

Transportation Information Update*

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1. Monthly civil aviation statistics, June 2023

Major Canadian airlines carried 6.9 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in June 2023, up 15.2% from the same month in 2022 and within 5% of pre-pandemic levels for the first time in the COVID-19 era. With traffic at 19.4 billion passenger-kilometres and capacity at 22.1 billion available seat-kilometres, the passenger load factor was 87.8% in June 2023. Operating revenue earned in June 2023 exceeded the pre-pandemic level for the seventh consecutive month.

2. Air Canada Highlights ESG Accomplishments with 2022 Citizens of the World Corporate Sustainability Report

Air Canada on August 31, 2023 released the 2022 edition of *Citizens of the World*, detailing the airline's approach, commitments and progress respecting its environmental, social and governance activities and performance throughout 2022. The report also outlines Air Canada's ambitions for the future. Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer at Air Canada said "Last year was a pivotal one for our business. We celebrated our 85th anniversary and recovered from the pandemic's effects on our industry, all while advancing our ESG priorities. As Canada's flag carrier, we connect Canada to the world, and we are acutely aware of the responsibility we have toward the communities we fly to and our planet. We have developed corporate priorities to improve our operations while caring for our customers, our employees and our communities, as well as preserving the planet we help people explore. We believe in the importance of taking care of one another. We lift each other up by creating a safe, healthy and inclusive environment, where our colleagues can grow and thrive, and our customers always feel welcome. Our next chapters may be challenging, but we are as determined as ever to deliver the care and class that Air Canada is known for, in a sustainable way."

3. UPS offers senior pilots buyout package to cut costs

UPS Inc. is offering pilots an early retirement package to reduce payroll amid declining package volumes. The integrated parcel and logistics giant confirmed on August 31, 2023 that it wants to trim senior pilots from its ranks, a day after communicating with the pilot group. "At UPS, we regularly assess our operations and make adjustments to better serve our customers. As part of our effort to efficiently manage our airline, we are offering a voluntary separation benefit to eligible UPS pilots," UPS said in an emailed statement. Those who choose to accept the offer will receive a comprehensive compensation package that includes cash and healthcare benefits." UPS did not disclose specific details of the offer.

4. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 34):

Global tonnages increased in the third full week of August 2023, following a similar pattern as last year, mainly driven by Europe rebounding from the holiday season, while rates remained stable, according to the latest figures from WorldACD Market Data. Figures for week 34 (21 to 27 August) show a +4% jump in tonnages compared with the previous week, while average worldwide air cargo prices remained stable, week-on-week (WoW), based on the more than 400,000 weekly transactions covered by WorldACD's data. Comparing weeks 33 and 34 with the preceding two weeks (2Wo2W), overall

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Monthly civil aviation statistics, June 2023, August 29, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca
2. Air Canada Highlights ESG Accomplishments with 2022 Citizens of the World Corporate Sustainability Report, August 31, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
3. UPS offers senior pilots buyout package to cut costs, August 31, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
4. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 34), August 31, 2023, www.ajot.com
5. Air Canada Sets Course for Summer 2024 with Expanded Services to Popular European Destinations, September 5, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
6. Intelsat Selected by Air Canada for Expanded Fleet Connectivity, September 5, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
7. Demand for air cargo grows in spite of manufacturing contraction, September 6, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
8. U.S. Airlines' July 2023 Fuel Cost per Gallon Up 2.3% from June 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 0.1% from Pre-Pandemic July 2019, September 5, 2023, www.bts.gov
9. Porter Airlines connects St. John's coast to coast via new Toronto Pearson service, September 6, 2023, www.flyporter.com
10. Strong Passenger Demand Continues in July, September 6, 2023, www.iata.org
11. Air Cargo Demand Strengthens Despite Challenges, September 5, 2023, www.iata.org
12. Air Canada Announces Prepayment of Aircraft Related Debt Totalling Approximately \$589 Million, September 7, 2023, www.aircanada.ca
13. Porter Airlines inaugurates Winnipeg service from its Toronto-Pearson hub, September 7, 2023, www.flyporter.com
14. Air Travel Consumer Report: May 2023 Numbers, September 7, 2023, www.bts.gov
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16. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Added 2,058 Jobs in July 2023; Employment Remains 8.2% Above Pre-Pandemic, September 11, 2023, www.bts.gov
17. JetBlue sheds more Spirit gates to ease antitrust concerns, September 11, 2023, www.ajot.com
18. Joint World Financial Symposium - World Passenger Symposium to Focus on Value Creation, September 11, 2023, www.iata.org
19. Statement on Schiphol Slot Reduction, September 13, 2023, www.iata.org

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

tonnages dropped by -4% versus their combined total in weeks 31 and 32, while worldwide rates and capacity remained flat.

5. Air Canada Sets Course for Summer 2024 with Expanded Services to Popular European Destinations

Air Canada on September 5, 2023 announced a new, year-round route between Montreal and Madrid beginning in May 2024, as part of its expanded international summer 2024 flying schedule. The airline plans to operate 100 per cent of its peak summer 2019 trans-Atlantic capacity next year, taking full advantage of the robust recovery in its largest international market. "Air Canada saw a tremendous rebound in international flying this past summer, particularly on the trans-Atlantic, and we expect Europe will remain popular next year. In anticipation of this, we are expanding our flying schedule to offer customers more choice and flexibility as they begin to plan their 2024 holidays," said Mark Galardo, Executive Vice President of Revenue and Network Planning at Air Canada. "The centrepiece of today's announcement is our new Montreal-Madrid flight. This will be the only year-round service between Montreal and the Spanish capital, complementing our long-standing Toronto-Madrid flights, and offering compelling options for leisure customers and also returning business travellers."

6. Intelsat Selected by Air Canada for Expanded Fleet Connectivity

Air Canada and Intelsat, operator of one of the world's largest integrated satellite and terrestrial networks and leading provider of in-flight connectivity (IFC), on September 5, 2023 announced an agreement for Intelsat to provide connectivity systems for nearly 100 additional aircraft across the airline's fleet, including Intelsat's new multi-orbit electronically steered array (ESA) antenna for aircraft in the airline's regional jet fleet. "The efforts and the commitment of Intelsat's team and their service partners made the difference for us. We're confident Intelsat provides proven technology, an extensible platform and network, and the right vision for the future of in-flight connectivity," said Mark Nasr, Air Canada's Executive Vice President, Marketing and Digital, and President of Aeroplan. "Through our Bell partnership, equipment installation schedule, and strong conviction around the importance of in-flight connectivity, we seek to offer our customers the best and most consistently available offering in the industry." "Intelsat has been delivering reliable in-flight connectivity to Air Canada and its passengers for 14 years," said Dave Bijur, Senior Vice President Commercial for Intelsat Commercial Aviation. "Air Canada's leadership will continue for decades to come thanks to this investment in 2Ku connectivity for the 737 MAX fleet and the decision to install Intelsat's innovative multi-orbit service across their regional jet operation."

7. Demand for air cargo grows in spite of manufacturing contraction

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2023 global air cargo markets, showing a continuing trend of recovering growth rates since February 2023. July 2023 air cargo demand was tracking just 0.8 percent below the previous year's levels. Although demand is now basically flat compared to 2022, this is an improvement on recent months' performance that is particularly significant given declines in global trade volumes and rising concerns over China's economy. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), tracked at 0.8 percent below July 2022 levels (-0.4 percent for international operations). This was a significant improvement over the previous month's performance (-3.4 percent). Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was up 11.2 percent compared to July 2022 (eight percent for international operations). The strong uptick in ACTKs reflects the growth in belly capacity (29.3 percent year-on-year) due to the summer season.

20. Aeroplan Introduces Fourth Night Free Hotel Offer for all Aeroplan Credit Cardholders, September 13, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

21. Air Canada Unveils Canada's Best New Restaurants 2023 Longlist, Showcasing the Best of New Canadian Cuisine, September 14, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

22. June 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.6% from the Same Month Last Year, September 15, 2023, www.bts.gov

23. Air passenger complaints backlog hits record 57,000, with average of 3,000 requests for compensation per month, September 18, 2023, www.nationalpost.ca

24. Canada's Airports Celebrate Airports Safety Week, September 18, 2023, www.cacirports.ca

25. US Airlines gain \$5.5 billion in second quarter 2023, an improvement over second quarter 2022, Sept. 18, 2023, www.bts.gov

26. Air Canada and Dreams Take Flight Edmonton Celebrate 30 Years of Helping Children Make Magical Memories, September 19, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

27. WestJet endorses widescale Canadian production of sustainable aviation fuel, September 19, 2023, www.ajot.com

28. Recognizing 20 Years of Safety Improvements with IOSA, September 19, 2023, www.iata.org

29. WestJet announces transborder connectivity between Victoria and Las Vegas, September 20, 2023, www.westjet.ca

30. Air Canada Cargo to Provide Year-Round Widebody Capacity on Key European Markets, September 20, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

31. Air Canada Cyber Statement, September 20, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

32. Porter Airlines begins flights for Victoria-Toronto Pearson route, September 20, 2023, www.flyporter.ca

33. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award at the APEX 2024 Awards, Sept. 21, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

34. WestJet announces official 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic™ partnership, September 25, 2023, www.westjet.ca

35. Air Canada to Acquire 18 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner Aircraft under ongoing Fleet Renewal and Fuel Efficiency Drive, September 25, 2023, www.aircanada.ca

36. IATA fuel efficiency tool netting big savings and carbon reduction, September 25, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

37. Air Canada swapping freighters for passenger jets, September 27, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

38. \$201M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lights the Way to Improve Runway Safety, September 26, 2023, www.dot.gov

39. Wayfinding takes a new direction, September 26, 2023, www.iata.org

40. Air Travel Consumer Report: June 2023 and 2nd Quarter 2023 Numbers, September 27, 2023, www.dot.gov

41. Digitalisation of travel documents and facilitation of travel, September 27, 2023, www.europa.eu

8. U.S. Airlines' July 2023 Fuel Cost per Gallon Up 2.3% from June 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 0.1% from Pre-Pandemic July 2019

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on September 5, 2023 released U.S. airlines' July 2023 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.678 billion gallons of fuel, 5.0% more fuel than in June 2023 (1.597 billion gallons) and 0.1% more than in pre-pandemic July 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in July 2023 (\$2.48) was up 5.48 cents (2.3%) from June 2023 (\$2.42) and up \$0.50 (25.0%) from July 2019. Total July 2023 fuel expenditure (\$4.16B) was up 7.4% from June 2023 (\$3.87B) and up 25.1% from pre-pandemic July 2019. Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for July 2023 include 8.4% increase in domestic fuel consumption, 26.4% decrease in domestic fuel cost, and 32.1% decrease in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption increased 4.7% from June 2023 to July 2023, while increasing 0.8% from July 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

9. Porter Airlines connects St. John's coast to coast via new Toronto Pearson service

Porter Airlines is celebrating the first flights with its Embraer E195-E2 aircraft between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and St. John's International Airport (YYT). Service to St. John's departs this evening, with the return flight to Toronto scheduled for the morning of Sept. 7, 2023. St. John's passengers now have the option of using both Toronto airports. St. John's has been part of Porter's network since 2009, operating with the De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft to Halifax, with onward service to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, Ottawa and Montreal. The flight to Pearson connects with Porter's new Western Canada destinations, including Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg, operated on the Embraer E195-E2.

10. Strong Passenger Demand Continues in July

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the post-COVID recovery momentum continued in July 2023 for passenger markets. *Total traffic* in July 2023 (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) rose 26.2% compared to July 2022. Globally, traffic is now at 95.6% of pre-COVID levels. *Domestic traffic* for July rose 21.5% versus July 2022 and was 8.3% above the July 2019 results. July RPKs are the highest ever recorded, strongly supported by surging demand in the China domestic market. *International traffic* climbed 29.6% compared to the same month a year ago with all markets showing robust growth. International RPKs reached 88.7% of July 2019 levels. The passenger load factor (PLF) for the industry reached 85.7% which is the highest monthly international PLF ever recorded. "Planes were full during July as people continue to travel in ever greater numbers. Importantly, forward ticket sales indicate that traveler confidence remains high. And there is every reason to be optimistic about the continuing recovery," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

11. Air Cargo Demand Strengthens Despite Challenges

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2023 global air cargo markets, showing a continuing trend of recovering growth rates since February 2023. July 2023 air cargo demand was tracking just 0.8% below the previous year's levels. Although demand is now basically flat compared to 2022, this is an improvement on recent months' performance that is particularly significant given declines in global trade volumes and rising concerns over China's economy. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), tracked at 0.8% below July 2022 levels (-0.4% for international operations). This was a significant improvement over the previous month's performance (-3.4%). Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was up 11.2% compared to July 2022 (8% for international operations). The strong uptick in ACTKs reflects the growth in belly capacity (29.3% year-on-year) due to the summer season.

12. Air Canada Announces Prepayment of Aircraft Related Debt Totalling Approximately \$589 Million

Air Canada on September 7, 2023 announced that it has prepaid loans of approximately \$462 million from Export Development Corporation (EDC) previously used by the company to help fund its acquisition of 14 Airbus A220-300 aircraft. The prepayment, which is also subject to accrued interest and break costs, was made on August 30, 2023. The airline additionally prepaid financings of approximately \$127 million supported by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (ExIm) previously used by the company to help fund its acquisition of four Boeing 787-8 aircraft. The prepayment, which is also subject to accrued interest, was made on September 6, 2023. "One of Air Canada's top priorities following the pandemic is to deleverage and since late last year we have now pre-paid approximately \$1.87 billion in debt. This strengthens our balance sheet and provides us more flexibility to make strategic investments, including to improve the customer experience, and to continue upgrading our fleet such as through our previously announced acquisition of Canadian-made Airbus A220 aircraft. With our very solid liquidity position and cash flow we will continue to look for more opportunities to reduce debt further. We were pleased to partner with EDC in supporting the Canadian aerospace industry and we thank ExIm for facilitating our acquisition of Boeing aircraft," said John Di Bert, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Air Canada.

13. Porter Airlines inaugurates Winnipeg service from its Toronto-Pearson hub

Porter Airlines on September 7, 2023 inaugurated its non-stop service between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Winnipeg Richardson International Airport (YWG). Flights between the provincial capitals begin with two

daily round trips. The Winnipeg-Toronto Pearson route operates with Porter's new 132-seat Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, featuring a two-by-two configuration with no middle seats and category-leading fuel efficiency. The service also connects to Porter's Eastern Canada network out of Toronto-Pearson, including Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa and St. John's.

14. Air Travel Consumer Report: May 2023 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on September 7, 2023 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of May 2023 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. DOT remains committed to ensuring airline passengers are treated fairly and flights operate as scheduled. In May 2023, cancellations were 0.6%, which is significantly lower than the cancellation rate of 2% in May 2022. For the first five months of 2023, cancellations have stayed below 2% and are far lower than the 2.7% cancellation rate last year and in pre-pandemic 2019.

15. Armed Forces to use drones for medical supply deliveries

Canada's military will be testing aircraft from Drone Delivery Canada to gauge their suitability for use in military logistics applications. The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces' (DND/CAF) Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program has contracted with DDC to use a Canary remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) in a six-month program. The initial contract is worth \$200,000. If it is successful, it could lead to a follow-on 12-month contract valued up to \$1 million. The Canary will be operated and evaluated in a test environment setting, as well as a real-world operation to demonstrate the Canary's ability to deliver medical equipment and supplies in austere environments during mission-critical operations. The Canary has long-range capabilities, and ability to operate in diverse weather conditions.

16. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Added 2,058 Jobs in July 2023; Employment Remains 8.2% Above Pre-Pandemic

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 803,893 workers in July 2023, 2,058 (0.26%) more workers than in June 2023 (801,835) and 60,853 (8.19%) more than in pre-pandemic July 2019 (743,040). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 528,175 workers in July 2023 or 66% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines added 2,841 employees in July 2023 for a twenty-seventh consecutive month of job growth dating back to May 2021. Southwest led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 1,188 employees; United Air Lines added 927, and Delta Airlines added 545. U.S. cargo airlines employed 270,963 workers in July 2023, 34% of the industry total. Cargo carriers lost 695 employees in July. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 687 jobs.

17. JetBlue sheds more Spirit gates to ease antitrust concerns

JetBlue Airways Corp. agreed to transfer some Spirit Airlines Inc. gates and flight slots at three airports to help lessen antitrust concerns over its pending acquisition of the low-cost carrier. JetBlue will shift all of Spirit's holdings at Boston Logan International and Newark Liberty International and part of its assets at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International in Florida to Allegiant Travel Co., according to a statement on September 11, 2023. JetBlue previously agreed to divest Spirit's holdings at New York's LaGuardia Airport to deep discounter Frontier Group Holdings Inc. The US Justice Department is trying to break up the JetBlue-Spirit deal on grounds it would give the combined company too much market power in certain areas and lead to higher fares for consumers. A trial is set to begin Oct. 16, 2023. JetBlue says the acquisition is necessary for it to compete with larger carriers that control more than 80% of the US commercial airline market. Under the agreement, JetBlue will transfer to Allegiant two gates in Boston and two gates in Newark, along with the rights for 43 takeoff and landing slots at Newark. JetBlue also will give up five gates at Fort Lauderdale to the Broward County Aviation Department and will work with the agency on Allegiant's use of the gates. JetBlue declined to comment on terms of the agreements with Allegiant.

18. Joint World Financial Symposium - World Passenger Symposium to Focus on Value Creation

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that "Value Creation – Unlock the Potential" will be the theme of the joint World Financial Symposium (WFS) and World Passenger Symposium (WPS). The event will take place 25-26 October 2023 in Chicago, USA, with United Airlines as the co-host airline. "With traffic levels virtually recovered to pre-pandemic levels, the industry is focused on rebuilding financial sustainability and the challenges of growth, particularly around infrastructure and passenger processes. Bringing these two events together reinforces that meeting customer expectations for air travel and achieving financial sustainability go hand in hand," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "We're excited to be co-host airline for the joint IATA World Financial Symposium and World Passenger Symposium. These are the industry's cornerstone events for aviation finance, customer experience, distribution and payment professionals. As an airline committed to leadership and innovation in these areas, we look forward to joining the conversations in our hometown of Chicago, this October," said Scott Kirby, United Airlines CEO. Highlights of WFS-WPS include the CEO Panel, which will feature Walsh and Adrian Neuhauser, President and CEO of Avianca.

19. Statement on Schiphol Slot Reduction

The International Air Transport Association reacted to confirmation from the Dutch Slot coordinator at Amsterdam Schiphol of the reductions in slots from Summer 2024. IATA Deputy Director General Conrad Clifford said: “The news that airlines operating at Schiphol will lose slots from Summer 2024 confirms our worst fears of the effects of the enforced cut to flight numbers at the airport. This is where the Government’s ill-thought-out plans hit reality: fewer destinations, and less choice, resulting in fewer travelers, lost employment, and reduced investment coming into the Netherlands. We cannot allow this situation to be “helaas, pindakaas”. Too much is at stake. Jobs today and the prosperity of the Netherlands in the future will be damaged by this decision. This caretaker Dutch government, lacking any democratic mandate, is setting fire to its own shop. But the EU Commission could and should act in defense of its own Regulations. And this is surely the wake-up call other governments need to remind the Dutch of their responsibilities under international law and bilateral air service agreements. Meanwhile, our appeal to the Cassation court remains to be heard. We hope the court decides swiftly on the legality of the ‘Experimental Regulation’ that is causing this mess.”

20. Aeroplan Introduces Fourth Night Free Hotel Offer for all Aeroplan Credit Cardholders

Starting September 13, 2023, an Aeroplan Credit Card gets you more out of your vacation — with a free night for every four-night consecutive stay booked with points. With the launch of its latest hotel rewards extension, Aeroplan becomes the first airline rewards loyalty program credit card to offer an unlimited Fourth Night Free offer to credit cardholders in Canada and the U.S., making it the go-to travel rewards program for more than just flights. "When we launched HotelSavers last year, we set out to build a best-in-class hotel rewards lineup to match our best-in-class flight rewards," said Scott O'Leary, Vice President, Loyalty and Product at Air Canada. "With this unlimited Fourth Night Free offer, our members can now stay longer with their Aeroplan points, taking their travel budgets even further." Aeroplan Credit Cardholders can choose from hundreds of thousands of stays for every budget from major hotel brands.

21. Air Canada Unveils Canada's Best New Restaurants 2023 Longlist, Showcasing the Best of New Canadian Cuisine

The 30 nominees for Canada's Best New Restaurants 2023 were unveiled on September 14, 2023 by Air Canada, welcoming a new group of restaurants to the longest-running Canadian restaurant awards. Since 2002, Air Canada has championed the country's distinct culinary scene through its signature program, celebrating new restaurants, chefs, and emerging talent. The 22nd year of Canada's Best New Restaurants kicks off with the highly anticipated longlist, out today on [CanadasBestNewRestaurants.com](https://www.canadasbestnewrestaurants.com). With one-in-ten adults taking vacation packages focused on culinary experiences, Air Canada and the Canada's Best New Restaurants program offer a list of 30 great Canadian restaurant options to explore. Spanning 15 cities across seven provinces, the longlist features restaurants that are worthy of note by both domestic and international travellers. Inclusion in this list elevates exposure for the chosen restaurants on both the domestic and international stage.

22. June 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.6% from the Same Month Last Year

U.S. airlines carried 84.0 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in June 2023, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, June 2023 enplanements are down 1.4% from May and down 7.1% from the all-time high reached in January 2020. BTS reported 72.5 million domestic passengers and 11.5 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in June 2023, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 and complete data since 2000.

23. Air passenger complaints backlog hits record 57,000, with average of 3,000 requests for compensation per month

The backlog of air passenger complaints at Canada’s transport regulator has hit a new high topping 57,000, as dissatisfaction over cancellations and compensation persist three and a half years after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers reveal that an average of more than 3,000 complaints per month have piled up at the Canadian Transportation Agency over the past year, with the current tally well over three times the total from September 2022. "Those soaring numbers show the failure of the government to design regulations which are actually practically enforceable and provide meaningful protection to passengers," says an Air Passenger Rights advocate. New rules to toughen penalties and tighten loopholes around traveller compensation and streamline the complaints process won't take effect until Sept. 30, 2023.

24. Canada’s Airports Celebrate Airports Safety Week

Canadian Airports Safety Week is returning this year from September 18-22, 2023. As traffic numbers increase post pandemic, safety remains the primary focus for our airports. Airports are commemorating this week with peer learning and sharing best practices in the continued pursuit of safety excellence. Canadian Airports Safety Week is held to promote healthy and safe work practices amongst airport employees. It is led by the Canadian Airports Council (CAC), in collaboration with 19 participating airports across the country. “Safety is an integral part of all airport operations, protecting not only passengers but also airport staff,” said CAC President Monette Pasher. “Canada’s airports continue

to ensure safety remains a top priority by continually instilling a safety culture in our aviation ecosystem. Everyone should feel safe and be safe at an airport, whether they are a traveller or an employee.”

25. US Airlines gain \$5.5 billion in second quarter 2023, an improvement over second quarter 2022

U.S. airline financial reports are filed quarterly with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a second-quarter 2023 after-tax net gain of \$5.5 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$7.7 billion. One year earlier, in the second quarter of 2022, the airlines reported an after-tax net gain of \$2.2 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$4.7 billion.

26. Air Canada and Dreams Take Flight Edmonton Celebrate 30 Years of Helping Children Make Magical Memories

Early this morning, 104 children from Alberta and the Northwest Territories, many of whom have never stepped foot on an airplane, took off on the trip of a lifetime. Departing from Edmonton International Airport the children from Dreams Take Flight jetted off for a theme park in California, marking the 30th anniversary of the Edmonton chapter of Dreams Take Flight. Today's flight is the first Edmonton Dreams flight since 2019, and the fourth of eight Dreams Take Flight trips planned across Canada for 2023. Over the past 30 years, *Dreams Take Flight* and Air Canada, as the exclusive carrier, have given more than 42,000 Canadian children a Dreams flight. With the support of devoted Air Canada employee volunteers, the Air Canada Foundation and the *Dreams Take Flight* organization, these trips take children from across the country on a trip-of-a-lifetime and help them create magical memories. That was the case for Naomi, who took part on the 2011 Dreams flight from Edmonton and would have celebrated her 19th birthday last week.

27. WestJet endorses widescale Canadian production of sustainable aviation fuel

"Air travel is essential to Canadians and critical to the nation's economy; with the right regulatory environment and collaborative efforts of producers and airlines, Canada has an enormous opportunity to further its global leadership in energy sustainability through SAF production," said Alexis von Hoensbroech, WestJet Group Chief Executive Officer. "The time is now for a regulatory framework to create a competitive investment climate for sustainable aviation fuel production, right here in Canada, that keeps air travel affordable and accessible." SAF is the most effective way to reduce the carbon footprint of air travel, with potential to almost entirely eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil jet fuel. SAF can be blended with conventional jet fuel to meet all certification and safety requirements, making it a model solution to reduce greenhouse gasses from air travel, while requiring no new investments in aircraft engines, fuel infrastructure or distribution processes.

28. Recognizing 20 Years of Safety Improvements with IOSA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) marked the first 20 years of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) at the IATA World Safety and Operations Conference taking place in Hanoi, Vietnam. "Over the past two decades, IOSA has made a major contribution to improving safety, while reducing the number of redundant audits. While it is a condition of membership in IATA, more than 100 non-IATA member airlines also see the value of participating and we welcome others. Likewise, while more than 40 governments use or are intending to use IOSA in their safety oversight programs, many more do not," said Nick Careen, IATA's Senior Vice President Operations, Safety and Security.

29. WestJet announces transborder connectivity between Victoria and Las Vegas

WestJet, on September 20, 2023 announced service between Victoria and Las Vegas, reintroducing the airline's first transborder connection from the island, for the first time since 2017. Beginning February 1, 2024, WestJet will operate non-stop service between Victoria and Las Vegas, twice weekly, as the airline continues to strengthen its investments in Western Canada through increased sun and leisure connections.

30. Air Canada Cargo to Provide Year-Round Widebody Capacity on Key European Markets

Air Canada Cargo will offer customers year-round capacity to key European cities following Air Canada's strategic decision to extend passenger service to year-round on routes that were previously summer seasonal operations. Key routes that will remain available for customers throughout the winter include Montreal to Rome, Toronto to Copenhagen and Toronto to Madrid. Air Canada Cargo will also offer customers service to Lyon with the restart of Air Canada's passenger route in mid-October. In addition to the new year-round routes, Air Canada Cargo will also benefit from increased frequencies on routes out of either Toronto or Montreal to Barcelona, Casablanca, Paris, Lisbon, Athens, Rome and Edinburgh. View Air Canada Cargo's [full schedule here](#).

31. Air Canada Cyber Statement

On September 20, 2023, Air Canada released the following statement. "An unauthorized group briefly obtained limited access to an internal Air Canada system related to limited personal information of some employees and certain records. We can confirm that our flight operations systems and customer facing systems were not affected. No customer information was accessed. We have contacted parties whose information has been involved as appropriate, as well as the relevant authorities. We can also confirm all our systems are fully operational. We have since implemented further enhancements to our security measures, including with the help of leading global cyber security experts, to prevent such

incidents in the future as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the security of the data we hold. We have no further public comment on this matter.”

32. Porter Airlines begins flights for Victoria-Toronto Pearson route

Porter Airlines is stretching its coast-to-coast network further with the inauguration on September 20, 2023 of service in Victoria, BC. Daily flights between Toronto Pearson Airport represent another link in a growing network of routes the airline has introduced this year with its new Embraer E195-E2 aircraft. The 132-seat plane features a two-by-two configuration, offering all passengers no middle seats and greater personal space. Free, fast, streaming-quality WiFi is also available, with the ability to watch and listen to personal subscription services on multiple devices. A library of movies and TV shows provides additional in-flight entertainment options.

33. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award at the APEX 2024 Awards

Air Canada's continued commitment to excellence was recognized with a Five Star Global Airline Award at the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) 2024 Awards Ceremony held last night in Long Beach, California. It is the fifth time in six years the airline has been awarded an APEX Five Star rating which is based on customer feedback. "On behalf of the more than 36,000 employees at Air Canada, we thank our customers and APEX for recognizing us with a Five Star Global Airline award. We have made significant investments in our digital, lounge and in-flight products and services, and we are delighted to welcome our customers onboard with an elevated level of comfort and convenience as they connect with families and friends, explore new cultures or continue to build businesses across Canada and our global network," said Mark Nasr, Air Canada's Executive Vice President, Marketing & Digital and President of Aeroplan.

34. WestJet announces official 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic™ partnership

WestJet, on September 25, 2023 in partnership with The National Hockey League (NHL®), announced it will serve as the official airline of the 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic™ on Sunday, October 29, 2023. Returning to its city of origin in Edmonton, the 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic™ will be hosted at the iconic Commonwealth Stadium at 5 p.m. MT in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the outdoor NHL game.

35. Air Canada to Acquire 18 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner Aircraft under ongoing Fleet Renewal and Fuel Efficiency Drive

Air Canada on September 25, 2023 said it has placed a firm order with The Boeing Company for 18 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner aircraft. Deliveries of the new aircraft are scheduled to begin in Q4 2025 with the last aircraft scheduled for delivery in Q1 2027. They will be used to replace older, less efficient wide-body aircraft currently in the Air Canada fleet. The agreement also includes options for another 12 Boeing 787-10 aircraft, which will provide flexibility for growth to meet future customer demand. "Air Canada has made investing in the passenger experience a core priority. Our experience shows customers greatly enjoy flying on the Dreamliner, so we are pleased to offer them a larger version of this popular aircraft, which will premiere a new, state-of-the-art interior cabin design. As importantly, the 787 is highly fuel efficient and will generate operational savings as well as support our sustainability goals of reducing emissions," said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada.

36. IATA fuel efficiency tool netting big savings and carbon reduction

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has shared the latest results from its Fuel Efficiency Gap Analysis (FEGA), and the results are striking. LOT Polish Airlines (LOT) is one of the airlines to undertake the FEGA, which identified the potential to shave its annual fuel consumption by several percent. That equates to an annual reduction by tens of thousands of tonnes of carbon from LOT's operations. "Every drop counts. Since its inception in 2005, FEGA has helped airlines identify cumulative savings of 15.2 million tonnes of carbon by cutting fuel consumption by 4.76 million tonnes. LOT is the latest example of an airline exploring all opportunities to achieve every incremental efficiency possible in fuel consumption. That's good for the environment and for the bottom line," said Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's senior vice-president sustainability and chief economist.

37. Air Canada swapping freighters for passenger jets

In a recently announced order with Boeing, Air Canada is swapping two previously ordered freighters for passenger planes. The two Boeing 777 freighter aircraft will be replaced with Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner aircraft, as part of a larger order of 18 of the planes. Air Canada said it placed a firm order with The Boeing Company for the Dreamliners. Deliveries of the new aircraft are scheduled to begin in Q4 2025 with the last aircraft scheduled for delivery in Q1 2027. They will be used to replace older, less efficient wide-body aircraft currently in the Air Canada fleet. The agreement also includes options for another 12 Boeing 787-10 aircraft, which will provide flexibility for growth to meet future customer demand. Air Canada currently operates 30 787-9 and eight 787-8 versions of the Dreamliner, with two more 787-9 aircraft scheduled for delivery from a previous order. The 787-10 is the largest model of the Dreamliner family and can carry more than 330 customers depending on the seat configuration, and has 175 cubic meters (6,187 cubic feet) of cargo volume.

38. \$201M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lights the Way to Improve Runway Safety

More than \$201 million in President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will go to airfield lighting systems at 82 airports. The projects will purchase and install new lighting for runways and taxiways to keep operations safe during reduced and low visibility and night conditions. "We're acting to improve lighting systems at 82 airports, an important part of keeping aircraft moving safely, no matter the time of day or weather," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "These runway and taxiway lighting investments are just the latest way President Biden is improving our airports, which will benefit Americans now and for decades to come." Sec. Buttigieg marked today's news at Denver International Airport, where the airport is upgrading its lighting, reconstructing a runway and removing a hot spot.

39. Wayfinding takes a new direction

Airports are evolving spaces, adapting to changing passenger trends and technologies. But at heart, air travel remains the same. Travelers want to get from curb to gate and, on arrival, from plane to vehicle, taxi, or other transportation mode. Wayfinding is therefore a fundamental of the passenger experience and yet rarely grabs the headlines in an era of big data and biometrics. Chris Chalk, Aviation Section Leader at Mott McDonald will be leading a discussion on wayfinding at IATA's World Passenger Symposium in Chicago, 25-26 October. He says that wayfinding best practice advises. "Remember, not everyone will speak the language, but pictograms and color are international. Making signs illuminated also makes a difference to visibility. And obviously digital signs give you greater flexibility." Signs tend to be located overhead as the sheer number of travelers make any other approach challenging. Illuminated signs or lines on the floor can help guide to a particular amenity or location but don't work in busy areas generally. Other dos and don'ts include measuring distances in time, so a passenger knows how long it takes a slower than average person to get to the gate or other destination, and avoiding adjacent advertising as this competes for a traveler's attention.

40. Air Travel Consumer Report: June 2023 and 2nd Quarter 2023 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on September 27, 2023 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of June 2023 and the first six months of 2023 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, and second quarter oversales. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. DOT remains committed to ensuring airline passengers are treated fairly and flights operate as scheduled. For the first six months of 2023, 1.6% of flights have been cancelled, far below the 3.2% cancellation rate for the first six months of last year and the 2.4% cancellation rate for first six months of pre-pandemic 2019.

41. Digitalisation of travel documents and facilitation of travel

Most Europeans consider that the digitalisation of the travel documents is an important step to accelerate border procedures, increase security and facilitate travelling to or outside the Schengen area (27 European countries). Specifically, 68% of Europeans are in favour of using digital travel documents for extra-Schengen travel and 66% of Europeans would prefer having one single application for the use of digital travel documents at EU level, rather than one for each Member State.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Saudi Arabia launches plan to develop logistics centres

The government of Saudi Arabia has launched a master plan for logistics centres. The plan aims to develop the infrastructure of the logistics sector in the country, diversify the local economy, and strengthen its position as a global logistics hub. The logistics centers master plan is part of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy (NTLS). The country is trying to capitalize on its geographical location connecting three major continents: Asia, Europe, and Africa. The plan outlines 59 centres, spread across the key regions of Saudi Arabia, with a total area exceeding 100 million square metres. These include 12 logistics centres for the Riyadh region, 12 for the Makkah region, 17 for the Eastern Province, and 18 across the remaining regions of the Kingdom. The ongoing work is focused on 21 centres, with the goal of completing all centres by 2030.

2. ILWU ratifies new labor contract with West Coast waterfront employers

Some 75% of union members participating in the vote agreed to ratify the tentative contract that was reached in mid-June 2023, opening the door to labor peace at West Coast ports at least through mid-2028.

3. Port of New York and New Jersey moves the most TEUs since October 2022

Peak season for the Port of New York and New Jersey has arrived. Not only did the port take the top spot for containers moved in July 2023, but it was the port's highest monthly total since October 2022. A total of 725,479 TEUs were processed in July 2023. Rick Cotton, Port Authority executive director, tells American Shipper it was extremely gratifying to see the strong performance that made the port the busiest in the nation for July. "The Port of New York and New Jersey's strong performance in July as the peak shipping season gets underway underscores our business partners' confidence in the East Coast's biggest port to move their goods quickly and reliably," Cotton said. "Our deep relationships and collaboration with all links of the regional supply chain continue to reap tangible benefits for our stakeholders who have retained their business here in New York-New Jersey even as the impact of softening global trade is felt elsewhere."

4. City, Port of Long Beach welcomes ILWU contract ratification

Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson and Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero congratulated the membership of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union for their ratification of the six-year contract between the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association. "We applaud the ILWU members for approving the new labor agreement with the PMA that will benefit 22,000 workers across 29 ports. This contract ensures the stability and success of our ports, which are a driving economic engine for our city, state, and national economy. "This agreement will bolster the global competitiveness of the Port of Long Beach while expanding job opportunities for residents throughout Long Beach and the greater Los Angeles region. We value our port employees and our industry partners, and we are committed to working alongside the ILWU, PMA, and our port leadership to make our Port the nation's leading commercial gateway." "The Port of Long Beach congratulates the International Longshore and Warehouse Union membership on ratifying the new labor agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association.

5. CMA CGM completes the acquisition of GCT Bayonne and New York container terminals

Further to the agreement announced on December 7th, 2022, the CMA CGM Group, a global player in sea, land, air and logistics solutions, has finalized its acquisition of Global Container Terminals (GCT) Bayonne and New York terminals. Through this strategic investment, the Group strengthens its position as a global port terminal operator, and a leading supply chain player

WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Saudi Arabia launches plan to develop logistics centres, August 30, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. ILWU ratifies new labor contract with West Coast waterfront employers, August 31, 2023, www.joc.com
3. Port of New York and New Jersey moves the most TEUs since October 2022, August 31, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
4. City, Port of Long Beach welcomes ILWU contract ratification, September 1, 2023, www.ajot.com
5. CMA CGM completes the acquisition of GCT Bayonne and New York container terminals, September 1, 2023, www.ajot.com
6. Port of Halifax: Accumulated Container traffic for the second quarter of 2023, September 5, 2023, www.portofhalifax.ca
7. Panama Canal's low water delays could last 10 months impacting U.S. Gulf/East Coast ports, August 4, 2023, www.ajot.com
8. ZIM announces a new operational collaboration agreement with MSC on multiple trades, September 6, 2023, www.ajot.com
9. US container imports rise in line with pre-COVID peak season pattern, September 11, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
10. Panama Canal says traffic woes will last into next year, September 12, 2023, www.ajot.com
11. CMA CGM looks to boost usage of New York terminal with new investment, September 13, 2023, www.joc.com
12. Port of Long Beach sees cargo lull in August, September 13, 2023, www.ajot.com
13. Port Houston orders 5 more Konecranes RTGs, continuing its hybridization drive, September 15, 2023, www.ajot.com
14. Crowley hails electric tug, September 15, 2023, www.ajot.com
15. Largest US ports record 20%-plus declines in trans-Pacific imports, September 18, 2023, www.joc.com
16. IMO must take opportunity to reduce underwater noise by transitioning to cleaner ships, September 18, 2023, www.ajot.com
17. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Grants to Support More Efficient Supply Chains Running on Our Marine Highways, September 21, 2023, www.dot.gov
18. Drewry World Container Index - September 21st, September 21, 2023, www.ajot.com
19. Singapore is world's top maritime shipping centre, September 22, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
20. Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Shanghai unveil implementation plan outline for first trans-Pacific green shipping corridor, September 22, 2023, www.ajot.com
21. Mid-year trade growth through the Port of Vancouver reflects strength of diversified sectors, September 25, 2023, www.portmetrovanancouver.com
22. Montreal's uncertain mega-project opens window for Halifax, Saint John, September 26, 2023, www.joc.com
23. Container shipping has a Europe problem

in the United States providing end to end solutions to customers worldwide. Port GCT Bayonne and Port GCT New York expand CMA CGM's portfolio of terminals in the U.S. to seven, ideally complementing on the US East Coast the Group's acquisition of the Fenix Marine Services container terminal in the Port of Los Angeles on the US West Coast. These two new assets provide the Group with flagship terminal operations at a critical entry point on the U.S. East coast. This acquisition will strengthen the East Coast's role in securing the U.S. supply chain and improve network resiliency. While CMA CGM

Terminal arm will operate the two multi-user facilities under its current management team, the Group intends to further develop the two terminals which are key to the strategic New York/New Jersey gateway, the largest on the U.S. East Coast.

6. Port of Halifax: Accumulated Container traffic for the second quarter of 2023

The port of Halifax released its container traffic (TEUs) for the second quarter of 2023 on September 5, 2023. For the 2023 second quarter, total container traffic in TEUs changed -11.9% i.e. to 137,774 from 156,438. Total import traffic for the second quarter of 2023 changed -17.5% i.e. to 69,222 from 83,898. Total export traffic for the second quarter of 2023 changed -5.5% i.e. to 68,552 from 72,540. For the first six months, total container traffic in TEUs changed -6.29% i.e. to 265,108 from 282,903. Total import traffic for the second quarter of 2023 changed -9.7% i.e. to 134,825 from 149,376. Total export traffic for the second quarter of 2022 changed -2.4% i.e. to 130,283 from 133,527.

7. Panama Canal's low water delays could last 10 months impacting U.S. Gulf/East Coast ports

The Panama Canal's drought induced low water problems are causing vessel traffic jams that could last for the next ten months according to the Athens-based shipbroker Intermodal. In an exclusive interview with AJOT, Intermodal's Research Analyst, Chara Georgousi reported that: "According to the Panama Canal Authority's latest update, water-saving measures will be in place for the next 10 months. The effects on supply chains could be further pronounced as the disruption will coincide with the peak holiday season when retailers increase shipping activities to accommodate the upcoming holiday consumer demand." While there is no immediate threat to container shipping to and from U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports, container shipping linking the ports to Asia rely on the Panama Canal. If low water conditions persist, the conditions "can have implications ... they will be more long term rather near term, not so short term, because for the moment ... they (container carriers) do not face immediate consequences ... They appear rather resilient...." Georgousi added that if drought conditions continue over a 10 month period the impact to East and Gulf Coast trades could be an "increase in freight rates and changing dynamics." Diverting ships away from the Panama Canal and through the Suez can add weeks onto a voyage: "The voyage through the Panama Canal takes around 58 days to reach Asian ports. However, going through the Suez Canal, the voyage could be extended to 81 days. And in the case of using the route around the Cape of Good Hope, a journey could be extended to 88 days."

8. ZIM announces a new operational collaboration agreement with MSC on multiple trades

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd., a global container liner shipping company, announced on September 6, 2023 a new operational cooperation agreement with MSC, the industry's largest carrier, encompassing several trades. This agreement is designed to significantly enhance operational efficiencies and further elevate service levels for ZIM's valued customers. The cooperation scope includes services connecting the Indian subcontinent with the East Mediterranean, the East Mediterranean with Northern Europe, and services connecting East Asia with Oceania. The agreements between ZIM and MSC includes vessel sharing, slot purchases, and swap arrangements. Eli Glickman, ZIM President & CEO, said: "This important operational collaboration with MSC, a trusted partner and industry leader, marks a mutually beneficial arrangement, delivering cost efficiencies for both carriers, while upholding the highest standards of service and reliability for our customers. Our decade-long partnership with MSC spanned across multiple trades over the years, and today encompass, among others, Asia, the Pacific Northwest, Oceania, India, East-Med, Northern Europe, and more. Our agile strategy enabled us once again to promptly adapt to changing market dynamics, ensuring that we continue to best meet our customers' needs with our signature personalized service, supported by cutting-edge digital tools." Glickman added: "Capitalizing on this opportunity with MSC will improve efficiencies in our fleet and is consistent with our focus on taking proactive steps amidst continued near-term headwinds in the container shipping market. We expect that this strategic cooperation will benefit ZIM both operationally and financially, and it is another testament to our agility. We will continue to seek opportunities to leverage our strengths and capabilities to create long-term value for our customers and investors alike."

9. US container imports rise in line with pre-COVID peak season pattern

Import volumes at U.S. ports have risen steadily since March 2023. US container imports rise in line with pre-COVID peak season pattern. Container shipping spot rates in the trans-Pacific trade started to rise in late June 2023 and remain near their highs for 2023. The question is: How much of this rate gain is driven by peak season demand, and how much by shipping lines intentionally constraining capacity? U.S. import numbers confirm that at least some of this rate gain is demand-driven. On September 11, 2023, Descartes reported that U.S. ports imported 2,196,268 twenty-foot

and it's getting worse, September 26, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

24. Statement by Transport Minister Rodriguez on the proposed acquisition of Viterra Limited by Bunge Limited, September 26, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

25. Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel improvement project advances to final phase, September 27, 2023, www.ajot.com

equivalent units in August 2023, up 0.4% from July 2023 and 5.5% from June 2023. This August's volumes were 2.5% higher than volumes in August 2019, pre-COVID. August imports were "fairly consistent with the rise that occurs in peak season in non-pandemic years," wrote Chris Jones, executive vice president of industry and services at Descartes Systems Group, in the company's monthly import report. U.S. import volumes show "continued consistency with 2019 results," said Jones.

10. Panama Canal says traffic woes will last into next year

The operator of the Panama Canal said there's no immediate prospect of relief from the drought that's reduced water levels and snarled shipping and global supply chains. Panama Canal Administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales said on September 12, 2023 that abnormally high ocean temperatures, an unpredictable rainy season and the persistence of the El Niño weather phenomenon mean officials will have to continue restricting vessel traffic into 2024. It means the long waits bedeviling the canal are likely to continue through the months leading up to both Christmas and Chinese New Year, when it's normally busiest. The number of ships moving each day through the canal has slipped to 32 from 36 because of declining reservoir levels. The backlog of ships waiting to enter the canal has spurred fierce bidding for open slots. "This is not the most severe drought Panama has faced, but given the operation of the canal, this is the most severe drought that we are facing even with the level of operations we currently have," Vásquez Morales said during the virtual press briefing. The canal will need to maintain draft levels — the distance between the canal floor and the bottom of a ship's hull— at 44 feet (13 meters). That's enough for about 70% of the canal's traffic. Officials may need to reduce the number of ships moving through the system to maintain those levels, Vásquez Morales said. The canal's board of directors is reviewing a plan to create an additional reservoir to support future water demand for the waterway and Panama itself. It will require congressional approval, Vásquez Morales said.

11. CMA CGM looks to boost usage of New York terminal with new investment

CMA CGM plans to invest up to \$300 million in the Staten Island container terminal it recently took over as part of its acquisition of assets at the Port of New York and New Jersey. The investment aims to lure ships back to the facility after other carriers switched up terminal calls due to the lack of crane capacity at the site and the drive to consolidate services. The Howland Hook marine terminal added services from Wan Hai and MSC during the pandemic, but they have since fled for other terminals.

12. Port of Long Beach sees cargo lull in August

The Port of Long Beach saw a modest start to the traditional "peak" shipping season as warehouses remained overstocked and consumers continued to pivot toward travel and other summertime activities. Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 682,312 twenty-foot equivalent units last month, a 15.4% decline from August 2022. Imports decreased 15.4% to 325,436 TEUs, while exports were down 23.1% to 93,402 TEUs. Empty containers moving through the Port declined 12.5% to 263,474 TEUs. "We anticipated a modest peak season as our cargo numbers continue to stabilize at pre-pandemic levels," said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. "Over the long term we are strengthening our competitiveness by investing in digital and physical infrastructure projects that will keep goods moving efficiently for decades to come." "We are collaborating with our industry partners to grow market share while moving goods reliably and sustainably," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bobby Olvera Jr. "We intend to close the year on a positive note that focuses on our efforts to improve cargo flow and secure our position as the premier gateway for trans-Pacific trade." The Port has moved 4,993,237 TEUs during the first eight months of 2023, down 24.4% from the same period last year. Cargo flows this year have been on pace with pre-pandemic levels, when the Port of Long Beach moved more than 4.9 million TEUs through August 2019.

13. Port Houston orders 5 more Konecranes RTGs, continuing its hybridization drive

Port Houston in Texas has ordered 5 Konecranes hybrid RTGs for its Barbours Cut Container Terminal to support its long-term improvement program covering channel development and land infrastructure investment. The order was booked in Q3 2023, with the cranes to be delivered at the beginning of 2025. Port Houston is continuing to hybridize RTG container handling in its Barbours Cut and Bayport operations to meet growing container traffic in an eco-efficient way. Houston's current RTG fleet consists of 116 Konecranes RTGs, of which 26 are hybrid RTGs. By early 2025, the hybrid RTG fleet will grow to 57 following this order and another one announced last October. "Konecranes RTGs are very popular in North America and it's good to see the hybrid version populating the RTG fleet of Port Houston, which is always forward-looking, especially when it comes to eco-efficiency," said Jussi Suhonen, VP Regional Sales, Port Solutions, Konecranes.

14. Crowley hails electric tug

On August 9th, Crowley and the Port of San Diego broke ground on the shoreside charging station designed to provide clean energy for the company's new zero-emissions tugboat, eWolf. At the same time, California air quality rules for harbor craft are forcing the tug and barge industry to consider expensive upgrades including to battery-power, according to Maggie Moon, Chief Marketing Officer, Glosten, consultant to the American Waterways Operators (AWO). Glosten is advising AWO and vessel operators on how to address new California Air Resources Board (CARB) rules. Moon says that 68 vessels will need to be repowered to meet the new regulations. In written responses to questions from

AJOT, Moon explained: “Each, of the 68 vessels is unique and will face their own challenges in meeting the CARB Commercial Harbor Craft (CHC) emission requirements. Generally, the easiest path to compliance is to install EPA Tier 4 engines with a diesel particulate filter in the exhaust system piping, assuming they are commercially available. Other options include converting to all-electric or using alternative fuels to reduce emissions below standards; but these will likely be much harder to implement for most vessels and will require significant changes to existing designs.” Crowley hails electric tug, but Glosten warns that converting harbor craft to electric power will be costly.

15. Largest US ports record 20%-plus declines in trans-Pacific imports

The top four US ports, which accounted for 68.2% of US imports from Asia through August 2023, experienced greater than 20% declines in Asian imports in the first eight months of 2023 whereas imports through Houston, the dominant port on the Gulf Coast, declined only 3.7%.

16. IMO must take opportunity to reduce underwater noise by transitioning to cleaner ships

As a workshop exploring the relationship between energy efficiency and underwater radiated noise from shipping opens on September 18, 2023 at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, the Clean Arctic Alliance called for international action to support the transition to ships that are both more efficient and quieter as efforts to decarbonize the global shipping fleet are stepped-up. According to the IMO, the Workshop on the Relationship between Energy Efficiency and Underwater Radiated Noise from Ships (18-19 September) “seeks to engage participants who work in the greenhouse gas (GHG) and underwater radiated noise (URN) technical, regulatory and policy spaces, to include wide participation from industry with practical experience implementing both GHG/emissions reductions programs as well as those who are interested in or involved in reducing URN”.

17. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Grants to Support More Efficient Supply Chains Running on Our Marine Highways

On September 21, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded nearly \$12 million in grants to eight marine highway projects across the nation under the United States Marine Highway Program (USMHP). The funding will improve the movement of goods along our navigable waterways and expand existing waterborne freight services in Alaska, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin, which will strengthen supply chains and ultimately cut costs for consumers.

18. Drewry World Container Index - September 21st

Drewry detailed assessment for Thursday, 21 September 2023 was as follows: 1. The composite index has decreased by 5.2% to \$1,479.48 this week, and has dropped by 66.9% when compared with the same week last year. 2. The latest Drewry WCI composite index of \$1,479.48 per 40-foot container is now 86% below the peak of \$10,377 reached in September 2021. It is 45% lower than the 10-year average of \$2,679, indicating a return to more normal prices, but remains 4% higher than average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rates of \$1,420. 3. The average composite index for the year-to-date is \$1,756 per 40ft container, which is \$923 lower than the 10-year average (\$2,679 mentioned above). 4. The composite index decreased by 5.2% to \$1,479.48 per 40ft container and is 66.9% lower than the same week in 2022. Freight Rates on Shanghai – Genoa and Shanghai – Rotterdam dropped 10% or \$167 and \$127 to \$1,531 and \$1,172 per 40ft container. Similarly, spot rates from Shanghai – New York also declined 4% or \$132 to reach \$2,900 per feu. Rates on Shanghai – Los Angeles dropped by 3% or \$58 to \$2,104 per 40ft box. Likewise, rates from Rotterdam – New York and Los Angeles – Shanghai inched down by 2% to \$1,534 and 1% to \$831 per 40ft container respectively. Conversely rates on New York – Rotterdam increased by 2% or \$13 to \$747 per feu. Moreover, spot rates from Rotterdam - Shanghai remained static on its previous week’s level. Drewry expects East-West spot rates trend to remain close to current levels, overall, in the next few weeks.

19. Singapore is world’s top maritime shipping centre

For the 10th year in a row, Singapore ranks first in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index (ISCDI) Report. Published jointly by Chinese state news agency, Xinhua, and global maritime data provider, Baltic Exchange, the report lists Singapore as the global leading maritime centre, followed by London and Shanghai. The island nation scored 95.32 out of a possible 100 points, while the maritime support services powerhouse of London scored 83.35 points and the mighty port-city of Shanghai takes third place with 81.58 points. Singapore has held the top position since the Index began a decade ago. It has retained its position due to its winning combination of strategic location, international outlook and established ecosystem of professional global maritime services and good governance. London and Shanghai have retained their positions of second and third place within the Index for the past four years.

20. Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Shanghai unveil implementation plan outline for first trans-Pacific green shipping corridor

The creation of the first-ever green shipping corridor across the Pacific is taking shape. On September 22, 2023, a voluntary partnership of leading maritime goods movement stakeholders, including the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Shanghai, some of the largest carriers in the world, and key leading cargo owners unveiled a Green Shipping Corridor Implementation Plan Outline to accelerate emissions reductions on one of the world’s busiest container

shipping routes across the Pacific Ocean. The plan is the first of its kind and was developed with support from C40 Cities as part of its effort to reduce carbon emissions from the largest cities in the world. The plan is an important step toward decarbonizing the global supply chains that power our economies, and transitioning toward zero lifecycle carbon emission ships. It will showcase cutting-edge goods movement technologies, decarbonization applications and best management practices to enhance efficiency, and catalyze technological, economic and policy efforts to progressively decarbonize shipping and port-related activities.

21. Mid-year trade growth through the Port of Vancouver reflects strength of diversified sectors

With growth in some sectors and softening in others, cargo volumes through the Port of Vancouver increased by 11% in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period last year. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's 2023 mid-year statistics, released today, show a total of 75.9 million metric tonnes (MMT) of goods moved through Port of Vancouver terminals between January 1 and June 30, 2023, compared to 68.6 MMT for the same period in 2022. "I want to recognize the outstanding efforts of the port community, partners, and terminal operators, who, despite facing some headwinds in the first half of the year, contributed to near-record cargo volumes through the Port of Vancouver," said Victor Pang, CFO and interim president and CEO at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency mandated to enable Canada's trade through the Port of Vancouver. "Coming off a challenging year, we've seen drops in some sectors—reflecting a softening economy—and encouraging rebounds in other key commodities such as grain, auto and cruise. The 2023 mid-year statistics reinforce the foundational strength of being North America's most diversified port and a testament to the outstanding efforts of the port community." The mid-year cargo volumes are released annually and include data from the first six months of the year through the end of June. As such, these figures do not reflect any cargo impacts resulting from the July 2023 labour disruption. Container volumes through the Port of Vancouver fell in the first half of 2023, in line with trends being seen throughout North America, as a slowing economy meant fewer imports. Overall container volumes were down 14% compared to the first half of 2022, as imports (or inbound laden) dropped 18%. The decrease was partially offset at the Port of Vancouver by recovering containerized exports, with outbound laden up 14% as Canadian exporters took advantage of lower container freight rates and increased availability post-pandemic.

22. Montreal's uncertain mega-project opens window for Halifax, Saint John

Halifax and Saint John are expanding their container terminals as Class I railroads see an opportunity to serve major inland destinations from the Eastern Canadian ports.

23. Container shipping has a Europe problem and it's getting worse

With all the attention on U.S. consumers and inventory levels, Europe's importance to shipping lines can get lost in the shuffle. The Asia-Europe trade is pivotal to container shipping operators — and this trade is now under severe pressure. Judah Levine, head of research at Freightos, said in a market report on September 26, 2023 that trans-Pacific spot rates remain well above 2019 levels "but carriers are not having the same success in the Asia-Europe lanes." The Freightos Baltic Daily Index (FBX) now puts China-North Europe spot rates below \$1,000 per forty-foot equivalent unit, the lowest they've been since FBX began publishing its indexes. The Ukraine-Russia war has had major effects on tanker and dry bulk trade flows. Container shipping is seeing fallout as well, as economic pressure curbs volumes. "The war has exerted a notable drag on real activity [in Europe] and pushed up inflation considerably," said a study by the Swiss National Bank published Friday.

24. Statement by Transport Minister Rodriguez on the proposed acquisition of Viterra Limited by Bunge Limited

On September 26, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, issued the following statement: "A strong transportation supply chain means more affordable, more available products for Canadians. In order to ensure that we have fair competition at Canada's ports, the Government of Canada is launching a review of the proposed acquisition of grain handler Viterra Limited by Bunge Limited, a global agricultural company. Both companies hold ownership interests in port terminals throughout our country. Healthy competition in the transportation sector is necessary to ensure fair pricing and access for users, especially for Canadian farmers. "Given this transaction is of significant national interest in Canada's transportation sector and the broader supply chain, it will be reviewed under the mergers and acquisitions provisions of the *Canada Transportation Act*. Goods must continue to move smoothly, and our supply chain must continue to grow stronger.

25. Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel improvement project advances to final phase

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has awarded the fourth and final contract of the Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project (CIP) to Callan Marine, Ltd., signaling the conclusion of a national infrastructure initiative that will render the ship channel the most improved waterway along the U.S. Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida. "The completion of this history-making project largely is due to the confluence of several key factors, including: the diligence of our friends at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the commitment to prioritizing this critical infrastructure by our federal delegation and the Administration; and the growing demand for infrastructure generated by our Port of Corpus Christi customers," said Kent Britton, Chief Executive Officer for the Port of Corpus Christi. The

nearly \$681.6 million project is jointly funded by the federal government and Port of Corpus Christi, with the final tranche of project funding allocated by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. That \$157.3 million allocation will be used for final project close-out of the CIP. A massive undertaking between the USACE, Port of Corpus Christi and private marine companies, the CIP yielded more than 40 million cubic yards of dredge material that will be used in the construction of beneficial use sites for wildlife and erosion control.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Norfolk Southern system outage update

Norfolk Southern Corporation provided an update on August 28, 2023 on a technology outage that impacted rail operations. This morning, Norfolk Southern experienced a hardware-related technology outage that impacted rail operations. At this time, we have no indication that this was a cybersecurity incident. Our teams worked throughout the day and successfully restored all systems at 7:00 p.m. ET. We are safely bringing our rail network back online. Throughout this, we have been in contact with our customers and will work with them on updated timing for their shipments. We expect the impact to our operations to last at least a couple of weeks.

2. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2023

Data for August 2023 for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available. The index for August 2023 is 121.5 compared to 120.8 in July 2023 and 125.9 in August 2022.

3. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 26, 2023

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on August 30, 2023 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending August 26, 2023. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 472,525 carloads and intermodal units, down 5.9 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending August 26 were 226,679 carloads, down 3.9 percent compared with the same week in 2022, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 245,846 containers and trailers, down 7.7 percent compared to 2022. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2022. Canadian railroads reported 83,877 carloads for the week, down 4.8 percent, and 69,342 intermodal units, down 15.8 percent compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 34 weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,357,780 carloads, containers and trailers, down 3.2 percent.

4. Q2 2023: VIA rail maintains momentum as travel demand continues to increase

VIA Rail Canada (VIA Rail) continued to see a sustained growth in travel demand in Q2 2023, with revenue and ridership up 37.7% (\$29.6 million) and 31.3% (240,179 passengers), respectively, compared to the same period last year. “Our performance this quarter and over the past year shows a clear and steady trend of growing demand for rail travel in Canada,” said Mario Péloquin, VIA Rail's President and Chief Executive Officer. “Our efforts over the last months are bearing fruit, with more than one million passengers choosing VIA Rail between April and June 2023. As we continue our work to modernize and transform the way Canadians travel, the Corporation is well positioned to achieve near pre-pandemic performance as we enter the second half of the year.”

5. Canadian Railway Adventure

This report will focus on three places in Ontario plus Montreal, Quebec. The other purpose was to ride Canada's recent rail transit starts, which include lines in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, Ottawa, and Montreal. There have also been some changes in Toronto, especially new streetcars. There are only seven locations in Canada that have at least one rail transit line, and

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Norfolk Southern system outage update, August 29, 2023, www.ajot.com
2. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2023, August 30, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 26, 2023, August 30, 2023, www.railwayage.com
4. Q2 2023: VIA rail maintains momentum as travel demand continues to increase, August 31, 2023, www.viarail.ca
5. Canadian Railway Adventure, August 31, 2023, www.railwayage.com
6. Canadian grain shippers hopeful about rail service in current crop year, September 5, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
7. AAR: Rail Volumes Fall for Third Straight Month in August, September 6, 2023, www.railwayage.com
8. VIA rail increases service between Ottawa and London this fall, September 7, 2023, www.viarail.ca
9. ‘Poor Service’ Drives STB’s Proposed Reciprocal Switching Rule (Updated, TD Cowen Commentary), September 8, 2023, www.railwayage.com
10. A New Canadian – U.S. Intermodal Service, September 11, 2023, www.cn.ca; and CN, NS announce new domestic intermodal service, September 11, 2023, www.railwayage.com
11. Union Pacific expects to respond quickly to safety concerns raised by FRA, September 11, 2023, www.freightwaves.com
12. CN Announces Upgrade to Falcon Premium Intermodal Service, September 12, 2023, www.cn.ca
13. For SNC-Lavalin Group, a New Name for a ‘Transformed’ Company, September 12, 2023, www.railwayage.com
14. North American Rail Volume Continues Decline Through Week 36: AAR, September 13, 2023, www.railwayage.com
15. Ontario Upgrades Two GO Stations Along Stouffville Line, September 13, 2023, www.mto.gov.on.ca
16. Rail Safety Week Set for Sept. 18-24, September 14, 2023, www.railwayage.com
17. Guide to Railway Charges for Crossing Maintenance and Construction 2023, September 15, 2023, www.cta-otc.gc.ca
18. CN Police Services Mobilizing for Rail Safety Week 2023 Be Rail Smart: Stop, Look, Listen, Live, September 18, 2023, www.cn.ca
19. CN Resurrects Iconic Steam Era Logo, September 17, 2023, www.railwayage.com
20. J.B. Hunt to acquire part of BNSF Railway’s logistics subsidiary, September 15, 2023, www.ajot.com
21. Notice to industry: Agency has determined

there are no immediate plans to establish it elsewhere. Toronto has the oldest and most comprehensive system, while Montreal has a strong rail presence and Vancouver has one that is somewhat less robust. Alberta's rival cities, Edmonton and Calgary, each have one long light rail line and one shorter one, with plans for expansion. The other lines are in Ottawa and Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, each of which currently operate one rail transit line. While it is difficult to travel in Canada without an automobile and train service is limited outside of VIA Rail's corridors in Ontario and Quebec, Canadians continue to celebrate their railroad heritage, just as many Americans do. There might not be many railroad-themed attractions that are accessible by train in either country anymore, but at least there are some. Of the seven places with rail transit in Canada, only three have significant systems: Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. In Alberta, rival cities Calgary and Edmonton have LRT lines each and plan to expand their systems with one more major line. There are plans to expand Ottawa's O-Train system, and perhaps even the ION line in Kitchener-Waterloo, but it also unlikely that either of those locations will end up with large-scale rail transit systems. This report provides interesting insights

6. Canadian grain shippers hopeful about rail service in current crop year

Canadian producers generally expect rail service in the 2023-2024 harvest year to meet market needs, but they're keeping an eye on other factors that could affect rail service in the coming years, such as grain export capacity at the Port of Vancouver. Grain shippers are also waiting for the supply chain to completely recover from a July labor strike at the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert. "It's always the same story this time of year when it comes to rail service and rail capacity. We never really know for sure how it is going to go," Wade Sobkowich, executive director for the Western Grain Elevator Association, told FreightWaves when asked about expectations for Canadian Class I railways CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City. "Are CN and CP both going to be ready for when the crop comes off, or will they take some time to gear up? Then, will they dedicate enough resources to grain service for the fall and winter period? What is on the horizon for railway job action? What's the weather going to be like and will we be facing washouts, flooding, cold weather, high snowfall levels?" Wade said. "Aside from these variables, I'd say the grain companies are cautiously optimistic about rail service levels for the fall and winter. We have seen good rail service in recent months, which hopefully carries into harvest."

7. AAR: Rail Volumes Fall for Third Straight Month in August

"August was the third straight month in which total year-over-year U.S. rail carloads have fallen," Association of American Railroads (AAR) Senior Vice President John T. Gray reported on Sept. 6, 2023. Total combined U.S. traffic for the first 35 weeks of 2023 was 16,173,208 carloads and intermodal units, a decrease of 4.9% compared to last year. Gray said that a major reason why is that "other than automotive manufacturing, the industrial economy, in recent months, has not been doing as well as other areas of the economy. Until industrial activity, and especially manufacturing recovers, rail volumes in many key markets could remain constrained." According to [AAR](#), U.S. Class I railroads for the first eight months of 2023 hauled a total of 7,852,770 carloads, up 0.0%, or 3,625 carloads, from the same period last year; and 8,320,438 intermodal units, down 9.2%, or 838,829 containers and trailers, from last year. Canadian railroads reported 89,904 carloads for the week, up 2.2%, and 72,134 intermodal units, down 14.6% compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 35 weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,519,818 carloads, containers and trailers, down 3.3%.

8. VIA rail increases service between Ottawa and London this fall

VIA Rail Canada inc. is pleased to announce the reintroduction of two round trips between Toronto and Ottawa and one round trip between London and Toronto, starting this October 2023. "The ongoing progressive introduction of VIA rail's 32 new trainsets is already yielding positive results, as recent increases in equipment availability, coupled with intense recruitment and training efforts, are now allowing us to reintroduce these high-demand frequencies," said Mario Pélouquin, president and chief executive officer. "as we continue to strike a balance between meeting our passengers' evolving travel needs and deploying our limited resources, we remain committed to offering the most convenient, accessible and sustainable service to the highest number of Canadians."

9. 'Poor Service' Drives STB's Proposed Reciprocal Switching Rule (Updated, TD Cowen Commentary)

The [Surface Transportation Board](#) (STB) on Sept. 7, 2023 issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that it said focused on "providing rail customers with access to reciprocal switching as a remedy for poor service." It called the move "an important step in addressing the many freight rail service concerns expressed by stakeholders since 2016." Comments are due by Oct. 23, and STB said it anticipates "acting expeditiously" on the proposal. "In the past several

2023 regulated interswitching rates for Zone 5, September 18, 2023, www.otc-cta.gc.ca
22. AAR: North American Rail Volume Down Through 37 Weeks, September 20, 2023, www.railwayage.com
23. More Rail Tank Cars Meet DOT-117 Safety Standards in 2022, September 22, 2023, www.bts.gov
24. AAR to STB on Reciprocal Switching: We Need 90 More Days, September 24, 2023, www.railwayage.com
25. Railway carloadings, July 2023, September 25, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
26. OL Canada Announces Recipients of Roger Cyr Awards, September 25, 2023, www.railwayage.com
27. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.4 Billion in Infrastructure Funding for 70 Projects That Will Improve Rail Safety, Strengthen Supply Chains, and Add Passenger Rail Service, September 25, 2013, www.dot.gov
28. U.S. Rail Traffic Uptick Continues in Week 38, September 27, 2023, www.railwayage.com

years, and particularly since 2021, it has become clear that many rail customers nationwide have suffered from inadequate and deteriorating rail service,” STB Chairman Martin J. Oberman said during the announcement of the NPRM (download below), which the Board members issued by unanimous vote. “These problems were documented in detail in the hearings conducted by the Board in [April 2022](#) ... The Board has continued to closely monitor the state of rail service.

10. A New Canadian – U.S. Intermodal Service

Canadian National Railway Company (CN), and Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) announced on September 11, 2023 a new domestic intermodal service. Launching on October 2, 2023 this unique service will provide customers with an integrated, market-competitive, and efficient all-rail service. The service will link CN-served Canadian markets with Norfolk Southern-served Kansas City and Atlanta, the heart of the fast-growing manufacturing and consumer base in the Southeastern U.S. The two carriers will utilize new intermodal steel wheel interchanges in Detroit and Chicago to seamlessly operate like a single-line intermodal product. The new, cost-effective, steel-wheel-connected service option for customers converts truck traffic to long-haul rail. This would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and customers’ overall carbon footprint. Integrated rail interchanges also provide customers with the opportunity to optimize their cargo loaded weights. “This new CN-Norfolk Southern Domestic Intermodal service combines premier intermodal choices for our shared customers,” said Norfolk Southern President and Chief Executive Officer Alan H. Shaw. “Designed with customer-centricity top of mind, it simplifies their processes, enabling smoother rail shipments between Canada, Kansas City, and Atlanta.”

11. Union Pacific expects to respond quickly to safety concerns raised by FRA

Western U.S. Class I railroad Union Pacific expects to respond swiftly to recent remarks by the head of the Federal Railroad Administration that UP has made “poor” efforts to ensure the safety of its rolling stock, including using locomotives with safety defects and being unwilling to address those defects. UP’s actions are in response to a letter that FRA Administrator Amit Bose sent on September 8, 2023 to UP CEO Jim Vena, President Beth Whited and Executive Vice President of Operations Eric Gehringer on safety defects found during focused inspections in July and August 2023. The letter also asked whether recent furloughs had any impact on safety at UP.

12. CN Announces Upgrade to Falcon Premium Intermodal Service

Canadian National Railway Company (CN) on September 9, 2023 announced an upgrade to its Falcon Premium Intermodal Service. CN said recent operational changes by its business partner, Union Pacific (UP), will remove a full day of transit time for customers using the Canada-US-Mexico service. “CN is pleased to offer customers an entire day off the already fast Falcon Intermodal Premium Service,” said CN President and Chief Executive Officer Tracy Robinson. “I am confident the early results of the Falcon service, combined with our speed and reliability, will enable the continued growth of this service.” The Falcon Premium Intermodal Service is a best-in-class Mexico-US-Canada service with a seamless rail connection in Chicago, Illinois. It directly connects all CN origin points within Canada and Detroit, Michigan to GMXT terminals in Mexico: Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Silao, Guanajuato. This service benefits intermodal customers shipping automotive parts, food, FAK (freight - all kinds), home appliances, and temperature-controlled products. Falcon Premium combines the unique benefits of each partner. The seamless service leverages GMXT’s best-in-class transit times between Silao, Guanajuato, and Eagle Pass, Texas; Union Pacific’s superior route from Texas to Chicago and CN’s best-in-class service connecting Chicago to all points in Canada through the unique EJ&E Chicago bypass.

13. For SNC-Lavalin Group, a New Name for a ‘Transformed’ Company

Professional services and project management firm [SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.](#) is rebranding to AtkinsRéalis on Sept. 13, 2023. “Building on more than a century of accomplishments from brands such as SNC-Lavalin, Atkins, Faithful+Gould, DTS and Atkins Acuity, AtkinsRéalis brings the whole organization together under one single brand and represents a major milestone in the company’s transformation journey,” it reported Sept. 12. According to the Montréal, Canada-based company that employs 36,000 people, the name AtkinsRéalis “is a coined term that combines Atkins, a legacy brand that is well-established across the company’s international markets, and “Réalis,” inspired by the city of Montréal and the company’s French-Canadian roots.” Réalis, it said, “also resembles the verb ‘to realize’ or ‘to make happen,’ which emphasizes our focus on outcomes and project delivery.” Created by the integration of organizations dating back to 1911, AtkinsRéalis provides consulting, advisory and environmental; intelligent networks and cybersecurity; design and engineering; procurement; project and construction management; operations and maintenance; decommissioning; and capital services.

14. North American Rail Volume Continues Decline Through Week 36: AAR

Through the first 36 weeks of 2023 (ending Sept. 9), total North American carload and intermodal traffic decreased 4.1% from the prior-year period, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported on Sept. 13, 2023. Both the U.S. and Canada experienced declines, while Mexico saw a gain. North American rail volume for the first 36 weeks of this year (ending Sept. 9, 2023) on 12 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads was 23,304,320 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers. Cumulative volume in the U.S. came in at 16,620,897 carloads and intermodal units,

down 4.8% from 2022; in Canada, 5,674,192 carloads and intermodal units, down 3.4%; and in Mexico, 1,009,231 carloads and intermodal units, up 4.7%. Canadian railroads reported 89,460 carloads for the week ending Sept. 9, 2023, up 0.5%, and 64,914 intermodal units, down 13.2% vs. the year-earlier period.

15. Ontario Upgrades Two GO Stations Along Stouffville Line

The Ontario government has completed major infrastructure upgrades at Milliken and Agincourt GO stations along the Stouffville line as part of its plan to deliver more trips, more often across the GO network. "These major infrastructure improvements will increase safety and accessibility for customers while supporting future two-way, all-day, 15-minute train service between Toronto and Markham," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Through historic investments, our government is building a reliable and connected transit network for generations to come."

16. Rail Safety Week Set for Sept. 18-24

Operational Lifesaver Inc. (OLI), Operation Lifesaver Canada, and the Mexican Association of Railroads (AMF) will lead Rail Safety Week 2023 across North America on Sept. 18-24, 2023. The event, held annually since 2017, concentrates public attention on the need for rail safety education. Federal Railroad Administration statistics show that every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train; approximately 2,100 North Americans are injured or killed each year in these preventable incidents, according to OLI. Also in the U.S., trespassing along railroad rights-of-way is the leading cause of rail-related deaths, and railroad crossing incidents are the second leading cause of rail-related deaths, the nonprofit group reported. Rail Safety Week 2023 in the U.S. will emphasize a different theme each day and feature in-person events led by state Operation Lifesaver programs as well as virtual activities and social media efforts.

17. Guide to Railway Charges for Crossing Maintenance and Construction 2023

The Canadian Transportation Agency (Agency) has updated its Guide to Railway Crossing Maintenance and Construction Charges for 2023. The Agency developed the Guide to assist railway companies, landowners, road authorities, and utility companies by providing a third-party assessment of rail costs and proposing consistent, nationwide schedules and guidelines for work performed by railway companies. Federal railway companies can use the Guide as a reference when charging for work performed at crossings, crossing warning systems, or any other crossing-related work. Other parties can use this as a reference when discussing potential charges. This year the Agency updating the rates as inflation has increased significantly since 2021. These updated rates reflect the considerable input price increases impacting the railways' material, fuel and labour costs. The rest of the guide remains the same from 2021. Agency has indexed these new rates based on the most recent information and submissions. The Agency developed the rates from Class I railway companies' accounting data. They follow established principles, methods and procedures to cost their railway operations for regulatory purposes and are targeting a full update to the Guide in July 2024.

18. CN Police Services Mobilizing for Rail Safety Week 2023 Be Rail Smart: Stop, Look, Listen, Live

CN on September 18, 2023 launched its annual Rail Safety Week awareness campaign. The Company joins groups across North America to raise awareness of the danger of unsafe behaviour around railway property. From September 18-24, 2023, CN Police Service (CNPS), along with many CN employees, will share important rail safety messages in communities across CN's network to help prevent accidents and injuries. Stephen Covey, Chief of Police and Chief Security Officer at CN said "For more than a century, our railways have connected communities across North America and linked our countries to the rest of the world. As a vital part of our daily lives, everyone is responsible for rail safety, which is why CN wants you to get involved and help us save lives. We encourage you to remind your loved ones, neighbours, and communities about the critical importance of being safe around rail property; you could help save a life."

19. CN Resurrects Iconic Steam Era Logo

In an unexpected move, CN has resurrected an iconic Canadian National logo on one of its newest locomotives, 100 years after it initially appeared on its steam fleet. CN 3309, a Wabtec AC44C6M rebuild upgraded to AC traction and 4,500 hp in 2022 from DC-traction Dash-9 2598 built in 1998, has been assigned to CN's Executive Train for the past few months. President and CEO Tracy Robinson and her team made a trip from Montreal to Eastern Canada in August 2023. After the trip, the Executive Train returned to the shop for some special preparations. Emerging last week, 3309 sported a major carbody change, with the red and white Canadian National emblem as it was introduced by the company in 1923.

20. J.B. Hunt to acquire part of BNSF Railway's logistics subsidiary

J.B. Hunt will acquire the brokerage operations of BNSF Logistics, which provides third-party logistics services for trucking operations, the companies announced on September 15, 2023. A unit of BNSF Railway, BNSF Logistics handles logistics services for full truckload, flatbed, temp-controlled, drayage, expedited, and less-than-truckload movements to a large group of the railway's customers. Not included in the deal: The warehouse, retail specialty, heavy-haul and project services that BNSF Logistics provides. "As we continue to work with BNSF Railway to

develop solutions that drive value for customers, we recognized a unique opportunity to combine the companies' efforts to serve the transportation market with 3PL services and leverage the investments J.B. Hunt has made in our technology platform, J.B. Hunt 360°," J.B. Hunt CEO John Roberts said in a statement. "This acquisition is another step forward in our mission to create the most efficient transportation network in North America." The move is the latest step in the companies' efforts to tighten their relationship.

21. Notice to industry: Agency has determined 2023 regulated interswitching rates for Zone 5

The Canadian Transportation Agency (Agency) has determined the 2023 regulated interswitching rates for Zone 5, the new interswitching zone established in the Budget Implementation Act 2023. Zone 5 was created as a result of subsection 127.1(1.1) of the *Canada Transportation Act*, which enables a temporary extension of 18 months of the interswitching limits in the Prairie Provinces. These limits apply to movements within 160 kilometres of an interchange but outside the existing 30-kilometre radius covered by the other zones currently prescribed by the *Railway Interswitching Regulations*, SOR/88-41. The 2023 interswitching rates for Zones 1-4 were determined in December 2022. The 2024 interswitching rates for Zones 1-5 will be issued in December 2023. The Agency also regulates long-haul interswitching (LHI), which is not limited to 30 kilometres or 160 kilometres in the Prairie Provinces, although other conditions apply. For details, see the Agency's LHI page. The information there includes our complete guide to LHI.

22. AAR: North American Rail Volume Down Through 37 Weeks

For the first 37 weeks of 2023 (ending Sept. 16), total U.S. weekly rail traffic dipped 4.1% from the same point last year, according to the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) Sept. 20 report. Both Canada and the U.S. saw declines, while Mexico saw an increase. North American rail volume for the first 37 weeks of the year (ending Sept. 16) on 12 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads came in at 23,974,092 carloads and intermodal units. Cumulative volume in Canada was 5,837,742 carloads, containers and trailers, down 3.5%; in Mexico, 1,025,663 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers, up 3.2%; and in the U.S., 17,110,687 carloads and intermodal units, down 4.6%. Canadian railroads reported 92,110 carloads for the week, down 1.2%, and 71,440 intermodal units, down 12.8% compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 37 weeks of 2023, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,837,742 carloads, containers and trailers, down 3.5%.

23. More Rail Tank Cars Meet DOT-117 Safety Standards in 2022

In accordance with the 2015 *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released its Fleet Composition of Rail Tank Cars Carrying Class 3 Flammable Liquids: 2023 Report. The Ethanol fleet reaches 80% adoption of DOT-117 tank cars in 2022. A Phase-Out Targets and Dates for Rail Tank Cars Carrying Class 3 Flammable Liquids has been set. The key points are: 1. All cars carrying crude oil met the phase out deadline. 2. All tank cars carrying ethanol need to meet 2023 phase-out deadlines. Census results show that this is an achievable milestone. 3. All tank cars carrying Class 3 flammable liquids will need to meet DOT-117 or equivalent specifications by May 1, 2029.

24. AAR to STB on Reciprocal Switching: We Need 90 More Days

The Association of American Railroads has asked the Surface Transportation Board for a 90-day extension of the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued Sept. 7, 2023 in Docket No. EP 711(Sub-No. 2), Reciprocal Switching for Inadequate Service. If granted, AAR's request will extend the comment period to Feb. 20, 2024. AAR said it "recognizes and appreciates the Board's desire to proceed expeditiously with this rulemaking. Nonetheless, the Notice proposes a novel and significant change in an important aspect of freight rail regulation. The proposed regulations are detailed and complex, requiring extensive effort to review and comment appropriately. The Notice expressly invites comment on at least 30 different questions, some with subparts. The schedule currently provided in the Notice will not allow interested parties sufficient time to analyze the many important technical and consequential issues under consideration in this proceeding and to prepare meaningful comments that will inform the Board. The current schedule likewise will not allow AAR to fully analyze the impact of the Board's proposal on the rail network and provide meaningful comments on that issue. AAR is proceeding diligently to perform that important empirical analysis, but as explained in the attached Verified Statement, it is data-intensive and cannot be completed by the current deadline for opening comments." AAR provided five reasons why the comment period should be extended:

25. Railway carloadings, July 2023

In July 2023, the volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways totalled 28.9 million tonnes, down 5.1% from July 2022 levels, marking the third straight month of year-over-year decline. In July 2023, the overall freight volume was below the five-year average of 31.1 million tonnes for the month of July. Shipments of containers, potash and some energy products led the year-over-year decline in July 2023, due in part to a labour dispute during the month at Canada's west coast ports. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the "[Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard](#)."

26. OL Canada Announces Recipients of Roger Cyr Awards

OL's Columbia Committee Chair, Phil Breden, is the recipient of OL Canada's 2022 individual Roger Cyr Award. Operation Lifesaver (OL) Canada on Sept. 22 announced that the city of Wemotaci in Quebec has been selected as the winner of its Roger Cyr Award for Communities and OL's Columbia Committee Chair, Phil Breden, will receive the individual Roger Cyr Award. Named after the not-for-profit's founder, the Roger Cyr Awards for Public Rail Safety "recognize individuals and communities that are doing outstanding work to prevent deaths and injuries at rail crossings and as a result of trespassing on railway property," according to [OL Canada](#).

27. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.4 Billion in Infrastructure Funding for 70 Projects That Will Improve Rail Safety, Strengthen Supply Chains, and Add Passenger Rail Service

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced on September 25, 2023 that it has invested more than \$1.4 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law into 70 rail improvement projects in 35 states and Washington, D.C. This is the largest amount ever awarded for rail safety and rail supply chain upgrades through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program. This historic project will help restore passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast for the first time in nearly two decades.

28. U.S. Rail Traffic Uptick Continues in Week 38

For the week ending Sept. 23, 2023 (Week 38), total U.S. rail traffic was 493,323 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.8% from the prior-year period, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported Sept. 27, 2023. It is the second consecutive week of gains for carloads and intermodal units, following weeks of losses or virtually flat results for both. Total carloads for the week ending Sept. 23, 2023, were 234,904, rising 4.7% compared with the same week last year, and U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 258,419 containers and trailers, increasing 1.2% compared with 2022. For the week ending Sept. 23, 2023, Canadian railroads reported 96,025 carloads, a 5.3% increase, and 72,918 intermodal units, a 4.6% decrease, from the same point last year. For the first 38 weeks of this year, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,006,685 carloads, containers and trailers, down 3.4%.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Bridging Border Barriers returning to Mississauga

The Truckload Carriers Association's Bridging Border Barriers conference is returning to Mississauga, Ont., Nov. 8, 2023 – and the agenda is set. The day begins with a panel covering workforce development and human capital. Moderated by Left Lane Associates president Pete Stefanovich, it will draw insights from Linda Young, Bison Transport's vice-president – human resources and people development; Heather Mewhinney, Kriska Transportation Group's director – human resources; and Challenger Motor Freight chief people officer Geoff Topping. Bob Costello — American Trucking Associations chief economist and senior vice-president – international trade policy and cross-border operations – follows that with an economic update.

2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, July 2023

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for July 2023. The index for July 2023 is 127.4 compared to 127.5 in June 2023 and 131.0 July 2022.

3. Artificial intelligence leading to real-world changes in trucking

Highly autonomous vehicles rely on a wide array of data when triggering the systems that apply the throttle, hit the brakes, or track highway curves. Where truck drivers at the wheels of traditional trucks rely on their senses, it's the [autonomous vehicle's technology](#) that reads surroundings using tools like cameras, radar, and the bouncing lasers of LiDAR. The radar waves track the space between the truck and surrounding vehicles, while LiDAR creates an exacting 3D map of the environment. Cameras monitor lane markings and shapes. Artificial intelligence (AI) pulls it all together, processes the information, and decides exactly how to respond. While many AI-related discussions in the trucking industry focus on autonomous vehicles, the technology has already made inroads into other industry applications. And it's giving the guard at the yard gate, office employees, and terminal managers a futuristic makeover in the process.

4. Canada Post reports \$254 million loss in second quarter

Canada Post recorded a loss before tax of \$254 million in the second quarter of 2023 as revenue fell across all lines of business. The Canada Post segment's revenue in the second quarter declined by \$78 million, or 6.0 percent, compared to the same period in 2022. The segment's loss before tax in the second quarter widened by \$94 million, from a loss before tax of \$160 million in the second quarter of 2022. For the first half of 2023, Canada Post's revenue fell by \$110 million, or 3.3 percent, compared to the same period of the prior year. The segment's loss before tax was \$361 million compared to a loss before tax of \$289 million in the first half of 2022.

5. Ontario Completes Widening of Highway 11/17 in Thunder Bay District

To improve road safety and keep people and goods moving across the province, the Ontario government has completed the widening of Highway 11/17 from two to four lanes between Ouimet and Dorion East Loop in Thunder Bay District. This is the seventh section of a larger project to widen 100 kilometres of Highway 11/17 between Thunder Bay and Nipigon. "This project is part of our government's plan to improve transportation in Ontario," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "The work completed so far and the eventual widening of Highway 11/17 to Nipigon will play an important role in addressing the unique transportation needs of the North, enhancing traffic flow and improving safety for individuals and businesses alike on our roads." The \$74.8 million widening project between Ouimet and Dorion included \$37.4 million in provincial funding and \$37.4 million in federal funding.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Bridging Border Barriers returning to Mississauga, August 29, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, July 2023, August 30, 2023, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
3. Artificial intelligence leading to real-world changes in trucking, August 30, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
4. Canada Post reports \$254 million loss in second quarter, August 30, 2023, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
5. Blitz finds hundreds of dangerous goods violations on Canadian roads, August 31, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
6. Interview: OTA Highlights Vital Impact of Truck drivers, August 31, 2023, [www.ontruck.ca](#)
7. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, second quarter 2023, August 31, 2023, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
8. Ontario Completes Widening of Highway 11/17 in Thunder Bay District, August 31, 2023, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](#)
9. MPI strike impacting Manitoba trucking industry, MTA warns, August 31, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
10. Minister of Transport announces funding to support clean energy adoption in the trucking sector, August 31, 2023, [www.tc.gc.ca](#); and Feds announce funding for three zero-emissions trucking projects, September 4, 2023, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
11. August 2023 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.9%) Rises Above the August 2022 Level (4.6%) And the Pre-Pandemic August 2019 Level (4.8%), September 1, 2023, [www.bts.gov](#)
12. Quebec index to rate how well trucks protect cyclists and pedestrians, September 1, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
13. Canada needs to boost charging infrastructure to encourage more people to buy EVs, study says, August 28, 2023, [www.financialpost.ca](#)
14. Low-voltage batteries will play increasingly important role in electric trucks, September 5, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
15. Transport Minister Tips Hat to Trucking Industry, September 6, 2023, [www.ontruck.ca](#)
16. Quantron gears up to become "range leader" in North America's ZEV market, September 10, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
17. Next round of EPA/CARB emissions standards will be toughest yet, September 11, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
18. One in five trucks in U.S. could be autonomous by 2034: Roland Berger, September 12, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
19. Parcel volumes expected to increase to 189 billion in 2023, September 12, 2023, [www.ajot.com](#)
20. TFI International acquires 155-truck tanker carrier in Canada, September 13, 2023, [www.freightwaves.com](#)
21. BCTA launches fifth year of HDVE program, September 13, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
22. Social media, technology can attract next generation of drivers, report says, September 14, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
23. BCTA opens intake for latest round of rebates, September 18, 2023, [www.bts.gov](#)

6. Blitz finds hundreds of dangerous goods violations on Canadian roads

Inspectors discovered 482 dangerous goods violations on Canadian roads during an inspection blitz earlier this summer. Inspectors in Canada and the U.S. inspected 7,572 commercial motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials/dangerous goods (HM/DG) during the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) annual five-day unannounced HM/DG inspection and enforcement initiative. Thirty-seven jurisdictions participated in this year's HM/DG Road Blitz, which was held from June 12 to 16, 2023. A total of 8,395 packages were inspected, and inspectors discovered 2,578 HM/DG violations, of which 701 were HM/DG out-of-service (OOS) violations. In Canada, 163 of the total 482 were out-of-service DG violations.

7. Interview: OTA Highlights Vital Impact of Truck drivers

In an interview with Marco Beghetto of the Ontario Trucking Association, the newspaper highlighted National Trucking Week, how trucking is the lifeblood of Canada's economy and how truck drivers are the first to step up and support Canadians in critical times, and how challenges like Driver Inc. are undermining, hard-working, compliant truck drivers and responsible carriers. "We always have challenges. It's an ever-changing fluid industry. But the biggest issue of the day for the industry of the last five years at least, is something called driver Inc.," Beghetto told *the Advertiser*. "Driver Inc. is an operating system used by unscrupulous carriers to operate within the underground economy."

8. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, second quarter 2023

The For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index (2021=100) is now available for the second quarter 2023 on Statistics Canada website.

9. MPI strike impacting Manitoba trucking industry, MTA warns

Manitoba's trucking industry is facing a series of challenges during a Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) strike that has closed all the Crown corporation's locations. "For our industry to operate people need licences, and equipment needs to be registered and insured. Our industry is being impacted in all of these areas," said Aaron Dolyniuk, executive director of the Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA). The Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union's 1,700 members have been on strike since Aug. 28, seeking wage increases. MPI delivers insurance, registration and licensing services to drivers. Its website said, "All appointments scheduled this week have been cancelled and are being rebooked."

10. Minister of Transport announces funding to support clean energy adoption in the trucking sector

On August 31, 2023, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of nearly \$3 million under the Zero-Emission Trucking Program to support of three projects in Québec, British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Of this investment, \$1.5 million will be used to establish a Zero-Emission Trucking Testbed in the Montréal area. The Testbed, launched in collaboration with FPInnovations, will collect real-world performance data in Canadian conditions to speed up the reduction of pollution from medium- and heavy-duty on-road transportation. Two additional investments, totalling just over \$1.3 million in Government of Canada support, will enable projects in British Columbia and Nova Scotia to gain information on: zero emission truck performance, the development of training materials, and required provincial planning to support the safe deployment of zero emission trucking technologies.

11. August 2023 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.9%) Rises Above the August 2022 Level (4.6%) And the Pre-Pandemic August 2019 Level (4.8%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.9% (not seasonally adjusted) in August 2023 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data have been updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) [Unemployment in Transportation](#) dashboard. In August 2023, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points from 4.6% in August 2022 and was just above the pre-pandemic August 2019 level of 4.8%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector was higher than overall unemployment. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in August 2023 was 3.9% or 1.0 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in August 2023 was 3.8%.

12. Quebec index to rate how well trucks protect cyclists and pedestrians

Quebec has introduced plans to develop a new "safety index" for heavy vehicles in a bid to better protect vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians. Unveiled in a provincial action plan for road safety, the goal is to create the

24. U.S. autoworkers' strike expected to affect Canada, September 15, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

25. CTA: Express Entry Begins Category Based Selection for Key Occupations Including Truck Drivers, September 18, 2023, www.ontruck.ca

26. Bosch sees clear skies for hydrogen as key to transport decarbonisation, September 19, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

27. North American Transborder Freight down 4.2% in July 2023 from July 2022, September 20, 2023, www.bts.gov

28. AI and autonomous trucks taking over yard duties, September 20, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

29. Our Next Energy looks to address three biggest issues facing EV batteries, September 20, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

30. Urban public transit, July 2023, September 21, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

31. PWC Report: Truck Driver Shortage a Risk to Canada's Economy, September 22, 2023, www.ontruck.ca

32. Economic Trucking Trends: Lots to digest in busy week for economic news in trucking, September 22, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

33. Ford workers in Canada ratify agreement, set precedent for other automakers, September 25, 2023, www.nationalpost.ca

34. Economic Trucking Trends: Lots to digest in busy week for economic news in trucking, September 26, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

35. Mack's MD delivers big results in smaller package, September 27, 2023, www.todaystrucking.com

technical standard through the Quebec Standards Bureau (Bureau du normalisation du Quebec) and publish it in November 2024. “The Quebec standard will consider several safety elements, including the driver’s field of vision, indirect vision [mirrors, camera systems, or other detection devices], and the use of other safety equipment [alarms, lights, indicator panels, side guards, or any other system designed to improve the safety of road users],” the bureau says on its website. Different levels of government could mandate the Quebec standard or use it within calls for tenders, Ministere des Transports et de la Mobilite Durable spokesman Nicolas Vigneault said in an email response to *Transport Routier*.

13. Canada needs to boost charging infrastructure to encourage more people to buy EVs, study says.

More people are willing to buy electric vehicles, but Canada still behind global numbers. Canada needs to boost its charging infrastructure and tackle “range anxiety” to encourage more people to buy electric vehicles, according to an annual study conducted by global accounting firm Ernst & Young Global Ltd. (EY). The study said 55 per cent of the 15,000 people surveyed in 20 countries were interested in buying EVs, which is a slight increase from 52 per cent last year. The interest level in Canada increased to 52 per cent, up from 46 per cent last year, but that is still behind the global average.

14. Low-voltage batteries will play increasingly important role in electric trucks

Future trucks may come laden with supersized high-voltage battery packs, but 12-volt low-voltage batteries will still have a vital – and growing – role to play. Clarios, which sells about 150 million batteries yearly, continues to invest in that space, most recently with the acquisition of battery maker and recycler Paragon. “The low-voltage network is critical to the new user experiences, data collection methods and power system transformation underway in vehicles,” said Clarios CEO Mark Wallace. “Paragon’s team has the skills, culture and commitment to add new capabilities that will accelerate our partnership with key OE customers, especially around advanced Li-Ion programs.”

15. Transport Minister Tips Hat to Trucking Industry

During National Trucking Week (Sept 3-9) Federal Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez commended the trucking industry for its invaluable contributions to the Canadian economy. “It’s a time to reflect on the value that truckers and the trucking industry bring to our country,” he said in a statement. “There are 1.2 million commercial vehicles on our roads, and they support internal trade between our provinces and territories that accounts for nearly one-fifth of our GDP. That adds up to \$370 billion. “Road transport also accounts for 42% of Canada’s merchandise trade.

16. Quantron gears up to become “range leader” in North America’s ZEV market

Germany-based Quantron has set its sights on becoming the range leader for zero-emissions trucks in the North American market and is developing a Class 8 hydrogen-fuel-cell-electric vehicle to help achieve that goal. Richard Ansell, vice-president of marketing for Quantron U.S., gave journalists (visiting the company’s Augsburg, Germany headquarters as part of a House of Journalists site visit) some insights into the company’s ambitious plans for the North American market. “Our whole strategy in the U.S. is focusing on fuel cell technology in the Class 8 segment,” he said. “Our goal is to be the range leader.” Quantron has secured a supply deal with Canada’s Ballard Power to supply fuel cells and is in talks with North American truck makers to secure gliders that will serve as the chassis. But chief technical officer Rene Wollmann admits those discussions are ongoing due to the strong market that currently exists for finished — and more profitable — vehicles.

17. Next round of EPA/CARB emissions standards will be toughest yet

Previous rounds of EPA heavy-duty emissions standards have been challenging to reach, but truck manufacturers have yet to face the type of challenge coming down the pike in 2027. Both the EPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) will take different ways to the same end goal, which is zero emission vehicles. The national and California requirements realign in 2027, which Sean Waters, vice-president product compliance and regulatory affairs for Daimler Truck North America (DTNA) said that realignment by 2027 is needed. He was speaking at FTR’s Transportation Conference in Indianapolis Sept. 11-14. Daimler’s own goal is to produce 100% zero emissions vehicles for the Triad market (North America, Asia and Europe) by 2029.

18. One in five trucks in U.S. could be autonomous by 2034: Roland Berger

Global consulting firm Roland Berger believes that by 2034, 20-30% of trucks on American roads will be autonomous. But to get there, fleet operations and relationships with OEMs will have to evolve. Wilfried Aulbur, senior partner with Roland Berger, gave an update on autonomous trucks at FTR’s 2023 Transportation Conference. Fleets will be motivated to automate driving to cope with a driver shortage, to improve safety and to avoid nuclear verdicts, he said. They’ll also need to see cost reductions and/or efficiency improvements. But automated driving won’t be a solution for every application or region. There are three models where autonomous driving could make sense, he said: platooning, where the lead driver in a convoy performs the driving and the following driver can rest; dock-to-dock autonomy, where driverless trucks travel from one dock to another across the country; and a transfer hub model where human drayage drivers manage the first and final miles, and the autonomous truck performs the rest of the journey. Platooning is the easiest to achieve, with the lowest payback. Dock-to-dock autonomy is the most challenging, but with the greatest benefits. The transfer hub model falls somewhere in the middle and may provide the best value, Aulbur said.

19. Parcel volumes expected to increase to 189 billion in 2023

The Express and Small Parcels 2023 Report from Ti Insight – the leading provider of market research to the global logistics industry – shows a picture of normalising activity, as the market shrunk by 0.6% y-o-y in 2022 to a value of €523,080.6m in real terms. A tentative recovery in demand is to be expected in 2023 following the rapid softening of parcel volumes in 2022. As such, the global express market is expected to grow by 3.6% y-o-y to a value of €542,108m, with global parcel volumes growing by 4.7% y-o-y to 189,120m. Recovery is expected in both the international and domestic markets. The Express and Small Parcels 2023 Report is written by industry researchers, analysts, and utilises data from Ti’s GSCi knowledge portal, a data powerhouse with over 1 million pieces of data and analysis. Nia Hudson, Research Analyst at Ti says: “The express and parcels market has passed through an extraordinary three years since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Companies are now in a situation where they have had to implement significant price increases to counter falling volumes, resulting in another unusual market situation where volumes are falling but operators are able to continue increasing revenue. Looking forward, we expect to see a slight recovery in real growth into 2023, although year-on-year growth is expected to be the lowest in almost a decade according to Ti’s data. We should however be careful to paint this figure in too much of a negative light – it may be better to characterise as a normalisation following a period of intense growth.”

20. TFI International acquires 155-truck tanker carrier in Canada

TFI International Inc. has acquired Vedder Transportation Group, a tanker truck transporter of food-grade liquids and dry bulk commodities with 155 power units and 300 tanker trailers. Vedder is based in Abbotsford, British Columbia. The acquisition helps TFI establish a Canadian coast-to-coast food-grade tanker truck network, according to Alain Bedard, TFI International’s chairman, president and CEO. “For many years, TFI International ... has been a provider of tank truck services to the liquid and dry bulk food grade market in Eastern Canada,” Bedard said in a [news release](#). “With the acquisition of Vedder, we add the premier provider of [tanker] services in Western Canada along with a network of strategically located facilities.” Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

21. BCTA launches fifth year of HDVE program

The B.C. Trucking Association (BCTA), in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure announced the fifth offering of the [CleanBC Heavy-Duty Vehicle Efficiency \(HDVE\) program](#). The program includes a rebate system, providing carriers with a financial incentive to adopt fuel-efficient technologies. Carriers can receive rebates of up to \$20,000 per vehicle, and \$150,000 per fleet for the purchase and installation of approved fuel-efficient equipment, according to a news release. “As we enter the fifth year of the CleanBC Heavy-duty Vehicle Efficiency Program, we are pleased to witness the remarkable progress that participants have brought in our collective fight against climate change,” said Rob Fleming, minister of transportation and infrastructure.

22. Social media, technology can attract next generation of drivers, report says

Leveraging social media and showcasing technological innovations could attract a young and diverse workforce to trucking, according to a report commissioned by Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada (FHCP). Providing visibility on success stories from young drivers, female truckers and other target audiences will improve the image of the profession, says the white paper released by PwC Canada. Partnerships with driving schools and industry associations should be part of the recruitment strategy. Employers can enlarge their driver pool by encouraging and supporting employees in other roles to transfer to driving jobs.

23. BCTA opens intake for latest round of rebates

The CleanBC Heavy-duty Vehicle Efficiency (HDVE) Program, administered by the British Columbia Trucking Association (BCTA) and funded by the Government of B.C., has launched its latest intake. Designed to promote sustainable transportation practices, reduce emissions, and provide economic benefits to carriers, the CleanBC HDVE Program offers an opportunity for carriers to enhance their fleet’s efficiency while contributing to a greener future. Under the program, eligible carriers are empowered with fuel management strategies that align with the province’s commitment to environmental stewardship. The HDVE Program also includes a rebate system, providing carriers with a financial incentive to adopt fuel-efficient technologies. Carriers can receive rebates of up to \$20,000 per vehicle, and \$150,000 per fleet for the purchase and installation of approved fuel-efficient equipment.

24. U.S. autoworkers’ strike expected to affect Canada

A limited strike by autoworkers in the U.S. is expected to affect the sector in Canada as the industry in both countries is deeply integrated. About 13,000 U.S. workers went on strike Sept. 15, 2023 at the three big U.S. auto companies after they failed to reach a new contract. Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union began picketing at a General Motors assembly plant in Wentzville, Mo., a Ford factory in Wayne, Mich., near Detroit, and a Stellantis Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio. The automakers rely on operations and suppliers in Canada and the U.S. as components criss-cross the border before they are assembled into a finished vehicle. The strike comes as Unifor holds contract talks in Canada with the U.S. automakers. The Canadian union is in bargaining with Ford Motor Co. ahead of its contract expiry on Sept. 18. Unifor hopes a deal with Ford can serve as a blueprint for workers at the other automakers.

25. CTA: Express Entry Begins Category Based Selection for Key Occupations Including Truck Drivers

On September 18, 2023, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that the first round of invitations for transport occupations through category-based selection in Express Entry will occur this week. This focus on candidates with experience in the transport sector—including [commercial truck drivers](#), pilots and aircraft assembly workers. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada announced [changes to Express Entry through category-based selection earlier this year](#). These changes will help address labour shortages and support economic goals by inviting candidates with specific work experience, including those in the [trucking industry](#), to apply for permanent residency.

26. Bosch sees clear skies for hydrogen as key to transport decarbonization

Global automotive supplier Bosch is betting heavily that hydrogen fuel cells will have a major role to play in the decarbonization of transportation. The company showcased some of its investments in this field during a visit to its Stuttgart, Germany headquarters by North American truck and automotive journalists following the IAA Mobility show in Munich. “We see real use cases where it’s favored to use hydrogen instead of other alternatives,” said Dr. Thomas Wintrich, senior vice-president, fuel cell mobility solutions business unit. “There is not one technology which would serve all. We see electrified powertrains with batteries, we see hydrogen [internal combustion engines] and we see for sure fuel cell mobility solutions.” Wintrich said Bosch has embedded itself within the entire hydrogen value chain. It is producing hydrogen fuel cells for heavy trucks, and in North America licensed production of those cells to Nikola for use in its own vehicles. It is also developing electrolysis stack and components for electrolyzers that will be used to produce the hydrogen itself. “Bosch is in the entire hydrogen value chain: production, storage and distribution and usage,” Wintrich said.

27. North American Transborder Freight down 4.2% in July 2023 from July 2022

Total Transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico in July 2023 compared to July 2022 was: 1. Total transborder freight: \$127.1 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, down 4.2% compared to July 2022; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada totaled \$61.7 billion, down 8.4% from July 2022; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico totaled \$65.3 billion, up 0.2% from July 2022; 4. Trucks moved \$80.1 billion of freight, up 3.4% compared to July 2022; 5. Railways moved \$17.2 billion of freight, down 1.7% compared to July 2022; 6. Vessels moved \$11.4 billion of freight, down 15.6% compared to July 2022; 7. Pipelines moved \$8.2 billion of freight, down 41.9% compared to July 2022; 8. Air moved \$4.4 billion of freight, down 3.0% compared to July 2022; and 9. Multiple modes declined due to a 25.1% decrease in value of oil and energy commodities. Transborder trade between Canada and US were as follows: truck \$35.3b; rail \$9.1b; pipeline \$7.5b; vessel \$3.1b; and air \$2.7b

28. AI and autonomous trucks taking over yard duties

Bringing yards up to speed with warehouse and transport digitization is driving the adoption of established supply chain technologies to help track, allocate, and optimize assets in the yard. According to global technology intelligence firm ABI Research, the installed base of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled cameras in the yard will reach 11.2 million globally by 2030, and the uptake of autonomous yard trucks will rise significantly at a global CAGR of 52.7 percent from 2022 to 2030.

29. Our Next Energy looks to address three biggest issues facing EV batteries

Battery-electric vehicles, particularly commercial trucks, have a range problem that will limit the applications in which they’re practical for zero-emissions transport. But Our Next Energy (ONE) believes it has a solution to that problem, and others. The company, with operations in California and Michigan, has set out to double electric vehicle range through advanced energy density, while also improving safety and eliminating thermal events by avoiding cobalt – a common cause of battery fires. If that’s not ambitious enough, it also wants to make the battery supply chain more sustainable. Mujeeb Ijaz, founder and CEO of the company, which has built a battery factory in Michigan, gave automotive and trucking journalists an update on the company’s progress during a House of Journalists event in Munich, Germany.

30. Urban public transit, July 2023

In July 2023, the number of urban transit passenger trips in Canada reached 110.8 million, recovering just over three-quarters (75.2%) of the July 2019 ridership, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada's urban transit networks provided an estimated 110.8 million rides in July 2023, up 18.2% (or 17.1 million more rides) from July 2022, marking more than two years of growth since April 2021. While ridership in July 2023 represented over 75% of the July 2019 pre-pandemic level, this was down somewhat from June 2023, when ridership accounted for 79% of the pre-pandemic level. Prior to the pandemic, passenger counts typically declined by an average of around 6.6% from June to July, with summer vacations and fewer students. However, July 2023 saw a slightly steeper decline, with ridership down by 7.6% (or about 9.1 million passenger trips) from June 2023.

31. PWC Report: Truck Driver Shortage a Risk to Canada’s Economy

A report released by PricewaterhouseCoopers for Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada (FHCP), found that given the reliance the country’s supply chain has on the trucking industry, a growing trucker shortage poses significant

“risk” to the economy. “Truck driver shortages tend to ebb and flow,” said Frank Scali, FHCP’s vice-president of industry affairs. “Through the pandemic it became a bit of a crisis for a while, as some drivers left the business and volume went up.” Canada has a shortage of about 20,000 truck drivers, and one third of current drivers are nearing retirement, according to the report. The shortage could reach 30,000 in the coming years if recruitment doesn’t pick up. In June 2023, the Ontario government said about 6,100 truck drivers are needed across the province to fill the gap.

32. Economic Trucking Trends: Lots to digest in busy week for economic news in trucking

It’s been a busy week on the economic front, with mixed signals for the trucking industry. We saw signs that for-hire tonnage has bottomed out, fleets are being disciplined in their equipment purchases, and overall trucking conditions are nudging upward but tempered by a halt in spot market pricing improvements. Parts and labor costs have begun to return to Earth, and the most recent trailer order numbers provide little clarity about where that market is going. U.S. for-hire truck tonnage edged up 0.2% in August 2023, on the heels of a 1.1% gain in July 2023. It’s a welcomed sign that the market has bottomed. “The evidence is growing that tonnage hit bottom in April and continues its slow climb upwards,” said American Trucking Associations (ATA) chief economist Bob Costello. “However, year-over-year comparisons remain difficult as tonnage peaked in September of last year. As a result, it is unlikely that tonnage turns positive compared with a year earlier for at least a month or two longer. Most recently, freight continues to be mixed, with consumer spending and factory output flat to down.” Year over year, tonnage was down 2.3% — the sixth straight year-over-year-decrease.

33. Ford workers in Canada ratify agreement, set precedent for other automakers

The union that represents 5,600 workers at Ford Motor Co. of Canada confirmed Sunday September 24, 2023 that its members had ratified a three-year contract with the automaker. The union that represents 5,600 workers at Ford Motor Co. of Canada confirmed Sunday its members had ratified a three-year contract with the automaker, setting the pattern for upcoming talks with General Motors and Stellantis. Unifor and Ford reached a tentative agreement after extending a strike deadline by 24 hours. At the time, the union said the three-year deal addressed all issues raised by members for this round of bargaining. On Sunday 24, 2023, the union said the wage increases amounted to the highest ever negotiated in bargaining with an automaker in Canada. In all, 54 per cent of union members who voted endorsed the proposed collective agreement, which includes a general wage increase of 15 per cent over three years. Wage increases amounted to the highest ever negotiated in bargaining with an automaker in Canada Lana Payne, national president of Unifor, issued a statement saying the deal will mean tremendous gains for autoworkers.

34. Economic Trucking Trends: Lots to digest in busy week for economic news in trucking

It’s been a busy week on the economic front, with mixed signals for the trucking industry. We saw signs that for-hire tonnage has bottomed out, fleets are being disciplined in their equipment purchases, and overall trucking conditions are nudging upward but tempered by a halt in spot market pricing improvements. Parts and labor costs have begun to return to Earth, and the most recent trailer order numbers provide little clarity about where that market is going.

35. Mack’s MD delivers big results in smaller package

Mack Trucks North America president Jonathon Randall thinks the launch of the company’s MD medium-duty series – on the eve of the Covid-19 pandemic – was perfectly timed. The truck was launched in March 2020. “The very next week, the world shut down,” Randall recalled to trade journalists who were given their first opportunity to drive the truck at Road America racetrack in Elkhart Lake, Wisc. “It launched into a different market. It has done a lot better than we could ever have imagined.” For one, it came to market when Covid disrupted supply chains, giving prospective customers a new choice as they struggled to procure vehicles. Kurt Manuel, president of Wisconsin-based tank truck maker Imperial Industries, says the OEMs that typically produced the trucks that were fitted with his company’s bodies were unable to meet demand during the pandemic. “Mack was under 1% of our sales. Now they’re the leading brand,” he recalled. “The MD came to market right at the perfect time in the author’s opinion.”

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Canada challenges US on softwood duties

Canada is launching challenges to “unfair” US duties imposed on softwood lumber exports. In a statement on September 1, Mary Ng, minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development, explained the Canadian position regarding the U.S. fourth administrative reviews on softwood lumber from Canada. “Canada is a world leader in softwood lumber and has a vast industry creating...jobs for thousands of Canadians and supporting communities across our country. “For years, the United States has imposed unfair, unjust and

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Canada challenges US on softwood duties, September 5, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2023, September 6, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. Hangcha opening warehouse in Mississauga, September 7, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca
4. Canada aims for Indonesia trade deal in next year, Trudeau says, September 7, 2023, www.ajot.com
5. US, EU agree on Mideast-India rail and shipping corridor at G-20, September 11, 2023, www.ajot.com
6. Eurobarometer: Europeans approve measures taken

illegal duties on Canadian softwood lumber, hurting Canadian industry and creating rising housing costs in both our countries.”

2. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2023

In July 2023, Canada's merchandise imports decreased 5.4%, while exports were up 0.7%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world narrowed from a revised \$4.9 billion in June to \$987 million in July. Total imports decreased 5.4% in July 2023, the strongest percentage decline since January 2022. Overall, imports in 9 of 11 product sections decreased in July 2023 and, as was the case in May and June, imports of unwrought gold were central to the monthly movement. In real (or volume) terms, imports were down 4.3%.

3. Hangcha opening warehouse in Mississauga

Hangcha Forklift Canada is opening a warehouse in Mississauga, Ontario, in October 2023. The 30,000 sq ft facility joins existing warehouses in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec, and Vancouver, allowing the company to maintain an inventory of 550 units at any given time. The Vaudreuil-Dorion facility, in the Montreal area, is 26,500 square feet. Hangcha Canada offers a range of material handling solutions to meet the needs of the Canadian market. It offers electric counterbalance lifts, narrow aisle trucks, pallet jacks, tow tractors, and a rough terrain forklift among others. It has a full line of lithium-ion battery powered vehicles.

4. Canada aims for Indonesia trade deal in next year, Trudeau says

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada is on track to sign a free trade agreement with Indonesia within the next 12 months. Trudeau made the comments in an interview with Bloomberg News in Singapore, where he is visiting as part of a trip through Asia to further trade ties and attend the Group of 20 leaders' meeting. Trudeau visited Jakarta this week and met with President Joko Widodo, who is also the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Expanding trade with Asian countries is one of the goals of Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy. The prime minister also said his government plans to open a trade gateway in Singapore.

5. US, EU agree on Mideast-India rail and shipping corridor at G-20

The US signed an agreement with India, Middle Eastern countries and the European Union aimed at connecting them via a network of railways and sea routes, a development that comes as China builds its influence across the energy-rich region. The US has been quietly holding talks since January 2023 on the project with India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Israel. The plan is to link Middle Eastern countries by rail and to India through shipping lanes from ports in the region, extending on to eastern Europe. “This is a game-changing regional investment,” US President Joe Biden said at an event announcing the plans. He thanked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who sat between them. The Saudi prince also commended Biden, and they shook hands, appearing to want to emphasize improved relations after long-running frictions that flared again last year over oil. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will integrate railway lines and port connections from India to Europe, across UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, leading to faster transit of goods. The project will develop energy infrastructure and enable the production and transport of green hydrogen to all partner countries. It includes a new undersea cable connecting the region to improve telecommunications and data transfers. Leaders will also develop a trans-African corridor to improve transport connections between the Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the so-called “Copper Belt” in Zambia to Lobito port in Angola. The US and the EU are also backing this project, known as the Lobito Corridor.

6. Eurobarometer: Europeans approve measures taken to tackle the energy crisis, to promote sustainability and to support Ukraine

The Flash Eurobarometer survey published on September 11, 2023 shows an overwhelming support among Europeans for the measures taken over the last year to protect consumers and companies from volatility of energy prices, as well as action to foster energy security and the green transition. It also confirms a large consensus among EU citizens in favour of boosting clean tech industry for more competitiveness, as well EU's actions taken in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. 86% find that it was *important to take initiatives at European level* to limit the immediate impact of rising energy prices on consumers and companies during the last year. Over eight in 10 hold this view about promoting sustainable use of natural resources (86%), facilitating the joint purchase of gas by EU Member States to ensure security

to tackle the energy crisis, to promote sustainability and to support Ukraine, September 11, 2023, www.euroopa.eu

7. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2023, September 12, 2023, www.atatcan.gc.ca

8. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Next Phase of Thriving Communities Grant Program to Help More Communities Unlock Access to Historic Infrastructure Investments, September 12, 2023, www.dot.gov

9. How to enhance value in your supply chain, September 13, 2023, www.insidelogistics.com

10. Pet Valu opens new DC in Ontario, September 15, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

11. Traffic Flow Dashboard, September 14, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

12. July 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.1% from the Previous Month and Down 2.4% from the Same Month Last Year, September 14, 2023, www.bts.gov

13. Russia's diesel ban threatens to roil global markets—if it lasts, September 21, 2023, www.ajot.com

14. First Solar urges US to get tough on trade as module prices sink, September 21, 2023, www.ajot.com

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2023, September 22, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

16. Amazon plans to hire 6,000 in Canada, September 22, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

17. Canada Post opens new sorting centre in GTA, September 25, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

18. UK seeks aerospace deals in new trade pact with Washington State, September 25, 2023, www.ajot.com

of supply (82%), building partnerships with other global actors such as the UK, US, Japan, and Australia (81%), reducing excessive commercial dependencies from countries like Russia or China (80%) and enhancing the competitiveness of the European clean tech industry (80%). EU measures aiming at accelerating the digital transformation while protecting consumers and at increasing the resilience of the EU's economy are perceived as important by respectively 77% and 76% of respondents.

7. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Next Phase of Thriving Communities Grant Program to Help More Communities Unlock Access to Historic Infrastructure Investments

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for up to \$22 million in grants to provide technical assistance and a Call for Letters of Interest from communities seeking support through the Thriving Communities Program on September 12, 2023. The Biden-Harris Administration launched the program in 2022 to prepare state, local, Tribal and territorial governments to better access historic levels of federal funding for projects in their communities. Earlier this year, DOT announced that four Capacity Builder teams received \$21.15 million to provide technical assistance to 64 communities.

8. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2023

In August 2023, the number of international arrivals to Canada—non-resident trips and returning Canadian-resident trips—increased from August 2022. However, the number of arrivals for the four indicators has not yet returned to the levels observed in August 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of non-resident arrivals at Canadian airports equipped with electronic sensors totalled 1.1 million in August 2023, up 27.7% from August 2022. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad stood at 1.5 million, a 16.9% increase from August 2022. In August 2023, US-resident trips to Canada through land ports with electronic sensors reached 1.7 million, up 49.0% from the same month in 2022. Moreover, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States via the same land ports rose 42.0% year over year to 2.8 million trips in August 2023.

9. How to enhance value in your supply chain

For those seeking to gain a competitive advantage within transportation, the time is now to lock in value for the rest of this year or, as the saying goes, forever hold your peace. But buyers beware – it is not as simple as just taking advantage of the current market and playing hardball with your carriers. The focus instead should be on realizing financial value in key areas of your supply chain while also strengthening relationships with transportation partners. Everyone knows shipping and trucking prices have fallen dramatically over the past year in our post-pandemic world. Long gone are skyrocketing shipping costs, as well as headlines about supply chain disruptions and images of container ships queued in the Pacific Ocean near the ports. The reality these days is that the U.S. economy has been uneven. Due to rising interest rates and stubbornly elevated inflation, most experts predict the economy will continue to cool for the rest of the year, or even slide into a recession. A few factors are at play. Inflation remains high and consumers are pulling back on spending, and retailers are working through excess inventories. Softening consumer demand is also hurting B2B and industrial companies, which is translating into lower freight volumes.

10. Pet Valu opens new DC in Ontario

Pet Valu Holdings Ltd. has opened a new 670,000 sq. ft. distribution centre in Brampton, Ontario. The new DC is part of the pet supplies retailer's nationwide \$110 million supply chain transformation. It is the largest distribution centre and robotics automation installation in Canada serving the pet specialty industry. The company plans to invest \$110 million over four years to modernize its distribution networks in the Greater Toronto Area, Vancouver and Calgary. Progress has also begun in Vancouver, where Pet Valu has signed a lease for a new, near-complete facility, targeting start-up in mid-2024.

11. Traffic Flow Dashboard

Statistics Canada 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.

12. July 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.1% from the Previous Month and Down 2.4% from the Same Month Last Year

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, rose 0.1% in July 2023 from June 2023, rising for the first month after remaining at the same level from May 2023 to June 2023, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From July 2022 to July 2023 the index fell 2.4%.

13. Russia's diesel ban threatens to roil global markets—if it lasts

Russia's decision to ban exports of diesel — and gasoline — risks disrupting fuel supplies ahead of winter, but how deep the impact will be depends on how long it lasts. The nation shipped more than one million barrels a day of diesel-type fuel so far this year, narrowly making it the world's biggest seaborne exporter, according to data from Vortexa. That's an enormous chunk of supply for the market to lose at short notice — roughly enough to meet the entire demand of Germany. The supply loss, and any subsequent price rise, won't just matter to oil traders and truck drivers. Diesel-type fuel is also used in ships and trains, as well as by the farming, manufacturing and construction sectors. In short, it

powers vast swaths of the global economy. “It all comes down to the duration,” said Eugene Lindell, head of refined products at consultancy FGE. Russia’s refineries “could probably go a month before they’d have to shut down again on storage capacity constraints.” Russia says it instituted the temporary ban to dampen rising fuel prices at home, but absorbing all those barrels domestically may be a challenge. Some can go into storage, and the situation will also be helped by many refineries undergoing maintenance work. But at some point the country will have to resume exports or slash refinery output. And the latter option risks a domestic gasoline shortage.

14. First Solar urges US to get tough on trade as module prices sink

The Biden administration needs to toughen trade enforcement to guard against unfair competition from Chinese solar suppliers as module prices plummet to record lows, according to the chief of the biggest US panel maker. “If no one else wants to hold them accountable, I think the US needs to — for its own strategic rationale,” First Solar Inc. Chief Executive Officer Mark Widmar said in an interview on September 20, 2023. “We need domestic capabilities, and renewable energy is one of them.” The sweeping US climate law enacted last year already contains a raft of incentives meant to propel domestic solar manufacturing. And the US has imposed duties on some solar imports to offset allegations of unfair pricing and subsidies by China since 2011. The US Commerce Department concluded last month that some manufacturers in Asia are illegally bypassing those tariffs. But a moratorium ordered by President Joe Biden put expanded duties on hold through June 6, 2024, in part to keep solar installations and climate goals on track while domestic production ramped up.

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2023

In July 2023, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada accounted for 84.9% of the number observed in July 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the number of returning Canadian residents accounted for 86.3% of the level seen in July 2019. Residents of overseas countries took 867,700 trips to Canada in July 2023, and US residents took 3.1 million trips. At the same time, Canadian residents returned from 4.5 million trips abroad. Vacations by cruise continued to increase, as Canadian residents took 24,100 cruise trips. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the Statistics Canada website.

16. Amazon plans to hire 6,000 in Canada

Amazon is hiring 6,000 employees across Canada in full-time, seasonal, and part-time roles across its operations network. Jobs in Amazon’s operations network include stowing, picking, packing, sorting, shipping customer orders, and more, and are available in communities from coast to coast across Canada. It announced last week that it is hiring 3,000 seasonal workers in Canada and the US. Amazon is investing more than \$70 million this year toward pay increases for customer fulfillment and transportation employees, bringing the average hourly starting wage to \$21 per hour — up from close to \$17 in 2018.

17. Canada Post opens new sorting centre in GTA

Canada Post has opened the Albert Jackson Processing Centre, its new Greater Toronto Area (GTA) parcel sorting facility. This facility is Canada Post’s largest, fastest and greenest parcel sorting facility. It has doubled the company’s processing capacity in the GTA, where most of Canada’s parcels originate. With e-commerce expected to double in Canada over the next decade, this facility will help Canada Post meet demand. “The Albert Jackson Processing Centre is much more than a building – it is a generational investment in the future of our country,” said Doug Ettinger, president and CEO of Canada Post.

18. UK seeks aerospace deals in new trade pact with Washington State

The UK will sign a trade pact with Washington state aimed at facilitating aerospace deals with the US, as it seeks to bolster its economic ties in the absence of broader free-trade discussions with President Joe Biden. The memorandum of understanding, the sixth such pact with a US state, is focused on forging closer ties between the two countries’ aviation sectors. Washington state is the birthplace of US aerospace giant Boeing Co. The framework will enable UK and US businesses to work together more seamlessly, Nusrat Ghani, the UK minister for industry, told Bloomberg. Ghani touted the collective impact of the mini trade pacts. “The combined GDP of the six states will be over £2 trillion, the equivalent of the GDP in France,” she said. Ghani will sign the agreement alongside Washington state Governor Jay Inslee at an event in Seattle late Monday in the US. The UK has sought closer commercial ties with individual states with a broader US free-trade deal, touted as a benefit of leaving the European Union, still far off. The country has signed agreements with Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Utah, and hopes to sign agreements with Florida, Texas and California. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s government faces pressure to expand trade and investment links in response to the US Inflation Reduction Act, a multibillion package of clean-energy subsidies and tax breaks.