



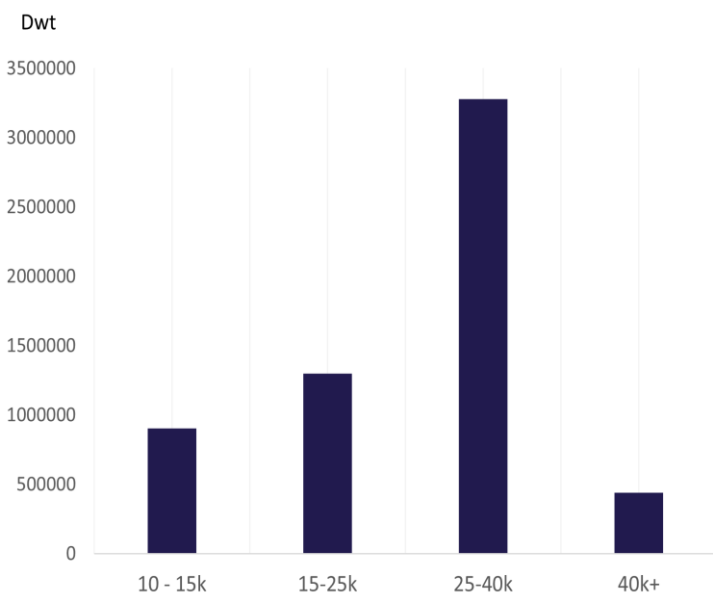
RLA Market Insights – Friday, 15 May 2026

Aging Chemical Tanker Fleet and Strong Mid-Size Ordering Point to Rising Replacement Demand

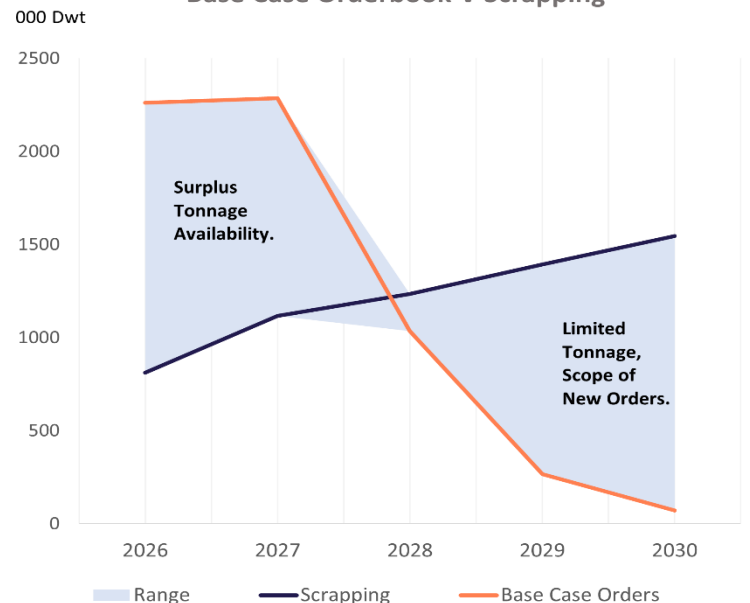
Rising newbuilding orders, combined with the gradual phase-out of older tonnage, suggest that scrapping activity is likely to increase in the coming years as the chemical tanker fleet ages. With over 40% of the current fleet already in the 11-25-year age bracket, a sizeable portion of capacity is moving closer to replacement age. This creates meaningful scope for further newbuilding activity, as additional tonnage will be needed to replace older vessels while also meeting future market requirements.

Under the latest base-case outlook, the chemical tanker orderbook for 2026-2030 stands at 5.9 million dwt, spread across four vessel-size segments. The 25-40,000 dwt category accounts for the largest share, indicating that buyer interest is most concentrated in mid-to-large vessels, supported by their greater cargo capacity and operational flexibility. The 15-25,000 dwt segment ranks second in terms of ordering activity, followed by the 10-15,000 dwt category. In contrast, vessels above 40,000 dwt represent the smallest portion of current buyer preferences.

Size Range of the New Orders



Base Case Orderbook V Scrapping





SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

A monthly report covering the next four months including trends in oil supply, demand and trade, tanker demand and supply, spot, and time charter rates for MRs up to VLCCs, comparisons with FFAs plus the latest news on developments impacting the oil and tanker sectors.

MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

Concise analyses of topical issues, consistent market data series and views on future trends in tanker charter rates. The report covers Oil Prices; Economic Developments; Oil Demand and Supply; Trade; Tanker Demand, Supply and Rates. Sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year

SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – VLGC MARKET

A monthly report looking four months ahead at likely trends in the VLGC Spot Market with the latest on key LPG carrier trades, benchmark LPG prices, arbitrage developments, a comparison with FFAs and recent news

MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – LPG CARRIER MARKET

A quarterly series of regular reviews, analyses and forecasts of the LPG Carrier Market. The report covers Economic Developments; LPG production, consumption and pricing; LPG, chemical gases and ammonia trade, LPG Carrier Demand, Supply and Rates for Fully Ref, Semi-Ref and Pressurised Ships. Reports are sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year.

CHEMICAL CARRIER WORLD SERVICE

An annual consultancy service currently providing Clients with an Annual Fundamentals Report, a Forecast Update, two quarterly Market Monitors, Monthly Commodity Trade Bulletins for key countries, an annual presentation on the market outlook and access to RLA's consultants and analysts to discuss issues arising from these reports.



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