



**KERALA EXPORTER'S  
FORUM**

### **Quarterly Report on Air Cargo Export Data (January-March 2023-24)**

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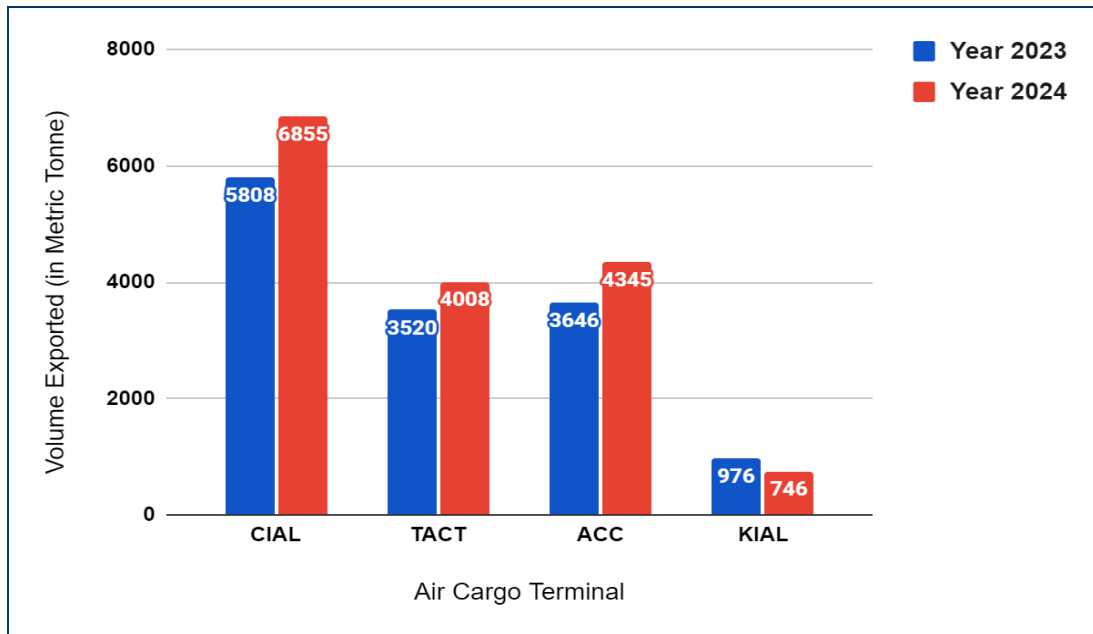
*This report analyzes the Air Cargo exported from the four international airports in Kerala in the fourth quarter of 2023 and 2024. We are not claiming our Performance Report is 100% accurate. For 100% accuracy, we suggest please cross check the data from customs, airlines, airports and other export promotion councils.*

- Air cargo export is pivotal for a nation's economy, facilitating International trade, boosting revenue, and creating jobs across various sectors. Global International Cargo Tonne- Kilometers (CTKS) increased year-over-year by 11.5% in December, with growth in all major trade lanes (IATA 2023).<sup>1</sup>
- Due to operational challenges in shipping since pandemics onset, the air-to-maritime cost ratio has dropped by more than half, with mid 2022 air services rates only 4 to 8 times higher than maritime. (Boeing 2022).<sup>2</sup>
- The total Cargo uplifted for export from each airport during Q4 2023-2024 indicates the magnitude of export activities: Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) 6855.004 MT, Trivandrum Air Cargo Terminal (TACT) 4008.077 MT, Air Cargo Calicut (ACC) 4345 MT, Kannur International Airport Limited (KIAL) 746 MT.
- Compared to Q4 2022-23, there is an overall increase in the total volume of cargo shipped in Q4 2023-24 from three out of four airports (CIAL, TACT, ACC and KIAL).
- The total volume of cargo from CIAL constituted about 5807.99 MT in Q4 2022-23. This increased to 6855.00 MT during Q4 2023-24. There was an 18% increase in exports in Q4 2023-24 compared to Q3 2022-23.
- In case of TACT, the total cargo volume in Q4 2022-23 was 3520.136 MT which increased by 9.8% to 4008.077 MT in Q4 2023-24.
- In ACC the total volume exported was 3645.889 MT in Q4 2022-23. This increased to 4345 MT in Q4 2023-24. With over 19% increase, ACC saw the highest growth of exports in percentage terms among all the airports in Kerala.
- KIAL saw a decline in exports in Q4 2023-24. The total volume declined from 975.8 MT in Q4 2022-23 to 746 MT in Q4 2023-24. This means that there was a 23.55% decline in exports.

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<sup>1</sup> International Air Transport Association Air Cargo Market Analysis report December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Boeing World Air Cargo Forecast 2022-2041 report.



**Figure 1:** Total volume of export from each International airport.

- Export portfolios exhibit limited diversification across airports. Fruits, flowers, and perishable goods are prominent export categories at all airports. Even in CIAL, where there is a certain degree of product diversification in exports, we can see that most products come under the perishable goods category.
- Notable seasonal variations in specific export categories, such as mangoes and pineapples are observed at CIAL.
- Seafood exports, including chilled fish and frozen fish DGR, demonstrate stability.
- Fluctuations in export volumes of vegetables and flowers highlight the market's sensitivity to supply and demand dynamics.
- A Surge in live plant exports during Q4 suggests responsiveness to market demands.
- Subdued activity in general cargo exports across CIAL, ACC, and KIAL suggests both potential challenges and growth opportunities.

- There's a space crunch at ACC and KIAL Airports due to limited air transportation. Operational flights are limited to small passenger planes with a maximum cargo space of 50 MT. Introducing wide-body passenger planes will upscale the cargo capacity.
- Loads of mango exports are leaving the State because there are only a handful of hot water plants around and we recommend the PPP investment in a hot water treatment plant in Palakkad.
- The establishment of an Export Inspection Agency (EIA) alongside NABL-accredited laboratories within ACC and CIAL for the testing of perishables and vegetables holds the potential to significantly enhance the state's export capacity.

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**Appendix 1: Total Exports from each airport during the fourth quarter (Jan-Mar)**  
**for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24**

**Table 1: Cochin International Airport Limited**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Q4 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Q4 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Change</b>
Beetel Leaves	0.044	0	-0.04
Chilled Fish	92.371	58.59	-33.78
Coconut	1.205	0	-1.21
Cut Flowers	5.916	0	-5.92
Dry Flowers	0.286	0	-0.29
Food Items	0	27.536	27.54
Food Stuff	21.895	0	-21.9
Frozen Fish DGR	5.16	4.254	-0.91
Frozen Food DGR	0.115	0	-0.12
Frozen Meat	2.581	0	-2.58
Hatching Eggs	66.135	68.493	2.36
Live Mud Crab	2.991	0	-2.99
Live Ornamental Fish	3.377	0	-3.38
Live Fish	0	3.533	3.53
Live Plants	7.408	5.405	-2
Mango	26.469	37.54	11.07
Marine Products	0.425	0	-0.43
Meat	0.443	0	-0.44
Perishable Cargo	3.321	7.391	4.07
Pineapple	10.401	90.826	80.43
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	5557.448	6551.436	993.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>5807.991</b>	<b>6855.004</b>	<b>1047.01</b>

**Table 2: Trivandrum Air Cargo Terminal (TACT)**

Category	Exports in Q4 2023 (figures in MT)	Exports in Q4 2024 (figures in MT)	Change
Chilled Fish	429.155	0	-429.16
Food Stuff	0.625	0	-0.63
Frozen Fish DGR	0	662.205	662.21
General Cargo	22.995	157.836	134.84
Live Ornamental Fish	239.71	0	-239.71
Live Plants	1.4	2.32	0.92
Meat	0	1.375	1.38
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	2826.251	3184.341	358.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>3520.136</b>	<b>4008.077</b>	<b>487.94</b>

**Table 3: Air Cargo Calicut (ACC)**

Category	Exports in Q4 2023 (figures in MT)	Exports in Q4 2024 (figures in MT)	Change
General Cargo	87.653	0	-87.6
Live Ornamental Fish	0.61		-0.61
Vegetable, Fruits and Flowers	3557.626	4345	787.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3645.889</b>	<b>4345</b>	<b>699.11</b>

**Table 4: Kannur International Airport Limited (KIAL)**

Category	Exports in Q4 2023 (figures in MT)	Exports in Q4 2024 (figures in MT)	Change
General Cargo	0.8	0	-0.8
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	975	746	-229
<b>Total</b>	<b>975.8</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>-229.8</b>

**Appendix 2: Total Exports from each airport during the months of January,  
February and March for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24**

**Table 5.1 Cochin International Airport Limited - January**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Beetel Leaves	0.044	-	-0.044
Chilled Fish	32.897	13.499	-19.398
Coconut	1.13	-	-1.13
Food Items	-	6.031	6.031
Food Stuff	10.266	-	-10.266
Frozen Fish DGR	0.287	1.072	0.785
Frozen Food DGR	0.039	-	-0.039
Frozen Meat	1.273	-	-1.273
Hatching Eggs	24.734	33.858	9.124
Live Mud Crab	0.31	-	-0.31
Live Ornamental Fish	0.377	-	-0.377
Live Fish	-	1.057	1.057
Live Plants	2.28	1.989	-0.291
Mango	2.656	7.936	5.28
Perishable Cargo	2.258	4.073	1.815
Pineapple	-	21.501	21.501
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	1711.607	2094.469	382.862
<b>Total</b>	<b>1790.158</b>	<b>2185.485</b>	<b>395.327</b>

**Table 5.2 Cochin International Airport Limited - February**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Beetel Leaves			0
Chilled Fish	39.188	22.657	-16.531
Coconut	0.075		-0.075
Cut Flowers	2.298		-2.298
Food Items	0	7.632	7.632
Food Stuff	5.989		-5.989
Frozen Fish DGR	4.306	2.192	-2.114
Frozen Food DGR	0.029		-0.029
Frozen Meat	0.435		-0.435
Hatching Eggs	11.742	23.018	11.276
Live Mud Crab	1.718		-1.718
Live Ornamental Fish	1.85		-1.85
Live Fish		1.528	1.528
Live Plants	3.691	1.239	-2.452
Mango	0.759	9.694	8.935
Marine Products	0.425		-0.425
Perishable Cargo	0.44	1.387	0.947
Pineapple	2.734	26.627	23.893
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	1718.21	2040.36	322.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1793.889</b>	<b>2136.334</b>	<b>342.445</b>



**Table 5.3 Cochin International Airport Limited - March**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Chilled Fish	20.286	22.434	2.148
Cut Flowers	3.618		-3.618
Dry Flowers	0.286		-0.286
Food Items	0	13.873	13.873
Food Stuff	5.64		-5.64
Frozen Fish DGR	0.567	0.99	0.423
Frozen Food DGR	0.047		-0.047
Frozen Meat	0.873		-0.873
Hatching Eggs	29.659	11.617	-18.042
Live Mud Crab	0.963		-0.963
Live Ornamental Fish	1.15		-1.15
Live Fish		0.948	0.948
Live Plants	1.437	2.177	0.74
Mango	23.054	19.91	-3.144
Meat	0.443	0	-0.443
Perishable Cargo	0.623	1.931	1.308
Pineapple	7.667	42.698	35.031
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	2127.631	2416.607	288.976
<b>Total</b>	<b>2223.944</b>	<b>2533.185</b>	<b>309.241</b>

**Table 6.1 Trivandrum Air Cargo Terminal - January**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Chilled Fish	199.945		-199.945
Food Stuff	0.325		-0.325
Frozen Fish DGR	0	216.16	216.16
General Cargo	11.117	43.939	32.822
Live Plants	0.36	0.425	0.065
Meat	0	0.800	0.800
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	839.976	876.634	36.658
<b>Total</b>	<b>1051.723</b>	<b>1137.958</b>	<b>86.235</b>

**Table 6.2 Trivandrum Air Cargo Terminal - February**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Chilled Fish	229.21		-229.21
Food Stuff	0.15		-0.15
Frozen Fish DGR	0	263.7	263.7
General Cargo	7.803	60.163	52.36
Live Plants	0.52	0.165	-0.355
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	865.961	979.92	113.959
<b>Total</b>	<b>1103.644</b>	<b>1303.948</b>	<b>200.304</b>

**Table 6.3 Trivandrum Air Cargo Terminal - March**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Food Stuff	0.15		-0.15
Frozen Fish DGR	0	182.345	182.345
General Cargo	4.075	53.734	49.659
Live Ornamental Fish	239.71		-239.71
Live Plants	0.52	1.73	1.21
Meat	0	0.575	0.575
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	1120.314	1327.787	207.473
<b>Total</b>	<b>1364.769</b>	<b>1566.171</b>	<b>201.402</b>

**Table 7.1 Air Cargo Calicut - January**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
General Cargo	20.743		-20.743
Vegetable, Fruits and Flowers	1228.81	1368	139.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1249.553</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>118.447</b>

**Table 7.2 Air Cargo Calicut - February**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
General Cargo	27.91		-27.91
Live Ornamental Fish	0.61		-0.61
Vegetable, Fruits and Flowers	1067.816	1352	284.184
<b>Total</b>	<b>1096.336</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>255.664</b>

**Table 7.3 Air Cargo Calicut - March**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
General Cargo	39	0	-39
Vegetable, Fruits and Flowers	1261	1625	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>325</b>

**Table 8.1 Kannur International Airport Limited - January**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Jan 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	301	184	-117
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>-117</b>

**Table 8.2 Kannur International Airport Limited - February**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Feb 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	298	242	-56
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>-56</b>

**Table 8.3 Kannur International Airport Limited - March**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2023 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Exports in Mar 2024 (figures in MT)</b>	<b>Qty change</b>
General Cargo	0.8		-0.8
Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers	376	320	-56
<b>Total</b>	<b>376.8</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>-56.8</b>