

Transportation Information Update*

"This attached Transportation Information Update was prepared by Joseph Monteiro and Gerald Robertson for the Canadian Transportation Research Forum and distributed to CILTNA's members with permission"

Editor: Joseph Monteiro*

March 2023, 223

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson*

AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. Porter developing modern passenger terminal at convenient Montréal Saint-Hubert Airport and launching new air

Porter Aviation Holdings Inc. is entering a partnership with Montréal Saint-Hubert Airport to develop a new terminal capable of serving over 4 million passengers annually. Construction will commence in mid-2023, with a scheduled completion by late 2024, providing a second airport for Porter Airlines to serve the Montréal market.

2. Biden Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1B in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Funding Awarded to Meet Surging Air Travel Demand

With air traffic poised to reach or beat pre-pandemic levels this year, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding nearly \$1 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 99 airports of all shapes and sizes across the country. The funding helps meet the growing demand for air travel and invests in key areas to help get travelers in and out of airports more quickly and improve the passenger experience by investing in new baggage systems, larger security checkpoints and improved ground transportation. Other projects increase terminal sustainability and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Several grants will address the needs of aging air traffic control towers. The investments will go to airports in 47 states and two territories.

3. Toronto Pearson International Airport to limit flights during peak travel times

Toronto Pearson International Airport is set to limit the number of flights that can land and takeoff at peak travel times in an effort to improve delays. In a statement sent to Global News, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), which operates Pearson, said the move was part of a series of measures ahead of the March break and summer travel season. "These include hard limits on the number of commercial flights that can arrive or depart in any given hour along with limits on business/general aviation flights," a spokesperson said in a statement. "In addition, measures have been applied to cap the number of passengers that can arrive internationally, or depart to the United States through each terminal, in a given hour," the statement said. In a follow-up statement, the airport said it was working to "flatten" daily peaks.

4. Air Canada Comments on Toronto-Pearson

Air Canada on February 28, 2023 issued the following statement in response to reports about the Greater Toronto Airport Authority imposing limits on carrier operations at Toronto-Pearson airport. Air Canada was first advised of the GTAA's plans in August 2022, and so it designed its 2023 winter schedule with these limitations taken into account and anticipates no significant changes to its schedule for the March Break travel period. It subsequently received information about GTAA's plans for summer 2023 and similarly designed this coming summer's schedule to meet those parameters. It is Air

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Porter developing modern passenger terminal at convenient Montréal Saint-Hubert Airport and launching new air, February 27, 2023, www.flyporter.com
2. Biden Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1B in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Funding Awarded to Meet Surging Air Travel Demand, February 27, 2023, www.dot.gov
3. Toronto Pearson International Airport to limit flights during peak travel times, February 28, 2023, www.globalnews.ca
4. Air Canada Comments on Toronto-Pearson, February 28, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
5. The Government of Canada is investing in storage capacity at the Gander International Airport in Newfoundland and Labrador to strengthen Canada's supply chains, March 1, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
6. Air Canada Named One of Montreal's Top Employers for the 10th Consecutive Year, March 1, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
7. Global Airline Community Challenges Legality of Mandatory Flight Reductions at Schiphol Airport, March 3, 2023, www.iata.org
8. Lufthansa Cargo achieves record result for the third time in a row, March 3, 2023, www.ajot.com
9. Lufthansa Cargo bullish on 2023 despite Ukraine war, economic slowdown, March 6, 2023, www.freithwaves.com
10. WestJet brings more seats and increased flight frequencies to summer schedule, March 6, 2023, www.westjet.ca
11. IATA Releases 2022 Airline Safety Performance, March 7, 2023, www.iata.org
12. JetBlue-Spirit air deal faces DOJ antitrust suit this week, March 6, 2023, www.ajot.com
13. USDOT statement on the justice department's lawsuit to block proposed Jetblue-spirit merger, March 7, 2023, www.dot.gov
14. Air Cargo Makes a Soft Start to 2023, March 7, 2023, www.iata.org
15. Passenger Demand Stays Strong in January, March 8, 2023, www.iata.org
16. Air Canada and CAE Name Eight Recipients of the 2023 Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship for Aspiring Women in Aviation, March 8, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
17. WestJet Group provides update about Sunwing transaction, March 10, 2023, www.westjet.ca
18. Secretary Buttigieg Urges Congress to Pass

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

Canada's policy to work with its industry partners to meet the requirements of airports and other third parties to drive operational improvements and support the smooth running of Canada's air transport system. This includes, as in this case, adapting its schedule as required to ensure operational stability, and is a normal process.

5. The Government of Canada is investing in storage capacity at the Gander International Airport in Newfoundland and Labrador to strengthen Canada's supply chains

On March 1, 2023, the Minister of Rural Economic Development, the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, and the Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance, the Honourable Randy Boissonnault, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced an investment of up to \$4.6 million under the National Trade Corridors Fund for the construction of a specialized seafood storage facility project at the Gander International Airport. This close to \$9.7 million total project will allow the Gander International Airport Authority Inc. to build a seafood storage facility that will be equipped with water treatment systems, sea water storage tanks, cold/chilled storage, and blast freezers. It will be able to store up to 75 tonnes of fresh or live seafood and will allow for rapid offloading of delivered cargo from shippers and producers. This investment will have significant economic benefits for the region and will address supply chain bottlenecks, speed up the movement of goods, and facilitate air shipments to international markets.

6. Air Canada Named One of Montreal's Top Employers for the 10th Consecutive Year

Air Canada on March 1, 2023 was recognized as one of "Montreal's Top Employers" for 2023 in Mediacorp Canada's annual employer survey, marking the 10th consecutive year that the airline has received this award. With more than 10,000 employees in Montreal and up to 1,094 weekly flights at its Montreal-Trudeau global hub connecting Montreal to 89 destinations across Canada and internationally, Air Canada is a significant contributor to Montreal's economic success. Air Canada is Canada's largest private sector company offering bilingual services across Canada and is proud to offer services in both Official Languages, demonstrating true leadership among major Canadian companies in promoting bilingualism.

7. Global Airline Community Challenges Legality of Mandatory Flight Reductions at Schiphol Airport

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and airlines are mounting a legal challenge to the Dutch government's sudden decision to reduce Schiphol airport's capacity. Schiphol Airport is already restricted to 500,000 flights annually. The government's decree would renege on that agreement, reducing Schiphol connectivity to 460,000 flights from November 2023. IATA and the global airline community believe that this political decision by the Dutch government contravenes EU Regulation 598/2014 on noise-related operating restrictions at EU airports. It also disregards the Chicago Convention, a binding international agreement to which the Netherlands is a

signatory. Annex 16 of the Convention contains provisions for The Balanced Approach to Aircraft Noise Management which States are obligated to follow when taking measures to managing the noise impacts of aviation.

8. Lufthansa Cargo achieves record result for the third time in a row

In the financial year 2022, Lufthansa Cargo once again exceeded its result from the previous year. Revenue rose by 22 percent to 4.6 billion euros (previous year: 3.8 billion euros), while adjusted EBIT amounted to 1.6 billion euros (previous year: 1.5 billion euros). Overall, sales of 7.2 billion freight ton kilometers were similar compared to the previous year (7.2 billion). Average capacity utilization decreased by 9.9 percentage points year-on-year to 61.1 percent, while the supply of capacity increased by 17 percent to 11.8 billion freight ton kilometers offered. "In the past fiscal year, we achieved a record result for the third time in a row. We owe this to the high level of commitment of our

Legislation to Ensure Fee-Free Family Seating for Parents, March 13, 2023, www.dot.gov

19. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Added 3,093 Jobs in January 2023; Employment Remains 7.8% Above Pre-Pandemic January 2019, March 10, 2023, www.bts.gov

20. Minister of Transport marks fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 tragedy and announces commemorative projects, March 10, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

21. Government of Canada approves acquisition of Sunwing Vacations and Sunwing Airlines by WestJet Airlines Ltd. with strict terms and conditions, March 10, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

22. Air Canada to Launch New Montreal-Amsterdam Summer Flights, March 15, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

23. Air Canada Named One of the 50 Most Engaged Workplaces for Sixth Consecutive Year, March 16, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

24. Air Travel Consumer Report: December 2022, Full Year 2022 Numbers, March 16, 2023, www.dot.gov

25. Full Year 2022 U.S. Airline Traffic Data, March 16, 2023, www.bts.gov

26. FedEx readjusts air network again amid sharp volume declines, March 16, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

27. WestJet Cargo receives approval on behalf of Transport Canada certifying its 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters, March 20, 2023, www.westjet.ca

28. Drone Delivery Canada wins grant from green fund, March 22, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

29. Porter Airlines celebrates first flights between Ottawa and Boston, New York, Thunder Bay, March 27, 2023, www.flyporter.ca

30. Canadian Airports Council Responds to 2023 Federal Budget, March 28, 2023, www.cacairports.ca

31. Chorus Aviation Announced the Launch of Cygnet Aviation Academy, March 28, 2023, www.atac.ca

32. Air taxis will start commercial flights in 2025, Honeywell predicts, March 28, 2023, www.ajot.com

33. Air Travel Consumer Report: January 2023 Numbers, March 28, 2023, www.bts.gov

34. Monthly civil aviation statistics, January 2023, March 29, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

35. Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, January 2023, March 29, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

employees and the trust of our customers and partners. In addition, we again had significantly more capacity in the market due to the growth in long-haul passenger traffic. We notice that our customers continue to serve their global supply chains. With more freighters and more bellies, we will continue to be a strong and reliable partner for our customers," said Dorothea von Boxberg, Chairperson of the Executive Board and CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

9. Lufthansa Cargo bullish on 2023 despite Ukraine war, economic slowdown

Deutsche Lufthansa's cargo subsidiary posted record adjusted operating income of 1.6 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) for 2022, but executives said a correction in demand and yields will continue this year, resulting in lower profits. Nonetheless, Lufthansa Cargo will be "significantly" more profitable than before the pandemic, executives said. The fourth quarter was a culmination of deteriorating market conditions, with adjusted earnings before interest and taxes down 10.4% to \$310 million as the normal peak season failed to materialize because of high inventories, slower consumer spending and easing of ocean freight bottlenecks. Full-year EBIT increased 7% year over year on a 22% gain in cargo revenue to \$4.9 billion, according to financial results issued on March 3, 2023. Freight ton kilometers, a key revenue metric that accounts for distance, were flat at 7.2 billion. Revenues were boosted by higher surcharges to cover inflation for fuel and space commitments on sister companies like Austrian Airlines, but those higher costs also cut into margins, management said. Cargo's performance essentially kept the Lufthansa Group out of the red. Overall group results showed Lufthansa returning to profitability with \$808.1 million of net income. Cargo represented 14% of the company's total revenue of \$34.8 billion. Officials attributed the cargo division's ability to outperform the market to the addition of new aircraft, decades of airfreight expertise, efficiency gains through technology and a focus on specialized products that command higher prices.

10. WestJet brings more seats and increased flight frequencies to summer schedule

WestJet in March 6, 2023 announced significant increases to its summer schedule bringing more seats and additional flight frequencies to popular routes across its network. With nearly 600 daily departures during peak travel days, WestJet's summer schedule enhancements will bring more opportunities for Canadians to travel seamlessly across the airline's domestic, transborder and international network this summer.

11. IATA Releases 2022 Airline Safety Performance

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released its 2022 Safety Report for global aviation. The report showed a reduction in the number of fatal accidents and the fatality risk, compared to 2021 and to the five year average (2018-2022). From this year, the [Safety Report](#) has been re-invented as an online interactive resource rather than in static PDF format. Report highlights include: 1. In 2022, there were five fatal accidents involving loss of life to passengers and crew. This is reduced from seven in 2021 and an improvement on the five year average (2018-2022) which was also seven. 2. The fatal accident rate improved to 0.16 per million sectors for 2022, from 0.27 per million sectors in 2021, and also was ahead of the five year fatal accident rate of 0.20. 3. The all accident rate was 1.21 per million sectors, a reduction compared to the rate of 1.26 accidents for the five years 2018-2022, but an increase compared to 1.13 accidents per million sectors in 2021. 4. The fatality risk declined to 0.11 from 0.23 in 2021 and 0.13 for the five years, 2018-2022. 5. IATA member airlines experienced one fatal accident in 2022, with 19 fatalities.

12. JetBlue-Spirit air deal faces DOJ antitrust suit this week

The US Justice Department and Department of Transportation are expected to take action as early as March 7, 2023 to block JetBlue Airways Corp.'s \$3.8 billion takeover of Spirit Airlines Inc., according to people familiar with the case. The Justice Department is expected to file an antitrust lawsuit in federal court, alleging that the elimination of Spirit would increase ticket prices and decrease options for travelers, according to the people, who spoke anonymously to discuss an ongoing case. The Department of Transportation is expected to begin a parallel proceeding to block the transfer of Spirit's airline operating certificate as incompatible with the public interest, the people said. The move by DOT is largely unprecedented in the modern era. The agency hasn't used its authority to block the transfer of a certificate, or the formal federal approval to operate aircraft and carry passengers, among major airlines since the industry was deregulated in 1978. The Justice Department's suit is expected to focus on what it sees as potential harm to flyers, including fewer choices in booking flights and higher prices on all tickets for routes where there is no budget airline. Having an airline like deep-discounter Spirit as an option serves to keep prices lower for passengers, even those that fly with other carriers, the people said.

13. USDOT statement on the justice department's lawsuit to block proposed Jetblue-spirit merger

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) fully supports the Justice Department's lawsuit under the *Clayton Act* to block the proposed JetBlue-Spirit merger. Robust airline competition makes it more affordable to fly. Travelers depend on low-cost flight options to see the world, go home for the holidays, visit their family and friends, show up to help in an emergency, or travel at the last minute. The Justice Department found that the proposed merger violates the *Clayton Act* by eliminating the largest, most aggressive ultra-low-cost competitor, grounding Spirit's most cost-conscious customers, and substantially reducing competition on a significant number of concentrated, overlapping routes that carry millions of passengers. JetBlue and Spirit have filed a transfer application requesting that USDOT

allow them to combine and operate their international routes under one certificate – the authorization required to provide air transportation. The two airlines also filed an exemption application asking USDOT to permit them to operate under common ownership prior to the requested transfer. In light of the Justice Department’s pending litigation, USDOT plans to deny the exemption application. The Department will continue to separately investigate the transfer as part of its statutory public interest mandate and under its authority to enforce against unfair and deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition. The investigation will remain open for the duration of the proceeding.

14. Air Cargo Makes a Soft Start to 2023

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for January 2023 global air cargo markets showing that air cargo demand declined as economic headwinds persist. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), fell 14.9% compared to January 2022 (-16.2% for international operations). Capacity (measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers, ACTK) was up 3.9% compared to January 2022. This was the first year-on-year growth in capacity since October 2022. International cargo capacity increased 1.4% compared to January 2022. The uptick in ACTKs reflects the strong recovery of belly capacity in passenger airline markets offsetting a decline in international capacity offered by dedicated freighters.

15. Passenger Demand Stays Strong in January

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the recovery in air travel demand is continuing in 2023, based on January traffic results. *Total traffic* in January 2023 (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) rose 67.0% compared to January 2022. Globally, traffic is now at 84.2% of January 2019 levels. *Domestic traffic* for January 2023 rose 32.7% compared to the year-ago period, helped by the lifting of the zero-COVID policy in China. Total January 2023 domestic traffic was at 97.4% of the January 2019 level. *International traffic* climbed 104.0% versus January 2022 with all markets recording strong growth, led by carriers in the Asia-Pacific region. International RPKs reached 77.0% of January 2019 levels. “Air travel demand is off to a very healthy start in 2023. The rapid removal of COVID-19 restrictions for Chinese domestic and international travel bodes well for the continued strong industry recovery from the pandemic throughout the year. And, importantly, we have not seen the many economic and geopolitical uncertainties of the day dampening demand for travel,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General.

16. Air Canada and CAE Name Eight Recipients of the 2023 Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship for Aspiring Women in Aviation

On March 8, 2023, on International Women’s Day, Air Canada and CAE announced the recipients of the 2023 Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to Canadian women studying to become commercial pilots or aircraft maintenance engineers. This year, the two Montreal-based global aviation companies have joined forces to double the number of recipients, awarding scholarships to eight young women from across Canada. In addition to the \$5,000 scholarship, CAE’s four recipients will become CAE Women in Flight – Air Canada Ambassadors and help inspire more women to become commercial pilots.

17. WestJet Group provides update about Sunwing transaction

The WestJet Group on March 10, 2023 issued a statement following the Government of Canada’s issuance of an order finding that the proposed acquisition of Sunwing Vacations and Sunwing Airlines is in the public interest, taking into account certain measures. “We are pleased that the regulatory review of the transaction is now complete,” said Angela Avery, WestJet Group Executive Vice-President and Chief People, Corporate & Sustainability Officer. “We thank the Minister of Transport and the Commissioner of Competition, and the staff of Transport Canada, the Competition Bureau, and the Canadian Transportation Agency, for their efforts to review the transaction.” The issuance of the order is an important milestone in the process toward closing the transaction.

18. Secretary Buttigieg Urges Congress to Pass Legislation to Ensure Fee-Free Family Seating for Parents

On March 13, 2023, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg sent a letter to the U.S. Congress proposing legislation for Congress to pass that would guarantee that young kids can sit next to their parents without getting charged a junk fee. If passed, this legislation would ensure fee-free family seating on all U.S. airlines. President Biden called for Congress to pass legislation to ban these junk fees in the State of the Union.

19. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Added 3,093 Jobs in January 2023; Employment Remains 7.8% Above Pre-Pandemic January 2019

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 787,328 workers in January 2023, 3,093 (0.39%) more workers than in December 2022 (784,235) and 56,944 (7.80%) more than in pre-pandemic January 2019 (730,384). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 503,754 workers in January 2023 or 64% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines added 4,583 employees in January 2023 for a twenty-first consecutive month of job growth dating back to May 2021. Delta led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 1,499 employees; United added 1,256; and Southwest added 1,058. U.S. cargo airlines employed 279,337 workers in January 2023, 36% of the

industry total. Cargo carriers lost 964 employees in January. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 910 jobs.

20. Minister of Transport marks fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 tragedy and announces commemorative projects

On March 10, 2019, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crashed near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, claiming the lives of 157 people, including 18 Canadians and many others with ties to Canada. The Government of Canada stands in solidarity with their families and loved ones who continue to live with a profound sense of loss. We continue to keep those who were lost in our thoughts and in our hearts. On its tenth anniversary, ten Canadian not-for-profit organizations will receive funding to support projects that commemorate the diverse interests and passions of the victims. The commemorative projects will contribute to youth-focused, environmental, humanitarian and community-based causes in Canada and Africa and will be a lasting tribute to the efforts and interests of the victims.

21. Government of Canada approves acquisition of Sunwing Vacations and Sunwing Airlines by WestJet Airlines Ltd. with strict terms and conditions

On March 10, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced that following Transport Canada's assessment of the public interest, which incorporated the findings of the Commissioner of Competition, and consultations with Canadians, consumer protection groups, unions and industry, the Government of Canada has approved the acquisition of Sunwing Vacations and Sunwing Airlines by WestJet Airlines Ltd., subject to strict terms and conditions that are in the interest of Canadians. In determining the proposed purchase is in the public interest, the government considered a broad range of factors, such as levels of service, social and economic implications, the financial health of the air transportation sector, and competition. Given the current air sector landscape, it was important to ensure that the final agreement offered the best possible outcome for Canadians. The acquisition will help maintain the stability of the sector as Sunwing will continue to provide more affordable vacation packages to Canadians, while being financially supported by WestJet. The acquisition will also result in enforceable terms and conditions intended to protect the interests of travellers.

22. Air Canada to Launch New Montreal-Amsterdam Summer Flights

Air Canada on March 15, 2023 announced the addition of new, non-stop seasonal flights between Montreal and Amsterdam for this summer. Mark Galardo, Senior Vice President Network Planning and Revenue Management at Air Canada said "We continue to see strong demand for travel to Europe and we are thrilled to increase service and add new, non-stop service between Montreal and Amsterdam for summer 2023, complementing our year-round service between Toronto and the Dutch capital. With up to double daily flights between Canada and Amsterdam this summer from two of our global hubs, customers on both sides of the Atlantic have an abundance of convenient choices to visit and explore each other's countries and beyond. Customers can start planning ahead and book with confidence. We look forward to welcoming you onboard."

23. Air Canada Named One of the 50 Most Engaged Workplaces for Sixth Consecutive Year

Air Canada has been recognized as one of Achievers 50 Most Engaged Workplaces® for 2023. It is the sixth consecutive year Air Canada has won the award, given for innovative engagement and recognition practices that elevate the employee experience. It is the sixth consecutive year Air Canada has won the award, given for innovative engagement and recognition practices that elevate the employee experience. "At its heart, Air Canada is a customer service business, and we rely on our highly motivated and dedicated employees to deliver on that promise each and every day. We put a premium on all our people throughout our company because each of them is essential and they are the best at what they do. We are always devising new ways to support them so that they can continue to succeed, and it is gratifying that Achievers recognizes these efforts," said Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer and Public Affairs at Air Canada. The Achievers 50 Most Engaged Workplaces® is one of several awards Air Canada has already won this year for its workplace engagement and employee practices. The carrier has also been named: 1. One of "Montreal's Top Employers" for 2023 by Mediacorp Canada for the 10th consecutive year. 2. One of Canada's Best Employers 2023 by Forbes for the eighth consecutive year. 3. Winner of the 2023 HRD Innovative HR Teams Award for Forward-Thinking HR Programs.

24. Air Travel Consumer Report: December 2022, Full Year 2022 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation on March 16, 2023 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of December 2022 and calendar year 2022 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. For more data information consult the DOT website.

25. Full Year 2022 U.S. Airline Traffic Data

U.S. airlines carried 194 million more passengers in 2022 than in 2021, up 30% year-to-year. For the full year 2022, January through December, U.S. airlines carried 853 million passengers (unadjusted), up from 658 million in 2021 and 388 million in 2020. The annual data is as follows: 1. Systemwide enplanements (853 million) were down 8% from the

all-time annual high (928M) reached in 2019. 2. Domestic enplanements (751M) were down 8% from the all-time annual high (812M) reached in 2019. 3. International enplanements (102M) were down 11% from the all-time annual high (115M) reached in 2019.

26. FedEx readjusts air network again amid sharp volume declines

FedEx will reduce flight hours by more than 10% and park more aircraft this quarter because of continued low demand for parcel and freight shipping, executives said on March 16, 2023. An 8% cut in aircraft utilization, sidelining nine cargo jets and downsizing to smaller aircraft on certain routes helped the integrated express logistics provider generate \$1.2 billion in year-over-year savings during the 2023 fiscal third quarter. The cost reductions, along with mass layoffs, offset 45% of total revenue declines, said CEO Raj Subramaniam during an earnings briefing. The air and international unit was the major contributor behind lower revenue and income at FedEx Corp. FedEx Express generated 8% less revenue and adjusted operating income plunged 81% year over year.

27. WestJet Cargo receives approval on behalf of Transport Canada certifying its 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters

WestJet Cargo on March 20, 2023 announced that it has received Transport Canada's approval and official certification of its four 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters. Following certification, WestJet Cargo and the GTA Group will expeditiously implement three freighters into service, as dedicated aircraft that will fulfill the large-scale needs of businesses, freight forwarders, shippers and individual customers across North America. The fourth of WestJet Cargo's dedicated freighters is expected to join the accompanying fleet later this year, following the completion of its conversion. "Today is a long-awaited milestone for WestJet Cargo and the GTA Group, that will now enable us to disrupt the air cargo industry in Canada by providing our customers with more choice, competitive prices and the exemplary customer service synonymous with the WestJet brand, but unique to the air cargo industry," said Kirsten de Bruijn, WestJet Executive Vice-President, Cargo. "We thank Transport Canada for its dedication to certifying these aircraft, which will serve to better support Canada's national transportation supply chain through increased competition and capacity within Canada's air cargo market."

28. Drone Delivery Canada wins grant from green fund

Drone Delivery Canada Corp. has been awarded a grant of up to \$75,000 from the Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research (DAIR) Green Fund for its clean energy drone delivery solution. DDC was selected as one of eight winners of funding provided by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) through the DAIR Green Fund. It provides financial support for projects that demonstrate an impact on the future of aerospace through sustainable and green aviation technologies and solutions.

29. Porter Airlines celebrates first flights between Ottawa and Boston, New York, Thunder Bay

Porter Airlines launched three new routes between Ottawa International Airport and Boston, New York-Newark and Thunder Bay on March 27, 2023, providing convenient travel links for the region. The new routes are part of Porter's broader expansion plan in Ottawa and its commitment to the region, including new maintenance hangars that are currently under construction at YOW. These will serve as a primary maintenance facility for the airline's new E195-E2 fleet. Porter is the only airline providing year-round daily direct flights to Boston and Thunder Bay from Ottawa.

30. Canadian Airports Council Responds to 2023 Federal Budget

The Canadian Airports Council (CAC) President, Monette Pasher, on March 28, 2023 issued the following statement: ... "To that end, we are encouraged by the practical, incremental policy steps taken in the 2023 federal budget to assist our sector and improve the passenger journey. The positive budget measures include more screening resources for CATSA, plans to amend the *Customs Act* to modernize travelers' experience at the border, and proposed amendments to the *Canada Transportation Act* for data sharing and reporting. "Airports across the country welcome these new measures — they underline our vital role in the economy and will make a tangible, positive impact on the journey ahead. However, there is still more work ahead to get airports fully down the runway to recovery. The leaders of Canada's airports are looking forward to building on their long-standing partnership with the Government of Canada to achieve just that."

31. Chorus Aviation Announced the Launch of Cygnet Aviation Academy

Colin Copp, President and CEO of [Chorus Aviation Inc.](#) announced on March 28, 2023 the launch of Cygnet Aviation Academy, a first-of-its-kind pilot academy in Canada providing leading-edge flight training with direct access to career opportunities. In collaboration with [CAE](#), Cygnet will deliver an all-in-one program using state-of-the-art simulators and aircraft through which cadets will achieve their Integrated Airline Transport Pilot License (iATPL) and acquire an airline-specific type rating over a 20-month program.

32. Air taxis will start commercial flights in 2025, Honeywell predicts

Honeywell International Inc. sees the first electric aircraft that take off like helicopters and fly like airplanes beginning commercial flights in 2025, but no air taxi boom until closer to the end of the decade. Early cases for electric vertical takeoff and landing, or eVTOL, craft will be mostly limited to military and cargo applications, Mike Madsen, the head

of Honeywell's aerospace business, said at a Jefferies conference. Passenger service is still years away and will likely require a pilot for the foreseeable future, but Madsen said air taxis will ultimately be the catalyst for double-digit growth in the nascent industry. "There will be some initial vehicles introduced that'll be used for some limited use cases maybe under some pretty strict requirements, and then it will take off," said Madsen, who expects Honeywell's eVTOL equipment-related sales to grow to about \$2 billion by 2030. "It's going to be really slow at the beginning". The promise of more nimble aircraft that use multiple electric motors, which are quieter, safer and less expensive to maintain than a helicopter's internal combustion engine, has attracted a number of startups as well as traditional aerospace manufacturers. The passenger market alone could grow to as much as \$1 trillion by 2040, and some \$3 trillion including military and cargo, according to JPMorgan Chase analyst Marcelo Motta. Even eVTOL producers that have made the most progress have many regulatory hurdles remaining and some experts say certification for pilot-less flights is likely many years away. "The regulation is going to be the challenge, not the technology," Madsen said.

33. Air Travel Consumer Report: January 2023 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation on March 28, 2023 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of January 2023 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. Regarding flight operations, the 562,845 flights operated in January 2023 were 106.59% of the 528,070 flights operated in January 2022. Operated flights in January 2023 were up 6.59% year-over-year from the 528,070 flights operated in January 2022 and up 2.87% month-over-month from 547,134 flights operated in December 2022. In January 2023, the 10 marketing network carriers reported 573,877 scheduled domestic flights, 11,032 (1.9%) of which were cancelled. In January 2022, airlines scheduled 563,737 domestic flights, of which 35,667 (6.31%) were cancelled. In December 2022, airlines scheduled 578,321 domestic mishandled lights, of which 31,187 (5.4%) were cancelled. Regarding mishandled baggage in January 2023, reporting marketing carriers handled 36.6 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.73%, lower than both the December 2022 rate of 1.09% and the January 2022 rate of 0.81%. For other dimensions of performance, check the BTS website.

34. Monthly civil aviation statistics, January 2023

Major Canadian airlines carried 6.1 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in January 2023, more than double the number of passengers in the same month of 2022, but 11.3% below the January 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic. With traffic at 16.5 billion passenger-kilometres and capacity at 19.7 billion available seat-kilometres, the passenger load factor was 83.7% in January. Operating revenue earned in January exceeded the pre-pandemic level.

35. Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, January 2023

In January 2023, Canada's major and select small airports totalled 337,385 aircraft movements. This was an increase of 20.6% from January 2022, but was 14.0% lower than January 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of movements to and from the United States was up 65.2% year over year, while international traffic increased 45.7%. Domestic movements from Level I to III and foreign carriers were 15.4% higher than January 2022.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Government of Canada invests in dry bulk conveyor loop project in the Port of Belledune to strengthen our supply chain

On February 27, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, and the Member of Parliament for Acadie—Bathurst, Serge Cormier, announced an investment of up to \$12.5 million, under the National Trade Corridors Fund, for an infrastructure project at the Port of Belledune. The \$25 million project will create a dry bulk conveyor loop between two terminals that will facilitate reloading and transshipments at the Port. With this funding, the Port will install fixed conveyors linking the deep-water terminal to the staging area, renovate existing storage, and build a new warehouse and transfer tower. The project will increase the quantities of bulk cargo handled at the Port of Belledune and make it easier to move goods like forest products, minerals, and petroleum between vessels and other modes of transportation.

2. Port of Vancouver backs down from truck replacement rule

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has put a hold its plan to mandate phasing out older trucks operating at its facilities. The Rolling Truck Age Program was designed to phase out the oldest container trucks serving the port to reduce air emissions from trucking activities in the region. The

WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Government of Canada invests in dry bulk conveyor loop project in the Port of Belledune to strengthen our supply chain, February 27, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
2. Port of Vancouver backs down from truck replacement rule, February 27, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
3. One year later: How Ukraine-Russia war reshaped ocean shipping, February 27, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
4. Exporters raise concerns about ocean carrier market power, February 28, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
5. Prince Rupert Port Authority Announces Milestone on Ridley Island Export Logistics Project, March 2, 2023, www.rupertport.com
6. Logistec buys Fednav terminals, March 3, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
7. Are MSC and COSCO poised to be ocean carrier growth leaders? March 8, 2023, www.ajot.com

current fleet of approximately 1,800 vehicles provides an average of 30,000 single-sided port moves per week. Some of the container trucks serving the Port of Vancouver are more than 20 years old. These old, diesel-powered trucks are a significant source of particulate matter, which is known to cause cancer and negatively impact the health of those living along trucking corridors.

3. One year later: How Ukraine-Russia war reshaped ocean shipping

One year ago, Russia invaded Ukraine. Bugbee's comments, delivered at the Norwegian-Hellenic Chambers of Commerce shipping conference last month, sums up how the war has played out for shipping markets and global trade over the past 12 months. There have been a multitude of sanctions. Russia has indeed faced challenges importing and exporting. But cargo has continued to flow, like water drawn by gravity around a stone. Cargoes either take a longer route, or a replacement source steps in. Across all the major ocean shipping segments — containers, tankers, dry bulk, gas — the first year of the war has shaken up markets but hasn't stopped trade. The effect on container trade is minor but its effect on tanker trade is much bigger as it is the second major exporter of oil and its impact on LNG and bulk is also significant.

4. Exporters raise concerns about ocean carrier market power

U. S. exporters called on Congress to introduce more economic reforms in ocean transportation and increase the pressure on carriers that abuse their market power. Representing those exporters in front of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee on February 28, 2023, Agriculture Transportation Coalition Executive Director Peter Friedmann acknowledged cargo volume surges and supply chain disruptions have dissipated and that there's currently "plenty of competition" among container ship operators for his members' shipments to overseas markets. "But things will change where we'll have to ensure there's competition, so we need to make sure there's a mechanism by the government to review ocean carrier plans so that we don't wake up in couple years and the economy turns again and there's more demand and even fewer ocean carriers around," Friedmann told the committee. Friedmann was referring to a provision he expects lawmakers to include in a new package of ocean shipping reforms being contemplated on Capitol Hill whereby the Federal Maritime Commission would be given authority to block alliance and other marketing agreements ocean carriers file with the FMC that the commission finds to be anticompetitive.

5. Prince Rupert Port Authority Announces Milestone on Ridley Island Export Logistics Project

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) announced on March 2, 2023 that the Ridley Island Export Logistics Project (RIELP) has reached a significant milestone with the receipt of its final determination of the Federal environmental effects evaluation review. The Federal Authorities have determined, in accordance with the requirements of Section 82 of the Impact Assessment Act (IAA), that the Ridley Island Export Logistics Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. This concludes the Federal environmental review process, which is a prerequisite for the Federal Authorities to consider the required authorizations for the project to proceed. Following receipt of required permits, early works are planned to begin in early March, with tree clearing and site preparation activities. PRPA continues to work toward making a Final Investment Decision on the project with its commercial partners, expected later this year. Planned for the southern end of Ridley Island, the export logistics complex will be an integrated ecosystem of large-scale bulk and breakbulk transload facilities, intermodal rail yard, and a container storage yard. The development will create an innovative and competitive transloading facility for commodities such as plastic pellets, cereal grains, speciality agriculture crops, lumber, and

8. MSC container ship loses 45 containers, March 10, 2023, www.ajot.com
9. Maersk opens container route to Ukraine, March 10, 2023, www.ajot.com
10. Port of Halifax: Accumulated container statistics, Mar 10, 2023, www.portofhalifax.ca
11. Statement by Minister of Transport on the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's investigation report on the MV Ingenika, March 8, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
12. ZIM reports financial results for the fourth quarter & Year of 2022, March 13, 2023, www.ajot.com
13. Containers outbound from Montreal undergoing extra CBSA scrutiny, March 14, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
14. Port of Savannah gains national market share, March 14, 2023, www.ajot.com
15. The Government of Canada invests in improvements to the fluidity of the supply chain in Nanaimo, March 15, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
16. Minister of Transport announces a new investment in marine training for Indigenous Peoples, Northerners, and women through the Oceans Protection Plan, March 15, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
17. MSC takes delivery of new record containership, March 16, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
18. The Suez Canal sets a new record, March 1, 2023, www.ajot.com
19. LA imports plunge 41% year on year, 33% month on month, 28% vs. pre-COVID, March 17, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
20. West Coast dockworker labor talks strained over lunch-break spat, March 21, 2023, www.ajot.com
21. Statement by the Minister of Transport about the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's investigation report on the fishing vessel Chief William Saulis, March 22, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
22. St. Lawrence Seaway Begins Navigation Season, March 23, 2023, www.dot.gov; and Seaway opens for 65th season, March 23, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
23. PRPA Enables Greater Access to Surgical Services at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital, March 23, 2023, www.rupertport.com
24. Drewry Port Throughput Indices for March 2023, March 23, 2023, www.ajot.com
25. Port of Oakland February container volume declined, March 24, 2023, www.ajot.com
26. Government of Canada launches call for proposals to support greater Indigenous participation in the Oceans Protection, March 27, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
27. The Government of Canada receives the Office of the Auditor General's report on accessible transportation, March 27, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
28. Trans-Atlantic container rates still double pre-COVID levels, March 27, 2023, www.friehwaves.com
29. New bill in US House seeks repeal of carriers' antitrust immunity, March 2, 2023, www.joc.com
30. WSC on the Ocean Shipping Antitrust Enforcement Act: Why do away with

pulp to be loaded directly from rail into containers for export, creating 400,000 TEUs of export capacity in the first phase. The new export logistics facility will increase efficiencies in export supply chains, maximizing value to Canadian exporters while supporting the substantial growth of the intermodal business at the Port of Prince Rupert.

6. Logistec buys Fednav terminals

Logistec Stevedoring Inc. is buying the Canadian and U.S. marine terminal business of Fednav, including Federal Marine Terminals, Inc. and the

logistics division, Fednav Direct (collectively, FMT). The deal is worth US\$105 million. FMT has operated terminal facilities at ports in Canada and the United States for more than 50 years. It provides stevedoring, handling and warehousing services for bulk, containerized, project cargo, and general cargo. FMT also offers value-added on-carriage services, inventory management, and 24/7 inland cargo transportation in Canada and the United States. The addition of 11 terminals will be a major expansion of Logistec's network, bringing its total to 90 terminals in 60 ports across North America. FMT's terminals will give the company a foothold in the Great Lakes region and access to new locations in the U.S. Gulf and East Coast regions.

7. Are MSC and COSCO poised to be ocean carrier growth leaders?

MSC and COSCO will be the growth leaders in container shipping as other carriers such as Maersk focus more on logistics, according to noted global container shipping analyst Lars Jensen, principal at Vespucci Maritime. Jensen observed, "MSC is going to grow phenomenally and so is COSCO. Maersk and Yang Ming are not going to grow much at all according to the (new shipbuilding) order books. This means that some carriers are going to be very aggressive in growth and they will need volume for these new vessels. The others are not into growth at all — they want to sell logistics products or increase their unit profitability. This is going to ramp up the pressure between the carriers." At TPM 2023 in Long Beach last week, Jensen noted that the large new shipbuilding "order book will manifest itself as very high nominal fleet growth in 2023-2024, especially seen in the light of the current demand collapse." However, he noted that "Market rumours from shipyards report that deliveries are being postponed. We are coming out of the pandemic period into a cyclical downturn."

8. MSC container ship loses 45 containers

The 64,989 DWT container ship MSC Shristi has lost at least 45 containers in rough weather 350 nautical miles east of Bermuda. The ship, which has a capacity of 4,738 containers, was en route from Boston to the Dominican Republic when the accident occurred. According to a report to local authorities in Bermuda, the ship dropped the empty containers in three separate incidents, the first of which occurred on March 3, 2023. The authorities have issued warnings to shipping to keep a sharp lookout when passing through the waters. After a stay in Caucedo, MSC Shristi is now on her way to Port Said.

9. Maersk opens container route to Ukraine

Maersk has opened a container route to Ukraine via the Romanian port city of Constanta. In Constanta, the containers are transferred to barges, which bring the containers via the Danube Canal to the Ukrainian city of Reni, where they are transferred to trucks. The connection has a very limited capacity and takes just over 36 hours. Due to the increased risk of operating in the region, Maersk requires shippers to sign a 'Ukraine clause' when ordering cargo for the route. "Logistics operations in and around Ukraine remain challenging, but we are pleased to inform you that Maersk is now able to offer direct bookings to Ukraine from all over the world", writes Maersk in an orientation to its customers. Ukraine's Black Sea ports have been closed since Russia launched its war on Ukraine a little over a year ago, with the only exception being the export of grain, which is done through an agreement brokered by the United Nations.

10. Port of Halifax: Accumulated container statistics

The Port of Halifax released its container statistics for the fourth quarter of 2022 and for the calendar year 2022 on March 10, 2023. Total container traffic in TEUs for the 2022 fourth quarter was 153,127 down 5.1% (i.e. 161,309) from the same quarter in 2021. Total container exports for this period was 75,407 TEUs down 4.7% (i.e. 79,135) from the same period a year earlier. Total container imports for this period was 77,720 TEUs down 5.4% (i.e. 82,147) from the same period a year earlier. For the calendar year 2022, total container traffic was 601,700 TEUs up 1% (i.e. 595,755) from the calendar year 2021. Total container exports for this period was 286,533 TEUs down 2.2% (i.e. 292,839) from the same period a year ago. Total container imports for this period was 315,167 (i.e. 302,916) TEUs up 4.0% from the same period a year ago.

11. Statement by Minister of Transport on the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's investigation report on the MV Ingenika

On March 8, 2023, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, issued this statement on the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's accident investigation report on the MV Ingenika. "Our hearts go out to the family members

regulation that benefits shippers, ports, consumers and supply chain workers?, March 27, 2023, www.ajot.com

31. House panel eyes ending ocean carriers' antitrust exemption, March 28, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

32. Port Houston posts strong February amid slowing import volumes, March 29, 2023, www.ajot.com

and loved ones of the crew members who lost their lives or were injured due to the sinking of the tugboat, ...” “I want to thank the Transportation Safety Board of Canada for their work in conducting the investigation and publishing its report...” “Transport Canada will thoroughly review the investigation report and its recommendations, and I will provide a formal response to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada within 90 days. This response will build on the actions we have already taken in response to this incident, including a compliance program that is specific to small tugs like the MV Ingenika, new inspection measures, and participating in the creation of the Pacific Regional Tow and Workboat Safety Advisory Group to discuss safety issues and promote best practices in the industry.”

12. ZIM reports financial results for the fourth quarter & Year of 2022

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd., a global container liner shipping company, announced on March 13, 2023 its consolidated results for the three and twelve months that ended December 31, 2022. Net income for the fourth quarter was \$417 million (compared to \$1.71 billion in the fourth quarter of 2021), or \$3.44 per diluted share (compared to \$14.17 in the fourth quarter of 2021); net income for the full year was \$4.63 billion (compared to \$4.65 billion for the full year of 2021). Its highlights were: 1. Strong Full Year Results: Revenue of \$12.56 Billion, Net Income of \$4.63 Billion, Adjusted EBITDA of \$7.54 Billion, and Adjusted EBIT1 of \$6.15 Billion. 2. Full Year 2023 Guidance: Expect to Generate Adjusted EBITDA of \$1.8-\$2.2 Billion and Adjusted EBIT of \$100-\$500 Million. 3. Declared Q4 2022 Dividend of Approximately \$769 Million, or \$6.40 per Share, Representing, Together with Previous Distributions Made on Account of 2022, Approximately 44% of the Full Year 2022 Net Income.

13. Containers outbound from Montreal undergoing extra CBSA scrutiny

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has stepped up inspections of export containers leaving the Port of Montreal. In a note to customers, Maersk said that as of March 1, CBSA had increased the number of export exams in Montreal. Containers are being referred to the Entrepôts LaFrance examination facility for a full destuffing and exam. The customs agency is stepping up the inspections to try to intercept increased stolen property and contraband being exported from Canada. Maersk said customers should expect delays if an export container is selected for a full destuffing and inspection. Import containers are not impacted. The charges for inspection range from \$850 for a 20-foot box up to \$1,500 for a 45-foot containers, plus \$350 for drayage to and from the LaFrance facility.

14. Port of Savannah gains national market share

In the latest information from logistics data provider PIERS, the Georgia Ports Authority now handles one out of every 8.8 loaded twenty-foot equivalent container units in the U.S., its highest national market share ever. The Port of Savannah moved 11.4 percent of the nation’s loaded international containers for Fiscal Year 2023 through December, with more than 2 million TEUs. GPA’s share of the U.S. container trade constituted an increase of 0.7 percent, equating to nearly 120,000 TEUs more than it would have moved at its previous market share. “Our global economy is facing headwinds, but Georgia’s deepwater ports continue to deliver dependable performance to keep business thriving,” said GPA Executive Director Griff Lynch. “As the nation’s top gateway for American farm and factory exports, the Port of Savannah serves as a hub for global commerce, linking every major ocean carrier calling the U.S. East Coast with superior connections to road and rail.” Georgia Ports boosted its portion of U.S. container exports to 12.3 percent over the period spanning July through December 2022 – up 0.4 percent compared to the same period in the previous year. Savannah’s share of the import market rose nearly three-quarters of a point to 11.1 percent for the fiscal year to date through December.

15. The Government of Canada invests in improvements to the fluidity of the supply chain in Nanaimo

On March 15, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced an investment of up to \$600,000, under the National Trade Corridors Fund, for the Nanaimo Port Authority to study: 1. the expansion of container handling capacity; 2. the development of land near the port to support economic growth, job creation, and trade; and 3. the assessment of potential improvements to the transportation of cargo by sea over short distances between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. For example, the study will determine the possibility of expanding the Vancouver Island’s Duke Point Terminal, to help alleviate bottlenecks at Vancouver’s deep-sea terminals. It will also explore the feasibility of improving the terminal’s infrastructure, providing better connectivity to transfer cargo from barges to rail cars on the mainland. The Pacific region could see increased import/export capacity of goods from the forestry and agriculture sectors, as well as seafood and other food sectors. The Government of Canada continues to make investments to strengthen our supply chain, promote economic growth, and increase the opportunities for our businesses to expand into global markets.

16. Minister of Transport announces a new investment in marine training for Indigenous Peoples, Northerners, and women through the Oceans Protection Plan

On March 16, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced a new investment of nearly \$30 million, through the Oceans Protection Plan, to extend the Marine Training Program for four additional years, and to continue delivering marine training opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, Northerners, and women. Through this investment, the Government of Canada is renewing its partnership with: 1. the British Columbia Institute of Technology

(BCIT), in collaboration with Camosun College; 2. the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC); and 3. the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium (NFMTC). The renewed investment will also provide funding to the Western Arctic Marine Training Consortium (WAMTC) to encourage ongoing marine training opportunities in Hay River, Northwest Territories. This funding will support the capacity of partner institutions to deliver marine training courses, create a safe learning environment and equitable work culture for its students, and increase diversity and recruitment—resulting in more skilled workers entering the Canadian marine industry.

17. MSC takes delivery of new record containership

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has taken delivery of the world's latest record-breaking containership. The *MSC Tessa* has a capacity of 24,116 TEUs, stacked up to 25 layers deep. It was built China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) shipyard Hudong-Zhohghua, in Shanghai. The total length of the ship is 399.99 metres, more than 60 metres longer than the current largest aircraft carrier in the world, the shipyard said. It is 61.5 metres wide, and the deck area is similar to four standard football fields. It can carry more than 240,000 tons of cargo. The conventional diesel-engine ship is equipped with a hybrid scrubber desulfurization device, a unique bulbous bow, a large-diameter propeller, and energy-saving ducts, all intended to reduce fuel consumption.

18. The Suez Canal sets a new record

The 400-meter-long Ever Gifted helped set a record in the Suez Canal. It is one of the world's most important waterways - and now it has set a new record when it managed to get 107 ships with a total capacity of 6.3 million tons through the Suez Canal in a single day without waiting, says the head of the Suez Authority, Admiral Ossama Rabiee. The record was achieved by 56 ships in the southbound convoy - incidentally led by one of the world's largest container ships, Ever Gifted, at 400 meters - and 51 ships in the northbound convoy. And according to Rabiee, the new record would not be possible without the new project, which has managed to make better use of the capacity of the Suez Canal and provide the opportunity for the transit of the very largest ships, such as the Evergreen-owned giant.

19. LA imports plunge 41% year on year, 33% month on month, 28% vs. pre-COVID

Container volumes to Southern California ports continue to decline. Los Angeles had expected its numbers to be ugly in February — and they were. “The decline was indeed steep,” acknowledged Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka during a press conference March 17, 2023. Total throughput fell to only 487,846 twenty-foot equivalent units in February, plunging 43% year on year. Last month's throughput was down 33% from January and 31% from February 2019, pre-COVID. Los Angeles looks like it fell back to third place among U.S. container ports for the month of February. The Port of New York/New Jersey topped Los Angeles during several months in 2022; it has yet to report February numbers but U.S. Customs import data implies it will report higher total throughput than Los Angeles. On March 21, 2023, Long Beach reported February throughput of 543,675 TEUs, coming in 11% above Los Angeles.

20. West Coast dockworker labor talks strained over lunch-break spat

Negotiations over a new labor contract for West Coast dockworkers are under increasing strain as their employers say a failure to spread out lunch breaks has disrupted operations at the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Employers are allowed to stagger shifts around lunch times so there's enough dockworkers available to deliver and receive containers, said the Pacific Maritime Association, which speaks for terminal operators and ocean carriers, in an emailed statement to Bloomberg. But “beginning last week, ILWU Local 13 has stopped complying with that contract provision,” the PMA said, referring to the local chapter of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The statement is the most visible acknowledgment of a labor disruption since talks began last May, and it comes as cargo volumes drop sharply at the Southern California ports from peak levels a year ago. The threat of union unrest has spurred retailers, manufacturers and other importers to avoid potential shipping snarls by diverting goods to East and Gulf coast. The PMA and the ILWU, which represents about 22,000 dockworkers on the West Coast, had pledged not to comment in the media and to continue working without issues such as slowdowns or lockouts. As recently as Feb. 23, 2023 they issued a joint statement saying they were hopeful they would reach a deal soon.

21. Statement by the Minister of Transport about the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's investigation report on the fishing vessel Chief William Saulis

On March 22, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, issued this statement about the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's investigation report on the fishing vessel Chief William Saulis. “The safety of Canada's transportation system is paramount. Our hearts continue to go out to the family members and loved ones of the crew members who tragically lost their lives due to the sinking of the fishing vessel Chief William Saulis, on December 15, 2020, near Delaps Cove, Nova Scotia. “I want to thank the Transportation Safety Board of Canada for their work in conducting the investigation and publishing their report. I share their commitment to advancing the safety of Canada's transportation system and I am committed to working with partners to further enhance Canada's marine safety system. “Transport Canada will thoroughly review the investigation report and its recommendation, and I will provide a formal response to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada within 90 days.

22. St. Lawrence Seaway Begins Navigation Season

Yesterday marked the opening of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System's (Seaway System) 65th navigation season. The Seaway System is a key link in North America's supply chain, connecting the U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports with the world. The U.S. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) joined its partner, the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), at the opening ceremony of the binational waterway, which took place at St. Lambert Lock in Montreal, Canada. "At a time when we are working to strengthen our nation's supply chains, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System plays a central role, helping us move tens of millions of tons of goods each year, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, and combating climate change," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "As we open the Seaway System's 65th season, it remains a model of international cooperation and a cornerstone of America's trade with the rest of the world." On the Canadian side, the 65th season of the St. Lawrence Seaway kicked off this week with the passage of the Captain Henry Jackman through St. Lambert lock, near Montreal, this season. "The St. Lawrence Seaway is a vital link in the North American supply chain, supporting industries, creating jobs and assisting with sustainable development", said Terence Bowles, president and CEO of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC). "With its advanced technology, the Seaway provides a reliable transportation route for ships transiting the system carrying a wide range of commodities required by citizens on a daily basis. A few examples are grains for breads and pasta; iron ore and coal for steel used in vehicles and appliances; and cement for bridges and roads. We look forward to greater use of this marine corridor, and are optimistic about a strong start to the navigation season."

23. PRPA Enables Greater Access to Surgical Services at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) has partnered with Northern Health to support its Surgical Equipment Optimization Program at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital. Through a \$60,000 commitment from PRPA's Community Investment Fund, the regional health authority has purchased a new state-of-the-art laparoscopic surgical tower, enabling the hospital to expand the capacity for many types of surgical procedures.

24. Drewry Port Throughput Indices for March 2023

The Drewry Container Port Throughput Indices are a series of calendar adjusted volume growth/decline indices based on monthly throughput data for a sample of over 340 ports worldwide, representing over 80% of global volumes. The base point for the indices is January 2019 = 100. Drewry has developed a nowcasting model (present, very near future and very near past predicting model) that uses vessel capacity and terminal duration data (derived from our proprietary AIS model) to make short-term predictions of port throughput. Drewry's latest assessment – for March 2023 is as follows: 1. Global Port Throughput Index slid 2.6% MoM / 4.5% YoY in January 2023. A further fall of 5.6% MoM has been estimated in February 2023 by Drewry's Nowcasting model. North America witnessed the largest drop of 11.0% YoY, followed by 8.2% YoY reduction in Europe. 2. The earlier date for the Chinese New Year, with holidays starting in the last week of January, impacted the Greater China Port Throughput Index. Shenzhen witnessed the largest monthly fall, with handling down by 0.9 mteu/-30% MoM, followed by Guangzhou, which handled 0.5 mteu fewer containers in January 2023. Shanghai's throughput was down 13% MoM / 7.4% YoY, while the ports of Ningbo and Tianjin bucked the trend with 43.9% and 64.2% MoM growth, respectively. 3. The Drewry European Port Throughput Index tumbled -8.2% YoY in January, while the only region that posted annual growth was the Middle East and South Asia, where traffic was up 3.6% YoY. 4. Despite a small monthly uplift in the North American Port Throughput Index in January 2023, the region looks set to remain on a downwards trajectory. Throughput at the major West Coast gateway ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach has dropped 38% YoY in February 2023.

25. Port of Oakland February container volume declined

The Port of Oakland's container volume experienced another slow month. Total year-to-date volume compared to this time last year fell 14.1%. Full TEUs (twenty-foot containers) dropped 23% last month, with 113,814 TEU's transiting the port, in contrast to 147,620 TEUs in February 2022. Empty TEUs dropped 14% compared to February 2022, registering 40,023 TEUs this February versus 46,768 TEUs in February 2022. The Port said domestic inventories remain high as retail sales fell in February which has dampened cargo volumes for U.S. West Coast ports. A strong dollar is also impeding export volumes. The Port of Oakland's goal is to be ready to move cargo efficiently when retail regains its footing. Full imports fell 32% in February 2023, with 58,073 TEUs passing through the Port versus 85,286 TEUs the same month last year. One reason for the lackluster volume is West Coast ports losing their market share to ports on America's East and Gulf Coasts.

26. Government of Canada launches call for proposals to support greater Indigenous participation in the Oceans Protection Plan

On March 27, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, invited First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations to apply for funding to establish Indigenous Marine Coordinator (IMC) positions. These positions will increase Indigenous partners' capacity to participate in the development and implementation of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan.

27. The Government of Canada receives the Office of the Auditor General's report on accessible transportation

On March 27, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, issued a statement on a report published by the Office of the Auditor General on the Government of Canada's efforts related to accessibility in transportation: "In particular, I acknowledge recommendations to increase consultation with persons with disabilities on how to best improve their travel experience... "The Report found that the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, VIA Rail Canada, and the Canadian Transportation Agency took action to improve the accessibility of the transportation sector. In some cases, organizations already identified, removed, and prevented some barriers and offer: 1. Web-alternate formats, 2. Assistance with luggage, and 3. Training for providing physical assistance. "All three organizations agree that some barriers remain and that more can be done to address them... This acknowledgement and the plans established to address the audit findings demonstrate our government's commitment to achieving a barrier-free transportation system... "I will also bring the Auditor General's recommendations to the attention of the other Crown corporations in the Transport Portfolio and encourage them to review their compliance with the *Accessible Canada Act* and implement the relevant recommendations."

28. Trans-Atlantic container rates still double pre-COVID levels

Container shipping rates are not back to normal quite yet. Trans-Pacific rates have returned to pre-COVID levels, but pricing in trans-Atlantic markets has not. Spot container rates from Europe to the U.S. — while falling — are still more than twice pre-pandemic rates. U.S. imports from Europe remain strong, with building materials supporting volumes. The Drewry World Container Index (WCI) spot-rate assessment for Rotterdam, Netherlands, to New York was \$5,061 per forty-foot equivalent unit in the week ending March 23, 2023. That's down 32% from last year's peak but still 2.5 times rates in March 2019. Asia-West Coast spot rates shot far higher than trans-Atlantic rates during the 2021-2022 shipping boom but came down faster and fell further. The WCI Rotterdam-New York spot-rate assessment was 2.7 times higher than the Shanghai-Los Angeles index assessment last week.

29. New bill in US House seeks repeal of carriers' antitrust immunity

New legislation introduced on March 24, 2023 would repeal limited antitrust immunity for foreign based ocean carrier transportation which controls 80% of the ocean shipping market. The bill also proposes to boost US exports by prioritizing them into foreign markets and protecting them against container rate increases and demurrage and detention charges.

30. WSC on the Ocean Shipping Antitrust Enforcement Act: Why do away with regulation that benefits shippers, ports, consumers and supply chain workers?

The Shipping Act establishes rules that provide legal certainty to ocean carriers to share space on ships while ensuring competitive markets. Being able to share space on ships allows more carriers to provide more services more efficiently to more ports than carriers could provide individually. That is good for shippers, ports, consumers, and all of the workers that keep the global supply network running. H.R. 1696 would remove that system and undermine competitiveness and choice for liner shipping services. "Nobody has offered a reason why we should throw away such a useful tool as vessel sharing arrangements (VSAs), and I think some of the rhetoric comes from a misunderstanding about how VSAs help the supply chain work better. We look forward to working with the bill's sponsors to better understand their policy objectives. A similar bill was introduced in the last Congress, but did not gather significant support," says John Butler, President & CEO of the WSC.

31. House panel eyes ending ocean carriers' antitrust exemption

In a subcommittee hearing on March 28, 2023, members of Congress discussed overturning antitrust immunity that ocean carriers have enjoyed for decades. The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing also included discussion on requiring ocean container companies to load more domestic exports, while reconsidering how detention and demurrage charges are applied to U.S. exporters. "It just turns out that the ocean carriers are exempt from the monopoly and the antitrust laws of the United States, and there ought to be a law that the ocean carriers are subject to antitrust laws, like other parts of our economy," John Garamendi, D-Calif., said during the hearing. Last week, Garamendi and several other House members introduced the Ocean Shipping Antitrust Enforcement Act to "address unfair practices that harm American businesses, producers, and consumers," along with unfair container rate increases and refusals of cargo bookings for American exports. Garamendi questioned ocean shipping executives, about ending carriers' antitrust exemption.

32. Port Houston posts strong February amid slowing import volumes

February 2023 volumes at Port Houston remained solid compared to last year, though an expected softening of demand is beginning to be seen in Houston. A total of 313,452 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), or a 15% increase compared to the same month last year were handled during the month. Year-to-date volumes are up 6% to 633,442 TEUs. Though Port Houston experienced growth throughout the first two months of 2023, recently its terminals are beginning to see some softening in import demand consistent with the national trend. Sources indicate that high inventory levels and a general decrease in consumer demand are the main factors in this decline, and a general downward trend will likely continue over the next several months which was anticipated and included in the 2023

forecast budget. Export volumes in Houston remain strong, up 42% this month, driven by the strength of plastic resins and other petrochemical commodities produced in our region and delivered globally through Port Houston.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, February 2023

Data for February for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on the Statcan website. The index is 125.4 for February 2023 down from 129 for January 2023 and up to 113.9 from February 2022.

2. BNSF Closes 2022 With Earnings Flat, Volume Down From 2021

BNSF posted net earnings of \$5.946 billion in 2022, virtually flat with 2021's \$5.990 billion, reflecting "higher revenue per car/unit, substantially offset by lower overall freight volumes and higher fuel and other operating costs," reported parent company Berkshire Hathaway Inc. on Feb. 25, 2023. This follows 2021's net earnings' increase of 16.1% over 2020. Net earnings for fourth-quarter 2022 were \$1.469 billion, down 13% from fourth-quarter 2021's \$1.685 billion. Total volume was 2.293 million cars/units for the fourth quarter, down 9% from the year-ago period, and 9.549 million cars/units for 2022, down 6% from 2021.

3. New Grain February Record Set

CN on March 1, 2023 announced that February 2023 was the best February ever for Western Canadian grain movement on CN's network. The Company worked with its customers and supply chain partners to move more than 2.4 million metric tonnes of grain from Western Canada over the course of the month. This exceeds the previous record set in February 2021 by over 200,000 metric tonnes. CN attributes February's performance to increased collaboration between supply chain partners, enabling strong performance through operational challenges, including periods of extreme cold.

4. USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration announces new safety initiative with a focus on hazardous materials

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Amit Bose on March 1, 2023 announced a national initiative for focused inspections on routes that carry high-hazard flammable trains (HHFTs) and other trains carrying large volumes of hazmat commodities. Working with USDOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), FRA will identify these routes and prioritize them for inspection beginning immediately. The inspections will start in East Palestine, Ohio, and expand to communities nationwide. FRA inspectors, using a combination of human visual inspections and Automated Track Inspection technology, will assess the overall condition of rail infrastructure as well as railroads' compliance with FRA regulatory requirements governing track. Information will be shared with railroads as well as rail labor organizations, and it will be periodically published for the public to increase transparency. "Safety is always our number one priority, and the Norfolk Southern derailment reminds us of the importance of ensuring no industry can put its profits over the safety of its workers and the communities it serves," said Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "As our investigators continue their work to support NTSB's investigation, we are also taking additional steps right now to prevent future disasters and we insist that the rail industry do the same."

5. For February, Carloads, Intermodal Volume Decline

U.S rail traffic in February 2023 lagged the same month last year—down 5.2% or 101,452 carloads and intermodal units, the *Association of American Railroads* (AAR) reported March 1, 2023. This follows January's 3.2% drop from the prior-year period; while carloads rose slightly during the first month of the year, intermodal experienced its worst January since 2013.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, February 2023, February 27, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
2. BNSF Closes 2022 With Earnings Flat, Volume Down From 2021, February 27, 2023, www.railwayage.com
3. New Grain February Record Set, March 1, 2023, www.cn.ca
4. USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration announces new safety initiative with a focus on hazardous materials, March 1, 2023, www.ajot.com
5. For February, Carloads, Intermodal Volume Decline, March 1, 2023, www.railwayage.com
6. Minister of Transport announces projects to further reduce the impacts of climate change on the rail sector, March 2, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
7. Transport Canada Allocates C\$5.4MM for Rail Resiliency, March 3, 2023, www.railwayage.com
8. Second Norfolk Southern train derailed in Ohio in a month, March 5, 2023, www.ajot.com
9. Unifor CN workers vote for strike, March 7, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
10. Norfolk Southern announces six-point safety plan, March 6, 2023, www.ajot.com; and Norfolk Southern Outlines New Six-Point Safety Plan, March 6, 2023, www.railwayage.com
11. CP announces ratification of new collective agreement with BLET in U.S., March 7, 2023, www.cpr.ca
12. Train with 350 passengers collides with freight train in Greece, killing at least 36, March 1, 2023, www.transitintelligence.com
13. AAR Reports rail Traffic for week ending March 4, 2023, March 8, 2023, www.ajot.com; and For Week 9, U.S. Carloads, Intermodal Down, March 8, 2023, www.railwayage.com
14. AAR Outlines Key Class I Safety Actions, March 8, 2023, www.railwayage.com
15. CP announces ratification of new collective agreement with Soo Line BLET, March 14, 2023, www.cpr.ca
16. Joint Statement by Transport Canada and the Province of British Columbia on future of the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor, March 14, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
17. CP-KCS merger wins approval, March 16, 2023, www.cpr.ca; and CP-KCS merger approved, March 16, 2023, www.railwayage.com
18. AAR Reports Rail Traffic for week ending March 11, 2023, March 15, 2023, www.ajot.com
19. Canada Investing C\$18.6MM to Boost Supply Chain Fluidity, March 16, 2023, www.railwayage.com
20. CP and KCS set to combine on April 14, 2023, March 19, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
21. CN and Diversity Dividends Collective Recognized by ALM's Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards, March 17, 2023, www.cn.ca
22. VIA rail receives gold parity certification from women in governance, March 14, 2023,

According to AAR, U.S. Class I railroads in February 2023 hauled 1,849,723 carloads and intermodal units, comprising 905,744 carloads (down 1.6%) and 943,979 containers and trailers (down 8.4%). In contrast, February 2022 U.S. rail traffic experienced big year-over-year gains largely due to severe winter storms holding back volumes in 2021; February 2019 U.S. rail traffic was behind February 2018, reflecting weather and/or economic and trade-related uncertainty. For the week ending Feb. 25, 2023, Canadian railroads reported 75,994 carloads, up 7.9%, and 59,210 intermodal units, down 3.6% compared with the same week last year. For the first eight weeks of 2023, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,111,310 carloads, containers and trailers, rising 4.5% from 2022.

6. Minister of Transport announces projects to further reduce the impacts of climate change on the rail sector

On March 2, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced up to \$5.4 million for 20 projects across Canada under the Rail Climate Change Adaptation Program, an initiative of the Rail Safety Improvement Program. The Rail Climate Change Adaptation Program supports research, development, and implementation of innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to better identify and reduce the

increasing risks and impacts of climate change on Canada's rail sector. The various recipients selected to receive funding will evaluate new designs and technologies, implement innovative technologies, and develop a better understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change on railways to address adaptation challenges such as: 1. flooding; 2. fires; 3. permafrost degradation; and 4. more extreme operational temperatures.

7. Transport Canada Allocates C\$5.4MM for Rail Resiliency

Transport Canada is distributing up to C\$5.4 million to 20 infrastructure projects country-wide that it says will make railroads "more resilient to extreme weather risks." The Rail Climate Change Adaptation Program is funding "research, development and implementation of innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to better identify and reduce the increasing risks and impacts of climate change on Canada's rail sector," such as flooding, fires, permafrost degradation, and more extreme operational temperatures, Transport Canada reported March 2, 2023. The funding covers fiscal years 2022/2023-2023/2024.

8. Second Norfolk Southern train derails in Ohio in a month

A Norfolk Southern Corp. train derailed in Springfield, Ohio, about a month after an earlier crash in the state that shone a spotlight on rail safety. Around 20 cars of a 212-car train derailed while traveling southbound near Springfield on March 4, 2023 evening, the company said in an emailed statement. No hazardous materials are involved and there were no reported injuries, it said. Norfolk Southern is grappling with the fallout from the East Palestine, Ohio, crash that left residents worried about contaminated air and water. While train derailments happen fairly regularly, the Feb. 3, 2023 incident drew special scrutiny after hazardous chemicals were spilled, forcing an evacuation of the community of about 4,700 people as authorities intentionally vented and burned tank cars to prevent an explosion. Clark County officials said on March 4 they are asking residents within 1,000 feet to shelter in a place "out of an abundance of caution," but aren't currently issuing evacuation orders. More than 1,500 residents are without electricity because of downed power lines, officials said in a Facebook post.

9. Unifor CN workers vote for strike

Unifor members working at CN have voted overwhelmingly in support of strike action in votes taken during the week of February 20, 2023. Local 100 members voted 98 percent in favour, and Council 4000 members voted 97 percent for a strike. Unifor's national collective agreements with CN that cover about 3,000 workers, expired on December 31, 2022. Local 100 represents locomotive and freight-car mechanics, electricians and apprentices. Council 4000 represents over 3,000 workers including workers at CN, Intermodal, CNTL and CN Savage Alberta Railway. CN and Unifor have been negotiating since October 2022. The bargaining committees and CN representatives are set to meet again during the week of March 13. "We are in the final stages of negotiations and if the employer is genuine about getting back to the table and securing a contract with Unifor members, they will remove their concessionary demands and start bargaining fairly with the union," Unifor said in a notice to members.

10. Norfolk Southern announces six-point safety plan

Norfolk Southern Corporation announced March 6, 2023 a six-point plan to immediately enhance the safety of its operations. The initiatives are based on the preliminary findings of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) following the East Palestine, Ohio, derailment. NS said it will immediately begin the following initiatives: 1. Enhance

www.viarail.ca

23. Minister of Transport announces funding in British Columbia to improve rail capacity for the agriculture sector, March 17, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

24. Canadian Pacific commences offers to exchange and consent solicitations for seven series of Kansas City Southern notes for new Canadian Pacific Railway Company notes, March 20, 2023, www.cpr.ca

25. CN and Unifor Reach Tentative Agreements, March 20, 2023, www.cn.ca

26. For Week 11, U.S. Carloads, Intermodal Down, March 22, 2023, www.railwavage.com

27. VIA rail Canada to work with the national council of Canadian muslims on diversity and inclusion, March 23, 2023, www.viarail.ca

28. CN and Unifor reach agreement, March 24, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

29. STB Rejects CN's Springfield Line Bid, March 24, 2023, www.railwavage.com

30. CN, Trealmont Transport Inc. and Kaptan Announce Plans for new Calgary Intermodal Transload Facility, March 27, 2023, www.cn.ca

31. U.S. Rail Traffic Still Behind 2022 Levels, March 29, 2023, www.railwavage.com

the hot bearing detector network. 2. Pilot next-generation hot bearing detectors. 3. Work with industry on practices for hot bearing detectors. 4. Deploy more acoustic bearing detectors. 5. Accelerate the Digital Train Inspection program. 6. Support a strong safety culture.

11. CP announces ratification of new collective agreement with BLET in U.S. Midwest

Canadian Pacific ("CP") announced on March 7, 2023 the ratification of a new collective agreement with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen representing hundreds of CP and Kansas City Southern ("KCS") locomotive engineers and trainmen in U.S. Midwest locations, which will take effect upon the consummation of the proposed CP-KCS combination, which remains subject to receipt of regulatory approval by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board ("STB"). The new collective agreement includes CP employees on the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern ("DM&E") South territory in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Minnesota, as well as KCS employees in Kansas and Missouri. This agreement, ratified by BLET members this month, provides higher pay and scheduled time off compared to national agreements on a majority of the other Class 1 railways.

12. Train with 350 passengers collides with freight train in Greece, killing at least 36

In northern Greece, a head-on collision at high speed between a freight and passenger train killed at least 36 people and injured scores of others. Greek police have arrested the station manager in Larissa, about 20 miles south of the crash site.

13. AAR Reports rail Traffic for week ending March 4, 2023

For the week ending March 4, 2023, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 474,191 carloads and intermodal units, down 6.3 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending March 4, 2023 were 237,413 carloads, down 1.0 percent compared with the same week in 2022, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 236,778 containers and trailers, down 11.1 percent compared to 2022. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2022. Canadian railroads reported 80,825 carloads for the week, up 7.6 percent, and 57,978 intermodal units, down 12.2 percent compared with the same week in 2022. For the first nine weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported a cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,250,113 carloads, containers, and trailers, up 3.7 percent.

14. AAR Outlines Key Class I Safety Actions

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on March 8, 2023 reported seven initial steps the Class I railroads are taking "to drive toward a future with zero incidents and zero injuries—one where what happened in East Palestine never happens again." Those include the installation of approximately 1,000 new hot bearing detectors (HBD), expanding support for first responders, and initiating actions based on a preliminary NTSB advisory. "Healthy railroads are essential to the U.S. economy, and consistently and reliably safe operations are essential to healthy railroads," AAR President and CEO Ian Jefferies said. "Our long history of voluntarily employing safety measures that go above and beyond federal requirements proves our belief in that principle. While we will continue to follow the National Transportation Safety Board's ongoing investigation in Ohio closely and recognize its deliberate, methodical, and fact-based approach, railroads are committed to taking appropriate steps now." Those seven steps are: 1. Detectors—Spacing; 2. Detectors—New Action Threshold; 3. Detectors—Shared Trending Analysis; 4. Confidential Close Call Reporting System; 5. Training; 6. AskRail; 7. Tank Car Improvement.

15. CP announces ratification of new collective agreement with Soo Line BLET

Canadian Pacific said on March 14, 2023 that members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) have ratified a new five-year collective agreement covering approximately 300 employees working on CP's Soo Line subsidiary. Keith Creel, CP's President and CEO said "We thank the BLET for working collaboratively to reach this negotiated collective agreement. The ratification of this agreement, which provides improved pay and flexibility, is a positive for our railroaders, further demonstrating CP's commitment to reaching new negotiated collective agreements."

16. Joint Statement by Transport Canada and the Province of British Columbia on future of the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor

On March 14, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, and the Province of British Columbia's Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming, issued the following statement: "Over the last 18 months, British Columbia and Canada have carefully considered the future of the Island Rail Corridor. In support of our shared ongoing commitments to reconciliation, our governments have decided that reversion of the land bisecting the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation reserve is the first step in the process of developing a shared vision for the future of the corridor with First Nations. In September 2021, the British Columbia Court of Appeal asked the federal government to decide by March 14, 2023, on restoring the railway corridor or allowing a segment of lands to vest in Canada for the use and benefit of the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation... Since then, both governments have been reviewing studies... Canada and the Province of British Columbia acknowledge the importance of this corridor. As a result, we will begin a formal engagement process with affected First Nations on the next steps of the corridor for the mutual benefit of the province

and First Nations. A partnership-driven approach represents the best way for moving forward together and achieving a collective vision for the corridor that benefits everyone.”

17. CP-KCS merger wins approval

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) has approved the merger of CP and KCS to form Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), the first single-line railway connecting the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The decision authorizes CP to exercise control of KCS as early as April 14, 2023, at or after which point CP and KCS would combine to create the new CPKC. CP said in a statement it is reviewing the full 212-page decision in detail and in the coming days will announce its plans with respect to the creation of CPKC. “The Board expects that this new single-line service will foster the growth of rail traffic, shifting approximately 64,000 truckloads annually from North America’s roads to rail, and will support investment in infrastructure, service, quality, and safety.” To address any potential anti-competitive harm, the Board is imposing numerous conditions design to protect competition. “To help enforce that obligation, the Board will require CPKC to justify in writing, upon customer request, rate increases over a certain level on interline movements, subject to the gateway obligation. If disputes arise over whether CPKC’s actions are commercially reasonable, CPKC must afford rail customers an arbitration option to resolve disputes, but the Board also will remain available to expeditiously decide gateway-related disputes. In this way, this decision seeks to enable a more efficient and competitive CPKC system, while minimizing CPKC’s ability to wield new market power to the detriment of its shippers.”

18. AAR Reports Rail Traffic for week ending March 11, 2023

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on March 15, 2023 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 11, 2023. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 458,629 carloads and intermodal units, down 7.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending March 11 were 229,246 carloads, down 1.5 percent compared with the same week in 2022, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 229,383 containers and trailers, down 13.0 percent compared to 2022. Three of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2022. Canadian railroads reported 79,559 carloads for the week, up 6.7 percent, and 59,978 intermodal units, down 12.7 percent compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 10 weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported a cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,389,650 carloads, containers, and trailers, up 3.1 percent.

19. Canada Investing C\$18.6MM to Boost Supply Chain Fluidity

The government of Canada is allocating funding to a rail park in the Winnipeg, Manitoba, metro region, and for a Port of Nanaimo (British Columbia) study in an effort to boost supply chain fluidity. Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra on March 15, 2023 reported that up to C\$18 million will be invested in a 665-acre rail park project at CentrePort Canada, a 20,000-acre inland port in the Rural Municipality of Rosser. The rail park will offer access to road and rail as well as Winnipeg’s James Armstrong Richardson International Airport. The funding will help cover the costs of a second mainline switch; several kilometers of additional track; a lift station; and connections to access roads.

20. CP and KCS set to combine on April 14, 2023

Canadian Pacific has said that on April 14, 2023, it will exercise the authority granted by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board’s (STB) March 15 final decision and combine with Kansas City Southern (KCS) to create Canadian Pacific Kansas City. CP also announced the executive leadership team that will lead CPKC. CP president and CEO Keith Creel will become president and CEO of CPKC.

21. CN and Diversity Dividends Collective Recognized by ALM’s Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards

CN is pleased to announce that the Diversity Dividends Collective (DDC), of which CN is an inaugural member, has been recognized by ALM’s Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards 2023 as a finalist in the “ESG Enablement Through Technology” category. The nomination recognizes successful initiatives that advance environmental, social, and governance causes within an organization or for the broader good, through the use of technology.

22. VIA rail receives gold parity certification from women in governance

VIA Rail Canada (VIA Rail) is pleased to have received the Gold Parity Certification from Women in Governance. This certification recognizes VIA Rail’s efforts and achievements in promoting and supporting women’s leadership development, career advancement and representation at all levels of the organization.

23. Minister of Transport announces funding in British Columbia to improve rail capacity for the agriculture sector

On March 17, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced an investment of up to \$23 million to Global Agriculture Trans-Loading Inc., under the National Trade Corridors Fund, for a project that will expand rail capacity in Surrey, British Columbia. With this funding, Global Agriculture Trans-Loading will make several purchases, including: 1. a three-track rail spur; 2. new container lifts; 3. railcar pushers; 4. conveyor belt systems; and 5. bagging equipment. These improvements to rail infrastructure and capacity will enable Global Agriculture Trans-Loading to double their operations and help move agricultural products and grain between different modes of transportation more efficiently. By reducing delays and bottlenecks in the transfer process, Canadian

agricultural products will reach global markets faster.

24. Canadian Pacific commences offers to exchange and consent solicitations for seven series of Kansas City Southern notes for new Canadian Pacific Railway Company notes

Canadian Pacific on March 20, 2023 announced the commencement of offers to exchange any and all validly tendered (and not validly withdrawn) and accepted notes of seven series, each previously issued by Kansas City Southern (“KCS” and such notes, the “Old Notes”), for notes to be issued by Canadian Pacific Railway Company (“CPRC” and such notes, the “CPRC Notes”), a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, a Canadian corporation (“CPRL”, and, together with CPRC, “Canadian Pacific”) and to be unconditionally guaranteed on an unsecured basis by CPRL, as described in a table on their website.

25. CN and Unifor Reach Tentative Agreements

CN announced on March 20, 2023 that new tentative collective agreements have been reached between Unifor and CN. The collective agreements cover approximately 3,000 CN employees working in various departments such as Mechanical, Intermodal, Facility Management, and in clerical positions in Canada. “We are very pleased to have reached these tentative agreements. CN has always been committed to achieving negotiated settlements to improve the conditions of this important group of employees as we continue our essential work moving the North American economy. We look forward to future collaboration with Unifor.”

26. For Week 11, U.S. Carloads, Intermodal Down

U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 18, 2023 (Week 11) dipped 9.4% from the same week last year, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported March 22, 2023. U.S. Class I railroads hauled a total of 453,500 carloads and intermodal units, comprising 227,454 carloads, down 2.7%, and 226,046 containers and trailers, down 15.2% compared to 2022. According to AAR, three of the 10 commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2022. Canadian railroads reported 78,381 carloads for the week, up 6.7%, and 59,280 intermodal units, down 9.3% compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 11 weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,527,311 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.7%.

27. VIA rail Canada to work with the national council of Canadian muslims on diversity and inclusion

VIA Rail Canada (VIA Rail) and the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) met on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, and engaged in a constructive dialogue following the regrettable and saddening incident involving a man who was praying in VIA Rail’s Ottawa Station. The conversation focused on common objectives, namely, to ensure that VIA Rail provides an inclusive environment where passengers and employees feel safe practising freedom of religion, including the ability to worship. As part of the discussion, VIA Rail committed to sharing with the NCCM the Corporation’s Diversity and Inclusion policies and training program, and to working with the NCCM on any improvements that could be brought to help prevent these incidents in the future.

28. CN and Unifor reach agreement

CN and Unifor have come to tentative agreements covering four contracts. The four tentative collective agreements cover Unifor’s Local 100 and Council 4000 members across the country. They cover approximately 3,000 CN employees working in various departments such as Mechanical, Intermodal, Facility Management, and in clerical positions in Canada. Unifor Local 100 represents skilled trades in mechanical shops and Unifor Council 4000 represents intermodal, clerical, mechanics and excavator operators. Unifor is the largest union at CN. Unifor’s two national bargaining committees opened negotiations with CN in October 2022. The deals avert a possible strike. Unifor members voted overwhelmingly in support of strike action in votes taken during the week of February 20, 2023. Local 100 members voted 98 percent in favour, and Council 4000 members voted 97 percent for a strike.

29. STB Rejects CN’s Springfield Line Bid

CN’s request regarding conditional approval of the Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger on the sale of KCS’s Springfield Line to CN has been denied by the Surface Transportation Board (STB), which on March 23 provided notice that its Office of Environmental Analysis has terminated the review of the proposed divestiture. In its March 15, 2023 decision to approve CP’s acquisition of KCS to form Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), North America’s first transnational railroad, STB said it “addressed the amended ‘responsive’ application filed by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) and its United States rail carrier affiliate, Illinois Central Railroad Company (ICCR) (collectively, CN) in Docket No. FD 36500 (Sub-No. 1). The Board denied CN’s request that the Board order the sale of the KCS rail line between Kansas City, Missouri and Springfield and East St. Louis, Illinois (Springfield Line) to CN (Proposed Divestiture) and terminated the ongoing associated environmental review.”

30. CN, Trealmont Transport Inc. and Kaptan Announce Plans for new Calgary Intermodal Transload Facility

CN Trealmont Transport Inc. (Montship Inc.) and Kaptan US LLC are pleased to announce they have reached an agreement to develop a multimodal transload facility located in CN’s Calgary Logistics Park. The new facility is planned to be operational in the third quarter of 2024. Kaptan and Trealmont Transport Inc. (Montship Inc.) have agreed to purchase land located within CN’s Calgary Logistics Park and will build a logistics facility designed for

transloading intermodal containers originating and departing from the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver. The logistics facility will transform the supply chain tied to transpacific trade by redesigning the flows to an all-rail transload model positioned inland through Calgary. It will provide rail access with seamless transload of imports to domestic containers and a direct connection for Western Canadian commodities to reload exports. The facility will be equipped with a multicommodity crossdock, warehouse, container yard for storage and rail spur connected directly to the facility all within CN's Intermodal logistics park. Brian McDonald, Chairman and CEO, Montship Inc. said "We view Calgary as the next frontier in the transload market. It is ideally suited to serve both west coast gateways (Vancouver and Prince Rupert) and will offer significant advantages to both import and export customers. Teaming up with CN and their unmatched network is a unique opportunity for us. We look forward to working with stakeholders to deliver the benefits this project will present".

31. U.S. Rail Traffic Still Behind 2022 Levels

For the week ending March 25, 2023, U.S. rail traffic fell 7.5% from the prior-year period, pulled down by both carloads (dipping 0.2%) and intermodal volume (declining 13.9%), according to the Association of American Railroads (AAR). Results were similar for the weeks ending [March 18](#), [March 11](#) and [March 4](#). However, carloads saw a slight uptick, while intermodal remained down, during the weeks ending [Feb. 25](#) and [Feb. 11](#). [AAR](#) on March 29 reported that Class I railroads hauled a total of 469,958 carloads and intermodal units for week 12 (ending March 25, 2023), comprising 236,526 carloads and 233,432 containers and trailers. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase for the week ending March 25, 2023, compared with the same week in 2022. Canadian railroads reported 83,120 carloads for the week ending March 25, 2023, rising 9.6%, and 62,661 intermodal units, decreasing 4.2% vs. 2022. For the first 12 weeks of 2023, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,673,092 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.8%.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, January 2023

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for January 2023 from Statcan website. The index is 132.3 for January 2023 down from 133.1 for December 2022 and up to 115.4 from January 2022.

2. Transport ministers discuss labor shortage, infrastructure challenges

An acute labor shortage and the threat of climate change took center stage on February 24, 2023 during a joint meeting of Canada's transportation and highway ministers. Although a related communique was silent about any emerging actions. "Over the past few years, we have all experienced transportation supply chain and trade corridor issues in addition to the impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change," New Brunswick Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Jeff Carr said after the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety met. "This meeting highlights this fragility and emphasizes our need to continue to work with our federal counterparts to build stronger supply chains and more climate-resilient infrastructure."

3. Trailer demand to outstrip production all year: ACT Research

Most trailer manufacturers expect demand to exceed production capacity throughout 2023, but ACT Research says some fleets appear to be splitting orders to hedge their bets. "January OEM business conditions, including 2023 demand expectations and labor, were on-par with December overall — with a bias toward the 'better' side of the pendulum for labor but concerns about demand and the material supply chain," director — CV market research and publications Jennifer McNealy said, referring to related surveys. "Demand overall remains robust, and cancellations are low, but we are hearing that some orders are being made to replenish dealer stock, rather than going directly to fleet customers." The 24,300 net orders recorded in January was nearly 58% lower than December's intake but only 9% lower than what was seen in January 2022, ACT Research noted a week ago. Lower orders of van trailers and flatbeds were offset by increases in lowbeds and tanks. Orders for dump trailers were virtually unchanged.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, January 2023, February 27, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
2. Transport ministers discuss labor shortage, infrastructure challenges, February 27, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
3. Trailer demand to outstrip production all year: ACT Research, February 28, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
4. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2022, March 1, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
5. Carriers, railways and shippers tackling costs in a post-pandemic market, March 3, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
6. Insurance, Liability Questions Still Hover Over Autonomous Truck Market, March 3, 2023, www.ontruck.ca
7. New truck orders stabilizing; Used Trucks Prices Dip, March 3, 2023, www.ontruck.ca
8. Transport LFL buys JE Fortin, March 6, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
9. Rollout of ELD Mandates Continue Across Canada, March 7, 2023, www.ontruck.org
10. Carriers urged to use downtime to prepare for upswing, Mar 7, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
11. January 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), March 8, 2023, www.bts.gov
12. Canadian spot market softer in February, March 9, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
13. Canada Post opens first all-electric depot, unveils electric truck, March 10, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
14. Kriska Transport buys Liberty Linehaul's Canadian, U.S. operations, March 10, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
15. Purolator spending \$1 billion on fleet

4. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2022

The For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index (2021=100) is now available for the fourth quarter on Statistics Canada website. The truck index was 128.5 for the fourth quarter of 2022 up from 126.0 from the third quarter of 2022 and up from 104.5 for the fourth quarter of 2021.

5. Carriers, railways and shippers tackling costs in a post-pandemic market

Canadian carriers and shippers are applying tools as diverse as new technology and offshore labor in the face of inflationary pressures, labor shortages, and softening freight volumes. In other words, they are looking to address changing market dynamics in a post-pandemic world. E-commerce activity grew as much as fivefold at the height of the pandemic, Julian Osorio, DVP omni channel supply chain management and strategy at Hudson's Bay Company, observed during a panel discussion hosted by the Toronto Transportation Club. "It never went down all the way." The activity is back to volumes experienced in 2019, though. And that leaves opportunity to improve. "In Canada, we still have to move as much or more on the e-commerce side," he said, suggesting that other technological investments will play a key role in combatting recessionary pressures. The retailer is also applying pressure on carriers in the process. "We see it as a great opportunity to go test the market," Osorio told the crowd. "Transactional relationships will continue to be part of the equation." Then again, he also stressed the need to build stronger relationships with carriers to improve productivity and limit bobtailing from one location to another.

6. Insurance, Liability Questions Still Hover Over Autonomous Truck Market

There are still a lot of unknowns when it comes to operating autonomous trucks. While some things won't change when it comes to insurance and regulations, there are still many questions left to be answered, according to a panel discussion at the Technology & Maintenance Council's spring meeting. As Trucknews.com's James Menzies reports, some of the liability for collisions will come down to who owns the trucks.

7. New truck orders stabilizing; Used Trucks Prices Dip

February 2023 Class 8 orders were 22,800 units – a 13% increase from January 2023 and up 10% year over year, according to data from FTR. "Orders likely are below build rates for the month, and FTR would anticipate backlogs to slip slightly. However, backlogs remain at high levels and production slots are mainly filled through Q3 of this year. As such, the

February performance is a good sign for the industry as fleets continue to order equipment," said Eric Starks, chairman of FTR. "Over the past year, total net orders reached 303,000 units. In any market, this is a strong number. However, given the uncertainty in the economy, this is an especially welcome sign that demand has not collapsed and that fleets still have access to capital."

8. Transport LFL buys JE Fortin

Transport LFL has announced it has acquired JE Fortin, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. "It was after a long selection process with the Fortin family that we reached this agreement. Our values and our missions have facilitated the merger of our two family businesses," LFL wrote on its social media networks. JE Fortin will be a separate entity from Transport LFL. Drivers will keep their jobs with the company in Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle, Que. Also, the corporate branding and colors will remain the same as now.

9. Rollout of ELD Mandates Continue Across Canada

Enforcement of the federal ELD mandate and regulatory activity in many provinces has been underway since January 1, 2023. The information in this article and this ELD chart- *23MAR06-ProvELD Enforcement Chart_public* – is a compilation of the latest information on key items related to enforcement provided to the Canadian Trucking Alliance directly by its provincial association partners. As ELD implementation progresses, CTA will continue to issue this type of report to keep the membership informed of what is happening across the country.

10. Carriers urged to use downtime to prepare for upswing

electrification, March 13, 2023,

www.todaystrucking.com

16. Ritchie Bros. shareholders approve IAA acquisition, defy co-founder, March 14, 2023, www.todaystrucking.ca

17. Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for First Round of \$2.5 Billion Program to Build EV Charging in Communities & Neighborhoods Nationwide, March 14, 2023, www.dot.gov

18. Government of Canada invests in climate change geohazard research in Yukon, March 14, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

19. Urban public transit, January 2023, March 15, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

20. OTA on Hand for Announcement to Increase Labour Force Through Immigration Program, March 18, 2023, www.ontruck.ca

21. FedEx soars most in nine months after boosting profit forecast, March 17, 2023, www.ajot.com

22. CTV: ESDC Investigates Carrier for Driver Inc-Related Complaints, March 17, 2023, www.cantruck.ca

23. P.E.I. training program helps aspiring truckers achieve dreams, March 20, 2023, www.todaystrucking.ca

24. Eco-driving improvements boost safety, decrease collision risks, March 21, www.todaystrucking.com

25. ATA Truck Tonnage Index increased 1.2% in February, March 21, 2023, www.ajot.com

26. North American Transborder Freight up 10.6% in January 2023 from January 2022, March 22, 2023, www.bts.gov

27. Manitoba will need 4,300 drivers over next five years, March 22, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

28. Ontario Budget Notes Importance of Trucking; Invests in Infrastructure and Training, March 23, 2023, www.ontruck.ca

29. Eight fleets opt for hydrogen in northern BC, March 24, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

30. RNG framed as 'low risk' option to slash truck emissions, March 24, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

31. Autonomous mobile robots market is expand at a CAGR of 22.1% during forecast period – by Fact.MR, March 28, 2023, www.ajot.com

The time is perfect for trucking companies to prepare for the next upswing in the market – providing safety training for drivers, servicing and trading equipment, and improving fuel mileage, according to the chairman and CEO of Heartland Express. Just don't drop your rates, Mike Gerdin, warned during a panel discussion on hot industry topics at Truckload Carrier Association's (TCA) annual convention in Orlando, Florida. The industry has been in a slowdown for the past nine months. But Gerdin stressed these conditions will not last forever, and that companies should press employees to concentrate on areas which can be improved.

11. January 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, fell 0.2% in January 2023 from December 2022, falling after a one-month increase, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From January 2022 to January 2023 the index fell 0.7%.

12. Canadian spot market softer in February

Load volumes in Canada's spot market softened slightly in February 2023, according to the latest data from *Loadlink Technologies*. The company chalked the decline to fewer business days in February. So far this year, the spot market has shown "solid and consistent" volumes, *Loadlink* reported. Loads were down 9% from January 2023 levels, and 44% year over year, though *Loadlink* noted the YoY comparisons are exaggerated given record volumes seen a year ago. Outbound loads to the U.S. were down 1% from January 2023, while equipment postings dropped 8%. Loads from the U.S. to Canada dropped 22% from January levels with equipment postings down just 3%. Domestic loads rose 4% in February 2023 with equipment postings down 7%. There were 1.82 trucks posted per load, a 4% increase from January's 1.76 truck-to-load ratio. Year over year, the truck-to-load ratio was up 190% from the 0.63 ratio seen last February.

13. Canada Post opens first all-electric depot, unveils electric truck

Canada Post in the second week of March 2023 opened its first depot using battery-electric corporate delivery vehicles in Nanaimo, British Columbia and unveiled an all-electric truck. The depot will use 14 fully electric cargo vans for collection and delivery services, replacing internal combustion vehicles. As part of Canada Post's plan to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the company has committed to electrifying half of its national fleet of approximately 14,000 vehicles by 2030 and the entire fleet by 2040.

14. Kriska Transport buys Liberty Linehaul's Canadian, U.S. operations

Kriska Transportation Group (KTG) has acquired the Canadian and U.S. operations of Liberty Linehaul, adding 72 tractors and 157 trailers and expanding its reach into the U.S. Liberty Linehaul is based in Ayr, Ont., and Liberty Linehaul West in Los Angeles, Calif., where it expanded to in 1997 – 10 years after its founding. It provides cross-border LTL and truckload services as well as domestic U.S. haulage on the west coast. The winner of multiple awards, Liberty is known for its classic-styled, burgundy colored trucks and trailers.

15. Purolator spending \$1 billion on fleet electrification

Purolator expects to invest approximately \$1 billion to electrify its Canadian network over the next seven years. This includes a plan to purchase more than 3,500 fully electric last-mile delivery vehicles and the electrification of more than 60 terminals across Canada. Purolator's investment in environmental sustainability, including the electrification of 60 percent of its fleet, is expected to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2030 by 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). This commitment also marks the largest network investment in Purolator's 63-year history, with more than \$100 million to be invested in 2023 alone.

16. Ritchie Bros. shareholders approve IAA acquisition, defy co-founder

Shareholders of Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (RBA) have approved an acquisition of IAA, defying a last-minute request from a corporate co-founder and former president who wanted to scuttle the deal. A special meeting of shareholders was held on March 14, 2023. "We thank our shareholders for their confidence in the Ritchie Bros. team, our strategy and the significant value creation potential we can unlock through the Ritchie Bros. + IAA combination," Ritchie Bros. CEO Ann Fandozzi said in a press release. "We greatly value the varied perspectives that have been shared and the engagement we have had with our shareholders since announcing the IAA transaction." Co-founder David E. Ritchie and former president C. Russell Cmolik issued a public letter to shareholders before the vote, suggesting the merger with IAA would negatively affect the corporate culture.

17. Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for First Round of \$2.5 Billion Program to Build EV Charging in Communities & Neighborhoods Nationwide

The Biden-Harris Administration on March 14, 2023 opened applications for a new multi-billion-dollar program to fund electric vehicle (EV) charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure in communities across the country and along designated highways, interstates, and major roadways. This is a key step towards the President's goals of building a national network of 500,000 public EV charging stations and reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by 50–52%

by 2030. First round of funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program will help ensure America's zero-emission vehicle future is accessible and equitable, no matter where you live.

18. Government of Canada invests in climate change geohazard research in Yukon

On March 14, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced an investment of \$3.4 million under the National Trade Corridors Fund for the Enhancing Yukon trade corridor resilience to northern geohazards project run by Yukon University. This five-year research project will build a better understanding of climate change impacts on Yukon's transportation infrastructure by installing sophisticated data loggers at key locations along the highway. This research will help determine how to reduce these impacts to avoid disrupting our supply chains and ensuring goods remain affordable for communities. With additional contributions from both Yukon University and McMaster University, the combined total investment in the project will be nearly \$5 million.

19. Urban public transit, January 2023

In January 2023, urban transit ridership in Canada reached 118.4 million trips, representing almost three-quarters (73.6%) of the January 2019 level, pre-COVID-19 pandemic i.e. 42.5 million trips fewer. In January 2023, transit agency operating revenues (excluding subsidies) totalled \$267.6 million, an increase of 62.4%, or \$102.8 million, from the same month in 2022. However, this total still represented just over three-quarters (76.5%) of the pre-pandemic January 2019 level.

20. OTA on Hand for Announcement to Increase Labour Force Through Immigration Program

Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Sean Fraser, Federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced on March 18, 2023 that the Ontario government is doubling the number of economic immigrants it selects in 2025 to over 18,000 to help solve the province's critical labour shortage. "From 9,000 immigration spots in 2021 to over 18,000 in 2025, today's announcement is a significant win for the people of Ontario and will help us control our economic destiny by selecting more of the skilled immigrants we know are well-placed to succeed and build stronger communities for all of us," said McNaughton. "On behalf of Premier Ford and the people of Ontario, I want to thank Minister Fraser and the federal government for their commitment to meet us at the table and land this historic immigration increase."

21. FedEx soars most in nine months after boosting profit forecast

FedEx Corp.'s shares jumped the most in nine months after the courier boosted its profit outlook, signaling efforts to cut costs are helping counter a decline in package volume. Adjusted earnings this fiscal year will be \$14.60 to \$15.20 a share, up from a prior forecast of no more than \$14, the Memphis, Tennessee-based company said. Analysts were expecting \$13.57 on average, according to estimates compiled by Bloomberg. "We've continued to move with urgency to improve efficiency, and our cost actions are taking hold, driving an improved outlook," Chief Executive Officer Raj Subramaniam said in a statement on March 16, 2023. FedEx also revealed third-quarter profit that topped Wall Street's expectations. Its shares surged 11% at 9:30 a.m. on March 17, 2023 in New York, the biggest intraday gain since June 14, 2023. The stock climbed 18% this year through Thursday's close, well ahead of the S&P 500 Index's increase. The better-than-expected report triggered a number of upgrades to stock-price targets, including from analysts at TD Cowen, Citi and Susquehanna Financial. Cowen's Helene Becker said in a note that FedEx is "well-positioned to see improving results in the second half of calendar 2023 and into 2024."

22. CTV: ESDC Investigates Carrier for Driver Inc-Related Complaints

A Brampton trucking company is under investigation by the federal government after a group of former long-haul drivers claimed it's withholding at least \$115,000 in unpaid wages from them. Canada's Labour Program confirmed to CTV News Toronto that it's investigating a GTA trucking company after receiving complaints made under [Part III of the Canada Labour Code](#), which covers standard hours, wages, vacations, and holidays. According to more than a dozen former employees, composed entirely of immigrants to Canada, CTV reports, the company owes more than \$115,000 in unpaid wages. While ESDC investigates, the workers have yet to see any money back and company is seemingly still operating, they said.

23. P.E.I. training program helps aspiring truckers achieve dreams

Joel Hancock always wanted to become a truck driver "but never took the time to go do it." Randeep Kalsi, a pizza delivery driver for the past five years, was aiming to advance his driving career. But they both faced an obstacle. The \$12,000 price tag in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) for a 12-week Class 1A driver training course has been a barrier for them and other aspirants to achieve their dreams. A P.E.I. non-profit is helping remove the hurdle and putting more people behind the wheel by paying 80% of the training tuition. Brian Oulton, executive director of the P.E.I. Trucking Sector Council (PEITSC) said the [Find Your Drive](#) (FYD) program designed to address the industry's urgent need for drivers "helps people get their foot in the door." FYD provides successful applicants with \$9,600 for training. The program offers a living allowance to support students while in school and a post-training, paid work placement with an island-based employer. FYD is open to citizens and permanent residents residing in P.E.I.

24. Eco-driving improvements boost safety, decrease collision risks

Eco-driving improvements can lower the risk of a collision or other critical events as well as reduce fuel bills, emerging Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) shows. They can lower insurance costs and increase productivity as well. Such improvements involve maintaining a steady speed, driving smoothly, shifting up sufficiently, and downshifting as late as possible, anticipating traffic, using cruise control, and using technology that offers real-time feedback, said Milad Delavary, TIRF research associate, during a webinar organized by Truckload Carriers Association.

25. ATA Truck Tonnage Index increased 1.2% in February

American Trucking Associations' advanced seasonally adjusted (SA) For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index rose 1.2% in February 2023 after increasing 0.6% in January 2023. In February 2023, the index equaled 118.4 (2015=100) compared with 117 in January 2023. "Tonnage has increased sequentially for the last three months totaling 2.9 percent," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "As a result, the index is just 0.3 percent below the recent high in September 2022. The fact that our index is growing sequentially and on a year-over-year basis demonstrates that contract freight continues to hold up at high levels. "Looking ahead, we continue to see evidence the inventory cycle is improving, which means bloated stocks will stop being a headwind and eventually help truck freight volumes," Costello said. "Increased infrastructure spending will also boost volumes heading into the summer months. However, we expect to see continued freight softness related to lower home construction and slowing factory output." Compared with February 2022, the SA index increased 2.3%, which was the eighteenth straight year-over-year gain, but the largest since October 2022. In January 2023, the index was up 1.4% from a year earlier. In 2022, compared with the average in 2021, tonnage was up 3.5%.

26. North American Transborder Freight up 10.6% in January 2023 from January 2022

Transborder freight by border between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico is as follows (January 2023 compared to January 2022): 1. Total transborder freight: \$125.8 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 10.6% compared to January 2022; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada totaled \$61.8 billion, up 8.9% from January 2022; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico totaled \$63.9 billion, up 12.3% from January 2022; 4. Trucks moved \$77.7 billion of freight, up 12.7% compared to January 2022; 5. Railways moved \$16.8 billion of freight, up 8.1% compared to January 2022; 6. Pipelines moved \$10.5 billion of freight, down 8.4% compared to January 2022; 7. Vessels moved \$10.4 billion of freight, up 16.9% compared to January 2022; 8. Air moved \$4.8 billion of freight, up 13.6% compared to January 2022. US-Canada trade in both directions is as follows: 1. Truck \$33b; 2. Rail \$9.3b; 3. Pipeline \$9.6b; 4. Vessel \$3b and 5. Air \$3b.

27. Manitoba will need 4,300 drivers over next five years

Manitoba needs to recruit, train, and retain a new driver every eight hours, every day, for the next four years to meet industry demand, a trucking organization official warned. The harsh reality of the driver shortage was brought to light as the Manitoba government released its Labour Market Outlook for 2022 to 2026, showing the trucking industry has an expected annual labor gap of 470 transport truck drivers. The report also forecasts there will be 4,300 job openings for transport truck drivers over the next five years. "The gap of 470 drivers is a forecast. The reality is that we need to bring 4,300 people over the next four years into industry to meet demand," Aaron Dolyniuk, executive director of the Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA) told *TruckNews.com*. Job-seekers don't necessarily think about how the groceries arrived at the store, or how the playground was delivered to the park, Dolyniuk said. "But as industry members, we know that over 90% of goods have been on a truck at some point in their journey from producer to consumer."

28. Ontario Budget Notes Importance of Trucking; Invests in Infrastructure and Training

The government's plan takes action to drive growth by lowering costs, getting key infrastructure projects built faster, and attracting more jobs and investment to help businesses, families and workers. Budget 2023 specifically noted that the trucking industry is a leading contributor to the provincial economy. "Ontario's trucking industry accounts for about one per cent of Ontario's GDP and approximately 36 per cent of the jobs in the transportation sector," it stated. "The transportation system is the backbone of Ontario's export-driven economy, with more than \$3 billion worth of goods moving on Ontario's highways per day." To bolster road-based infrastructure, the province confirmed plans to Build Highway 413, Building the Bradford Bypass, Expanding Highway 401 in Eastern Ontario, Twinning the Queen Elizabeth Way Garden City Skyway, Building the New Highway 7 among others. "OTA applauds Transportation Minister Mulroney for her ongoing commitment to investing in critical road infrastructure, which will allow our members to efficiently move the Ontario economy, now and in the future, resulting in increased investment to our province for years to come," said OTA President and CEO Stephen Laskowski

29. Eight fleets opt for hydrogen in northern BC

Eight commercial truck fleets have signed up to retrofit trucks to use hydrogen fuel in British Columbia. Hydra Energy signed the companies on to take part in its Prince George, British Columbia project. This means 82 Class 8 trucks to be retrofitted using Hydra's proprietary hydrogen-diesel, co-combustion conversion technology. Once converted by Hydra installation partner First Truck Centre, these trucks will refuel at the hydrogen refuelling station Hydra is building in

Prince George. The station, which uses green hydrogen produced on site by two five-megawatt electrolyzers powered with hydroelectricity, is set to start running in 2024.

30. RNG framed as ‘low risk’ option to slash truck emissions

The journey to zero emissions has begun, but a global fuel system producer believes that several energy sources — including renewable natural gas (RNG) — will be needed to reach the goal. “There is not one solution that can replace diesel,” Hexagon Composites CEO Jon Erik Engeset said in a March 23 press conference. “We firmly believe there’s got to be a mix, depending on the geography, depending on availability, depending on the application of the trucks.”

The need for such options becomes increasingly important against a backdrop of ever-tighter emissions standards and the limited ranges of emerging battery-electric options. Ninety-seven percent of heavy trucks continue to be powered by diesel, and in Europe the share even increased by half a percentage point from 2021 to 2022.

31. Autonomous mobile robots market is expand at a CAGR of 22.1% during forecast period – by Fact.MR

In 2022, the market for autonomous mobile robots is expected to be worth USD 2.85 billion. By 2032, the market is anticipated to reach a value greater than USD 20.99 billion. The forecast period is expected to see this market expand at a CAGR of 22.1%. The rising demand for automation in manufacturing and logistics industry is expected to drive the growth of the autonomous mobile robots market. The increasing need to reduce operational costs, improve efficiency and accuracy, and enhance productivity is anticipated to boost the growth of the market. The growing trend of automation in warehousing operations is also a major factor driving the growth of the autonomous mobile robots market. The growing demand for these robots in industrial applications is expected to continue to fuel the growth of the market. Geographically, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to hold a major share of the autonomous mobile robots market during the forecast period. The increasing number of manufacturing and automotive industries in the region is a major factor driving the growth of the market. In addition, the presence of various major players in the region is also expected to contribute to the growth of the autonomous mobile robots market in this region.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. National Travel Survey, third quarter 2022

Canadian residents took 96.7 million trips within Canada or abroad during the third quarter, 9.7 million more than in the third quarter of 2021. This represents over 95% of the number of trips taken during the same quarter in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. From July to September 2022, the majority (92.6%) of trips were domestic, down from 98.9% during the same three months of 2021, while 5.7% were destined for the United States and 1.7% were destined for overseas. In the third quarter of 2022, Canadian residents spent almost three times as much on domestic trips (\$27.3 billion) as international travel (\$9.5 billion), and surpassed spending by 26.2% during the same quarter in 2019. More recent data on international travel by Canadian residents are available from the monthly "Travel between Canada and other countries."

2. What’s in the Northern Ireland Brexit deal? Here are top five takeaways

Three years after the UK left the European Union, the two have achieved what seemed to be impossible: They clinched an agreement on Northern Ireland’s trading arrangements in an attempt to resolve the biggest obstacle left over from the bitter split. The deal adds flexibility for goods moving between Britain and Northern Ireland and includes a new mechanism for Northern Ireland to challenge amendments to existing EU law while keeping the European Court of Justice as the sole arbiter of EU regulations. The UK also agreed to shelve a controversial bill that would allow it to override the agreement. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has promised to give MPs a vote on the new “Windsor Framework” that will likely take place next week, according to a person familiar with the plan who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Since the opposition Labour Party has said it will support the deal, it’s likely to pass. While the accord still needs formal approval on both sides, it

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. National Travel Survey, third quarter 2022, February 27, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
2. What’s in the Northern Ireland Brexit deal? Here are top five takeaways, February 27, 2023, www.ajot.com
3. Transport announces new funding to strength to supply chains in Saint John, New Brunswick, February 28, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
4. A landmark UN treaty is poised to curb exploitation of the ocean, March 5, 2023, www.ajot.com
5. Canadian Tourism Activity Tracker, December 2022, March 6, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
6. Tourism Investment Module, 1981 to 2021, March 7, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
7. Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2023, March 8, 2023, www.statca.gc.ca
8. Reliable fuel supply to drive your business forward, March 9, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com
9. U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment Rate of 4.7% in February 2023 Was Below the February 2022 Level of 5.4% But Was Above the Pre-Pandemic February Level of 3.8% in 2020, March 10, 2023, www.bts.gov
10. Joint Statement by President Biden and President von der Leyen, March 10, 2023, www.europa.eu
11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, February 2023, March 13, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
12. Traffic flow dashboard, March 14, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
13. Biden-Harris Administration Funds Innovative Projects to Create Safer, More Equitable, Transportation Systems, March 21, 2023, www.dot.gov
14. Four ways IT innovation will change supply chains in 2023, March 21, 2023,

could bring the EU-UK relationship back in from the cold. Here are five key takeaways: 1. Lowering Trade Barriers With Great Britain; 2. The ECJ Still Has Oversight; 3. Stormont Brake: The New Measure of Last Resort; 4. Changes to Key Taxation Rules; and 5. All Eyes on the DUP (Democratic Union Party).

3. Transport announces new funding to strength to supply chains in Saint John, New Brunswick

On February 28, 2023, the Minister of Transport and the Member of Parliament for Saint John—Roth say, Wayne Long, announced over \$10 million in funding for two projects under the National Trade Corridors Fund. The Government of Canada will contribute: 1. Up to \$7.3 million for the remaining phases to rehabilitate the Saint John Harbour Bridge

in Saint John, New Brunswick. The upgrades will extend the life of the bridge and support commercial movements. The New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is contributing up to \$7.7 million, for a total investment of nearly \$15 million. 2. Up to \$2.8 million to provide additional space for the Canada Border Services Agency to carry out its inspection activities for cargo arriving at the Port of Saint John. The project is expected to eliminate current congestion by allowing the Port of Saint John to handle the growing volume of containers. The Saint John Port Authority is contributing \$2.8 million towards the project, for a total investment of \$5.6 million.

4. A landmark UN treaty is poised to curb exploitation of the ocean

An agreement reached Saturday night March 4, 2023 on the wording of a historic United Nations treaty to protect marine biodiversity could mark the end of the unregulated exploitation of the ocean, an increasingly urgent concern as climate impacts multiply. The ocean supplies half the planet's oxygen, absorbs more than a third of carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and feeds billions of people. If ratified, the UN high seas biodiversity treaty could build in new hurdles for corporations operating on the high seas — defined as the 60% of the ocean beyond any nation's jurisdiction — including for those companies proposing to remove carbon dioxide from the ocean. "I think that the end of the Wild West may be in sight, with real commitment to implement this treaty," said Susanna Fuller, a member of the steering committee of the High Seas Alliance, a coalition of more than 40 environmental groups. "We need to get it up and running soon to deal with those things," Fuller said, referring specifically to CO2 removal schemes. Delegates will reconvene at a later date to formally adopt the text of the treaty, which will then go to the UN General Assembly for approval.

5. Canadian Tourism Activity Tracker, December 2022

In December 2022, overall tourism activity in Canada had recovered more than nine-tenths of its 2019 pre-COVID-19 pandemic level, largely on the strength of domestic travel. Overall tourism activity in December 2022 reached 91.9% of the December 2019 level, before the pandemic. While domestic activity (i.e., from Canadian residents travelling within Canada) reached 96.0% of its pre-pandemic level, inbound activity (i.e., from international visitors) was less robust, at 80.6% of the December 2019 level. All provinces have recovered roughly 85% or more of their overall tourism activity levels from December 2019.

6. Tourism Investment Module, 1981 to 2021

In 2021, tourism industries invested \$35.0 billion in non-residential capital assets, which accounted for 9.9% of all non-residential capital investment in Canada. This study isolates the investment in non-residential capital assets undertaken by tourism industries at a detailed industry level. Tourism industries are a subset of all industries in Canada and include those related to transportation, accommodation, food and beverage services, recreation and entertainment, and travel services that are likely to cater directly to tourists. Although these industries also serve non-tourism activities, they are considered essential for tourism activities. As such, these estimates contain investments that benefit tourists and non-tourists. For some tourism industries (e.g., urban transit), these investments mostly benefit non-tourists. Non-residential assets include four broad asset categories: non-residential buildings, non-residential engineering structures, machinery and equipment, and intellectual property products. The share of total non-residential investment by tourism industries has steadily increased from a low of 4.2% in 2011 to a high of 9.9% in 2021. These gains were primarily driven by investments in urban transit systems, which tripled in the last decade. In 2021, three industries accounted for 70% of total tourism investment: urban transit systems (\$16.8 billion), passenger car rental (\$4.0 billion) and scheduled air transportation (\$3.7 billion).

7. Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2023

In January 2023, Canada's merchandise exports increased 4.2%, while imports were up 3.1%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world widened from a revised \$1.2 billion in December 2022 to \$1.9 billion in January 2023.

www.insidelogistics.ca

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, January 2023, March 22, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

16. Europe was the main destination for U.S. LNG exports in 2022, March 22, 2023, www.ajot.com

17. Biden trade chief says traditional agreements created problems, March 26, 2023, www.ajot.com

18. Minister Fraser Announces New Immigration Pathway; Includes Truck Drivers and Other In-Demand Jobs, March 27, 2023, www.ontruck.org

19. Minister of Transport announces funding for research to support the rebuilding of more sustainable transport infrastructure in Ukraine, March 27, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

20. Federal budget includes focus on supply chain, March 29, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

8. Reliable fuel supply to drive your business forward

Switching to biodiesel today can help you lower your carbon emissions. To support the Canadian Government's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, all industries and sectors are making changes and adapting new practices to their operations to lower their net emissions. Many businesses in the energy and fuel sector are already taking steps to lower their emissions, and the transition to net-zero will influence how companies chose to operate in the future. Canada's *Clean Fuel Regulations and the Federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* have changed the standard for the carbon content of fuels and set a requirement to the fuel used by the trucking industry. These regulations have introduced new standards to be implemented across to the fuel industry, for example all diesel in the Ontario market require a 4% biodiesel blend, and the percentage of bio content is predicted to continue to rise in the future. Leveraging their international experience in renewables and biofuels, fuel supplier Greenergy are supporting their customers to navigate the changing regulations and supporting the energy transition. Early adoption of lower carbon fuels ensures companies are at the forefront of environmental, social and governance mandates.

9. U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment Rate of 4.7% in February 2023 Was Below the February 2022 Level of 5.4% But Was Above the Pre-Pandemic February Level of 3.8% in 2020

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.7% (not seasonally adjusted) in February 2023 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data recently updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Unemployment in Transportation dashboard. The February 2023 rate fell 0.7 percentage points from 5.4% in February 2022 but was above the pre-pandemic February level of 3.8% in February 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020.

10. Joint Statement by President Biden and President von der Leyen

The United States and the European Union share the most comprehensive and dynamic economic relationship in the world. Our partnership is based on shared values and principles, including the responsibility to protect our planet for future generations and defend our workers. On March 20, 2023, the United States and the European Union are taking new steps to deepen our economic relationship as we build the clean energy economies of the future and address shared economic and national security challenges including standing together to end Russia's war against Ukraine.

11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, February 2023

The number of international arrivals to Canada—non-resident trips and returning Canadian-resident trips—tripled from February 2022 but have not yet reached arrivals recorded in February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2023, the 422,400 non-resident arrivals from abroad at Canadian airports equipped with electronic sensors more than doubled those that arrived the same month in 2022. In February 2023, US-resident trips to Canada through land ports with electronic sensors totalled 618,900, over 428,700 more trips taken than in February 2022. In February 2023, the 1.6 million Canadian-resident trips returning from abroad via kiosk-equipped airports almost tripled that from the same month in 2022. Compared with February 2022, there were almost 900,400 more Canadian-resident return trips—for a total of 1.3 million—to the US through land ports with electronic sensors in February 2023.

12. Traffic flow dashboard

On March 14, 2023, Statistics Canada reported that it has launched the Traffic Flow Dashboard as a source of experimental statistics to provide information on the traffic flow on selected road segments in the cities of Calgary and Toronto. This dashboard shows traffic count data that are obtained from traffic camera imagery using a computer vision-based system developed at Statistics Canada's Data Exploration and Integration Lab.

13. Biden-Harris Administration Funds Innovative Projects to Create Safer, More Equitable, Transportation Systems

On, March 21, 2023, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced the first round of grants totaling over \$94 million for 59 projects across the country through the new Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. The competitive grant program, established by President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides State, local, and Tribal governments \$500 million over five years to leverage technology to create safer, more equitable, efficient, and innovative transportation systems.

14. Four ways IT innovation will change supply chains in 2023

We all know we've been through two years of crazy upheaval and disruption, and yet it also feels like a golden age of innovation and technological advances. 2023 is going to be the most exciting year yet. Here's my take on the technologies to watch in the year ahead. 1. Big data as a service (BDaaS); 2. More natural interactions with AI; 3. The rise of "prompt engineering"; 4. IoT delivers (fall in prices); and 5. Data as the common thread.

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, January 2023

In January 2023, the overall number of international arrivals to Canada—non-resident visitors and returning Canadian residents—reached over three-quarters (78.4%) of the level from January 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents of overseas countries took three times as many trips to Canada in January 2023, compared with the same month in 2022, and almost two-thirds (65.9%) of the trips taken in January 2020. US residents took 866,700 trips to

Canada in January 2023. This was four times the number of trips taken in January 2022, and 72.1% of those taken in January 2020, before the pandemic. Canadian residents returned from 3.6 million trips abroad in January 2023, more than triple the number from January 2022 and over four-fifths (81.2%) of the pre-pandemic level from January 2020. The number of Canadian residents returning from the United States by air has exceeded its pre-pandemic level since September 2022. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit their new [Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard](#). For more current estimates of international arrivals to Canada, please see the "[Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada](#)" for the February 2023 reference month.

16. Europe was the main destination for U.S. LNG exports in 2022

U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) averaged 10.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2022, increasing by 9% (0.8 Bcf/d) compared with 2021, according to our Natural Gas Monthly. The increase in U.S. LNG exports was driven by strong LNG demand in Europe, high international natural gas prices, and expanded U.S. liquefaction capacity. U.S. LNG exports to Europe increased 141%, or 4.0 Bcf/d, compared with 2021.

17. Biden trade chief says traditional agreements created problems

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai told lawmakers that some tariff-lowering agreements have made the US economy vulnerable, and the Biden administration wants to address the problem with a fresh approach to supply chains and commerce. Tai, appearing before the House Ways and Means Committee on March 24, 2023, said tariff cuts and rules to meet free-trade agreement requirements have led to a de-industrialization and erosion of some US capabilities. That's despite benefits in some areas like textiles in a free-trade deal with Central American countries, and agriculture in other accords, that have bolstered supply chains, she said. The Biden administration hasn't taken up any free-trade talks, opting to pursue its goals through initiatives that focus on issues like supply chains and the environment and don't require congressional approval. Those include the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity. Tai said that the administration was pursuing a trade policy driven by benefits to workers. A number of the challenges to the US economy, including supply chains and competition from non-market economies like China, have roots in the "traditional trade approach," she said. "We are not pursuing traditional fully-liberalizing trade agreements, because we see those as part of the problem that we are trying to correct for," she said.

18. Minister Fraser Announces New Immigration Pathway; Includes Truck Drivers and Other In-Demand Jobs

Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced on March 27, 2023 that Canada will launch a new economic pathway under the [Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot](#) (EMPP) to help employers hire skilled refugees and other displaced individuals. The new pathway will give employers more opportunities to fill a wide range of in-demand jobs, including truck and delivery drivers. The EMPP pairs skilled refugees and other qualified displaced people with Canadian employers who need to overcome labour shortages in key occupations. This allows Canada to welcome vulnerable people, while giving Canadian employers access to an untapped talent pool with the skills they need to help the economy grow.

19. Minister of Transport announces funding for research to support the rebuilding of more sustainable transport infrastructure in Ukraine

On March 27, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced an investment of \$300,000 to the International Transport Forum (ITF) under the Clean Transportation System – Research and Development program (CTS R&D). This funding will help support the important research work of the ITF with respect to the rebuilding of Ukraine's transportation infrastructure and supply chains to make them greener, more sustainable and better connected. This 18-month research project will assess the state of Ukraine's freight transport sector and guide the identification of significant challenges in transitioning towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly freight transport system for post-war Ukraine. It will also develop sustainable transport pathways based on a comprehensive analysis of the sector's current and future scenarios of international trade and the country's connectivity to global markets.

20. Federal budget includes focus on supply chain

The 2023 federal budget takes measures to address supply chain challenges. The measures included are described in the budget document as a "down payment on Canada's National Supply Chain Strategy," which the government promises will be released in the coming months. It will be informed by the recommendations of the National Supply Chain Task Force report. As part of the new spending, Transport Canada will have \$27.2 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to establish a Transportation Supply Chain Office. It will work with industry and other orders of government to respond to disruptions and better coordinate action to increase the capacity, efficiency, and reliability of Canada's transportation supply chain infrastructure. This includes collaboration.