

Transportation Information Update*

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AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Final Report on Forces to Flyers Initiative to Assist Military Veterans in Becoming Pilots

The U.S. Department of Transportation on December 30, 2020 announced the release of a final report on Forces to Flyers, a three-year research initiative offering interested military veterans an opportunity to earn commercial pilot's licenses and flight instructor certifications. The report evaluates the initiative's success in meeting project goals and provides lessons learned for future efforts to assist veterans in obtaining flight training to become airline pilots. The report also discusses pathways and opportunities for Americans seeking to become airline pilots, including flight training options.

2. Pre-departure COVID-19 testing and negative results for air travellers coming to Canada

On December 31, 2020, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, under the authority of the *Aeronautics Act*, is requiring effective January 7, 2021, all passengers five years of age or older, be required to test negative for COVID-19 before travelling by air from another country to Canada. Documentation of a negative laboratory test result must be presented to the airline prior to coming to Canada. The test must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular polymerase chain reaction (or PCR) test within 72 hours prior to boarding a flight to Canada. All travellers will have their quarantine plans reviewed by a government official and, if not suitable, will be asked to quarantine in a federal quarantine facility. Travellers to Canada must use ArriveCAN and provide accurate contact information and their mandatory 14-day quarantine plan on or before entry. The government has taken action to increase surveillance and enforcement of these mandatory quarantine restrictions. Violating any instructions provided when you enter Canada is an offence under the *Quarantine Act* and could lead to up to six months in prison and/or \$750,000 in fines.

3. New pre-departure COVID-19 testing requirements come into effect for all air travellers flying into Canada

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a global crisis that is having a significant impact on the air industry and all travellers. The Government of Canada has multiple measures in place to protect the health and safety of Canadians, and to help prevent air travel from being a source of further introduction and spread of COVID-19 and new variants of the virus into Canada. On January 6, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, issued an Interim Order formalizing new COVID-19 testing requirements for all air travellers coming to Canada, and providing additional guidance to airline operators and the travelling public regarding the new pre-departure testing requirement that was announced on December 31, 2020. This Interim Order supports COVID-19 health requirements made by Canada's Minister of Health under the *Quarantine Act*.

4. COVID-19 pre-departure testing and Transport Canada's Interim Order

Effective midnight on January 7, 2021 (00:00 EST or 05:00 UCT), proof of

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Final Report on Forces to Flyers Initiative to Assist Military Veterans in Becoming Pilots, December 30, 2020, www.dot.gov
2. Pre-departure COVID-19 testing and negative results for air travellers coming to Canada, December 31, 2020, www.tc.gc.ca
3. New pre-departure COVID-19 testing requirements come into effect for all air travellers flying into Canada, January 6, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca
4. COVID-19 pre-departure testing and Transport Canada's Interim Order, January 6, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca
5. Weekly aircraft movements, December 12 to 25, 2020, January 6, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca
6. Air Cargo Demand Improves in November, Capacity Remains Constrained, January 7, 2021, www.iata.org
7. U.S. Airlines November 2020 Fuel Use Up 5% from October, January 6, 2021, www.bts.gov
8. WestJet announces 737 MAX return-to-service plan, January 7, 2021, www.westjet.ca
9. Air Passenger Market Analysis November 2020, January 7, 2021, www.iata.org
10. FAA Releases Rules for Drone Operations, January 7, 2021, www.railwayage.com
11. Mid-November Airline Employment Up 5,000 from Mid-October, January 7, 2021, www.bts.gov
12. Commemoration of Flight PS752 tragedy, January 8, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca
13. WestJet Slashes Capacity in Response to Rushed Government Testing Regime, January 8, 2021, www.westjet.ca
14. Air Travel Consumer Report: October 2020 Airline Complaint Data, January 8, 2021, www.dot.gov
15. Porter Airlines updates tentative restart of flights to March 29, January 11, 2021, www.flyporter.com
16. Canada's Airports Welcome Industry Strategy Council Call for Longer Term Support for Airports, Innovative Approaches to Restart Travel, January 11, 2021, www.cacairports.ca
17. Air cargo volumes slowly rising, January 11, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
18. ATAC Welcomes the New Minister of Transport, January 12, 2021, www.atac.ca
19. Federal government announces cabinet

* The news indicated from the citations is those of the authors and not of Industry Canada or the CTRF.

a negative laboratory test result must be presented to the airline prior to boarding a flight to Canada. The test must be performed using one of two types of COVID-19 tests—either a molecular polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) – and must be taken within 72 hours of the traveller’s scheduled departure to Canada. At this time, the Canadian entry requirements are for these two types of COVID-19 test only. Antigen screening or other types of test such as Diffractive Phase Interferometry are not accepted. These requirements are set out in the Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 18, which supports COVID health requirements made by the Minister of Health under the *Quarantine Act*.

5. Weekly aircraft movements, December 12 to 25, 2020

Data on weekly aircraft itinerant movements are now available for December 12 to 25, 2020. For the week ending December 19, 2021, domestic movements were 21,135 down from 25,119 for the week ending December 12, 2021.

6. Air Cargo Demand Improves in November, Capacity Remains Constrained

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for global air freight markets in November 2020 showing that freight volumes improved compared to October 2020, but remain depressed compared to 2019. Capacity remains constrained from the loss of available belly cargo space as passenger aircraft remain parked. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), was 6.6% below previous-year levels in November (-7.7% for international operations). This was on par with the 6.2 % year-on-year drop in October. The year-on-year decline is skewed as November 2019 had a boost in demand from the waning US-China trade war.

7. U.S. Airlines November 2020 Fuel Use Up 5% from October

The Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on January 6, 2021 released U.S. airlines’ November 2020 Fuel Cost and Consumption numbers. U.S. airlines’ November 2020 fuel consumption (845 million gallons) was 4.6% higher than October 2020, and 89% higher than April 2020. April 2020 was the lowest monthly fuel usage on record (447M gallons), dating back to 2000. November 2020 fuel consumption was down 42% from November 2019.

8. WestJet announces 737 MAX return-to-service plan

WestJet on January 6, 2021 announced its intent to return its fleet of 737 MAX aircraft to passenger service in a phased and transparent approach. The airline’s plans follow an announcement from Transport Canada (TC) on December 17, 2020 where TC safety experts validated the aircraft design changes and outlined requirements for Canadian carriers. WestJet announced its intent to return its fleet of 737 MAX aircraft to passenger service, in a phased and transparent approach. Transport Canada’s validation followed that of the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) on November 18, 2020. "As we continue working with Transport Canada on the additional Canadian requirements, our first MAX will be ready to return safely to service as of January 21," said Ed Sims, WestJet President and CEO. "While we don't have final confirmation on when TC will open Canadian airspace to the 737 MAX aircraft, in the interest of transparency we are sharing our intent to fly once this confirmation is received."

9. Air Passenger Market Analysis November 2020

Air travel recovery was delayed by the resurgence of the virus according to IATA’s Market Analysis report for November 2020. The major highlights for November 2020 were: 1) the recovery in air passenger volumes stalled towards the end of the year. Industry-wide revenue passenger-kilometres

shuffle, new minister of transport, January 12, 2021, www.westac.ca

20. Canada’s airports ready to work with new minister of transport, January 12, 2021, www.cacairports.ca

21. Air Canada Receives APEX’s Diamond Status Certification For Its CleanCare+ Biosafety Program In Response to COVID-19, January 12, 2021, www.aircanada.ca

22. U.S. Airlines November 2020 Passengers Decreased 61% from November 2019 (Preliminary), January 12, 2021, www.bts.gov

23. Air Canada suspends routes as COVID restrictions bite travel, January 13, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

24. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada by air, fourth quarter 2020

25. Weekly aircraft movements, December 26, 2020, to January 1, 2021, December 13, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca

26. Air Canada Implements Additional Capacity and Workforce Reductions, January 13, 2021, www.aircanada.ca

27. U.S. Airlines Carried 12% More Cargo in November 2020, January 14, 2021, www.bts.gov

28. Delta grows cargo revenue, narrows loss to \$2.1B in Q4, January 14, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

29. Atlas, DHL buying large freighters, January 13, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

30. Transport Canada introduces additional requirements to allow for the return to service of the Boeing 737 MAX, January 18, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca

31. Air Canada to Resume Boeing 737 MAX Commercial Operations February 1, 2021, January 18, 2021, www.aircanada.ca

32. Air Canada Announces Partial Exercise of Over-Allotment Option in Connection with Offering of Shares, January 18, 2021, www.aircanada.ca

33. Third Quarter 2020 Air Fare Drops to New Low as Passenger Numbers Decline, January 19, 2021, www.bts.gov

34. United Airlines posts \$1.9 billion loss in pandemic-laden 4Q, January 21, 2021, www.cargonews.com

35. WestJet returns 737 MAX to service, January 21, 2021, www.westjet.ca

36. US President Biden to sign order mandating masks on aircraft, January 20, 2021, www.iata.org

37. Delta grows cargo revenue, narrows loss to \$2.1B in Q4, January 21, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

38. Government of Canada announces agreement with Government of Ontario to support essential air access to remote communities, January 21, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca

39. Supply-demand imbalance continues to vex air cargo shippers, January 24, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

40. Government of Canada announces agreement with Government of British Columbia to support essential air access to remote communities, January 26, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca

41. Minister Ng announces launch of Highly

(RPKs) fell by -70.3% year-on-year in November – the same contraction as in the previous month. 2) The resurgence of the virus and associated restrictions weighed on air travel recovery progress across many domestic and international markets. Europe remained the most severely impacted region due to strict containment measures. That said, recovery accelerated for another month in Latin America. 3) The industry-wide passenger load factor reached a new record-low for Nov. at 58%.

Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, January 26, 2021, www.atac.ca
42. Weekly aircraft movements, January 9 to 15, 2021, January 27, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca

10. FAA Releases Rules for Drone Operations

The Federal Aviation Administration has issued two final rules for unmanned aircraft (drone) operations. They cover the requirement for Remote Identification (Remote ID) of drones as well as drone operations over people and at night.

11. Mid-November Airline Employment Up 5,000 from Mid-October

U.S. airlines employed 678,287 workers in the middle of November 2020, 5,000 more than in mid-October 2020 but almost 77,000 fewer than in March 2020. The November numbers consist of 565,281 full-time and 113,006 part-time workers.

12. Commemoration of Flight PS752 tragedy

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, on January 8, 2021 issued the following statement: “A year ago, on January 8, 2020, the downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 claimed the lives of 176 people, including 55 Canadian citizens, 30 permanent residents and numerous others with ties to Canada. “On this date, we gather, mourn and reaffirm our determination to help the families of the victims get the answers they deserve...”

13. WestJet Slashes Capacity in Response to Rushed Government Testing Regime

WestJet on January 8, 2021 announced further cuts to its schedule as the airline continues to face volatile demand and instability in the face of continuing federal government travel advisories and restrictions. As a result of the reduction in capacity, the equivalent of 1,000 employees across the WestJet Group of Companies will be impacted through a combination of furloughs, temporary layoffs, unpaid leaves and reduced hours. There will also be a hiring freeze implemented. "Immediately following the federal government's inbound testing announcement on December 31, and with the continuation of the 14-day quarantine, we saw significant reductions in new bookings and unprecedented cancellations," said Ed Sims, WestJet President and CEO.

14. Air Travel Consumer Report: October 2020 Airline Complaint Data

The U.S. Department of Transportation on January 8, 2021 released its updated December 2020 Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR), which includes airline consumer complaint data for October 2020. The previous version of this report excluded this data due to additional time needed to review and process consumer complaints. The full consumer report and other aviation consumer matters of interest to the public can be found at <http://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer>.

15. Porter Airlines updates tentative restart of flights to March 29

Porter Airlines is establishing March 29, 2021 as a revised tentative date for restarting flights based on the continuing surge in COVID-19 cases and corresponding public health measures. “With the introduction of vaccines, we are more optimistic about determining a date in the near-term to reintroduce flights than at any point since the pandemic began,” said Michael Deluce, president and CEO of Porter Airlines. “More time is needed to assess the vaccine’s influence on current travel restrictions and when it is appropriate to begin operations again. We expect to establish a timeline for this to happen in the first part of 2021.”

16. Canada’s Airports Welcome Industry Strategy Council Call for Longer Term Support for Airports, Innovative Approaches to Restart Travel

The Canadian Airports Council welcomed support for Canada’s airports and airlines in a report released on January 11, 2021 by the Industry Strategy Council titled, *Restart, Recover and Reimagine Prosperity for All Canadians: An Ambitious Growth Plan for Building a Digital, Sustainable and Innovative Economy*. In its report, the ISC noted in part that: “The catastrophic drop in air travel worldwide has created ripple effects on Canadian airports and the country’s aerospace sector. Aviation and aerospace are highly inter-reliant as travellers affect aviation demand, which in turn drives demand for aerospace products and services. Both are in urgent need of targeted assistance to avoid collapse, especially in Canada, where our aviation industry relies on one of the few user-pay systems in the world. The current situation is placing the entire system at risk.”

17. Air cargo volumes slowly rising

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for global air freight markets for November 2020 showing that freight volumes improved compared to October 2020, but remain depressed compared to 2019. Capacity remains constrained from the loss of available belly cargo space as passenger aircraft remain parked. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), was 6.6 per cent below previous-year levels in November (-7.7 per cent for international operations). This was on par with the 6.2 per cent year-on-year drop in October. The year-on-year

decline is skewed as November 2019 had a boost in demand from the waning US-China trade war.

18. ATAC Welcomes the New Minister of Transport

The Air Transport Association of Canada, which has represented this country's commercial air transport industry since 1934 with members engaged in all levels of commercial aviation operating in every region of Canada, warmly welcomes Omar Alghabra as Canada's new Minister of Transport.

19. Federal government announces cabinet shuffle, new minister of transport

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a cabinet shuffle on January 12, 2021, appointing Omar Alghabra (MP for Mississauga Centre) as Minister of Transport. Hon. Omar Alghabra was first elected in 2006, again in 2015 and most recently in 2019. Since his initial election, he has served as Parliament Secretary to several Ministers including: the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs), the Minister of International Trade Diversification, the Prime Minister (Public Service Renewal), the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. He was also sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in February 2020. One of Minister Alghabra's top priorities will be continuing discussions with the airline industry that has suffered significantly due to the pandemic. WESTAC congratulates Minister Alghabra and looks forward to continuing our work with the Government of Canada.

20. Canada's airports ready to work with new minister of transport

Canada's airports are ready to work with the new minister of transport, Omar Alghabra, to ensure that the aviation sector is positioned to make a positive contribution to Canada's economic recovery when people are ready to travel again. "We welcome Mr. Alghabra to this challenging portfolio and hope to start working with him immediately," said Canadian Airports Council president, Daniel-Robert Gooch "Unfortunately, we are in a crisis situation, and there is no time to waste.

21. Air Canada Receives APEX's Diamond Status Certification For Its CleanCare+ Biosafety Program In Response to COVID-19

Air Canada on January 12, 2021 was certified as a global champion for its commitment to the health and safety of customers and employees as it received the Diamond certification from the APEX Health Safety powered by SimpliFlying. This recognizes the numerous initiatives Air Canada has taken since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Air Canada CleanCare+ program, a suite of biosafety measures the airline continues to refine and enhance with best practices from around the world. Air Canada is the only airline in Canada and one of the first in the world to attain the highest possible ranking in recognition of the airline's health and safety measures.

22. U.S. Airlines November 2020 Passengers Decreased 61% from November 2019 (Preliminary)

U.S. airlines carried 61% fewer scheduled service passengers in November 2020 than in November 2019 (preliminary), according to data filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) by 21 airlines that carry more than 90% of the passengers. The 61% decline from November 2019 was the smallest year-to-year decrease since March 2020. The large airlines carried 28.5 million passengers in November 2020 (preliminary), compared to 72.8 million passengers in November 2019 and 3.0 million in April 2020, which was the lowest monthly total in BTS records dating back to 1974. The previous record low was 14.6 million passengers in February 1975.

23. Air Canada suspends routes as COVID restrictions bite travel

Air Canada is reducing passenger system capacity by 25% and laying off 1,700 workers in the first quarter due to new Canadian travel restrictions aimed at curbing the resurgence of COVID-19, the company said on January 13, 2021. More than 200 employees in the airline's regional express division are also being furloughed. Air Canada said it is working with unions to mitigate the impact on employees. The company released 20,000 workers in May. The 2021 first-quarter reduction in flights will put capacity at about 20% of what it was during the same period in 2019. Last week, WestJet slashed its schedule and the equivalent of 1,000 employees through a combination of furloughs, temporary layoffs, unpaid leaves and reduced hours.

24. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada by air, fourth quarter 2020

International arrivals to Canada by air, which started a steep decline in the second half of March 2020 because of restrictions on international travel, remained low throughout the fourth quarter of 2020. From October to December 2020, the number of visitors from abroad arriving in airports with electronic kiosks was similar to the number recorded in the 2020 third quarter. However, the number of Canadian residents returning from abroad via these same airports steadily increased toward the end of the year. Although international travel to Canada by air grew steadily since the low reached in April 2020, the number of non-residents and returning Canadians remained well below the pre-pandemic level, plummeting from an annual total of 20.8 million in 2019 to 5.6 million in 2020.

25. Weekly aircraft movements, December 26, 2020, to January 1, 2021

Data on weekly aircraft itinerant movements are now available for December 26, 2020, to January 1, 2021. Domestic movements for the week ending December 26, 2020 was 18,144 down from 21,135 for the week ending December 19, 2020.

26. Air Canada Implements Additional Capacity and Workforce Reductions

Air Canada announced on January 13, 2021 that it is adjusting its network under its COVID-19 Mitigation and Recovery Plan by further reducing first quarter system capacity by an additional 25 per cent. As a result of these system-wide changes, there will be a workforce reduction of approximately 1700 employees, in addition to the over 200 impacted employees at its Express carriers. The airline is working with its unions on mitigation programs.

27. U.S. Airlines Carried 12% More Cargo in November 2020

U.S. airlines carried 12% more cargo by weight in November 2020 (preliminary) than in November 2019. The rise was fueled by gains of 13% in domestic cargo and 10% in international cargo, according to data filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) by 14 of the leading U.S. cargo airlines. The 14 airlines carry 95% of the total cargo by weight on U.S. airlines. Cargo data consists of freight and mail carried within the U.S. and between the U.S. and foreign points.

28. Delta grows cargo revenue, narrows loss to \$2.1B in Q4

Delta Air Lines cranked up cargo revenue in the fourth quarter to \$204 million, a 10% gain over the same period a year ago and a big improvement from the prior two quarters. Overall, the company met Wall Street expectations with an adjusted pretax loss of \$2.1 billion on \$4 billion in revenue. The pretax loss of \$2.53 per share came in slightly higher than the consensus among analysts of \$2.50 and revenue was also above the estimate of \$3.6 billion. In the third quarter, Delta's pretax loss was \$2.6 billion. Fourth-quarter revenue was 69% below the 2019 period and the carrier operated at 38% of its seat capacity.

29. Atlas, DHL buying large freighters

DHL Express has ordered eight new B777 freighters. Atlas Air and DHL Express have announced major purchases from Boeing in the second week of January 2021. Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. has ordered four new Boeing 747-8 freighters. DHL Express placed an order for eight new Boeing 777 freighters. It also took options and purchase rights for four additional planes. Both companies expect the orders to be filled in 2022. Atlas will operate these new aircraft for customers or dry-lease them through its Titan Aviation Leasing subsidiary.

30. Transport Canada introduces additional requirements to allow for the return to service of the Boeing 737 MAX

On January 18, 2020, Transport Canada issued an Airworthiness Directive for the Boeing 737 MAX which outlines the required modifications to be made to the aircraft prior to a return to service in Canadian airspace. This concludes the department's review of the aircraft. As part of Transport Canada's independent review process, the department's civil aviation certification and flight safety experts were instrumental in guiding the aircraft design changes. Additionally, the department has gone even farther by introducing unique Canadian measures to further enhance the safety of the aircraft. In addition to all reviews, and to provide additional assurances that all measures are in place, an Interim Order that clearly indicates Transport Canada's expectations and requirements for additional training for crew members was also issued for operators. It is complementary to the design and maintenance requirements of the Airworthiness Directive. As a final step in this process, Transport Canada will lift the existing Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) which prohibits the commercial operation of the aircraft in Canadian airspace on January 20, 2021. This will allow for the return to service of the aircraft in Canada.

31. Air Canada to Resume Boeing 737 MAX Commercial Operations February 1, 2021

Air Canada on January 18, 2021 said that following Transport Canada's (TC) Airworthiness Directive and January 20, 2021 lifting of the existing Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, the aircraft ungrounding by regulatory bodies worldwide, and the carrier's own independent assessments of the aircraft and operating procedures by its specialized safety and flight operations experts, it will be resuming Boeing 737 MAX commercial operations on February 1, 2021.

32. Air Canada Announces Partial Exercise of Over-Allotment Option in Connection with Offering of Shares

Air Canada announced on January 18, 2021 that, in connection with its previously announced overnight marketed public offering of 35,420,000 Class A Variable Voting Shares and/or Class B Voting Shares of the Company ("Shares") completed on December 30, 2020 (the "Offering"), the underwriters exercised their over-allotment option to purchase an additional 2,587,000 Shares at a price of C\$24.00 per Share. The sale of these additional Shares was completed on January 18, 2021 and brings the aggregate gross proceeds from the Offering to approximately C\$912 million.

33. Third Quarter 2020 Air Fare Drops to New Low as Passenger Numbers Decline

The average U.S. domestic air fare declined in the third quarter of 2020 to \$245, the lowest inflation-adjusted average quarterly air fare in Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) records dating back to 1995. The previous low was \$262 in the second quarter of 2020. Adjusted for inflation (constant 2020 dollars) the average 3Q 2020 air fare was: Down 29.9% from 3Q 2019 (\$349); Down 6.7% from 2Q 2020 (\$262); and Down 40.0% from 3Q 2015 (\$408)

34. United Airlines posts \$1.9 billion loss in pandemic-laden 4Q

United Airlines said on January 20, 201 that it finished one of the worst years in its history by losing \$1.9 billion in the last three months of 2020, and it predicted more of the same in the first quarter of this year. The loss was wider than

analysts expected. The number of U.S. airline passengers had been building slowly.

35. WestJet returns 737 MAX to service

WestJet on January 21, 2021 returned the first of its 737 MAX aircraft to passenger service with the departure of WS115 from Calgary to Vancouver. With the second 737 MAX flight, WS122, from Vancouver to Calgary departing at noon PT. B-roll and photos of January 21, 2021 landing at Vancouver International Airport are available here. On board the first flight were 71 guests including Ed Sims, WestJet President and CEO, Chris Burley, WestJet Board Chair and Chris Rauenbusch, President, CUPE Local 4070 and a member of WestJet's Inflight team. The aircraft was piloted by Captain David Colquhoun, WestJet Master Executive Council Chair, Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) and Captain Scott Wilson, Vice President WestJet Operations.

36. US President Biden to sign order mandating masks on aircraft

The new US administration of President Joe Biden will require face coverings be worn on flights in a more rigorous attempt to contain exploding coronavirus case counts across the country, according to reports. On 20 January, 2021, Biden signed an executive order called the "100 Days Masking Challenge," which requires face masks to be worn on all federal property, including national parks. It was one of his first official acts after his inauguration earlier in the day. He reportedly will expand that mandate to encompass interstate travel on public transportation by air, land or sea.

37. Delta grows cargo revenue, narrows loss to \$2.1B in Q4

Delta Air Lines cranked up cargo revenue in the fourth quarter to \$204 million, a 10% gain over the same period a year ago and a big improvement from the prior two quarters. Overall, the company met Wall Street expectations with an adjusted pretax loss of \$2.1 billion on \$4 billion in revenue. The pretax loss of \$2.53 per share came in slightly higher than the consensus among analysts of \$2.50 and revenue was also above the estimate of \$3.6 billion. In the third quarter, Delta's pretax loss was \$2.6 billion. Fourth-quarter revenue was 69% below the 2019 period and the carrier operated at 38% of its seat capacity.

38. Government of Canada announces agreement with Government of Ontario to support essential air access to remote communities

On January 21, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced a new agreement with the Government of Ontario to support essential air access to remote communities. The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$11,134,000 for air services to remote communities to cover the period of July 1 to December 31, 2020. The Government of Ontario is investing \$14.2 million to operate remote airports in 2020/21, including an additional \$4 million this year to ensure continued safe operations during the pandemic. Under this agreement, the Government of Ontario will allocate funding to air operators to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods and services to these communities.

39. Supply-demand imbalance continues to vex air cargo shippers

The new year is off to a hot start for the air cargo market with no sign of cooling off. International transport activity typically softens following the holiday peak season, but demand and rates remain elevated because of unusual shipping patterns and a severe shortage of airlift triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. And logistics companies don't expect air cargo volumes to subside before the Chinese New Year because manufacturers plan to continue operating without a traditional break. The latest consolidated statistics from World ACD and CLIVE Data Services for December showed air cargo volumes only contracted 3.7% to 5%, respectively, compared to 2019. The figures show how far the air cargo industry has recovered since hitting bottom in May 2020, when demand fell nearly 40%.

40. Government of Canada announces agreement with Government of British Columbia to support essential air access to remote communities

On January 26, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, and the British Columbia Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Fleming, announced a new agreement with the Government of British Columbia to support essential air access to remote communities in the province. The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$2,176,000 for air services to remote communities to cover the period of July 1 to December 31, 2020. Under this agreement, the Government of British Columbia allocates the funding to air operators to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods and services to these communities. The B.C. Aviation Council is providing guidance to the Government of British Columbia on the allocation of the funds.

41. Minister Ng announces launch of Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program

On January 26, 2021, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, announced the launch of the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, or HASCAP. HASCAP is available to businesses across the country, in all sectors, that have been hit hard by the pandemic. This includes restaurants, businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors, and those that rely on in-person service.

42. Weekly aircraft movements, January 9 to 15, 2021

Data on weekly aircraft itinerant movements are now available for January 9 to 15, 2021. Domestic movements for the week ending January 9, 2021 were 24,318 compared to 23,224 for the week ending January 2, 2019.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Maritime History Notes: The evolution of car carriers

The modern car carrier could not have evolved without the period of dual-purpose and converted ships. Today, a car carrier is referred to as a pure car carrier (PCC) or a pure car and truck carrier (PCTC). Looking like a floating garage, the largest of these can carry up to 8,500 automobiles. The difference between the two is the size and strength of the ramps and the layout of the decks. On a PCC, the distance between the decks may only be 5 feet, thereby allowing a maximum number of cars to be carried. The worldwide transport of vehicles experienced constantly increasing volumes, resulting in today's large fleets of specialized car carriers. The ships are employed in a variety of trades transporting cars to destinations worldwide. Prior to 1960, the transport of cars was accommodated on traditional tween-deck ships. Each car was lifted on and off using derricks or cranes. However, the origin of the mass transport of cars can be traced to bulk shipping. The evolution continued into the 1960s and 1970s. By the 1980s, the converted car carriers were rapidly being replaced by the new economical buildings. This interesting period of transition lasted for about 15 years and, although mostly forgotten, was an indispensable step in the evolution of the massive car carriers we see today.

2. Feds invest in traffic management around Port of Montreal

The federal government will be spending \$7 million on a project to improve traffic flows around the Port of Montreal. The project is designed to reduce congestion on the municipal roads around the port. It will include installing sensors to collect data, along with the development of infrastructure for sharing and distributing data; tools for decision-making, supervision and scenario development; and systems that will anticipate impacts and disturbances. The project will also see the installation of dynamic display screens on the streets and the introduction of information tools for users. The project is being undertaken as part of the National Trade Corridors Fund, which addresses transportation bottlenecks, vulnerabilities and congestion along Canada's trade corridors.

3. Kalmar and Maher Terminals extend decades-long partnership with large straddle carrier order

Kalmar, part of Cargotec, is to deliver a further order of next-generation electric (NGE) straddle carriers to Maher Terminals LLC for use at their marine container terminal in New Jersey, USA. The order for 42 machines was booked in Cargotec's Q4 2020 order intake with delivery scheduled for Q3 of 2021. Maher Terminals is one of the largest privately held, multi-user container terminal operators in the world. The company has developed North America's largest marine container terminal in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

4. Premium surcharges send trans-Pac rates to record highs

Carriers in the eastbound trans-Pacific are charging all-inclusive rates of more than \$6,000 per FEU to the West Coast and \$8,000 per FEU to the East Coast in today's extremely tight market, forwarders say.

5. Same pace of operations at the Port of Montreal

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) advises that all of its port operations remain in operation to keep serving its clients and the public. To avoid any risk of stock shortages or lack of supply, be it in the food sector, medical equipment or any other type of diversified cargo, products headed for the Port of Montreal continue to be properly routed and it is business as usual at all port terminals. As it has been doing since the pandemic began, the MPA relies on best practices in health and safety to ensure that the Quebec supply

WATER TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Maritime History Notes: The evolution of car carriers, December 31, 2020, www.americanshipper.com
2. Feds invest in traffic management around Port of Montreal, January 5, 2021, www.insidelogistics.com
3. Kalmar and Maher Terminals extend decades-long partnership with large straddle carrier order, January 4, 2021, www.ajot.com
4. Premium surcharges send trans-Pac rates to record highs, January 6, 2021, www.joc.com
5. Same pace of operations at the Port of Montreal, Jan 8, 2021, www.portofmontreal.ca
6. South Carolina Ports continues riding volume wave, January 11, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
7. The Quebec government grants \$55 million to the contrecoeur container terminal project, January 12, 2021, www.portofmontreal.ca
8. Commissionaires Not-for-profit has been HPA's security partner for over a decade, January 12, 2021, www.insidelogistics.com
9. Port Houston imports up 26% in December, January 13, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
10. Port Performance Freight Statistics Annual Report, January 15, 2021, www.bts.gov
11. Port of Long Beach moves a record 8.1 million TEUs in 2020, January 15, 2021, www.ajot.com
12. Seroka reports Port of LA moved 9.2 million TEUs In 2020, January 15, 2021, www.ajot.com
13. Data reveals unprecedented nature of US import surge, January 17, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
14. Port of Vancouver, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020, January 18, 2021, www.portofvancouver.com
15. Port of Prince Rupert, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020, January 18, 2021, www.portofvancouver.com
16. Port of Prince Rupert Delivers Another Record Year Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, January 18, 2021, www.rupertport.com
17. Seaway throughput held steady in 2020, January 19, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
18. Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System reports strong 2020 navigation season, January 19, 2021, www.americanshipper.com
19. Port of LA bounces back, January 19, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
20. US imports from Asia hit record December level, January 19, 2021, www.joc.com
21. Port of Prince Rupert moves record cargo in 2020, January 20, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
22. Port of LA will pay container terminals for efficiency gains, January 20, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
23. Port of Halifax, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020, January 21, 2021, www.portofhalifax.ca

chain is kept strong and that the work environment is safe for everyone. All port workers whose presence is required on the docks, at the terminals, on the Port Road or at the Harbour Master's Control Center are at work on-site to ensure that operations keep running smoothly. As for our current projects, such as building the Grand Quay observation tower and redeveloping Bickerdike Terminal, work is progressing on schedule.

6. South Carolina Ports continues riding volume wave

The South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) said "impressive volumes" helped it end 2020 with its strongest December on record. South Carolina Ports handled 209,606 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) at the Wando Welch and North Charleston container terminals in December 2020, a 11.6% year-over-year increase. Loaded imports were up 14.4% year-over-year and loaded exports increased 8.6%, "highlighting a strong balance for ocean carriers and a thriving Southeast market," the SCPA said in an announcement on Monday, January 11, 2021. South Carolina Ports continued riding a volume wave following a November-best figure of 207,066 TEUs moved.

The SCPA said vehicle volumes were "exceptionally strong" in December, up 29.2% year-over-year to a monthly record of 21,228 vehicles handled. In fiscal year 2021, from July 1 to Dec. 31, South Carolina Ports moved 135,747 vehicles across the docks at the Columbus Street Terminal, a 17.42% hike compared to the same period last year.

7. The Quebec government grants \$55 million to the contrecoeur container terminal project

On January 12, 2021, the Government of Quebec announced \$55 million in financial assistance to the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) towards its expansion project in Contrecoeur. "The Government of Quebec's backing is an important signal for the MPA and reflects a shared commitment to provide local businesses with a highly efficient supply chain," said MPA President and CEO Martin Imbleau. "This funding will enable us to undertake the work necessary to develop the new container terminal in Contrecoeur and to participate fully in the economic recovery."

8. Commissionaires Not-for-profit has been HPA's security partner for over a decade

The Halifax Port Authority has chosen Commissionaires Nova Scotia once again to provide security-related services, including surveillance monitoring, patrolling, and access control. The initial term of the contract is one year with the option to renew annually for two additional years. Commissionaires has been HPA's security partner for over a decade. The new contract was awarded following an open tender process and came into effect January 1, 2021. Commissionaires employs 46 full-time staff year-round at the Port of Halifax, and an additional 22 staff during a typical six-month cruise season. "We see Commissionaires as a part of our Port Community," said Captain Allan Gray, president and CEO, Halifax Port Authority.

9. Port Houston imports up 26% in December

Despite the weighty impact of the coronavirus on U.S. port volumes last spring and summer, Port Houston narrowly missed a record-setting year for container traffic. During its record 2019, Port Houston handled 2,990,175 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Thanks to a resurgence of imports that began in late summer, Port Houston moved 2,989,347 TEUs in 2020. The container influx continued in early winter. 2020 December's volume was up 4% year-over-year, from 253,830 TEUs in 2019 to 264,626 in 2020. The big jump in December 2020 came in loaded imports, up 26% year-over-year to 126,771 TEUs that made for the second-highest month ever for loaded imports at Port Houston. Incidentally, the best month for loaded imports was just recorded in October 2020.

10. Port Performance Freight Statistics Annual Report

Port Performance Freight Statistics in 2019, Annual Report to Congress 2020, a congressionally-mandated report, is now available from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). This edition is the fifth annual report from the BTS Port Performance Freight Statistics Program established by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) of 2015.

11. Port of Long Beach moves a record 8.1 million TEUs in 2020

Essential workers at the Port of Long Beach moved more than 8.1 million cargo container units in 2020, setting a record in the face of economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing trade war with China. The Port ended 2020, its busiest year on record, with 8,113,315 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) moved, an increase of 6.3% from 2019. Imports rose 6.4% to 3,998,340 TEUs. Exports totaled 1,475,888 TEUs, up 0.2%, while empty containers increased 9.9% to 2,639,088 TEUs. The Port exceeded the previous annual record set in 2018 by 22,292 TEUs. December 2020 also was the busiest month and the final quarter was the most active.

12. Seroka reports Port of LA moved 9.2 million TEUS In 2020

Gene Seroka, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles reported that the Port moved 9.2 million twenty-foot containers (TEUs) in 2020. "Our container business in 2020 was the most erratic we have ever seen, with volumes

24. Montreal narrows down contractors for Contrecoeur expansion, January 22, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

25. FreightWaves Classics: America's commercial shipbuilding industry is nearly gone, January 22, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

26. Government of Canada Invests in Major Rehabilitation Work on Victoria Bridge in Montréal, January 22, 2021, www.tc.gc.ca

27. Company fined for fertilizer spill in St. Lawrence, January 25, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

28. Hapag-Lloyd operating results point to profitable 2020 for carriers, January 27, 2021, www.joc.com

29. New maritime cybersecurity centre to fight pirates, January 29, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

plunging nearly 19% in the first five months of the year, followed by an unprecedented second-half surge...Our ILWU longshore workforce did a great job adapting to the huge swings in volume, as did port truckers and everyone else involved in moving cargo through our Port. In a year of great difficulty, we are extremely grateful for the tenacity and resolve of all of our partners.” Seroka made the announcement at the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association’s (PMSA) sixth annual State of the Port of Los Angeles, which was a virtual event.

13. Data reveals unprecedented nature of US import surge

The COVID pandemic was unprecedented. By nature, it was hard to predict the fallout. And the one thing no one predicted was that U.S. consumers would dramatically increase spending on goods as their ability to spend on services was constrained and that their lost income from unemployment would be counterbalanced by stimulus. Data on freight rates and freight flows available on FreightWaves’ SONAR platform reveals just how unprecedented and off the charts the current container-import market has become.

14. Port of Vancouver, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020

The Port of Vancouver Authority released its container statistics (TEUs) for 2020 on January 18, 2021. Total traffic (TEUs) for 2020 was 3,467,520, a 2% increase over 2019 (3,398,860). Total imports (TEUs) for 2020 were 1,854,200, a 6.5% increase over 2019 (1,740,869). Total exports (TEUs) for 2020 were 1,613,320, a 2.7% decrease over 2019 (1,657,992).

15. Port of Prince Rupert, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020

The Port of Prince Rupert Authority released its container statistics (TEUs) for 2020 on January 18, 2021. Total traffic (TEUs) for 2020 was 1,141,390, a 6% decrease over 2019 (1,210,776). Total imports (TEUs) for 2020 were 643,589.75, a 5% decrease over 2019 (678,907.50). Total exports (TEUs) for 2020 were 497,800.50, a 6% decrease over 2019 (531,868.50).

16. Port of Prince Rupert Delivers Another Record Year Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) announced on January 18, 2021 that it has set another record for annual cargo volumes. Despite unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic, 32.4 million tonnes of cargo moved through the Port of Prince Rupert in 2020, nine percent more than in 2019. “In a year marred by uncertainty, the Port of Prince Rupert has facilitated increased trade in support of Canada’s economic health through the pandemic enabling over \$50 billion in international trade. Thanks to the diversification of our cargoes, and the commitment and determination to maintain a safe working environment through the pandemic by our Port partners and the men and women working in the gateway industry in northern British Columbia, the Port of Prince Rupert’s operations have remained resilient,” said Shaun Stevenson, President and CEO, Prince Rupert Port Authority. “Weathering the storms triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, our Port has handily proven its resiliency, efficiency, and reliability as a key strategic trade gateway for Canada.”

17. Seaway throughput held steady in 2020

Cargo shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway remained flat in 2020, despite Covid-19’s harsh toll on demand for many products shipped along the waterway. Nearly 38 million tonnes of cargo were shipped last year along the route stretching from the lower St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes, with record shipments of grain offsetting a decline in liquid bulk, dry bulk and iron ore, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. said. In total, cargo shipments were down nearly 1.7 percent in 2020 compared with 2019. “It’s been a hugely challenging year,” said Bruce Burrows, president and CEO of the Chamber of Marine Commerce. “We had significant drops in most of the major commodities that we move.”

18. Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System reports strong 2020 navigation season

American and Canadian ports in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system reported that overall tonnage during the 2020 navigation season was down just 1.7 percent compared to the 2019 navigation season, despite facing a challenging year. Craig H. Middlebrook, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation said, “The Seaway’s 62nd navigation season was one of the most remarkable in history. Despite all the challenges throughout the year, it was one of the safest and smoothest seasons on record. The final tonnage results continue to demonstrate the resilience of the binational waterway and its ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace.”

19. Port of LA bounces back

The busiest container port in the U.S., Los Angeles, moved 9.2 million TEUs in 2020, the fourth highest number in the port’s history. Port of Los Angeles executive director Gene Seroka said a late-year surge of pandemic-induced consumer spending helped boost volumes to near 2019 levels, making 2020 the fourth highest-volume year in the port’s history. “Our container business in 2020 was the most erratic we have ever seen, with volumes plunging nearly 19 percent in the first five months of the year, followed by an unprecedented second-half surge,” Seroka said.

20. US imports from Asia hit record December level

Import volumes have remained strong into the new year and may be accelerating, with some saying January’s 2021

imports will be even higher than December's 2020.

21. Port of Prince Rupert moves record cargo in 2020

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) has set another record for annual cargo volumes. Despite the pandemic, 32.4 million tonnes of cargo moved through the Port of Prince Rupert in 2020, nine percent more than in 2019. Exports of coal, propane, and wood pellets led the increase. Ridley Terminal saw a year-over-year increase of 26 percent, driven by demand for thermal coal. AltaGas' Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal marked its first full year of operation in May 2020 and ended the year with 1,159,207 tonnes loaded onto 27 vessels bound for Asia. Pinnacle Renewable Energy's Westview Terminal had a record year, exporting 1,474,301 tonnes of wood pellets, an increase of 33 percent over 2019.

22. Port of LA will pay container terminals for efficiency gains

The Port of Los Angeles is willing to pay out \$7.5 million to San Pedro Bay container terminals over the next year if they turn trucks faster. "We see this as an investment in our efficiency," a port spokesman told American Shipper on January 20, 2021. The port announced this week that beginning Feb. 1, 2021 it will reward container terminals for both improving truck turn times and completing dual transactions. The port said the incentive program is designed to help move trucks faster and more efficiently through the container terminals. Terminal operators can earn what the port called "financial rewards" by shortening the time it takes to process trucks dropping off and/or picking up cargo. Rewards also would be given for trucks handling both a drop-off and pickup in the same trip.

23. Port of Halifax, Accumulated Container Statistics, Year to Date, January to December 2020

The Port of Halifax Authority released its container statistics (TEUs) for 2020 on January 21, 2021. Total traffic (TEUs) for 2020 was 507,185, a 7.2% decrease over 2019 (546,691). Total imports (TEUs) for 2020 were 258,185, a 5.5% decrease over 2019 (273,180). Total exports (TEUs) for 2020 were 249,000, a 9% decrease over 2019 (273,511). For the fourth quarter of 2020, total traffic increased 2.7% to 133,277 TEUs, imports increased 4% to 63,984 TEUs and exports increased 1.4% to 69,293 TEUs.

24. Montreal narrows down contractors for Contrecoeur expansion

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has qualified three teams for design and construction of the Contrecoeur container terminal. The qualified teams are (in alphabetical order): 1) Ancre Contrecoeur, represented by Dragados Canada, and associated with AECOM Consultants; 2) CAP Contrecoeur, composed of the companies Eurovia Québec Grands Projets, Janin Atlas, Soletanche Bachy International and VINCI Infrastructure Canada, and associated with GHD Consultants, COWI North America and CH2M Hill Canada; and 3) Kiewit-Pomerleau, composed of Construction Kiewit and Pomerleau, and associated with which CIMA+, Englobe, Hatch and Solmatech.

25. FreightWaves Classics: America's commercial shipbuilding industry is nearly gone

This article provides an interesting history of why the US shipbuilding industry has nearly disappeared. It concludes by indicating that the Reagan Administration stopped the construction subsidies for U.S. shipyards without seeking reciprocal action from other shipbuilding nations. The result was that the U.S. commercial shipbuilding industry collapsed while subsidized Asian shipbuilding companies captured the market. In less than a dozen years, the U.S. went from the leading commercial shipbuilder in the world to producing virtually no vessels for international trade.

26. Government of Canada Invests in Major Rehabilitation Work on Victoria Bridge in Montréal

On January 22, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced a contribution agreement of nearly \$15 million over three years with CN to carry out rehabilitation work needed to maintain the Victoria bridge's safety and improve access for road vehicles. The Victoria Bridge is a strategic link between Montréal and the South Shore, connecting the city directly to the city of Saint-Lambert.

27. Company fined for fertilizer spill in St. Lawrence

On January 21, 2021, the Compagnie d'Arrimage de Québec Ltée pleaded guilty in the Court of Quebec in the District of Québec to one count of contravening the *Fisheries Act*. The company was fined \$100,000. In addition to the fine, the Court ordered the company to pay an amount of \$575,000. These amounts will be directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund.

28. Hapag-Lloyd operating results point to profitable 2020 for carriers

German line Hapag-Lloyd on January 27, 2021 said its pre-tax earnings jumped 30 percent year over year in 2020, the latest evidence that container carriers are headed for their most profitable year in at least a decade.

29. New maritime cybersecurity centre to fight pirates

A new research centre created at Montreal's Polytechnique university will aim to protect ships from pirates – and they're not talking about Blackbeard or Captain Kidd. Canada's Maritime Cyber Security Centre of Excellence will combine the expertise of two Polytechnique researchers, Quebec cybersecurity startup Neptune Cyber and Davie Shipbuilding. The five-year research project will focus on cybersecurity for critical maritime infrastructures.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. The journey begins – 2021 is the European Year of Rail!

January 1, 2021, marks the beginning of the European Year of Rail. The European Commission initiative will highlight the benefits of rail as a sustainable, smart and safe means of transport. A variety of activities will put rail in the spotlight throughout 2021 across the continent, to encourage the use of rail by both citizens and businesses and to contribute to the EU Green Deal goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

2. CP reports best ever year, quarter, December for Canadian grain transport

Canadian Pacific (CP) moved 31.32 million metric tonnes (MMT) of Canadian grain and grain products in 2020, more than any prior calendar year in its history, the company announced on January 4, 2021. At year's end, CP also completed its best ever quarter and best ever December for hauling these commodities. "Hard-won achievements like these require commitment and focus across the supply chain, but special credit must go to CP's customers and their dedicated employees," said Joan Hardy, CP Vice-President Sales and Marketing Grain and Fertilizers. "Their work to create a safe, efficient supply chain is an essential ingredient in our ability to deliver Canada's crops to consumers at home and around the world." In the fourth quarter of 2020, CP moved 8.84 MMT of Canadian grain and grain products, which beats 2020's second quarter, the previous record, by 5.1 percent. December 2020 totals came in at 2.84 MMT, beating out the previous record set in 2019 by 13.6 percent.

3. CN Sets Grain Movement Record for Tenth Consecutive Month

CN is proud to announce that for the tenth consecutive month it has set a new record by shipping over 2.84 million metric tonnes (MMT) of Canadian grain and processed grain products via carload. This brings the volume of grain moved in the 2020-2021 crop year to-date via carload to 14.5 MMT, exceeding the previous all-time record pace volume by nearly 2 MMT, or over 15%. Moreover, CN remains on record pace for containerized grain shipments from western Canada. Rob Reilly, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at CN said "We are proud of the great efforts of our team of CN railroaders and those of our supply chain partners who, once again went above and beyond to move Canadian grain to markets. 2020 was a challenging year for everyone along the supply chain. Our dedicated employees and partners have demonstrated their resilience and courage in uncertain times. These record grain shipments are coming at the same time as CN is shipping very high volumes of many other commodities such as lumber, potash, propane and consumer goods. While we are proud of December's results, we do not take them for granted and we will continue to work hard to safely move our customers' goods."

4. Rail Roundup: Lineage, Patriot make acquisitions; CP, CN set records

Lineage Logistics, a Michigan-based temperature-controlled real estate investment trust and logistics solutions provider, has acquired Maryland-based Cryo-Trans, a producer of refrigerated and insulated railcars. Short line operator and port logistics provider Patriot Rail has finalized its acquisition of the Salt Lake Garfield & Western Railway (SLGW) short line in Utah. As part of the deal, Jacksonville, Florida-based Patriot acquires SLGW and two storage and transload service providers, Caballero and Caballero 2. Patriot itself was acquired by infrastructure investment firm First Sentier Investors in October 2019. SLGW runs 26 miles and handles more than 6,000 loaded railcars annually, it is located near Salt Lake City.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. The journey begins – 2021 is the European Year of Rail!, January 1, 2021, www.europa.eu
2. CP reports best ever year, quarter, December for Canadian grain transport, January 4, 2021, www.cpr.ca
3. CN Sets Grain Movement Record for Tenth Consecutive Month, January 4, 2021, www.cn.ca
4. Rail Roundup: Lineage, Patriot make acquisitions; CP, CN set records, January 6, 2021, www.americanshipper.com
5. AAR: 'Railroads Looking to the Future', January 6, 2021, www.railwayage.com
6. Lineage Logistics buys Cryo-Trans, January 7, 2021, www.insidelogistics.com
7. Schultz Sworn In at STB, January 11, 2021, www.railwayage.com
8. US intermodal growth will likely slow later in 2021, January 12, 2021, www.joc.com
9. AAR: Intermodal Double-Digit Gains Continue, January 13, 2021, www.railwayage.com
10. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases "Hyperloop Standards Desk Review", January 15, 2021, www.dot.gov
11. US Class I rail headcount tumbles 14% in 2020, January 18, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
12. FTA Awards Grants to Help Transit Tackle COVID-19, January 19, 2021, www.railwayage.com
13. BNSF outlines \$3 billion capital investment budget for 2021, January 20, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
14. AAR: Intermodal Strength Again Boosts Weekly Rail Traffic, January 20, 2021, www.raileavage.com
15. Impairment charge flattens Union Pacific's Q4 profit gains, January 21, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
16. For CSX, 4Q20 Revenue Down Slightly, 'Outlook Improving', January 21, 2021, www.railwayage.com
17. Kansas City Southern eyes lower operating ratio, January 23, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
18. CN's Milton hub wins conditional environmental approval, January 22, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
19. CN Ranked 10th on World's 100 Most Sustainable Corporations by Corporate Knights, January 25, 2021, www.cn.ca
20. Solid Quarterly Performance on Volumes Drives Results, January 26, 2021, www.cn.ca
21. CN announces new normal course issuer bid for share repurchase and 7% dividend increase, January 26, 2021, www.cn.ca
22. CP announces a proposed five-for-one share split and a new share repurchase program, January 27, 2021, www.cpr.ca
23. Canadian Pacific Railway Limited declares dividend, January 26, 2021, www.cpr.ca
24. Canadian crude by rail exports surge in November, January 27, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
25. Norfolk Southern reports fourth-quarter and full-year 2020 results, January 27, 2021,

Significant investments to the Canadian rail network, plus ample harvests and continued export demand, helped Canadian Pacific and CN set records for grain movements. In comparison, U.S. grain carloads year-to-date totalled nearly 1.17 million carloads, a 4.5% increase from the same period in 2019.

5. AAR: ‘Railroads Looking to the Future’

In December, U.S. rail traffic—2,435,819 carloads and intermodal units—rose 4.4% from December 2019, with intermodal growth again offsetting carload declines. U.S. railroads originated 1,101,324 carloads, a falloff of 3.7%, or 42,666 carloads, compared with the same month in 2019; and 1,334,495 containers and trailers, a boost of 12.2%, or 145,126 units, from 2019. Total combined U.S. traffic for the 53 reporting weeks of 2020 was 25,157,476 carloads and intermodal units, down 7.2% compared with the prior reporting week figures. (Note: The week ending Jan. 2, 2021, is the 53rd week in 2020, since five of its days will have fallen in 2020, according to AAR. Also, “Year-over-year comparisons are always made to the week that was 52 weeks (364 days) earlier.”) Canadian railroads reported 74,166 carloads for the week, down 2.7%, and 58,241 intermodal units, up 3.3%, compared with the prior reporting year figures. For the first 53 weeks of 2020, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 7,637,891 carloads and containers and trailers, down 4.1%.

6. Lineage Logistics buys Cryo-Trans

Lineage Logistics, LLC has bought Cryo-Trans, a North American provider of refrigerated and insulated railcars and rail management solutions. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Cryo-Trans manages more than 40,000 annual rail shipments and owns over 2,200 refrigerated and insulated railcars, the largest private fleet of its kind in North America. Cryo-Trans also provides real-time information and visibility to track, trace and expedite railcar shipments anywhere in North America.

7. Schultz Sworn In at STB

Michelle A. Schultz was sworn in Jan. 11, 2021 as Surface Transportation Board member, bringing the number of commissioners to its full complement of five. The U.S. Senate confirmed Schultz on Nov. 18, 2021.

8. US intermodal growth will likely slow later in 2021

Intermodal should have a good year in 2021, but its long-run fundamentals that were in place pre-pandemic have not been significantly altered.

9. AAR: Intermodal Double-Digit Gains Continue

For the week ending Jan. 9, 2021, total U.S. rail traffic was 525,253 carloads and intermodal units—up 4.7% from the comparable week of 2020, ending Jan. 11—based on a double-digit intermodal gain, according to an Association of American Railroads (AAR) Jan. 13 report. Total carloads of 235,404 fell 1.6% vs. the comparable week in 2020, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume of 289,849 containers and trailers rose 10.4% vs. 2020. Canadian railroads reported 77,465 carloads for the week, dropping 3.3%, and 73,933 intermodal units, growing 6.6% compared with the comparable week in 2020. They reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 151,398 carloads plus containers and trailers, up 1.3%, for the first week of 2021.

10. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases “Hyperloop Standards Desk Review”

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) on January 15, 2021 released the “Hyperloop Standards Desk Review,” sponsored by the Department’s Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council. This document serves to assess the status of hyperloop standard development; begin a dialogue for future hyperloop standardization efforts; and identify stakeholder perspectives on the applicability of existing standards to domestic testing and deployment.

11. US Class I rail headcount tumbles 14% in 2020

The U.S. operations of the Class I railroads employed the fewest number of employees in 2020 since at least 2012. Headcount at U.S. Class I rail operations totaled 120,492 employees last year, a 14% decrease compared with 140,185 employees in 2019, according to data that companies provided to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). This annual average was the lowest since at least 2012, the earliest year that *FreightWaves* has data available.

12. FTA Awards Grants to Help Transit Tackle COVID-19

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is distributing \$15.8 million to 37 transit projects through its new Public Transportation COVID-19 Research Demonstration Grant Program.

13. BNSF outlines \$3 billion capital investment budget for 2021

www.nscorp.com

26. CP demonstrates resiliency of model and team reports record fourth quarter and full year 2020 results, January 27, 2021, www.cpr.ca

27. CP announces a proposed five-for-one share split and a new share repurchase program, January 27, 2021, www.cpr.ca

28. Railway carloadings, November 2020, January 27, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca

29. AAR: Intermodal Lifts Total Traffic as Carloads Play Catch-up, January 28, 2021, www.railwavage.com

30. Norfolk Southern eyes longer, heavier trains as it pursues PSR, January 27, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

Privately held Western U.S. railroad BNSF expects to spend \$2.99 billion in 2021 for capital projects that will upgrade and maintain the company's rail network. "Every year through our capital plan we work to ensure we are able to continue to operate a safe and efficient rail network, provide our customers with the level of service they have come to expect from BNSF as well as position ourselves for future growth opportunities," said BNSF President and CEO Katie Farmer. BNSF is part of Berkshire Hathaway. The lion's share of capital expenditures will go toward replacing and maintaining BNSF's core network and related assets, which BNSF hopes will result in fewer unscheduled service outages. About \$2.41 billion will go toward maintenance projects, including replacing and upgrading rail and track infrastructure like ballast and rail ties. The plans consist of nearly 11,000 miles of track surfacing or undercutting work and the replacement of 428 miles of rail and approximately 2.6 million rail ties, BNSF said.

14. AAR: Intermodal Strength Again Boosts Weekly Rail Traffic

Total U.S. rail traffic was 528,547 carloads and intermodal units for the week ending Jan. 16, 2021—up 5.8% compared with the same week last year, building upon intermodal's continued strength, the Association of American Railroads reported on Jan. 20, 2021. While total carloads of 232,550 dropped 2% vs. the same week in 2020, intermodal volume of 295,997 containers and trailers grew 12.8% vs. 2020. Canadian railroads reported 86,133 carloads for the week, increasing 23.9%, and 74,486 intermodal units, rising 21.3% vs. the same week in 2020. For the first two weeks of 2021, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 312,017 carloads and containers and trailers, up 11.3%.

15. Impairment charge flattens Union Pacific's Q4 profit gains

Union Pacific's net profit for the fourth quarter of 2020 was on par with the fourth quarter of 2019 amid a \$278 million, pretax, noncash impairment charge related to its change of plans for the Brazos yard in Texas. Union Pacific's (UP) fourth-quarter net income was \$1.4 billion, or \$2.05 per diluted share, compared with \$1.4 billion, or \$2.02 per diluted share, in the fourth quarter of 2019. Without the impairment charge, UP's fourth-quarter net profit would have been \$1.6 billion, or \$2.36 per diluted share. "These outstanding results demonstrate the true potential of our franchise as we leveraged all three profitability drivers simultaneously – volume growth, productivity and pricing – to produce record fourth-quarter results," said UP President and CEO Lance Fritz in a release.

16. For CSX, 4Q20 Revenue Down Slightly, 'Outlook Improving'

CSX, the second Class I railroad to report fourth-quarter 2020 financial results, earned \$760 million, or \$0.99 per share—virtually flat with the 2019 period's \$771 million, or \$0.99 per share. The earnings include a \$48 million charge, or \$0.05 per share after-tax, related to early retirement of debt. Fourth-quarter revenue of \$2.83 billion fell 2% from the prior year's \$2.89 billion. Intermodal growth, CSX said, "was more than offset by lower fuel surcharge revenue and coal declines." Expenses were down 7% year-over-year to \$1.61 billion, "driven by lower fuel expense and efficiency gains," the railroad noted. Quarterly operating income of \$1.22 billion increased 5% from \$1.15 billion for the same period last year. CSX's operating ratio came in at 57.0%, setting a company record, compared with 60.0% in 2019. The full-year operating ratio was 58.8%, exceeding initial guidance of 59.0%, despite lower economic activity and operating challenges brought about by COVID-19, the railroad reported.

17. Kansas City Southern eyes lower operating ratio

KCS' net profit for the fourth quarter of 2020 rose 30% over a year ago despite a 5% decline in revenue. Fourth-quarter 2020 net income was \$165.7 million, or \$1.80 per diluted share, compared with \$127.2 million, or \$1.30 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2019. Its operating ratio fell 5.4% to 62.2 in the fourth quarter compared to the same quarter in 2019. Kansas City Southern expects to execute the third phase of its version of precision scheduled railroading (PSR) this year in a bid to lower the company's operating ratio (OR) to the mid-50s by 2022. PSR is an operational tool that almost all of the Class I railroads deployed to streamline operations. Kansas City Southern (KCS) adopted PSR in 2019. Investors use OR to gauge the financial health of a company, with a lower OR implying improved health. OR is a company's operating expenses as a percentage of its revenue. The first phase of KCS' PSR was to increase network velocity in 2019, while the second phase sought to reduce train starts and lengthen trains. The third phase is to do a combination of both, according to Sameh Fahmy, executive vice president for PSR. These efforts, along with keeping a close eye on employee headcount and investing in capital infrastructure in 2021 and 2022, will enable KCS to work toward its goal of around 57.5% in 2021 and 55%-56% in 2022. KCS' OR for 2020 as reported was 61.9%.

18. CN's Milton hub wins conditional environmental approval

Canadian National Railway's proposed Milton Logistics Hub has passed another development hurdle. The Government of Canada has approved the project, subject to 325 conditions set out in an environmental assessment decision. The proposed intermodal hub includes a railway with more than 20 kilometres of track located in Milton, Ontario, approximately 50 kilometres west of Toronto on 400 acres of CN-owned land. It is planned to handle four intermodal trains per day. CN says one such train can transport the equivalent of 280 long-distance heavy trucks.

19. CN Ranked 10th on World's 100 Most Sustainable Corporations by Corporate Knights

CN is pleased to announce that it ranked 10th on the Corporate Knights 2021 Global 100 Index of the most sustainable

corporations in the world, earning a place among corporations delivering superior financial performance and leading the race to a zero emissions economy. CN is the only railway company included on the list this year. JJ Ruest, president and chief executive officer of CN said “Delivering responsibly is at the heart of how CN is building a sustainable future. Our company is proud of our nation building history, and today we continue to be deeply committed to moving customer goods safely and efficiently, being environmentally responsible, attracting and developing the best diverse talent, helping build safer, stronger communities, while adhering to the highest ethical standards.”

20. Solid Quarterly Performance on Volumes Drives Results

CN is proud to announce that its diluted earnings per share (EPS) grew 17 per cent, and 14 per cent on an adjusted basis in the fourth quarter, while free cash flow for the full-year 2020 reached a record of over C\$3.2 billion. JJ Ruest, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said “2020 was a year like no other and thanks to our colleagues, who are essential workers, we got through it together and kept the economy moving while setting impressive new volume records in key markets. Our operations remained very nimble in the fourth quarter as we right-sized to meet the increased demand while we maintained industry leading fuel efficiency. We continue to actively implement our long-term strategy, focusing on sustainable growth and deploying advanced technology to generate value for all of our stakeholders.” The **Fourth-quarter** 2020 highlights compared to fourth-quarter 2019 are: 1) Revenues of C\$3,656 million, an increase of C\$72 million or two per cent. 2) Diluted EPS of C\$1.43, an increase of 17 per cent, or 14 per cent on an adjusted basis. 3) Operating ratio of 61.4 per cent, a decrease of 4.6 points, or 3.8 points on an adjusted basis. 4) Operating income of C\$1,411 million, an increase of 16 per cent, or 13 per cent on an adjusted basis. The **Full-year** 2020 compared to full-year 2019 are: 1) Revenues of C\$13,819 million, a decrease of C\$1,098 million or seven per cent. 2) Diluted EPS of C\$5.00, a decrease of 14 per cent, and adjusted diluted EPS of C\$5.31, a decrease of eight per cent. 3) Operating ratio of 65.4 per cent, an increase of 2.9 points, and adjusted operating ratio of 61.9 per cent, an increase of 0.2 points. 4) Operating income of C\$4,777 million, a decrease of 15 per cent, and adjusted operating income of C\$5,263 million, a decrease of eight per cent. 5) Free cash flow was C\$3,227 million, an increase of C\$1,235 million. 6) Adjusted return on invested capital (adjusted ROIC) of 13.4 per cent, a decrease of 1.7 points.

21. CN announces new normal course issuer bid for share repurchase and 7% dividend increase

CN announced on January 26, 2021 that its Board of Directors has approved the repurchase of its shares under a new normal course issuer bid (Bid) and approved a seven per cent increase in the 2021 dividend on the Company's common shares outstanding. The Bid permits CN to purchase, for cancellation, over a 12-month period up to 14 million common shares, representing 2.36 per cent of the 593,951,550 common shares issued and outstanding of the Company not held by insiders on January 18, 2021. On that date, 711,653,063 CN common shares were issued and outstanding.

22. CP announces a proposed five-for-one share split and a new share repurchase program

Canadian Pacific Railway Limited on January 27, 2021 announced its Board of Directors will seek shareholder and regulatory approval for the implementation of a five-for-one share split of CP's issued and outstanding common shares. The share split is subject to the approval of shareholders at the Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on April 21, 2021 and to the requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange and New York Stock Exchange

23. Canadian Pacific Railway Limited declares dividend

The Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Railway Limited on January 26, 2021 declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.95 per share on the outstanding Common Shares. The dividend is payable on April 26, 2021 to holders of record at the close of business on March 26, 2021, and is an “eligible” dividend for purposes of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and any similar provincial/territorial legislation.

24. Canadian crude by rail exports surge in November

Canadian exports of crude oil by rail jumped 87 percent in November 2021 as oil production rose in Western Canada amid limited pipeline capacity for heavy crude. The Canada Energy Regulator says rail shipments of oil amounted to 173,000 barrels per day, up about 80,000 bpd from 92,800 barrels per day in October 2021. That's down from 302,300 barrels per day shipped by rail in November 2019. Crude-by-rail numbers have been volatile in the past year, with shipments rising to a record 412,000 bpd last February, then falling to an eight-year low of 39,000 bpd in July.

25. Norfolk Southern reports fourth-quarter and full-year 2020 results

Norfolk Southern Corporation on January 27, 2021 reported fourth-quarter and full-year 2020 financial results. Fourth-quarter net income was \$671 million, diluted earnings per share were \$2.64, and the operating ratio improved to an all-time quarterly record of 61.8%. Full-year net income was \$2.0 billion, diluted earnings per share were \$7.84 and the operating ratio was 69.3%. NSC highlights for 2021 the fourth quarter were as follows: 1) Railway operating revenues of \$2.6 billion decreased 4% compared with fourth-quarter 2019, driven by a 1% decline in volume, lower fuel surcharges, and differing business mix. 2) Railway operating expenses were \$1.6 billion, a decrease of 8%, or \$139 million, compared with the same period last year. Lower fuel costs, compensation and benefits, and purchased services were partially offset by lower gains on property sales. 3) Income from railway operations was \$1.0 billion, an increase of 2%, or \$22 million, year-over-year. The railway operating ratio was 61.8%, an all-time record.

26. CP demonstrates resiliency of model and team reports record fourth quarter and full year 2020 results

Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP) on January 27, 2021 announced its fourth-quarter results, including revenues of \$2.01 billion, a record-low operating ratio (“OR”) of 53.9 percent, diluted earnings per share (“EPS”) of \$5.95 and record adjusted diluted EPS of \$5.06. The Fourth-quarter 2020 highlights are: 1) Revenues decreased 3 percent to \$2.01 billion, from \$2.07 billion in Q4 2019; 2) OR improved by 310 basis points (bps) to 53.9 percent; 3) Diluted EPS improved 23 percent to \$5.95, from \$4.82 in Q4 2019, while adjusted diluted EPS rose 6 percent to record \$5.06, from \$4.77 in Q4 2019. “With a foundation of strong operational performance and a commitment to controlling what we can, the team continues to deliver,” said Keith Creel, CP President and CEO. “Despite the continued COVID-19 impacts, volumes steadily improved over the second half of 2020 and we saw revenue ton mile (“RTM”) growth in the fourth quarter.” The Full-year 2020 highlights are: 1) Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”)-reportable personal injuries declined 22 percent to a record-low 1.11 from 1.42 in 2019, and CP’s FRA-reportable train accident frequency decreased 9 percent versus 2019 to a record-low 0.96 from 1.06; 2) Revenues decreased 1 percent to \$7.71 billion, from \$7.79 billion in 2019; 3) OR improved to a record-low 57.1 percent, a 280 bps improvement year over year; 4) Diluted EPS increased 3 percent to a record \$17.97 from \$17.52, while adjusted diluted EPS rose 7.5 percent to a record \$17.67, from \$16.44 in 2019

27. CP announces a proposed five-for-one share split and a new share repurchase program

Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP) today announced its Board of Directors will seek shareholder and regulatory approval for the implementation of a five-for-one share split of CP’s issued and outstanding common shares. The share split is subject to the approval of shareholders at the Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on April 21, 2021 and to the requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange and New York Stock Exchange.

28. Railway carloadings, November 2020

In November 2020, the Canadian railway industry appeared to have recovered strongly from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic recorded earlier in the year. Canadian railways carried 32.1 million tonnes of freight during the month, up 6.0% compared with November 2019. This was the first increase since March 2020, following seven straight months of year-over-year declines. The overall tonnage was higher than normal levels for this time of year, well above the 10-year average for this month and just below the peak reached in November 2018. However, with a labour disruption affecting Canadian rail transport during November 2019, it is not possible to attribute all of this month’s year-over-year growth to a post-pandemic recovery. During the first 11 months of 2020, the volume of goods moved by rail totalled 332.8 million tonnes, down 5.9% compared with the same period in 2019. This was the lowest cumulative total for the January-to-November period in four years.

29. AAR: Intermodal Lifts Total Traffic as Carloads Play Catch-up

An intermodal gain approaching a whopping 20% coupled to a modest decrease in carload traffic, compared to 2020, drove a rail freight traffic increase of nearly 10% for Week 3 of 2021, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported on Jan. 27, 2021. Total U.S. rail traffic for the week ending Jan. 23, 2021 rose 9% to 529,030 carloads and intermodal units vs. the same week last year, the AAR reported. While intermodal gains—up 17.8% to 298,051 units—accounted for the lift, carloads dropped just 0.7% to 230,979, compared with the 2020 period. Canadian railroads reported 82,307 carloads for the week, a 1.6% increase, and 73,769 intermodal units, a 7.2% increase compared with the same week in 2020. For the first three weeks of 2021, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 468,093 carloads, containers and trailers, rising 8.8%.

30. Norfolk Southern eyes longer, heavier trains as it pursues PSR

Norfolk Southern has begun to focus more on lengthening trains and increasing train weights as a way to keep costs down and increase network productivity, according to executives on the company’s 2020 fourth-quarter earnings call on January 27, 2021. “Traffic coming back is our challenge and opportunity,” Norfolk Southern (NS) Chief Operating Officer Cindy Sanborn told investors and analysts on the call. NS’ first steps in its deployment of precision scheduled railroading (PSR), an operating tool that seeks to streamline operations, were aimed at modifying NS’ infrastructure and removing excess assets. NS rationalized six hump yards and shed locomotives, and it redesigned its southern operations around Atlanta ahead of the 2020 peak season to improve network flow. Train lengths and weights increased by 10% over the fourth quarter of 2019, while fuel efficiency rose 3%.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. CBSA reports sharp rise in truck arrivals

The number of truck drivers entering the country shot up 55% during the week of Dec. 21-27, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) said on December 30, 2020. It said 74,343 truckers arrived that week, up from 48,008 in the comparable period last year. "This increase can be attributed to the fact that our statistics reporting period for 2020 included four days before Christmas Day, whereas our reporting period for 2019 included only two," the agency said.

2. Bouncing back

Few sectors of the economy bounced back from the economic crash caused by Covid-19 faster than trucking. And if new equipment orders are any indication, truckers are expecting the market to remain strong well into 2021. Trailer orders from U.S. and Canadian fleets reached their lowest point in the modern era in April 2020, at just 300 units, according to data from industry analyst FTR. However, they shot up to 54,200 units in October 2020, marking the third-best month ever, according to ACT Research. Trailer orders are seen as a leading indicator of trucking market conditions. "Increases in both freight volumes and rates, along with capacity challenges, have influenced fleets to aggressively enter the market," said Frank Maly, director of commercial vehicle transportation analysis with ACT Research.

3. TIP Fleet Services Canada officially rolling

Train Trailer Rentals and Trailer Wizards have officially merged, creating a combined entity known as TIP Fleet Services Canada. Based in Mississauga, Ontario, the division operates under a global TIP Trailer Services umbrella that offers trailer leasing, rentals, maintenance and repairs across Europe and Canada.

4. Bison sold to James Richardson & Sons

James Richardson & Sons, Limited (JRSL) has acquired Bison Transport Inc. and its affiliates. As of January 1, 2021, JRSL acquired 100 percent of the issued and outstanding shares of Bison Transport Inc. and its affiliated companies (Bison) from Wescan Capital Inc., a privately owned holding company of the Jessiman family which founded Bison in 1969. One of Canada's largest trucking companies changes hands in 'made in Manitoba' transaction

5. Pride Group orders more than 6,000 Workhorse electric vehicles

Pride Group Enterprises has placed an order for 6,320 electric C-Series delivery vehicles from Workhorse Group, representing the manufacturer's largest single order in its history. The C-1000 and C-650 models will further Pride's move into the electric vehicle space, and add last mile delivery vehicles to its offerings in the U.S. and Canada. Initial deliveries are to begin in July 2021 and will continue through 2026, Workhorse announced.

6. Amazon continues to expand its transportation fleet with purchased aircraft

On January 5, 2021, Amazon announced its first-ever purchase of eleven Boeing 767-300 aircraft, expanding its fleet to continue to serve customers. The purchases include seven aircraft from Delta and four aircraft from WestJet, which will join the network by 2022. Amazon Air's fleet expansion comes at a time when customers are relying on fast, free shipping more than ever.

7. Ontario Expanding Truck Rest Areas Across the Province

The Ontario government is improving 14 existing truck rest areas, building

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. CBSA reports sharp rise in truck arrivals, December 31, 2020, www.insidelogistics.com
2. Bouncing back, January 1, 2021, www.insidelogistics.com
3. TIP Fleet Services Canada officially rolling, January 4, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
4. Bison sold to James Richardson & Sons, January 6, 2021, www.insidelogistics.com
5. Pride Group orders more than 6,000 Workhorse electric vehicles, January 5, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
6. Amazon continues to expand its transportation fleet with purchased aircraft, January 5, 2021, www.ajot.com
7. Ontario Expanding Truck Rest Areas Across the Province, January 7, 2021, www.mto.gov.on.ca
8. MTO Continues Investments into Provincial Truck Parking, January 7, 2021, www.ontruck.ca
9. Canada Cartage expands Ottawa presence, eyes Final Mile growth, January 7, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
10. Loblaw site closure hits 150 truck drivers, January 7, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
11. October 2020 North American Transborder Freight Up 6% from September 2020, January 7, 2021, www.bts.gov
12. UPS expects surge in holiday returns traffic, January 7, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
13. Canada Cartage expands Ottawa presence, eyes Final Mile growth, January 7, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
14. Ayr invests in new Winnipeg facility, January 8, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
15. December LTL volumes 'remain healthy', January 11, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
16. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Automated Vehicles Comprehensive Plan, January 11, 2021, www.dot.gov
17. Canada Cartage acquires Stalco, marks second deal of 2021, January 11, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
18. Trucking remains essential as Ontario tightens Covid-19 lockdown, January 12, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
19. Leading indicator of cross-border traveller volume, December 2020, December 13, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca
20. November 2020 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell Slightly, January 13, 2021, www.bts.gov
21. Ontario Flows Gas Tax Funding to Municipalities, January 14, 2021, www.mto.gov.on.ca
22. GM plans to make electric last-mile delivery vans in Ontario, January 17, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
23. Trucking conditions pull back from record high, January 15, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com
24. Urban mobility performance indicators, third quarter 2020, January 18, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca
25. Interest in LTL industry gains momentum,

10 new rest areas and adding 178 additional truck parking spaces at four existing ONroute travel plazas. This is part of the province's five-year plan to keep Ontario's roads and highways among the safest in North America and maintain the safe movement of essential goods.

8. MTO Continues Investments into Provincial Truck Parking

The Ontario government announced on January 7, 2021 that it will continue to support and invest in the trucking industry by continuing to make improvements to trucking parking across the province. "Truck drivers spend long hours moving goods of every type and description on our roadways and we need to ensure they have a modern, safe and welcoming place to stop and rest," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "During the pandemic, our carriers and drivers have been going above and beyond to get essential goods to market and we truly appreciate their effort, especially during this busy holiday season."

9. Canada Cartage expands Ottawa presence, eyes Final Mile growth

Canada Cartage has expanded by 50 trucks through its acquisition of City Transfer. But the deal announced this week also represents just the latest step in a strategy to further expand its presence in and around the nation's capital. The carrier first entered the Ottawa market as recently as 2017, acquiring Fred Guy's specialized flatdeck division and opening a new cross-dock terminal. "We didn't have a terminal and didn't have a lot of presence," says Canada Cartage chief administrative officer David Zavitz, referring to services available prior to that year.

10. Loblaw site closure hits 150 truck drivers

Some 150 unionized truck drivers will be out of work soon following a decision by Loblaw to close its transportation site in Cambridge. The union representing the drivers quickly criticized the move, accusing the company of putting profits over people.

11. October 2020 North American Transborder Freight Up 6% from September 2020

Transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries (Canada and Mexico) in October 2020 was \$102.1 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 5.8% compared to September 2020 and down 4.7% compared to October 2019. U.S.-Canada trade was up 1.1 percent in October 2020 compared to September 2020. U.S.-Canada (both directions) trade by mode were: Truck - \$29.0 b.; Rail - \$7.6 b.; Pipeline - \$4.0 b.; Air - \$2.9 b.; and Vessel - \$1.5. U.S.- Canada trade was \$48,393 million down 10.0 percent in October 2020 compared to \$53,760 in October 2019.

12. UPS expects surge in holiday returns traffic

UPS Inc. said on January 7, 2021 that it expects returns traffic to rise 23% by week's end compared to the highest-volume returns period during the 2019 peak-season cycle, a legacy of an unprecedented peak season and a reflection of the abundance of returns options available to merchants and consumers. The Atlanta-based company said it expects to handle 8.75 million returns parcels this week. Strikingly, returns volumes are expected to be evenly distributed throughout the week instead of concentrated on one or two days, UPS said. As a result, the company expects 1.75 million returns will have entered its system each weekday through the close of business on January 8, 2021. Returns traffic is expected to remain elevated into next week, UPS said.

13. Canada Cartage expands Ottawa presence, eyes Final Mile growth

Canada Cartage has expanded by 50 trucks through its acquisition of City Transfer. But the deal announced this week also represents just the latest step in a strategy to further expand its presence in and around the nation's capital. The carrier first entered the Ottawa market as recently as 2017, acquiring Fred Guy's specialized flatdeck division and opening a new cross-dock terminal. "We didn't have a terminal and didn't have a lot of presence," says Canada Cartage chief administrative officer David Zavitz, referring to services available prior to that year.

14. Ayr invests in new Winnipeg facility

Ayr Motor Express plans to open a new, company-owned facility in Winnipeg, Man., by the end of this year. With several terminals and yards in Canada, Ayr's current facility in Winnipeg has been a leased space for the past 25 years. As Seth Keenan, director of operations, explained to *Today's Trucking*, investing in its own facility will add flexibility and room for the company to grow.

15. December LTL volumes 'remain healthy'

Less-than-truckload volumes appeared to remain elevated during December 2020, according to Amit Mehrotra, managing director and head of transportation and shipping research at Deutsche Bank. The December data indicates the

January 20, 2021, www.americanshipper.com

26. Red Arts Capital acquires Canadian 3PL Radius Logistics, January 21, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

27. Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2020, January 22, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca

28. TFI to acquire UPS Freight for \$800M, January 25, 2021, www.freightwaves.com

29. UPS Freight sold to Canada's TFI for \$800 million, January 25, 2021, www.joc.com

30. Ontario Launches Southwestern Ontario Transportation Task Force, January 26, 2021, www.mto.gov.on.ca

31. Why M&A activity should heat up this year, January 26, 2021, www.todaystrucking.com

32. Urban transit stalls in November, January 28, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca

33. North American Transborder Freight down 6.1% in November 2020 from October, January 28, 2021, www.bts.gov

34. QSL buys Empire Stevedoring, January 29, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

sequential monthly trends were in line with “typical seasonality,” however off of a higher base. The firm’s Sunday January 10, 2021 report to clients showed activity at Old Dominion Freight Line terminals was down 10.1% from November 2020 to December 2020, in line with the carrier’s historical 9.8% sequential decline in shipments. “Our geofencing dataset shows typical seasonality in December, but this is off very solid levels in recent months. And we also believe pricing dynamics remain very strong,” Mehrotra said in the note.

16. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Automated Vehicles Comprehensive Plan

The U.S. Department of Transportation (the Department) on January 11, 2021 released the Automated Vehicles Comprehensive Plan (AVCP). The AVCP lays out the Department’s robust multimodal strategy to promote collaboration and transparency, modernize the regulatory environment, and prepare the transportation system for the safe integration of Automated Driving Systems (ADS). The AVCP prioritizes safety while preparing for the future of transportation. Secretary Elaine L. Chao said “This comprehensive plan lays out a vision for the safe integration of automated vehicles into America’s transportation system while ensuring that legitimate concerns about safety, security, and privacy are addressed.”

17. Canada Cartage acquires Stalco, marks second deal of 2021

Just days into a new year, Canada Cartage is announcing its second acquisition for 2021 – purchasing Toronto-based Stalco. The third-party logistics company specializes in e-commerce fulfillment and distribution, with a focus on natural health products, nutraceuticals, and health and beauty products. While Canada Cartage will maintain the Stalco brand, it will operate under the fleet’s CCLS fulfillment and distribution division. All staff and members of the management team are staying with the company. “They’re a complementary business because we both do fulfillment and distribution that’s heavily focused on the natural health segment,” says Canada Cartage chief administrative officer David Zavitz. “We can offer them the Canadian footprint they need.”

18. Trucking remains essential as Ontario tightens Covid-19 lockdown

Trucking activities will continue as an essential service in Ontario as the province introduces new Covid-19 lockdown measures effective at 12:01 am on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021. “Trucking activities remain an essential service, and Ontario is committed to supporting the trucking industry,” said Ontario Ministry of Transportation senior issues advisor Michael Fenn, responding to questions from *Today’s Trucking*. New stay-at-home orders will require residents to remain at home except for essential activities such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing healthcare services, to exercise, or conduct essential work.

19. Leading indicator of cross-border traveller volume, December 2020

In December 2020, the number of American residents and returning Canadians crossing the border from the United States in automobiles remained low, as restrictions on non-essential travel continued throughout the month. US travellers made 61,000 car trips to Canada through land ports with electronic sensors, down 93.8% compared with December 2019. Meanwhile, 146,000 Canadians returned from the United States through these ports in automobiles in December 2020, down 92.4% from the same month a year earlier.

20. November 2020 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell Slightly

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, fell 0.1% in November 2020 from October 2020, falling slightly after two consecutive monthly increases, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ (BTS). From November 2019 to November 2020 the index fell 3.8% compared to a decline of 0.9% from November 2018 to November 2019 and a rise of 5.8% from November 2017 to November 2018.

21. Ontario Flows Gas Tax Funding to Municipalities

On January 14, 2021, Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, announced that Ontario is providing \$375 million through the Gas Tax program to help 109 municipalities across the province operate and expand public transit. The province will flow the funding as soon as possible in 2021.

22. GM plans to make electric last-mile delivery vans in Ontario

GM and Unifor announced a deal to transform the CAMI plant in Ingersoll, Ont., into a hub for commercial electric vehicle manufacturing. FedEx Express is slated to be the first customer of the BrightDrop EV600, and will begin receiving their vehicles later this year. A tentative deal that could see General Motors Canada pour a billion dollars into Ontario’s beleaguered automotive sector could bring the province one step closer to modernizing its economy and keeping local production afloat, according to a prominent Canadian manufacturing association.

23. Trucking conditions pull back from record high

Trucking conditions deteriorated in November from a record high, according to the latest FTR Trucking Conditions Index (TCI). The November reading of 10.26 remains strong, as rising freight rates feed robust trucking conditions, FTR reported, but it expects the index to ease into single digit positive territory through 2021, reflecting a healthy and stable truck freight market.

24. Urban mobility performance indicators, third quarter 2020

Transport Canada's travel time index (TTI)—which reflects 21 key trade corridors in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montréal and Halifax—is now available on the Transportation Data and Information Hub. The TTI will be updated on a quarterly basis.

25. Interest in LTL industry gains momentum

The less-than-truckload carriers got another bull in their camp on January 21, 2021 when UBS freight transportation analyst Tom Wadewitz initiated coverage on the sector with a favorable outlook. In a report to clients, Wadewitz launched coverage of Old Dominion Freight Line and XPO Logistics with “buy” ratings and Saia with a “neutral” rating. He pointed to the rebounding industrial activity as supportive of his forecast for the tonnage growth of 5% in 2021 along with price increases of 4% to 5%. The combination “should translate to strong margin expansion and growth.” He expects earnings to increase 30% for Old Dominion and Saia, with earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization up by a similar amount at XPO. His earnings per share estimates are approximately 5% higher than the consensus in 2021 and 2022 for Old Dominion and Saia. The Old Dominion forecast for next year is 8% above the Street. The XPO EBITDA outlook is only slightly ahead of current consensus expectations.

26. Red Arts Capital acquires Canadian 3PL Radius Logistics

Red Arts Capital announced on January 21, 2021 the acquisition of Vancouver, British Columbia-based third-party logistics provider Radius Logistics. Radius provides integrated transportation, warehousing and distribution services throughout North America. The full-service 3PL’s lineup includes ground, air and ocean transportation options as well as domestic and international parcel shipping through Radius Courier.

27. Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2020

The number of travellers to Canada from both the United States and overseas countries was down 92.9% in November, compared with November 2019. Similarly, the number of Canadian residents returning from abroad fell sharply (-92.1%) year over year. In November, 73,200 Canadian residents returned home from travel overseas, up slightly from October 2020, but down 91.3% compared with November 2019.

28. TFI to acquire UPS Freight for \$800M

TFI International has agreed to acquire UPS Freight for about \$800 million, the Canadian trucking and logistics company and UPS said on January 25, 2021, in a deal that will transform it into a North American less-than-truckload juggernaut. The deal, expected to close in the second quarter, will represent TFI’s largest acquisition to date in sheer dollars, dwarfing the \$558 million it spent to buy CFI from XPO in 2016. It will bring TFI a comprehensive U.S. LTL network and a dedicated truckload business, which brought in over \$3 billion in revenue in 2019. “We’re excited by this very attractive opportunity to extend our long-standing record of successful growth through acquisition, which will vault TFI International to one of the largest North American LTL carriers,” TFI CEO Alain Bedard said in a statement.

29. UPS Freight sold to Canada’s TFI for \$800 million

The sale of its \$3.1 billion less-than-truckload (LTL) subsidiary narrows UPS’s focus and gives TFI International a much bigger presence in the North American LTL market, from Canada to Mexico.

30. Ontario Launches Southwestern Ontario Transportation Task Force

On January 26, 2021, Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, announced a locally based transportation task force in southwestern Ontario. The Southwest Task Force will focus on improving connections between transportation modes such as rail, bus, and local transit services across the region and will ensure that transportation planning is informed by local needs and considerations. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation said “We’re working to address transportation needs in regions across Ontario and feedback from leaders who live and work in the local community will be essential. The Southwest Task Force will ensure transportation plans for the southwest reflect the diverse voices within the community and help determine the most important transportation needs in the region.”

31. Why M&A activity should heat up this year

Owners of trucking and logistics companies could fetch a premium for their businesses in 2021, thanks to pent-up buyer demand and an increase in interest from non-traditional buyers. Spencer Tenney, president and CEO of The Tenney Group, gave an overview of the M&A landscape during a Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) webinar Jan. 26, 2021. He predicted a 20% uptick in overall transactions (by value) in 2021, with valuations up 10% for companies with US\$50 million or more in revenue. Valuations are expected to remain flat for companies below that threshold. He said “I think we’re going to see in the next six to nine months, a tremendous uptick in deal announcements that’s really going to reflect 12 to 15 months squeezed into that.”

32. Urban transit stalls in November

Recovery in urban public transit slowed for the second month in a row, following steady gains during the summer. Ridership in November 2020 was 64.2% or 105.8 million rides below November 2019 levels. This was the eighth consecutive month of steep year-over-year decline, each less severe, signalling a slow recovery until an abrupt stop in October 2020. There were 59.0 million passenger trips on Canada's public transit systems in November 2020, a 1.0%

decline from October 2020. While other provinces paused in November, total passenger trips fell by almost 3% in the West. This drop appears to have coincided with stricter COVID-related restrictions in response to an upsurge of the virus.

33. North American Transborder Freight down 6.1% in November 2020 from October

Total Transborder freight between US-Canada and Mexico was \$95.9 billion by all modes of transportation down 6.1% compared to October 2020 and down 3.2% compared to November 2019. Most-used mode: Trucks moved \$62.7 billion of freight, down 7.5% compared to October 2020, up 0.1% compared to November 2019. Second most-used mode: Railways moved \$13.9 billion of freight, down 3.7% compared to October 2020, down 0.8% compared to November 2019. Total U.S.-Canada (both directions) trade by mode was as follows: Truck: \$27.4b.; Rail: \$7.2 b.; Pipeline: \$4.1 b.; Air: \$3.0 b.; and Vessel: \$1.5 b.

34. QSL buys Empire Stevedoring

QSL has bought Empire Stevedoring Co. Ltd. Based in Montreal. Empire specializes in port terminal operation, stevedoring, marine services and transport. The deal will allow Quebec-headquartered QSL to increase its geographic footprint in the Canadian and U.S. markets. QSL's president and CEO, Robert Bellisle said "In addition to increasing our presence in the U.S., this transaction, subject to regulatory approvals, will allow QSL to become the only port terminal operator and stevedore to have such a significant presence in both Port of Quebec and Port of Montreal."

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. What will happen to US-Mexico freight in 2021?

The 2021 freight market could be one of the most important in years as the transportation and trade community attempt to recover from the impact of COVID-19. Cross-border shippers, carriers and third-party logistics providers also will have to navigate new trade policies after President-elect Joe Biden takes office and perhaps alters international trade relations with countries like Mexico and China.

2. U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Over \$41 Million in Awards for Innovative Technologies to Improve Transportation Mobility and Access for Persons with Disabilities

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao announced on January 6, 2021 that the Trump Administration will award more than \$41 million to 15 teams in 15 states through two Department of Transportation design challenges to improve transportation access to persons with disabilities and individuals with mobility challenges. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao said "These exciting projects support the development of new innovative, inclusive, and affordable transportation technologies that address mobility and access challenges."

3. National tourism indicators, third quarter 2020

Tourism spending in Canada rose during the 2020 third quarter but remained less than half (-52.9%) its level in the fourth quarter of 2019. The 56.4% increase partially offset the large declines in the first (-14.0%) and second (-65.0%) quarters. Tourism gross domestic product (GDP) and jobs attributable to tourism were also up from the second quarter but remained well below pre-pandemic levels. All tourism spending categories posted double-digit growth or greater from the

historic lows of the second quarter. Despite more than doubling (+131.7%), passenger air transport remained the hardest hit spending category, with levels 89.9% lower than in the fourth quarter of 2019. Tourism spending by international visitors to Canada rose 28.2% in the third quarter, following a second quarter (-97.1%) devastated by travel restrictions. Despite the large quarterly growth, spending was down 97.0% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

4. Bradbury Acting U.S. SECDOT

Following Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao's resignation, effective Jan. 11, 2021, Steven G. Bradbury is Acting Secretary of Transportation in accordance with the Department's established order of succession. Bradbury now leads

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. What will happen to US-Mexico freight in 2021?, January 6, 2021, www.americanshipper.com
2. U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Over \$41 Million in Awards for Innovative Technologies to Improve Transportation Mobility and Access for Persons with Disabilities, January 6, 2021, www.dot.gov
3. National tourism indicators, third quarter 2020, January 8, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. Bradbury Acting U.S. SECDOT, January 13, 2021, www.railwayage.com
5. Bridgestone Canada opens Ontario distribution centre, January 13, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
6. Deutsche Post DHL posts record 2020 bottom-line results, January 13, 2021, www.freightwaves.com
7. LNG cargo prices rising faster than bitcoin, January 13, 2021, www.ajot.com
8. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Draft Strategic Plan on Accessible Transportation, January 15, 2021, www.dot.gov
9. Entrepreneurs upbeat about 2021, January 18, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
10. Australia unlikely to fully reopen borders in 2021 as virus cases slide, January 18, 2021, www.iata.org
11. Amazon opening five facilities in Quebec, January 21, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca
12. Ontario Reminds Public to Stay Home and Travel Only When Necessary, January 21, 2021, www.mto.gov.on.ca
13. Statement from the U.S. Department of Transportation on President Joseph R. Biden's Made-In-America Executive Order, January 25, 2021, www.dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) activities and more than 55,000 employees, as well as its \$87 billion budget. Since Sept. 10, 2019, he has performed the functions and duties of the Office of Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Bradbury was sworn in as the 23rd General Counsel of the USDOT on Nov. 28, 2017, giving him the authority to resolve all legal questions concerning the Department's policies and programs, and oversight of Department lawyers.

5. Bridgestone Canada opens Ontario distribution centre

The Ancaster, Ontario, location puts the distribution centre close to major Eastern Canada markets. Bridgestone Canada, Inc. has opened a new distribution centre in Ancaster, Ontario. With a maximum storage capacity of 570,000 tires, the new 450,000-square-foot warehouse will support customers in Eastern Canada. It will employ about 50 people and will be operated by a third-party logistics supplier. Bridgestone says its investment of close to \$65 million will allow it to reduce transportation costs and shorten time-to-market for its products. Ancaster is in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe region, and is close to Hamilton, Ontario and the 403 highway.

6. Deutsche Post DHL posts record 2020 bottom-line results

Deutsche Post DHL said on January 13, 2021 that 2020 operating profits hit record levels and significantly surpassed its original guidance for the year, as demand for the company's services surged due to the impact of the novel coronavirus on global ordering behavior and a positive environment for freight services in general. Operating profit, reported as earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT), came in at \$5.88 billion, exceeding the original EBIT estimates of \$4.9 billion to \$5.3 billion, DPDHL said in releasing preliminary full-year results. Official 2020 results will be published March 9, but the numbers will be almost identical to those reported on January 13, 2021.

7. LNG cargo prices rising faster than bitcoin

After years building out export capacity and hiring traders, producers of liquefied natural gas and commodity trading houses are seizing on an unprecedented surge in the price of the fuel. The combination of a severe cold snap in Asia, supply outages and maritime congestion has propelled spot prices for LNG to previously unforeseen heights. The North Asian price benchmark has now risen 18-fold in less than nine months, outperforming other commodities—even Bitcoin. Winners in this rally include Exxon Mobil Corp., which sold a cargo last week for a record \$130 million to Japan, and Total SE, which secured \$126 million on January 12, 2021 in a sale to trading company Trafigura Group. Other producers, such as Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Houston-based Cheniere Energy Inc., are also taking the opportunity to offload consignments that aren't tied to long-term supply contracts. Owners of LNG tankers, meanwhile, are reaping record charter rates.

8. U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Draft Strategic Plan on Accessible Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in the second week of January 2021 published a draft of its first Strategic Plan on Accessible Transportation (Accessibility Strategic Plan), a noteworthy step in making America's transportation system more accessible for all travelers. The draft Accessibility Strategic Plan is available for public review and comment, and will be announced this month in the Federal Register.

9. Entrepreneurs upbeat about 2021

A growing number of Canadian entrepreneurs say they plan to invest more in 2021 than they did last year as the vaccine rollout, improving cash flow and a quick rebound in some sectors buoys optimism for the year ahead. The findings of the Business Development Bank of Canada's quarterly survey of 1,000 entrepreneurs released in a new report on January 18, 2021 are the most upbeat since the pandemic began. Pierre Cleroux, chief economist of the Montreal-based bank, says the more positive results bode well for the country's economic recovery. He says investment intentions are improving, with technology emerging as the biggest focus of spending.

10. Australia unlikely to fully reopen borders in 2021 as virus cases slide

Australia may not fully reopen its international borders this year even if most of the population is vaccinated against coronavirus, the head of its health department said on January 18, 2021 as the country recorded zero local COVID-19 cases. Australian authorities are also looking at potential adverse effects of the Pfizer vaccine after Norway reported a small number of deaths in old people who received the shot.

11. Amazon opening five facilities in Quebec

Amazon is opening two new sortation centres and its first three delivery stations in Montreal, Quebec on January 21, 2021. A 520,000 square foot facility in Coteau-du-Lac, a suburb just west of Montreal, will create at least 500 jobs. It will be the company's largest sortation centre in the province and will open this year. Amazon's first sortation centre in Quebec opened in Longueuil, on Montreal's south shore, in 2020, just in time for the holiday season. The 200,000 square foot facility also employs 500. It opened its first operations facility in Quebec in July 2020, a fulfillment centre in Lachine, near Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, creating 300 full-time jobs.

12. Ontario Reminds Public to Stay Home and Travel Only When Necessary

The Ontario government is working with transportation agencies and providers to support the Stay-At-Home Order and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Using tools like provincial network signs and transit communications systems, the

province is reminding drivers and transit passengers, such as GO Transit, Ontario Northland, intercommunity buses and ferries, to only leave home when necessary to pick up essential items, attend a medical appointment, exercise or go to work if you can't work remotely.

13. Statement from the U.S. Department of Transportation on President Joseph R. Biden's Made-In-America Executive Order

The Department of Transportation is a strong supporter of Buy American and we applaud President Biden for taking bold action on January 25, 2021 to ensure our future is made in America -- and by American workers. The crises we face have created an opportunity to build back our economy better than before, and President Biden's executive order will empower us to be a central force in our country's recovery. We look forward to implementing President Biden's Made in America executive order that will ensure transportation-related capital purchases, equipment, and supplies are acquired when available.