleet numbers and manufacturers to report new production. Where firm data is not provided, this Survey provides estimates based on internet research and consultation with experienced industry representatives.

Reported figures are recorded as received or, in the case of the charts within the report, the result of the percentage calculation of data. It is not intended to suggest that calculated figures are accurate to an exact number. Readers should round up, or down, as required.

Leased fleet listings are not included in the total industry fleet figures, except for the relatively few estimated stocks that are idle. The balance of "on lease" tanks is typically estimated to be leased to operators (65%) and shippers and other tank users (about 30-35%).

This percentage might vary by leasing company according to their market strengths and objectives, but is an estimated average. The trend is for a greater proportion leased to operators but for consistency with previous surveys the percentage breakdown remains unchanged. Whereas there is a trend to outsource tank logistics to tank operators, there remains a fleet of tanks directly controlled by shippers and others.

Shipper (also referred to as producers or consignors) fleet and others are challenging to assess because of the vast number of shippers and others worldwide.

It is especially difficult to compile a list of shipper-owned tank containers, because tank ownership is a relatively small part of their core business and - as a result - fleet figures are not freely available. This also applies to other tank users - such as shipping lines, military authorities, railways, oil companies, mining industry and China domestic. Estimates of the total "others" are included in the Survey.

Despite the ongoing trend to outsource tank logistics, we have shown a small year-on-year increase in the the shipper/ BCO and "other" fleets (ie fleets which are not tank container operator). Operators might provide logistics services for shipper-owned tanks, but the tanks are not included as operator tanks for the purpose of this survey. It is estimated that on average about 35% of the total leasing company fleet is leased directly to shippers and others.

In the 2013 Survey it was estimated that shippers and others might own, on average, about the same number of tanks that are leased into their fleet. This number remains unchanged in the 2024 Survey and in preceding years. Users of the Survey can make adjustments to suit their needs.

More details on the methodology are given as explanations in the accompanying tables and figures.



#### ITCO: Setting a new course

ITCO is once again pleased to present the "Annual Global Tank Container Fleet Survey". This is the 12th edition of its industry report, and continues to offer the data and information required by a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. manufacturers, lessors, operators, service and system providers, and investors) to make their key planning and investment decisions.

As you will have seen from the report, the global tank container fleet continues to grow, although at a slightly slower rate in 2023 compared with previous years. This was to be expected, considering the variety of economic and geo-political headwinds being experienced by the chemical industry, and weakness in global GDP growth. We also had to reckon with a correction after the record year in 2022, which had been fed by the supply chain disruption resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic.

However, the global fleet at 1/1/24 now stands at 848,400, having grown 5.81% over 2023.

Our 2023 report noted the ramping up of production to meet short-term demand was likely to result in an over-supply of tanks, and an adjustment in production rates in 2023. The latest report appears to, at least in part, bear out that prediction, although the adjustment may not have been as severe as expected. However, as was already evident in early 2023, chemical companies were returning tanks as supply chain bottlenecks eased and the need to hold 'just-in-case' inventories declined. Operators were also adjusting their fleet levels and taking tanks off-lease.

(The granularity of the data unfortunately does not show the finer details of, for example, finished tanks in inventory, the number of tanks going off-lease, and accurate rates of scrapping.)

Nevertheless, the tank container continues to prove its value as a shipping tank, a road/rail intermodal tank, and as a temporary storage tank, ideally suited to dedicated logistics supply chains. There is also evidence suggesting that with China becoming increasingly self-sufficient in chemicals, and its demand growth lower than forecast, as well as other factors, there could be a trend away from global supply chains to more local-for-local supply chains, which could present a promising opportunity for tank containers supplying less accessible markets.

We wish to express our thanks to the members who have contributed data to this Global Fleet Report, and of course to the ITCO Secretariat for compiling and collating the data and publishing such a professional document in the space of two months.

### What's new at ITCO?

At the end of 2023 ITCO said goodbye to its founder and longserving President, Reg Lee. Much of the growth and success of ITCO must be attributed to his belief in and commitment to the sustainable role the tank container can play in endto-end supply chains, occupying a key space between large volume chemical parcel tankers plying major trade lanes, and the traditional steel drum. We are grateful for his vision and dedication, and wish him well in his retirement.



ITCO's aim has always been to ensure that all initiatives, projects, and events we initiate and organize are designed to serve the needs of the members, and deliver tangible value. We also recognize that with the change in demographics of our membership, we need to respond to a change in expectations and priorities.

ITCO will continue to drive initiatives supporting safe working practices, environmental best practice, and efficiency improvements through global standards and digitalization. But we will be more diverse and inclusive in our approach, and the first steps have been made by replacing the traditional Board structure with a new, broader Management Committee.

We will also focus on expanding our geographical footprint, recognizing the need to be more present in the Americas, India, and Asia Pacific. The location of our events, and agenda content will also reflect this geographical diversity, and the need to leverage technology advances.

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging 2024 as ITCO leads a transformation programme aligned to the wishes expressed by our membership.

