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US trade booming

EXPORTS may be falling but business is booming on the direct South Australia-to-America shipping service, say the owners of Outer Harbour, Flinders Ports.

Introduced in May, the weekly service is provided by a consortium of shipping lines comprising five container ships travelling from Adelaide to the US, Canada and Mexico.

The ships carry wine from Hardy, Orlando, SouthCorp and Beringer Blass, motorcycle wheels by Castalloy, mirrors by Schefenaker Vision Systems and meat.

Previously, these goods were freighted by road to Melbourne before being loaded onto ships.

"We predicted an average 20,000 containers a year but are already on track for 25,000 in the first 12 months of operation," Flinders Ports chief executive Vincent Tremaine said.

"This is very encouraging because overseas importers do take time to realise such a service has become available."