

### **Movement in Brazil's port sector registered a small decrease of 1.1% in the first quarter**

The national port sector (public ports and private terminals) in [Brazil handled 247.1 million tons in the first quarter of 2020](#). The number corresponds to a decrease of 1.1% in relation to the same period last year. The information is in the newsletter "The national port performance against the Covid-19 pandemic", published on Monday (11), on the ANTAQ website.

In the first three months of the year, there was a decrease in movement. However, the ANTAQ study points out that, in March, the movement was 89.7 million tons, 7.6% higher than that registered in the same period in 2019.

The Agency's newsletter also includes data on import and export. In addition, it highlights coastal shipping. Cargo handling in national cabotage grew 14.9% in the first quarter of this year, with 62.9 million tons shipped and unloaded in Brazilian port facilities.

In addition, container loading and unloading operations in cabotage registered growth of 9.3% from January to March 2020, compared to the same period last year, totaling 7.6 million tons handled.

The report points out that there is great uncertainty about the duration of the health crisis and the extent of its effects on the future of the economy in general. "Properly assessing the behavior of goods movement in the coming months is a very speculative exercise, since the pandemic of the new coronavirus is an unprecedented event in recent decades", highlights the Agency's study.

However, the newsletter highlights that, "given the apprehension scenario at the end of 2019 and what could be expected for the first quarter of this year, the performance of national waterway transport was surprisingly good. Should the recovery seen in March consolidate in the coming months, Brazil, as one of the main exporters of food in the world, showed in this first quarter that it has the necessary planning and port infrastructure conditions to maintain or even expand its current position.