

Panama Canal revenue up 16.6% to \$6.6 billion in fiscal 2026

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Summary

The Panama Canal Authority reported \$6.6 billion in revenue and 13,951 transits for fiscal 2026, with LNG traffic nearly doubling; draft and daily slots have been eased as rainfall improves, though El Niño could cut 2027 revenue.

Details (summary of the article)

Casa Solution reports on the Panama Canal Authority's unaudited fiscal 2026 results, presented on 21 October. Revenue reached \$6.6 billion, 16.6% above the previous year, with 13,951 transits (up 4.1%), 521 million PC/UMS tons (up 6.5%) and 280.6 million long tons of cargo (up 7%). Energy shipping led the growth: LNG carrier transits nearly doubled from 61 to 118 and their cargo rose 141%, partly because Middle East conflict restricted the Strait of Hormuz; chemical tankers and crude/product tankers also rose about 16%, while dry bulk and passenger ships fell. Neopanamax locks carried 52.2% of tonnage, but most ship crossings still use the original locks. Drought restrictions returned only late in the year, with daily slots trimmed to 32, far milder than 2023–24; on 15 October slots rose to 33 and maximum draft to 49 feet, and on 21 October last-minute reservations resumed for the Panamax locks. For fiscal 2027 the ACP warns El Niño could reduce net revenue by \$225–400 million, and it is advancing the Río Indio reservoir project. Canal income remains the state's largest single contribution, with about \$3.6 billion projected for 2027 without toll increases.