

Transportation Information Update*

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Editor: Joseph Monteiro*

April 2024, 236

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson*

AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. The Council of the Haida Nation and the Minister of Transport announces the renaming of Sandspit Airport to K'il Kun Xidgwangs Daanaay

On March 27, 2024, Vance Badawey, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, and the Council of the Haida Nation announced that the Sandspit Airport, a Transport Canada owned and operated airport, will be renamed to a Haida name, K'il Kun Xidgwangs Daanaay, which translates to "Sandspit flying place". Located on Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, the Haida have occupied Haida Gwaii since time immemorial.

2. UPS to become US Postal Service's primary air cargo provider

UPS will become the primary air cargo provider for the United States Postal Service (USPS) after signing an expansive new contract, UPS announced on April 1, 2024. The carrier will move the majority of USPS air cargo in the United States following a transition period. "Together UPS and USPS have developed an innovative solution that is mutually beneficial and complements our unique, reliable and efficient integrated network," UPS CEO Carol Tomé said in a press release.

3. WestJet Encore pilots vote for strike mandate, adding to airline's turbulence

WestJet Encore pilots could go on strike as soon as April 17 after they approved a strike mandate on April 2, 2024, increasing the prospect of headwinds after a tough year for the airline's owner. Aviators at WestJet Airlines Ltd.'s regional carrier voted 97 per cent in favour of strike authorization after contract talks around pay, schedules and career progression came to a "near standstill," the Air Line Pilots Association said. Some 89 per cent of pilots cast a ballot.

4. WestJet Group statement regarding WestJet Encore ALPA strike authorization vote

The WestJet Group on April 2, 2024 issued the following statement regarding the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) announcement of the results of the strike authorization vote to WestJet Encore pilots. Diederik Pen, President of WestJet Airlines and Group Chief Operating Officer said "A strike authorization vote is a common step by unions in context of the overall labour negotiation process and does not mean a strike will occur. "We are steadfast in our commitment to reach an agreement with ALPA that addresses the unique concerns of our Encore pilots, is competitive within Canada's airline industry and ensures we have a long-term sustainable future so that we can continue to operate critical air service for millions of Canadians, while providing meaningful employment for thousands at the WestJet Group."

5. Air Canada Inaugurates Newest Pacific Route from Vancouver to Singapore

Air Canada's much anticipated route launched from its Vancouver (YVR) Pacific hub last night and arrived this morning in Singapore, marking the inaugural of the airline's newest international route and the only non-stop

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

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2. UPS to become US Postal Service's primary air cargo provider, April 1, 2024, www.cargonews.com
3. WestJet Group statement regarding WestJet Encore ALPA strike authorization vote, April 2, 2024, www.westjet.ca
4. WestJet Encore pilots vote for strike mandate, adding to airline's turbulence, April 2, www.financialpost.ca
5. Air Canada Inaugurates Newest Pacific Route from Vancouver to Singapore, April 4, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
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7. Passenger Demand Up 21.5% in February, April 4, 2024, www.iata.org
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14. WestJet Encore and ALPA reach agreement-in-principle, April 8, 2024, www.westjet.ca
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flight between Canada and Singapore. Stretching 12,818 kilometres (7,965 miles), the route is the airline's longest flight measured by distance with a flying time of up to 16 hours and five minutes. "Air Canada is thrilled to welcome customers onboard our newest route linking Canada and Singapore from our Pacific hub in Vancouver. These new Singapore flights are part of our strategic expansion at YVR, which together with an efficient and seamless in-transit connection process, further position the airport as the preferred North American gateway to Asia," said Mark Galardo, Executive Vice President, Revenue and Network Planning at Air Canada. "Singapore is also an important gateway to beyond destinations. Customers have a multitude of connection options travelling to Southeast Asia, Southern India and Western Australia with our longstanding codeshare and Star Alliance partner, Singapore Airlines."

6. Air Cargo Demand Maintains Double-Digit Growth in February

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for February 2024 global air cargo markets showing continuing strong annual growth in demand. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), rose by 11.9% compared to February 2023 levels (12.4% for international operations). This is the third consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year demand growth. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 13.4% compared to February 2023 (16.0% for international operations). This was largely related to the increase in international belly capacity accompanying growth in passenger markets (29.5% year-on-year increase), which far exceeded international capacity on freighters (3.2% year-on-year increase).

7. Passenger Demand Up 21.5% in February

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for February 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: *Total demand*, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), was up 21.5% compared to February 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 18.7% year-on-year. The February load factor was 80.6% (+1.9 ppt compared to February 2023). *International demand* rose 26.3% compared to February 2023; capacity was up 25.5% year-on-year and the load factor improved to 79.3% (+0.5 ppt on February 2023). *Domestic demand* rose 15.0% compared to February 2023; capacity was up 9.4% year-on-year and the load factor was 82.6% (+4.0 ppt compared to February 2023). Note that February 2024 was a leap year with one extra day compared to February 2023. This slightly exaggerates growth in both demand and capacity to the positive.

8. Air Canada partners with SATS for its long-awaited return to Singapore

Air Canada has awarded a passenger, ramp, and cargo handling contract to SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services) as it prepares to resume flights to Singapore's Changi International Airport for the first time in over 30 years. The airline will launch four Boeing 787-9 flights a week connecting Vancouver and Singapore, starting 4 April 2024. SATS currently handles all the Star Alliance partners in Singapore, enabling Air Canada the benefit of seamless passenger and cargo connections beyond Singapore to other key airports across Southeast Asia. The new route will provide the only non-stop service connecting Canada and Singapore. The new contract also extends Air Canada's global partnership with SATS and Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group. "We are delighted to welcome Air Canada back to Singapore and proud that the airline has chosen to extend its partnership with SATS Group into Southeast Asia. This is another significant business win for SATS Group at Changi Airport, reinforcing the good and

18. The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalty to WestJet for violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations, April 10, 2024, www.cta-otc.gc.ca

19. WestJet and Calgary Flames Alumni Association sign two-year partnership, April 11, 2024, www.westjet.ca

20. Air Travel Consumer Report: January 2024 Numbers, April 11, 2024, www.dot.gov

21. January 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 4.0% from the Same Month Last Year, April 11, 2024, www.bts.gov

22. WestJet Service Update: YYZ Gate Gourmet labour disruption impact, April 16, 2024, www.westjet.ca

23. CAC Statement on Federal Budget 2024, April 16, 2024, www.cacairports.ca

24. Secretary Buttigieg Launches Bipartisan Partnership with State Attorneys General to Protect Airline Passengers, April 16, 2024, www.dot.gov

25. 2023 Annual Average Domestic Air Fares Decreases from 2022, April 16, 2024, www.bts.gov

26. IATA and Partners Release Aviation Net Zero Roadmaps Comparative Review, April 17, 2024, www.iaa.org

27. More flights, More Destinations! Explore Europe, Asia and North America this Summer with Air Canada, April 18, 2024, www.aircanada.ca

28. U.S. Airline Total Number of Employees (both Full-Time and Part-Time), April 18, 2024, www.bts.gov

29. WestJet acquires Shell Aviation's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) available for purchase in Canada, April 19, 2024, www.westjet.ca

30. He Shoots, He Scores! Air Canada Introduces New Sports Channels to Live TV Service Just in Time for the Stanley, April 19, 2024, www.aircanada.ca

31. How to Find the Cheapest Airfare Every Time (It's Genius), April 23, 2024, www.financialpost.c

32. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule Requiring Automatic Refunds of Airline Tickets and Ancillary Service Fees, April 23, 2024, www.dot.gov

33. US Postal Service to migrate air cargo to UPS during summer, April 23, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

34. WestJet CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech outlines long-term growth plan and vision for Alberta's capital city, April 24, 2024, www.westjet.ca

35. Air Canada Cargo Adds Freighter Service to Chicago, April 23, 2024, www.aircanada.ca

36. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule to Protect Consumers from Surprise Airline Junk Fees, April 24, 2024, www.dot.gov

37. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, February 2024, April 25, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

longstanding partnership with Air Canada as a major customer of WFS. Air Canada and its customers will benefit from our combination of operational excellence and global network connectivity,” said Bob Chi, CEO, Gateway Services at SATS.

9. Secretary Buttigieg Urges U.S. Airlines to Improve Military Travel Benefits

On April 4, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg sent a letter

to the Chief Executive Officers of the 10 largest U.S. airlines urging them to improve military travel benefits provided to active-duty service members and their families.

10. UPS plans to hire 300 pilots to support Postal Service contract

UPS was awarded a large contract by the U.S. Postal Service and now needs more cockpit crews. UPS is looking to hire more than 300 pilots to support an anticipated increase in air cargo demand driven by a new multi-year contract from the U.S. Postal Service, according to the union representing the company’s air crews. “The Independent Pilots Association Executive Board was informed that UPS HR is resuming their pilot hiring process to account for the additional volume surge that will occur as the year progresses,” the union said in a statement shared with FreightWaves. “The initial projected estimate for hiring is expected to be 300+ additional crew members, which is subject to adjustment once the network plan for the additional USPS volume is finalized.” The Independent Pilots Association is the bargaining representative for about 3,200 pilots at UPS.

11. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 13) 2024

Global air cargo rates continued to rise throughout March 2024, thanks to strong demand and rising rates from Asia and Middle East origins, taking average prices to within -7% of their elevated levels this time last year and recovering to their levels during last year’s winter peak season, according to the latest weekly figures and analysis from WorldACD Market Data. Average rates rose, week on week (WoW), by around +2% in week 13 (25-31 March) to \$2.48 per kilo, following consecutive weekly WoW rises of between +2% and +3% last month, on a globalized basis, progressively narrowing the gap between rates this year and the equivalent periods last year. Average rates in January and February were -19% below their equivalent levels in 2023, but throughout March the gap narrowed, from -15% in week 9 to just -7% in week 13, based on the more than 450,000 weekly transactions covered by WorldACD’s data.

12. WestJet propels Winnipeg’s growth forward with new year-round, daily service to Montreal and Ottawa

WestJet on April 8, 2024, celebrated the latest additions to its Winnipeg network, featuring new year-round, daily service to Montreal, as well as increased, daily, year-round service to Ottawa, beginning June 3, 2024. WestJet also announced new highly anticipated seasonal service between Winnipeg and Nashville, set to take off on September 16, 2024, establishing the airline’s seventh direct transborder connection out of Manitoba’s capital city.

13. U.S. Airlines’ February 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon Up 4.8% from January 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 7.9% from Pre-Pandemic February 2019

The Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on April 8, 2024 released U.S. airlines’ February 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.392 billion gallons of fuel, 4.4% less fuel than in January 2024 (1.456 billion gallons) and 7.9% more than in pre-pandemic February 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in February 2024 (\$2.83) was up 13 cents (4.8%) from January 2024 (\$2.70) and up \$0.85 (42.9%) from February 2019. Total February 2024 fuel expenditure (\$3.94B) was up 0.3% from January 2024 (\$3.93B) and up 53.9% from pre-pandemic February 2019. Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for February 2024 include a 3.2% increase in domestic fuel consumption, a 9.5% decrease in domestic fuel cost, and a 12.3% decrease in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption decreased 2.2% from January 2024 to February 2024, while increasing 6.8% from February 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

14. WestJet Encore and ALPA reach agreement-in-principle

WestJet Encore and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), the certified union representing Encore pilots, on April 8, 2024 announced they have reached an agreement in principle on the second collective bargaining agreement between the organizations. Both parties now await the ratification vote to be put forward to membership.

15. USDOT Significantly Modernizes the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Regulations

On April 9, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued a final rule that modernizes the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and Airport Concessions DBE (ACDBE) program regulations. These Congressionally mandated programs were created over 40 years ago to address and remedy the continuing effects of past discrimination against small businesses owned and controlled by minorities, women, and other socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and continue today to prevent and address ongoing discrimination.

38. Cargo airline Amerijet warns of pilot furloughs amid downsizing, April 25, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

39. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$76 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports, From Runway Improvements to Better Facilities, April 25, 2024, www.dot.gov

16. 1st-Quarter 2014 Air Fare Data

The average domestic air fare decreased to \$381 in the first quarter of 2014, down 1.0 percent from the average fare of \$384 in the first quarter of 2013, adjusted for inflation, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported on April 9, 2024. During that January to March period, Cincinnati, Ohio, had the highest average fare, \$514, while Sanford, Florida, had the lowest, \$119.

17. 3rd-Quarter 2014 Air Fare Data

The average domestic air fare of \$396 in the third quarter of 2014 was virtually the same as the average fare in the third quarter of 2013, adjusted for inflation, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported April 9, 2024. During the July to September 2014 period, passengers originating in Cincinnati, Ohio, paid the highest average fare, \$533, while passengers originating in Mesa, Arizona, paid the lowest, \$100.

18. The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalty to WestJet for violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has issued an administrative monetary penalty of \$55,000 against WestJet for two violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR) related to its obligations of providing services to persons with a disability. This penalty is for incidents that occurred in October and November 2023. On October 11, 2023 at Dublin Airport, WestJet failed to permit a passenger with a disability to board in advance of other passengers, even though they had made a request for assistance with boarding, locating their passenger seat, transferring between their mobility aid and their seat, and storing their carry-on baggage. Similarly on November 18, 2023 at San Cabos Airport, WestJet failed to permit a passenger with a disability to board in advance of other passengers, even though they had made a request for assistance with boarding, locating their passenger seat, transferring between their mobility aid and their seat, and storing their carry-on baggage. These contraventions relate to paragraph 34(1)(a) of the ATPDR. WestJet has 30 days to request a review before the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

19. WestJet and Calgary Flames Alumni Association sign two-year partnership

WestJet and the Calgary Flames Alumni Association on April 11, 2024 announced a new two-year partnership focused on unlocking new opportunities to give back to the community through enhanced access to sports for Western Canadian youth.

20. Air Travel Consumer Report: January 2024 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on April 11, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of January 2024 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The 560,352 flights operated in January 2024 were 99.56% of the 562,845 flights operated in January 2023. Operated flights in January 2024 were down 0.44% year-over-year from the 562,845 flights operated in January 2023 and down 7.18% month-over-month from 603,756 flights operated in December 2023. In January 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an on-time arrival rate of 72.8%, down from both 83.9% in December 2023 and from 76.2% in January 2023. In January 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 37.4 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.75%, higher than both the rate of 0.50% in December 2023 and the rate of 0.73% in January 2023. In January 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 56,659 wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling 836 for a rate of 1.48% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, higher than the rate of 1.39% mishandled in December 2023 and lower than the rate of 1.47% mishandled in January 2023.

21. January 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 4.0% from the Same Month Last Year

U.S. airlines carried 70.0 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in January 2024, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, January enplanements are down 1.0% from December and down 1.0% from the all-time high reached in December 2023. BTS reported 59.8 million domestic passengers and 10.2 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in January, not adjusting for seasonality.

22. WestJet Service Update: YYZ Gate Gourmet labour disruption impact

Due to labour action taken by Gate Gourmet in Toronto, WestJet flights operating on Boeing 737 aircraft departing or arriving at Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) as of Tuesday, April 16, may experience an inconsistent food or beverage offering. To limit disruption, WestJet proactively prepared contingency plans to ensure critical supplies are available onboard and wherever possible will continue to double-cater flights from alternative destinations with stopovers in Toronto. Guests who are eligible to receive an inflight meal including those in the Premium cabin and all guests travelling on transatlantic flights will receive either an alternative option or a food and beverage voucher for use in the terminal, pre-departure. In addition, WestJet is advising guests travelling to or from Toronto to plan ahead and bring an extra snack and/or beverage for their journey.

23. CAC Statement on Federal Budget 2024

The CAC Airports applauded the government for their efforts, particularly in working toward identifying and clarifying ways Canadian airports can pursue infrastructure investment opportunities to attract capital, including funds from pension funds. Today's budget creates a working group co-chaired by former Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz and supported by the Minister of Finance to identify pension fund investment opportunities for many sectors, including airports. The CAC has asked for more financial investment tools for airports along with an extension of the government land lease at airports to meet the growing demand for air travel and business development needs. "We are pleased to see government taking steps to clarify options for investment in airport infrastructure and look forward to learning more." said Monette Pasher, President of CAC Airports. The budget also provided investment for new measures to support biofuels production in Canada, with a focus on renewable and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). "We are so pleased to see this advancement, it is what the aviation ecosystem has called for in the roadmap and will help the sector and government work in partnership towards achievement of Canada's net zero goals." added Pasher. Another positive note includes a proposed \$108 million for Transport Canada and the RCMP to administer the Transportation Security Clearance Program.

24. Secretary Buttigieg Launches Bipartisan Partnership with State Attorneys General to Protect Airline Passengers

On April 16, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced the launch of the bipartisan Airline Passenger Protection Partnership with 18 state attorneys general to investigate airlines and ticket agents and hold them accountable when they violate aviation consumer protection laws. The partnership significantly expands the Department's oversight capacity by establishing a new fast-track system prioritizing misconduct cases from state attorneys general who uncover unfair or deceptive airline practices. Through the partnership, DOT will provide state attorneys general with access to the federal complaint database and help ensure that airlines cooperate with state investigations.

25. 2023 Annual Average Domestic Air Fares Decreases from 2022

The 2023 annual average domestic itinerary air fare of \$382 decreased 3.1% from the 2022 inflation-adjusted annual fare of \$394. The fourth quarter 2023 fares increase 4.6%, adjusted for inflation, from the previous quarter.

26. IATA and Partners Release Aviation Net Zero Roadmaps Comparative Review

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), together with the Air Transportation Systems Laboratory at University College London (UCL), the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and the Mission Possible Partnership (MPP), released the [Aviation Net Zero CO2 Transition Pathways Comparative Review](#). This is the first publication to compare 14 leading net zero CO2 transition roadmaps for aviation. The report aims to provide a "one-stop shop" for airlines, policymakers and all aviation stakeholders to better understand the key similarities and differences between the various roadmaps, and their visions for achieving net zero carbon emissions for aviation by 2050. Specifically, the report compares the selected roadmaps in terms of their scope, key input assumptions, modeled aviation energy demand, respective CO2 emissions, and the emissions reduction potential of each mitigation lever (new aircraft technologies, zero-carbon fuels, SAF, and operational improvements). The report also lists the findings.

27. More flights, More Destinations! Explore Europe, Asia and North America this Summer with Air Canada

Air Canada customers have a wide range of exciting options across Europe and Asia this summer, along with a choice of 120 destinations in North America, to fulfill their summer travel plans. Alongside new and enhanced international routes to Singapore, Madrid, Stockholm, Osaka and Seoul, the carrier's Summer 2024 international capacity is growing by 30 per cent into Asia-Pacific and 25 per cent to key leisure destinations in Southern Europe compared to last Summer.

28. U.S. Airline Total Number of Employees (both Full-Time and Part-Time)

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 796,203 workers in February 2024, 760 (0.10%) more workers than in January 2024 (795,554) and 42,821 (5.68%) more than in pre-pandemic February 2020 (753,382). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 537,488 workers in February 2024. Passenger airlines gained 1,261 employees in February 2024. Delta Air Lines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 911 employees; Frontier Air Lines added 225, and United Air Lines added 218. U.S. cargo airlines employed 254,227 workers in February 2024. Cargo carriers lost 261 employees in February. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 427 jobs.

29. WestJet acquires Shell Aviation's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) available for purchase in Canada

WestJet on April 19, 2024 announced that it has purchased the first Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) supplied in Canada by Shell Aviation, marking another milestone in [WestJet's mission to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050](#), and signifying another step forward in making Canada's aviation industry more sustainable. "WestJet is committed to enhancing our

position as a first mover in sustainability technologies. Just as we pioneered advancements in Winglets and [drag reduction](#), WestJet proudly stands as the first airline to acquire SAF by Shell in Canada,” said Angela Avery, WestJet Group Executive Vice President and Chief People, Corporate and Sustainability Officer. “Thanks to Shell’s world-class fuel supply chain and WestJet’s proven track record in sustainability, this first step sets the stage for future collaboration and innovation to encourage investments in this important lever for decarbonization.”

30. He Shoots, He Scores! Air Canada Introduces New Sports Channels to Live TV Service Just in Time for the Stanley

Air Canada on April 19, 2024 announced the addition of three new Live TV sports channels to its award-winning in-flight entertainment (IFE) system. Just in time for the start of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, Sportsnet ONE and Sportsnet East are available today, while TVA Sports will be available in May, so Air Canada customers can cheer their favourite hockey team onboard select flights. Just in time for the start of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, Sportsnet ONE and Sportsnet East are available on April 19, 2024, while TVA Sports will be available in May.

31. How to Find the Cheapest Airfare Every Time(It’s Genius)

Everyone loves to travel, but most people don’t think they can afford it. This clever tool is trying to change that. [Capital One Shopping](#) finds lower prices on flights, hotels and other travel essentials. From coupons codes to rewards you can redeem for gift cards, this extension knows almost every frugal hack you can imagine. While you book accommodations on Travelocity, Expedia, OneTravel or pretty much anywhere else, [Capital One Shopping](#) goes to work in the background to find and try coupon codes. *These plane tickets just got \$244 cheaper* — and that’s without giving up your carry-on or using some “budget” airline. Same airline tickets, just a lower price. Not only does this tool find money-saving coupon codes, but it also compares prices on Amazon. While you shop, it checks hundreds of other sellers to find a lower price. So whether shopping for luggage or the perfect beach vacation outfit, you can get it for less. Last year [Capital One Shopping](#) saved its customers over \$800 million, and you can install and set it up in seconds (and easily uninstall if you don’t like it) so there’s no reason not to give it a try right now. The best part? It’s **100% free**.

32. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule Requiring Automatic Refunds of Airline Tickets and Ancillary Service Fees

The Biden-Harris Administration on April 23, 2024, announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued a final rule that requires airlines to promptly provide passengers with automatic cash refunds when owed. The new rule makes it easy for passengers to obtain refunds when airlines cancel or significantly change their flights, significantly delay their checked bags, or fail to provide the extra services they purchased. “Passengers deserve to get their money back when an airline owes them - without headaches or haggling,” said *U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg*. “Our new rule sets a new standard to require airlines to promptly provide cash refunds to their passengers.”

33. US Postal Service to migrate air cargo to UPS during summer

The U.S. Postal Service plans to shift daily air cargo volumes to UPS before the contract with FedEx expires in September 2024 to ensure no service interruption for customers heading into the busy holiday shipping season, the agency and company officials said April 23, 2024. UPS’ ability to leverage its integrated air-and-ground network and bypass its main sort hub in Louisville, Kentucky, will enable the integrated express carrier to better profit from transporting domestic airmail for the U.S. Postal Service than its predecessor, executives said during an earnings briefing for analysts. Atlanta-based UPS wrested the Postal Service’s primary air cargo business from FedEx earlier this month and is working to transition all the first-class mail, Priority Mail and Priority Express volume to its network before the FedEx contract ends Sept. 29, management said.

34. WestJet CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech outlines long-term growth plan and vision for Alberta’s capital city

WestJet on April 24, 2024 provided a comprehensive update on the progress it is making against its targeted growth strategy for Edmonton. Alexis von Hoensbroech, WestJet Group Chief Executive Officer, outlined the airline’s strategy and commitments for 2024 and beyond in collaboration with key partners at his first annual address to business and community leaders at the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. “As the capital city of our home province, we are unwaveringly committed to maintaining and growing our title as Edmonton’s leading air carrier, as exhibited by our growing network and track record of fueling Edmonton’s economic pipeline through inbound tourism and investment attraction,” said von Hoensbroech to a sold-out business audience at the Glenora Club. “The Edmonton community is at the heart of our ambitious growth strategy as we strive to further cement the city’s well-deserved position on the global stage, making it one of the most connected cities of its size in North America.” In his remarks, von Hoensbroech summarized WestJet’s leading investments in Edmonton and provided an update on the airline’s progress in bolstering Edmonton’s transborder connectivity and expanding its domestic network. He spelt out WestJet’s : 1. Economic growth through transborder connectivity ; and 2. Investments for Edmonton at the forefront of WestJet’s Western strategy.

35. Air Canada Cargo Adds Freighter Service to Chicago

Air Canada and Air Canada Cargo on April 23, 2024 announced the addition of Chicago to its freighter network, starting June 2, 2024. The service will operate three times per week with a Boeing 767 freighter, connecting Air Canada Cargo's global hub in Toronto with its self-handled warehouse operation in Chicago. "We are excited to add Chicago to Air Canada Cargo's robust network, achieved through the strategic use of our freighters and the global reach of Air Canada's extensive passenger network. In Chicago, we also leverage our extensive trucking network to extend our reach, adding to Air Canada Cargo's competitive edge. As a true global combination carrier, adding Chicago further expands on our commitment to provide consistent capacity to our valued customers and respond to the demands of the market," said Jon Turner, Vice President, Cargo at Air Canada.

36. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule to Protect Consumers from Surprise Airline Junk Fees

The Biden-Harris Administration on April 24, 2024 announced a final rule to protect airline passengers from surprise junk fees when purchasing a ticket. The rule requires airlines and ticket agents to tell consumers upfront what fees they charge for a first or second checked bag, a carry-on bag, and for cancelling or changing a reservation. This will help consumers avoid unneeded or unexpected fees that can increase quickly and add significant cost to what may, at first, look like a less expensive ticket. In total, thanks to this final rule, consumers are expected to save over \$500 million annually that they are currently overpaying in hidden airline fees. "Airlines should compete with one another to secure passengers' business—not to see who can charge the most in surprise fees," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "DOT's new rule will save passengers over half a billion dollars a year in unnecessary or unexpected fees by holding airlines accountable for being transparent with their customers."

37. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, February 2024

In February 2024, aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports totalled 389,143, up 15.6% from February 2023. Itinerant movements rose 12.3% year over year to 267,374, while local movements climbed 23.7% to 121,769. At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 6.7 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in February 2024, with the passenger load factor at 84.5%.

38. Cargo airline Amerijet warns of pilot furloughs amid downsizing

An Amerijet Boeing 757-200 converted freighter is seen flying over Maho Beach before landing at Princess Juliana International Airport on Saint Maarten, Dutch Caribbean, on Nov. 23, 2023. Amerijet stopped flying its six 757s earlier this year and returned them to leasing companies because there wasn't enough shipping business to keep them filled. Amerijet International plans to furlough a number of pilots in the near future to shore up cash flow after the loss of major contracts with the U.S. Postal Service and other accounts, according to internal company communications. The number of pilots to be suspended depends on how many pilots accept offers to work less. The Miami-based cargo airline says it needs to reduce the pilot roster in line with lower customer demand. "If we do not have enough volunteers or an increase in business, we will be announcing furloughs in late May for a June reduction," said Chief Operating Officer Craig Bentley in an April 23 memo addressed to pilots and obtained by FreightWaves.

39. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$76 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports, From Runway Improvements to Better Facilities

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding another \$76.1 million from the previously allocated \$9 billion, for 45 airport-related infrastructure projects in 22 states. The projects are funded under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program, part of the \$25 billion total included in the law for airport improvements, including front-of-house projects such as terminal expansions and baggage system upgrades.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Carrier competition to intensify with EU anti-trust, alliance changes: Cosco

Cosco's profits for 2023 slumped 78% to \$3.3 billion, while revenue dropped 57% to \$24.3 billion. Competition in the container shipping market will intensify with the European Union's abolition of the antitrust exemption for carriers this year and the rejigging of shipping alliances, Cosco Shipping Holdings said on March 28, 2024. Highlighting the impact of changes within the carrier groupings, Cosco said they "may have significant impact on the future landscape of corporate alliances." The comments were made within the company's annual results filings to the Hong Kong and Shanghai stock exchanges. Overall, Cosco, China's container shipping and ports behemoth, was cautious about the outlook this year. It said a raft of factors, including inventory restocking in Europe and other changes are occurring.

2. A human, environmental and economic emergency response to the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse

On March 26, 2024, the container ship Dali in Baltimore's industrial harbour struck an interstate highway bridge, causing it to catastrophically collapse. Eight highway maintenance workers were thought to be on the bridge at the time of collapse. Two were rescued, and two bodies were recovered. Four workers remain missing, and are now presumed dead. The ship-bridge collision was a technological disaster, defined as an event caused by a malfunction of a technological structure or human error in controlling or handling the technology. In this case, the root cause of the disaster involved the interaction of two types of transportation technologies: a moving container ship and a fixed bridge. The disaster is not unprecedented — between 1960 to 2015 there have been 35 major bridge collapses due to collisions by ships or barges. On Feb. 22, 2024 in Guangzhou, south China, a container ship rammed into a bridge pillar leading to the subsequent collapse of the Lixinsha Bridge, and killing five people. The collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge serves as another stark reminder that despite our technological prowess, accidents involving transportation technology will continue to occur when we least expect them.

3. Baltimore ship accident has East Coast ports scrambling to absorb cargo

Ports along the US East Coast are modifying their operations to absorb cargo diverted from Baltimore harbor, where salvage specialists are starting the daunting task of clearing debris from the destroyed Francis Scott Key Bridge. The Port of Virginia, with terminals at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay near Norfolk, is opening a gate Monday at 5 a.m. — an hour earlier than usual — to help accommodate more truckers. The Port of New York and New Jersey, which is expecting additional cargo including autos, is working to allow quick access for transport companies that usually go through Baltimore. A major railroad is expanding its services, too. Fallout from last week's deadly bridge collapse, which indefinitely closed the nation's 17th-largest port by total cargo tonnage and the busiest gateway for vehicles, is expected to be largely contained as neighboring facilities with spare capacity tweak their schedules. Snarls, delays and added costs are more likely to appear outside ports as tens of thousands of shipments require longer routes on already-crowded roadways and rail lines.

4. Major US ports are pushing capacity limits, shipping veteran says

The biggest US ports are stretching capacity limits and need to expand to handle anticipated growth in inbound shipping, according to shipping industry veteran John McCown. Even before the Baltimore bridge disaster that shut one of the East Coast's most important delivery points, space was so constrained at the nation's 10 largest ports that containers unloaded from

WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Carrier competition to intensify with EU anti-trust, alliance changes: Cosco, March 28, 2024, www.joc.com
2. A human, environmental and economic emergency response to the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse, April 1, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
3. Baltimore ship accident has East Coast ports scrambling to absorb cargo, April 1, 2024, www.ajot.com
4. Major US ports are pushing capacity limits, shipping veteran says, April 2, 2024, www.ajot.com
5. Red Sea crisis prompts THE Alliance to delay restart of Asia-USEC service, April 3, 2024, www.joc.com
6. FMC unit seeks \$63 million fine against MSC for alleged shipping law violations, April 4, 2024, www.joc.com
7. Unifor Local 100 employees in Eastern Passage have ratified a new three-year collective agreement, April 4, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
8. Last-mile carriers need to adapt after bridge collapse, April 5, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
9. Readout from Biden-Harris Administration's Call with Truckers on Impacts of Port of Baltimore's Partial Closure, April 8, 2024, www.dot.gov
10. OTA Addresses Senate Committee on Infrastructure Climate Change Impact, April 11, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
11. OOCL's first-quarter volume gains offset by falling rates, April 12, 2024, www.joc.com
12. Panama Canal's future, much to shippers' relief, April 14, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
13. Maritime industry reels as Iran captures Israeli container ship, April 15, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
14. Government of Canada increases marine shipping penalties to a maximum of \$250,000 per violation, April 15, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
15. Consortium aims to decarbonize transpacific shipping, April 16, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca; North Pacific Green Corridor Consortium Aims to Decarbonize Transportation Corridor Between Canada, Japan and South Korea, April 16, 2024, www.cn.ca
16. Panama Canal announces new measures regarding number of transits and maximum draft, April 16, 2024, www.ajot.com
17. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$316 Million to Modernize Ferry Service and Better Connect Rural Communities, April 17, 2024, www.dot.gov
18. Port of Los Angeles finishes first quarter up 30% over 2023, April 17, 2024, www.ajot.com
19. Port of Los Angeles: Cargo Up 30% in 1Q24, April 18, 2024, www.railwayage.com
20. Port of Rotterdam: Container shipping increases in first quarter of 2024, April 18, 2024, www.ajot.com
21. Port of Corpus Christi announces first quarter 2024 volumes, April 19, 2024,

ocean-going vessels were being stacked six high in some places, said McCown, founder of Blue Alpha Capital and former CEO of Trailer Bridge Inc. The stacks can't go any higher without threatening to crack pavements below, he noted. "Capacity limits are closer than most people think," McCown said on April 2, 2024 at the Port of the Future conference at the University of Houston. "Our container system is approaching its physical limits." Over the next 20 years, the US will need to expand inbound shipping capacity by the equivalent of four Ports of Los Angeles, said McCown, a senior nonresident fellow at the Center for Maritime Strategy. "Inbound traffic will continue to grow," he said. "We need to take steps now."

5. Red Sea crisis prompts THE Alliance to delay restart of Asia-USEC service

THE Alliance on April 3, 2024 said it was postponing the planned restart of a service between Asia and the US East Coast due to the ongoing threats

against vessels transiting the Red Sea. The decision underscores that ship diversions around Africa's Cape of Good Hope will likely last through at least the first half of 2024, if not longer. Hapag-Lloyd and Ocean Network Express (ONE) said in a statement that THE Alliance's East Coast 4 (EC4) service from Asia will not restart as previously announced. The service was suspended last year due to plummeting freight rates.

6. FMC unit seeks \$63 million fine against MSC for alleged shipping law violations

The Federal Maritime Commission's enforcement bureau said MSC failed to correct billing practices on non-operating reefer containers despite saying it did. The US Federal Maritime Commission's enforcement bureau wants Mediterranean Shipping Co. (MSC) to pay a \$63 million civil penalty for what it alleges are multiple violations of US shipping law. The FMC's Bureau of Enforcement, Investigations, and Compliance, in a filing on April 4, 2024 to one of the agency's administrative law judges, alleged MSC charged excessive late fees on non-operating refrigerated containers and incorrectly billed companies that had no contractual relationship with the ocean carrier. The filing follows an investigation announced last August (i.e. in 2023) into possible violations of the US Shipping Act by MSC.

7. Unifor Local 100 employees in Eastern Passage have ratified a new three-year collective agreement.

A deal between the union and employer – CN rail – was reached on April 2, 2024 after the conciliator invited the union back to the negotiating table at the company's request. Unifor Local 100 represents roughly 200 employees at Autoport's facility in Eastern Passage. They will return to work on Friday, April 5, 2024. "We are pleased to have achieved a fair, negotiated agreement. We look forward to working with our returning employees," said Doug MacDonald, executive vice-president and chief marketing officer at CN, in a statement.

8. Last-mile carriers need to adapt after bridge collapse

The recent collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge will dramatically impact last-mile carriers and their customers throughout North America. That's the prediction from the president of the Customized Logistics & Delivery Association (CLDA), Joel Pinsky. "We're already hearing from our customers asking us what this will do to their costs and delivery times. I've heard from others in the association that the same thing is happening to them," said Pinsky, who is also the CEO of Global Messenger and Logistics in Baltimore. While much of the reaction has been focused on the ships that go in and out of the harbour, Pinsky expects the impact to quickly spread to many of the last-mile providers who are part of the CLDA.

9. Readout from Biden-Harris Administration's Call with Truckers on Impacts of Port of Baltimore's Partial Closure

On Friday, April 5th, 2024 the U.S. Department of Transportation, the National Economic Council, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Small Business Administration met with stakeholders in the trucking sector to discuss ongoing efforts to mitigate challenges caused by the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. The National Economic Council provided a readout of the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government effort to provide immediate response, support affected workers and small businesses, reopen the port, rebuild the bridge, and stand with the people of Baltimore. Last night, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced a tentative timeline for reopening shipping channels.

10. OTA Addresses Senate Committee on Infrastructure Climate Change Impact

OTA's chair and staff appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Transportation and Communications last night to discuss the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and supply chain resiliency in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway regions. Highlights of their remarks on truck-marine intermodal provided are below: 1. The existing intermodal connections between truck and marine across the Ontario port network are working well and the trucking industry works hand-in-hand with the marine sector to support the supply chain when opportunities arise; 2. A dramatic shift in marine-truck business patterns because of warmer winters along of the Great Lakes and the Seaway has not

www.ajot.com

22. Port Houston surpasses 1M TEU's in first quarter, April 19, 2024, www.ajot.com

23. Port Accumulated container traffic: 2023, April 23, 2024, www.portofhalifax.ca

24. Readout of USDOT's Multimodal Freight Office Meeting with East Coast Port Leaders, April 22, 2024, www.dot.gov

25. Port of Prince Rupert: Accumulated container traffic for March 2024 and first quarter of 2024, April 23, 2024, www.rupetport.com

26. Wallenius Wilhelmsen signs long-term agreement with Georgia Ports, April 24, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

27. Port of Oakland March container volume grows, April 24, 2024, www.aot.com

materialized to date; 3. The other factors limiting expanded use of marine include: unpredictability of rapidly forming ice, low water levels as well as necessary maintenance that requires a shutdown of various aspects of locks and canal systems; and 4. The province of Ontario, led by the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Marine Strategy and Regional Transportation Plans, through a series of comprehensive transportation planning initiatives, has addressed truck-marine opportunities and continues as an evergreen process.

11. OOCL's first-quarter volume gains offset by falling rates

OOCL reported a 9% drop in first-quarter revenue on April 12, 2024 as an increase in overall volume was offset by lower rate levels, a familiar quarterly trend throughout the correcting container shipping market last year that has spilled into 2024. In an operational update for the first quarter — no profit or loss figures were provided — OOCL said Q1 volume increased 3.4% year over year to 1.79 million TEUs. But a 12% decline in average revenue per TEU dragged the carrier's overall revenue down to \$1.98 billion in the quarter. There were wide variances in revenue and volume across OOCL's four main trade lanes.

12. Panama Canal's future, much to shippers' relief

The end of Panama's dry season is in sight, and the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) plans to welcome more vessels in the coming weeks. Over six months since the Panama Canal's reservoir system suffered from the driest October in at least 73 years, the ACP finally sees a path to normalizing operations. On March 25, the ACP allotted three additional transit slots to Panamax vessels, bringing the total number of reservations to 27 per day. Canal officials predict end of drought, return to normal operations by 2025

13. Maritime industry reels as Iran captures Israeli container ship

In a significant escalation of tensions in the Middle East, Iran's capture of the MSC Aries, a container ship linked to Israel, has reverberated throughout the maritime industry. This development, occurring prior to the missile attacks on April 13, 2024, underscores the deepening conflict in the region. Believed to be in response to an Israeli raid on the Iranian consulate in Syria, the capture has heightened concerns about the security of key trade routes and the stability of regional hubs like Jebel Ali.

14. Government of Canada increases marine shipping penalties to a maximum of \$250,000 per violation

On April 15, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced that the value of monetary penalties for violations under the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 has been increased from a maximum of \$25,000 to a new maximum of \$250,000. The revised penalties are structured into three levels: minor, medium, and serious and reflect the seriousness of the violation. 1. Minor violations are administrative in nature and pose no threat to public safety or the environment; 2. Medium violations apply to situations when regulations around pollution response are not followed, but may not pose a large threat to people or the environment; and 3. Serious violations are those that endanger human health or the environment, or involve destroying documents or obstruction of authority. Examples of each penalty are provided.

15. Consortium aims to decarbonize transpacific shipping

A new industry group, the North Pacific Green Corridor Consortium (NPGCC), has been formed to work on decarbonizing commodities transportation routes between North America and Asia. The NPGCC brings together bulk commodity producers, railway and intermodal transportation providers, marine vessel owners and operators, port facilities and port authorities, and clean technology providers. The nine founding members are Canadian National Railway Company (CN), Mitsubishi Canada Ltd., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, NYK Bulk & Projects Carriers, Oldendorff Carriers, Prince Rupert Port Authority, Teck Resources Limited (Teck), Trigon Pacific Terminals, and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

16. Panama Canal announces new measures regarding number of transits and maximum draft

The Panama Canal Authority has unveiled a series of measures aimed at optimizing transit operations while ensuring safe navigation through the waterway. Scheduled maintenance work at the Gatun Locks, set to take place from May 7 to 15, 2024 will necessitate a temporary reduction in daily transits from 20 to 17 at the Panamax locks. However, the Canal will implement significant increases in transit capacity thereafter, raising the total number of daily transits from 24 to 32.

17. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$316 Million to Modernize Ferry Service and Better Connect Rural Communities

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on April 17, 2024 announced the availability of \$316 million to support and modernize passenger ferry service in the country. Across the country, there are approximately three million ferry riders each month, utilizing these transit services to get to work, school, healthcare appointments, and more. "I have seen firsthand how, for many Americans in many different parts of the country, ferries are the best and sometimes only way to get where they need to go," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're pleased to make \$316 million available to help communities modernize their ferry service so that Americans get better, easier, more reliable options."

18. Port of Los Angeles finishes first quarter up 30% over 2023

The Port of Los Angeles handled 743,417 container units in March 2024, a 19% increase over the previous year. It was the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year growth at the nation's busiest port. For the first quarter ending March 31, 2024 local dockworkers moved 2,380,503 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) across Los Angeles marine terminals—nearly 30% more than 2023. It was among the Port's best first quarter starts, behind only the pandemic import surge in 2021 and 2022. "Moving into April and the second quarter, I expect robust cargo flow to continue here," Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka at April 18th, 2024 media briefing. "A strong job market and continued consumer spending, along with our ability to handle additional volume, will help drive cargo to Los Angeles in the coming months."

19. Port of Los Angeles: Cargo Up 30% in 1Q24

For first-quarter 2024, ending March 31, local dockworkers moved 2,380,503 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) across Los Angeles marine terminals—nearly 30% more than 2023, the Port of Los Angeles reported April 17. It was among the Port's best first quarter starts, behind only the pandemic import surge in 2021 and 2022.

20. Port of Rotterdam: Container shipping increases in first quarter of 2024

Total throughput at the port of Rotterdam fell by 1.4% in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period last year. In the first three months of this year, throughput was 110.1 million tonnes compared to 111.7 million tonnes in the first quarter of 2023. The decline is mainly due to less throughput of coal, crude oil and oil products. Throughput of iron ore & scrap and LNG increased. Container throughput was also on the rise, with a 3.3% uptick. Boudewijn Siemons, CEO & Interim COO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority: "The throughput figures show limited imports of raw materials and exports of finished products. This tells us that European industrial production is still suffering from high energy prices and low demand from the biggest declining sectors such as construction and the processing and automotive industries. From the growth in container throughput, we see the first signs that world trade is picking up. However, these tentative signs remain highly uncertain due to rising global tensions."

21. Port of Corpus Christi announces first quarter 2024 volumes

The Port of Corpus Christi and its customers moved 48.9 million tons through the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in the first quarter of 2024, a slight decrease from the first quarter of 2023 of just over one percent. The Port's customers saw a slight increase in crude oil shipments during this period to 30.2 million tons, and a significant increase in agricultural shipments, but that was outweighed by decreases in refined products and shipments of LNG. "The Port of Corpus Christi and its customers continue to show strong performance, particularly in the energy and agricultural sectors," said Kent Britton, Chief Executive Officer for the Port of Corpus Christi. "With several infrastructure improvements either underway or in the works, we remain committed to helping our customer base bring continued prosperity to the Coastal Bend region."

22. Port Houston surpasses 1M TEU's in first quarter

Container volumes at Port Houston have skyrocketed in the first quarter of 2024. From January to March, Port Houston handled 1,069,917 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) year-to-date, an increase of 15% compared to the same period last year. In March alone, container volumes at Port Houston totaled 360,991 TEUs, an increase of 20% compared to March 2023. In fact, it was Port Houston's biggest March ever. Consumer spending on items like furniture and appliances contributed to loaded import volumes that were up 23% this March compared to the same month last year and 14% year-to-date. Loaded export volumes, which are primarily resins, have also increased by 12% in March and 15% for the year, totaling 404,124 TEUs year-to-date.

23. Port Accumulated container traffic: 2023

The Port of Halifax reported its container traffic for 2023 and for the final quarter of 2023. Total container traffic for 2023 was 546,163 TEUs down 9.2% from 601,700 TEU in 2022. Total imports in 2023 were 280,332 TEU down 11.1% from 315,167 TEU in 2022. Total exports in 2023 were 265,831 TEU down 7.2% from 286,533 TEU in 2022. For the fourth quarter of 2023, total container traffic was 134,511 TEUs down 12.2% from 153,130 TEU in the fourth quarter of 2022. Total imports for the fourth quarter in 2023 were 66,711 TEUs down 14.2% compared to 77,723 TEUs for the same period in 2022. Total exports for the fourth quarter in 2023 were 67,800 TEUs down 10.1% compared to 75,407 TEUs for the same period in 2022.

24. Readout of USDOT's Multimodal Freight Office Meeting with East Coast Port Leaders

On Friday, April 19, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) convened a meeting with the National Economic Council and leaders from ports up and down the East Coast to continue efforts to mitigate supply chain disruptions and coordinate on the response to the suspension of vessel traffic at the Port of Baltimore after the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. This convening was one in a series of meetings between DOT and East Coast port leaders to keep lines of communication open and share the impacts that the traffic suspension in Baltimore has had on other ports in the region.

25. Port of Prince Rupert: Accumulated container traffic for March 2024 and first quarter of 2024

For the month of March 2024, total traffic in terms of TEUs changed 17% i.e. 74,496 from 63,401. Total import traffic for the month in terms of TEUs changed 35% i.e. 41,133 from 30,556. Total export traffic for the month changed 2% i.e. to 33,363 from 32,846. For the 2024 first quarter, total traffic in terms of TEUs changed 2% i.e. to 191,448 from 187,544. Total import traffic for the first quarter of 2024 changed 16% i.e. to 107,279 from 92,811. Total export traffic for the first quarter of 2024 changed -11% i.e. to 84,168 from 94, 732.

26. Wallenius Wilhelmsen signs long-term agreement with Georgia Ports

The Brunswick expansion will add to an established network of terminals, on-port and in-plant processing centres that handle vehicles, construction, mining, and agricultural equipment across the region. The deal includes an options for an additional 30-year extension on the lease. “We’re excited to welcome the additional business to Colonel’s Island Terminal from Wallenius Wilhelmsen, where we are developing the nation’s premier gateway for all carriers handling autos and heavy machinery,” said GPA President and CEO Griff Lynch.

27. Port of Oakland March container volume grows

Full exports grew for the fourth month in a row, boasting a 14.8% increase compared to March 2023, transiting 75,352 TEUs in March 2024, versus 65,635 TEUs in March 2023. This is the highest monthly total for full outbound cargo at Oakland since April 2021. "I am encouraged that the positive cargo trends we are seeing in 2024 continue," said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. "A strong economy and the need for retailers to replenish stock in their warehouses are driving import cargo activity today." Empty imports rose 11.9%, registering 20,254 TEUs in March 2024, compared to 18,097 TEUs in March 2023. Empty exports also declined 9.5%, transiting 23,728 TEUs in February 2024, versus 26,225 TEUs in March 2023. The Port of Oakland (Port) March container volume continues to signal the Port’s cargo growth. In March, 202,816 TEUs (twenty-foot containers) passed through Port facilities, marking a 19.1% increase over March 2023 volume. Full imports at the Oakland Seaport continued to rise for the fifth month in a row, registering a 38.4% increase compared to March 2023. Port operators processed 83,483 full inbound TEUs in March 2024, in contrast to 60,311 full import TEUs in March 2023, reaching their highest volume since August 2022. Rising incomes and rising net worth among consumers in major Northern California markets are credited with supporting import growth.

28. Commission to investigate longshore disputes at West Coast ports

Federal labour minister Seamus O’Regan Jr. announced the appointment of an Industrial Inquiry Commission on the underlying issues in longshoring labour disputes at Canada’s West Coast ports. The Commission will present its findings and recommendations in a report to the minister in Spring 2025. After a tumultuous summer of strikes at British Columbia’s ports that were resolved after almost a month of picketing and port slowdowns. There were strong calls from industry to prevent a similar situation. In August 2023, the minister of labour committed to initiating a process under section 106 of the Canada Labour Code to examine the structural issues underlying the longshoring labour dispute at West Coast ports, as well as similar disputes that have occurred in ports across Canada.

29. Port of New Orleans announces \$7.1 million in federal funding for sustainability infrastructure

The Port of New Orleans announced on April 25, 2024 that it has been awarded \$7,117,567 from the Federal Highway Administration’s Reducing Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEPF) Grant program that is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. “Continually upgrading our ports is essential to attract new businesses and keep and create jobs,” said Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA). “This money improves infrastructure and workforce development. This is how to make the Port of New Orleans even more competitive.” Port NOLA along with its valued partners will use the federal funding for sustainable transportation and infrastructure to reduce truck congestion and emissions at Port terminals, Ports America Louisiana, and New Orleans Terminal, LLC. Additionally, the funding will provide \$200,000 in sub-awards for Port NOLA’s partners at Nunez Community College and the Urban League of Louisiana for workforce development and educational opportunities for future technicians to work on the upcoming technologies.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, March 2024

Data for March for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on statcan website. The index for March 2024 was 127.2 compared to 127.1 for February and 126.9 for March 2023. The index for the first quarter of 2024 was 127.2 compared to 130.9 for the previous quarter and 127.3 for the first quarter of 2023.

2. FRA Makes More Than \$2.4 Billion in CRISI Grant Funding Available to Improve America's Freight and Intercity Passenger Rail Network

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on March 29, 2024 issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that makes available over \$2.4 billion in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program funding. CRISI grants advance projects that modernize America's freight and intercity passenger rail infrastructure, allowing people and goods to move with greater safety, efficiency, and reliability. The opportunity announced includes funding for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 provided by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and builds on more than \$1.4 billion in CRISI grant selections announced last year.

3. Lack of progress in Canadian rail talks raises possibility of May strike

A stalemate over a new collective bargaining agreement for Canadian rail conductors and engineers has set the stage for vote by union members that could result in a strike notice being issued next month. The workers, represented by the Teamsters Canadian Rail Conference (TCRC), will vote from April 8 to May 1 on whether to authorize a strike against Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) as soon as May 22, 2024. A strike could halt intermodal service to and from all containerized marine terminals in Canada, affecting about 50,000 TEUs per week in imports. Teamsters representing conductors and yard workers for Canadian National Railway went on strike for eight days in 2019.

4. CN files Shelf Prospectus Qualifying the Issuance of Debt Securities

CN announced on April 2, 2024 that it has filed a shelf prospectus with Canadian securities regulators and a registration statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), pursuant to which CN may issue debt securities in Canadian and U.S. markets over the next 25 months. CN expects to use net proceeds from the sale of debt securities under the shelf prospectus for general corporate purposes, which may include the redemption and refinancing of outstanding indebtedness, share repurchases, acquisitions and other business opportunities.

5. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule on Train Crew Size Safety Requirements to Improve Rail Safety

On, April 2, 2024, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen rail safety and hold railroads accountable, Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has issued a final rule establishing minimum safety requirements for the size of train crews. The new rule enhances safety in the rail industry by generally requiring and emphasizing the importance and necessity of a second crewmember on all trains. The new rule mandates a two-person crew minimum on trains operated by Class 1 railroads unless a railroad can obtain approval for a one-person crew from FRA.

6. CN Acquiring Next-Gen Ore Jennies

CN is acquiring 600 new 1,150 cubic-foot iron ore hopper cars, colloquially

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

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20. Railway carloadings, February 2024, April 23, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
21. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declares dividend, April 23, 2024, www.cpkc.ca
22. CN Announces First Quarter Results and CN Declares Second-Quarter 2024 Dividend April 23, 2024, www.cn.ca
23. CPKC reports first-quarter results; celebrating one year as a combined company, April 24, 2024, www.cpkc.ca

called “jennies,” from FreightCar America. The new equipment, described as “a significant upgrade to CN’s fleet,” incorporates materials from U.S.

7. AAR reports rail traffic for March and the week ending March 30, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on April 3, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 30, 2024, as well as volumes for March 2024. U.S. railroads originated 866,865 carloads in March 2024, down 3.5 percent, or 31,101 carloads, from March 2023. U.S. railroads also originated 1,022,321 containers and trailers in March 2024, up 11.7 percent, or 106,903 units, from the same month last year. Combined U.S. carload and intermodal originations in March 2024 were 1,889,186, up 4.2 percent, or 75,802 carloads and intermodal units from March 2023. In March 2024, 11 of the 20 carload commodity categories tracked by the AAR each month saw carload gains compared with March 2023. These included: grain, up 8,475 carloads or 11.4 percent; chemicals, up 7,248 carloads or 5.7 percent; and petroleum & petroleum products, up 5,249 carloads or 15.0 percent. Commodities that saw declines in March 2024 from March 2023 included: coal, down 49,315 carloads or 18.6 percent; crushed stone, sand & gravel, down 5,434 carloads or 6.7 percent; and metallic ores, down 1,573 carloads or 8.9 percent. Canadian railroads reported 92,728 carloads for the week, down 5.0 percent, and 71,047 intermodal units, up 8.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 13 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 2,050,973 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.8 percent.

8. CN Continues to Advance Decarbonization Efforts with EMD® Mainline Hybrid Locomotive from Progress Rail

CN is proud to announce the purchase of its first hybrid diesel-battery electric mainline locomotive from Progress Rail, a Caterpillar Company, as part of its decarbonization plans. The EMD® will be tested to understand the potential impact and opportunity related to retrofitting a larger portion of the Company’s fleet. CN is collaborating on this initiative with the Province of British Columbia who awarded approximately \$3.2 million to the Company under the Clean BC Go Electric Commercial Vehicle Pilots Program. “CN is committed to supporting the transition to a net-zero economy and proud of the progress we’ve made so far on our decarbonization journey. We know rail is part of the climate solution and we are determined to do our part by setting ambitious science-based targets. Today’s announcement is another milestone on moving forward towards a more sustainable future.”

9. Norfolk Southern announces new initiatives to drive further productivity and accountability

Norfolk Southern Corporation provided an update on April 4, 2024 on its plan to accelerate progress on its strategy and deliver long-term shareholder value. Alan Shaw, Norfolk Southern president and chief executive officer, said, “The initiatives announced today [April 5, 2024] will help us progress toward our strategic goals and close the margin gap with our peers. Our network enhancements and improvements to our reporting structure will empower our new chief operating officer, John Orr, with the scope to implement his scheduled railroading plans and accelerate our operational improvements. This positions Norfolk Southern to become a more productive, resilient, and efficient railroad, and drive long-term value creation.”

10. STB Denies Coalition to Stop CPKC Request

The Surface Transportation Board on April 5, 2024, by unanimous vote, denied the request of the Coalition to Stop CPKC to modify the reporting requirements imposed in STB’s approval of Canadian Pacific’s acquisition of Kansas City Southern to create CPKC (Canadian Pacific Kansas City). STB’s denial is detailed in Docket No. FD 36500 (Sub-No. 6). The Coalition members are the Village of Bensenville, Village of Itasca, City of Wood Dale, Village of Roselle, Village of Schaumburg, Village of Hanover Park, Village of Bartlett, City of Elgin and DuPage County, all in Illinois and along Metra’s Milwaukee District West (MD-W) Line.

11. Norfolk Southern to pay \$600M in Ohio train derailment lawsuit

Norfolk Southern announced Tuesday, April 9, 2024 that it has agreed to pay \$600 million to settle a class-action lawsuit after a 2023 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, caused a fire and spilled chemicals. The agreement, if approved by a court, will resolve all class-action claims within a 20-mile radius of the derailment site and personal injury claims within 10 miles of the site, a news release from the railroad said. The company said the settlement is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing. In February 2023, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, a village near the Pennsylvania border that is home to about 4,800 people. Thirty-eight of the general merchandise train’s railcars, including 11 tank cars carrying hazardous chemicals that caught fire, derailed, a preliminary National Transportation Safety Board investigation found. Up to 2,000 residents were evacuated.

12. Preliminary Q1 results at embattled Norfolk Southern miss expectations

Norfolk Southern heads toward its May 9, 2024 annual meeting and the resolution of its battle with activist shareholder Ancora over control of the company with a public campaign that may have taken a hit Tuesday, April 9, 2024, judging

24. AAR: Total Carload, Intermodal Volume Flat for Week 16, April 23, 2024,

www.railwayage.com

25. No surprises in Norfolk Southern earnings as COO Orr makes debut, April 24, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

26. UP 1Q24: ‘Strong’ Financial Results Despite ‘Challenging’ Freight Market), April 25, 2024, www.railwayage.co; and Union Pacific Reports First Quarter 2024 Results, April 25, 2024, www.up.com

from a preview of the railroad's first-quarter numbers. In an outlook for Q1 earnings, which are to be released April 24, 2024 Norfolk Southern said adjusted earnings would come in at \$2.49 a share and adjusted operating ratio would be 69.9%. Those numbers are both below Wall Street consensus on how the railroad, which serves the Eastern half of the U.S., performed in the quarter. The report initially pushed Norfolk Southern stock down before a later rebound.

13. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending April 6, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on April 10, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending April 6, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 450,142 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending April 6, 2024 were 209,142 carloads, down 4.5 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 241,000 containers and trailers, up 7.6 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. Canadian railroads reported 95,326 carloads for the week, up 5.5 percent, and 72,636 intermodal units, up 12.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 14 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 2,218,935 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.1 percent.

14. Rail transportation, 2022

In 2022, the further easing of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and rebalancing of supply chains contributed to the second consecutive yearly growth in revenues in the rail industry. Canadian railways posted operating revenues of \$19.7 billion in 2022, up 14.4% from 2021. Freight revenues, which accounted for 89.5% of the rail industry's total operating revenues in 2022, increased 12.5% from 2021 to \$17.7 billion. This rebound was not as significant as that of other industries, such as airlines, as railways were deemed an essential service during the pandemic and continued to move commodities and essential goods. Shortline carriers were hit harder in 2021, as they often transport specific commodities or serve specific industries. However, in 2022, the operating revenues these carriers earned, which account for a fraction (4.0%) of the industry's total, experienced similar strong growth of 10.3%. Revenues from rail ridership rebounded in 2022, which saw the easing of Canada-wide restrictions on non-essential travel during the pandemic. Passenger revenues more than doubled from \$138 million in 2021 to \$345 million in 2022. Other rail revenues, including government payments, increased 22.6% from 2021 to \$1.7 billion in 2022.

15. Saskatchewan invests \$530,000 in short line railways

Saskatchewan Highways Minister Lori Carr has announced \$530,000 in provincial short line rail investments. Under the government of Saskatchewan's Short Line Railway Improvement Program (SRIP), funding will assist with track upgrades and expansion, improved crossing surfaces and sightlines, bridge maintenance, track rehabilitation and other projects. "Short line railways play an important role in getting Saskatchewan's food, fuel and fertilizer on their journeys to worldwide markets, which helps keep our export-based economy strong to sustain our quality of life," Carr said. "We are proud to invest in this transportation sector as it is essential to keeping our great and growing province strong."

16. CN's Improved Offer to the TCRC

As part of the bargaining process facilitated by federal conciliators, CN and the TCRC union met April 10-12, 2024. During this meeting, CN proposed an improved offer to the union with important upgrades, focusing on: 1. Better wages – The proposed hourly rates have been increased by \$5/hour. 2. Job security – Employees hired before the ratification of an agreement will be guaranteed employment, with no risk of a lay-off. 3. Guaranteed earnings – No employee will lose money with this proposal. Employees who currently earn above the proposed hourly agreement will have their salaries protected.

17. CSX adds fourteen rail served properties across eight states to select site program

CSX has announced its latest group of high-ranking properties to receive CSX Select Site designation under the industrial development program. Fourteen sites in eight states have earned a Silver or Bronze rating based on an evaluation of a wide range of site characteristics. CSX worked with more than 40 communities over the past several months to gather information and identify top candidates for the Select Site program, which connects expanding companies with highly desirable rail-served properties. "We are very excited to announce this latest round of Select Site designees and congratulate the landowners, counties, and utility partners involved," said Kellen Riley, CSX Senior Director of Industrial Development. "The information collected for these properties, which will soon be available online through the CSX Prospector listing, will allow site consultants and manufacturers a quick and convenient way to identify premium rail served industrial properties where they can locate new manufacturing facilities—generating new jobs and capital investment."

18. AAR Reports rail traffic for the week ending April 13, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on April 17, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending April 13, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 466,463 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending April 13 were 208,381 carloads, down 8.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 258,082 containers and

trailers, up 11.0 percent compared to 2023. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. Canadian railroads reported 91,978 carloads for the week, down 2.9 percent, and 73,043 intermodal units, up 8.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 15 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 2,383,956 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.0 percent.

19. CSX Corp. Announcement: First Quarter 2024 Results

CSX Corp. on April 17, 2024 announced first quarter 2024 operating income of \$1.35 billion compared to \$1.46 billion in the first quarter of 2023. Net earnings were \$893 million, or \$0.46 per diluted share, compared to \$987 million, or \$0.48 per diluted share, in the same period last year, a 9.5% and 4.2% decrease. Total volume of 1.53 million units for the quarter was 3% higher compared to the first quarter of 2023, with intermodal volume up 7%, coal volume up 2%, and merchandise volume flat.

20. Railway carloadings, February 2024

In February 2024, Canadian railways transported 30.0 million tonnes of freight, up 4.0% from February 2023. Higher shipments of iron ores, other cereal grains as well as more containers helped bolster the year-over-year growth. Despite some bouts of cold weather in Western Canada during February 2024, restricting train length and speed, total cargo tonnage was well above the five-year average (27.3 million tonnes) for the month of February. To further explore the latest data and historical trends in an interactive format, please visit the "[Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard](#)." The year-over-year tonnage growth in February reflects higher non-intermodal loadings (mainly commodities) as well as a sharp rise in intermodal loadings (mainly containers).

21. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declares dividend

The Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited on April 23, 2024 declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.19 per share on the outstanding Common Shares. The dividend is payable on July 29, 2024, to holders of record at the close of business on June 28, 2024, and is an "eligible" dividend for purposes of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and any similar provincial/territorial legislation.

22. CN Announces First Quarter Results

CN on April 23, 2024 reported its financial and operating results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2024. Tracy Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said "Our team of railroaders delivered to plan in the first quarter and our scheduled operating model continued to enhance our service to customers. Looking forward, we are confident for 2024. We are seeing the expected improvements in the economy, and our CN-specific growth opportunities are materializing. We remain committed to delivering on our growth agenda and powering the economy." For the first quarter of 2024, the highlights were as follows: 1. Revenue ton miles (RTMs) remained flat at 59,749 (millions). 2. Revenues were C\$4,249 million, a decrease of C\$64 million, or 1%. 3. Operating income was C\$1,546 million, a decrease of C\$116 million, or 7%. 4. Operating ratio, defined as operating expenses as a percentage of revenues, was 63.6% an increase of 2.1-points. 5. Diluted earnings per share (EPS) was C\$1.72, a decrease of 5%. CN announced that its Board of Directors has approved a second-quarter 2024 dividend on the Company's common shares outstanding. A quarterly dividend of eighty-four and a half cents (C\$0.8450) per common share will be paid on June 28, 2024, to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 7, 2024.

23. CPKC reports first-quarter results; celebrating one year as a combined company

Canadian Pacific Kansas City on April 24, 2024 announced its first-quarter results, including revenues of \$3.5 billion, diluted earnings per share (EPS) of \$0.83 and core adjusted combined diluted EPS of \$0.93. Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer said "One year into our historic combination, I am proud of what our dedicated family of railroaders has accomplished as we deliver on the benefits of our unrivalled network – spurring competition, increasing safety and connecting more markets for our customers. Today's results show the success of our efforts to drive growth as the only railway connecting Canada, the United States and Mexico." First-quarter 2024 results were: 1. Reported operating ratio (OR) increased by 400 basis points to 67.4 percent from 63.4 percent in Q1 2023; 2. Core adjusted combined OR increased 50 basis points to 64.0 percent from 63.5 percent in Q1 2023; 3. Reported diluted EPS decreased to \$0.83 from \$0.86 in Q1 2023; 4. Core adjusted combined diluted EPS increased three percent to \$0.93 from \$0.90 in Q1 2023; 5. Volumes, as measured in Revenue Ton-Miles³ (RTMs), increased one percent on a combined basis; 6. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-reportable train accident frequency increased to 0.89 from 0.71 in Q1 2023 on a combined basis; and 7. FRA-reportable personal injury frequency increased to 1.15 from 1.12 in Q1 2023 on a combined basis.

24. AAR: Total Carload, Intermodal Volume Flat for Week 16

U.S. rail traffic for the week ending April 20, 2024 (Week 16), came in at 474,544 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.8%—virtually flat—compared with the same week last year, based on 216,945 carloads—down 6.7% from 2023—and intermodal volume of 257,599 containers and trailers—up 8.2%, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported April 24. Seven of the ten commodity groups posted an increase. North American rail volume for the week ending April 20, 2024, on 10 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 330,830 carloads, down 4.1

percent compared with the same week last year, and 346,266 intermodal units, up 7.1 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 677,096 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.3 percent. North American rail volume for the first 16 weeks of 2024 was 10,466,666 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.1 percent compared with 2023. Canadian railroads reported 96,737 carloads for the week, up 3.8 percent, and 75,954 intermodal units, up 6.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 16 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 2,556,647 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.3 percent.

25. No surprises in Norfolk Southern earnings as COO Orr makes debut

The elephant in the room on the Norfolk Southern earnings call made only a brief appearance. But it will be returning in about two weeks. There were no surprises in the first-quarter earnings report, as the Class 1 railroad had issued a preliminary report earlier in the month. The final numbers, showing a significant drop in earnings related to the East Palestine, Ohio, derailment in February 2023, were in line with those preliminary figures. The East Palestine derailment saw 38 cars leave the tracks, some of them containing toxic chemicals. The subsequent fire led to an evacuation affecting thousands. Bottom-line operations were heavily impacted by a \$600 million agreement to end the class-action lawsuit stemming from the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine. That brought income from railway operations down to \$213 million from \$904 million in the first quarter of 2023, resulted in diluted earnings per share of 23 cents versus \$2.49 a year ago, and sent the company's operating ratio up to 92.9% from 69.9% in Q1 2023. Norfolk Southern's OR in the fourth quarter of 2023 was 73.7%. In the third quarter of 2023, it was 63.5%.

26. UP 1Q24: 'Strong' Financial Results Despite 'Challenging' Freight Market)

For the first quarter of 2024, Union Pacific Railway's financial results were: 1. earnings per diluted share of \$2.69, up 1%; 2. operating income up 3%; 3. net income up 1%; and 4. net income of \$1.6 billion, or \$2.69 per diluted share. This compares to 2023 first quarter net income of \$1.6 billion, or \$2.67 per diluted share. Operating ratio was 60.7%, an improvement of 140 basis points. Lower fuel prices during the quarter negatively impacted the operating ratio 60 basis points. "Our team delivered strong financial results in the first quarter as we navigated a challenging freight market and normal winter conditions," Union Pacific (UP) CEO Jim Vena said during the Class I's financial report on April 25. "These results build on the momentum we established as we exited 2023 and provide further proof of what's possible as we strive to be the best in safety, service and operational excellence. This is a great start to the year, but we understand there's work to be done to achieve our goals and meet our stakeholders' expectations."

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$150 Million Grant to Support New Bus Rapid Transit Line in Las Vegas

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) April 1, 2024 announced a \$149.9 million grant award to the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to support the construction of a faster, more frequent bus route between downtown Las Vegas, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Harry Reid International Airport, and other popular destinations. This grant, for the new Maryland Parkway line, was funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes historic funding for public transit systems of all sizes.

2. Nova Scotia offers rebates for zero-emission vehicles

Nova Scotia will offer rebates of up to \$50,000 per medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle, depending on its class. Eligible vehicles include vans and trucks used for commercial or industrial purposes that weigh more than 3,856 kilograms (8,500 pounds), according to a news release. "Transportation is Nova Scotia's second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions," said Tory Rushton, minister of natural resources and renewables. "Moving to zero-emission vehicles reduces emissions and supports our goal of reaching net zero by 2050. So, we're continuing to offer rebates for electric cars and bikes and adding a pilot program with new rebates for larger vehicles."

3. Transportation Services Contributed 6.7% to U.S. GDP in 2022; Rising Above 6.3% in 2019

Transportation contributed \$1.7 trillion (6.7%) to the economy in 2022.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$150 Million Grant to Support New Bus Rapid Transit Line in Las Vegas, April 1, 2024, www.dot.gov
2. Nova Scotia offers rebates for zero-emission vehicles, April 2, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
3. Transportation Services Contributed 6.7% to U.S. GDP in 2022; Rising Above 6.3% in 2019, April 3, 2024, www.bts.gov
4. US transport group slams new EPA heavy-duty truck rule, April 3, 2024, www.insidlogistics.ca
5. Govt of Canada to CTA: No Change in Funding Policy for Infrastructure, April 4, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
6. Trucking Execs to Freeland: Enforce the Law Against Illegal Driver Inc., April 8, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
7. Lineage expands integrated solutions services with new Canada cross-border program, April 9, 2024, www.ajot.com
8. February 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 3.1% from the Previous Month and Down 1.1% from the Same Month Last Year, April 10, 2024, www.bts.gov

Transportation services (for-hire, in-house, and household) contributed \$1.7 trillion (6.7%) to an enhanced U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) of \$26.2 trillion in 2022—as measured by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Transportation Satellite Accounts (TSAs). TSAs measure the full contribution of transportation to the economy from three types of transportation activities: 1. \$0.9 trillion or 3.5% of 2022 GDP from for-hire transportation; 2. \$0.4 trillion or 1.4% of 2022 GDP from transportation activities carried out by non-transportation industries for their own purposes (known as in-house transportation), and 3. \$0.5 trillion or 1.8% of 2022 GDP from transportation activities carried out by households using personal motor vehicles.

4. US transport group slams new EPA heavy-duty truck rule

Clean Freight Coalition Executive Director Jim Mullen issued the following statement on behalf of the Coalition regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's final Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3 rule: The members of the Clean Freight Coalition have a long history of collaborating with federal regulators on sound regulations that support environmental improvements at the right speed. However, our members oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's final Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3 rule – a regulation that will require the adoption of zero-emissions commercial vehicles at a pace that isn't possible due to the limits of today's technology.

5. Govt of Canada to CTA: No Change in Funding Policy for Infrastructure

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Sean Fraser, responded to Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) concerns over Minister Guilbeault's recent comments implying the Government of Canada would stop investing in new road infrastructure. CTA and other stakeholders, including provincial and municipal governments, expressed concern the comments could negatively affect the supply chain and impact future investment in Canada. "Road infrastructure investment is critical to the current and future health of the Canadian supply chain and the Canadian economy," wrote CTA president Stephen Laskowski. "It is critical that the Government of Canada continue to make investments in roads, highways, and bridge transportation infrastructure. Canada's economy moves by truck, and it is this investment in infrastructure that will keep and attract investment to Canada." At a recent Parliamentary hearing, Minister

Guilbeault stated that these investment comments were meant to refer only to a specific project in the Province of Quebec. He also responded to CTA's letter by confirming there is "no change in the federal government's infrastructure funding policy."

6. Trucking Execs to Freeland: Enforce the Law Against Illegal Driver Inc

Trucking companies from CTA's Executive and provincial association executive committees are imploring Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Freeland to honour a commitment the Government of Canada made to end the tax avoidance and labour misclassification scheme in the trucking industry, known as Driver Inc. The carriers, who play pivotal roles on executive committees at the CTA and provincial association level, represent nearly 55,000 Canadian workers, nationwide. "In advance of Budget 2024, we request urgent action in our industry," stated the letter submitted to the minister by the Canadian Trucking Alliance, on behalf of 31 company presidents and executives who helped craft and signed the document. "Our businesses are at a crossroads. Prolonged inaction from the Government of Canada to do anything about the unscrupulous labour misclassification and tax evasion scheme known as Driver Inc is leading to irreparable damage to one of the most critical sectors of the Canadian economy."

7. Lineage expands integrated solutions services with new Canada cross-border program

Lineage, one of the world's leading temperature-controlled warehouse REITs and integrated solutions providers, on April 19, 2024 announced new Canada cross-border services. Leveraging the strategic positioning of its facilities and transportation network, the program aims to deliver added transportation advantages for customers looking for end-to-

9. Charging ahead: Electric trucks are here to stay, April 11, 2024, www.ajof.com

10. Ontario Building New Highway 416 Interchange, April 12, 2024, www.mto.gc.ca

11. Governments of Canada and Ontario Working Together on Environmental Protections and Greater Regulatory Certainty for the Advancement of Highway 413, April 15, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca

12. G&M: Majority of PSBs operate incorrectly, April 17, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

13. Shifting trucking landscapes: Canada's 2024 Top 100 Largest Carriers list reflects industry changes, April 17, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

14. Urban public transit, February 2024, April 19, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

15. Lion Electric staff cuts hit office workers, April 19, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

16. 2023-24 Gas Tax Funding by Municipality, April 19, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca

17. Nikola sees great potential for hydrogen fuel-cell-electric trucks in Canada, April 19, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

18. BCTA program helps slash 301.8 million kg of CO2 emissions from continent, April 22, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

19. Ontario Raising Highway Speed Limits, April 24, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca; and Ontario Highway Speed Increase Has No Application to Heavy Truck Speeds, April 24, 2024,

www.ontruck.ca

20. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$150 Million in Grants to Help Reduce Truck Air Pollution Near America's Ports, April 24, 2024, www.dot.gov

21. Honda Canada to build electric vehicle manufacturing facility in Ontario, April 25, 2024,

www.insidelogistics.ca

22. Mullen Group's Q1 earnings hit by slowing economy, April 25, 2024,

www.todaystrucking.com

23. TFI's US LTL operations need heavier shipments, CEO says of Q1 results, April 26, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

24. Ontario's towing industry struggles under new regulations: PTAO cites gaps, unfair practices, April 26, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

end cold chain solutions in the North American market. The cross-border network offers added transportation value for Lineage customers, including access to multiple delivery points in the Canadian market and strategically positioned transport terminals in Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Red Deer and Montreal, as well as a new terminal in Moncton that is planned to be operational later this spring. Canadian and United States networks will be connected by cross-border points in Hobart, Indiana and Burien, Washington.

8. February 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 3.1% from the Previous Month and Down 1.1% 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 3.1% in February 2024 from January 2024, rising for the first month after a one month decline, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From February 2023 to February 2024 the index fell 1.1%.

9. Charging ahead: Electric trucks are here to stay

A dearth of charging infrastructure has often been cited as a major obstacle in convincing truck manufacturers to ramp up the production of zero-emission, electrically powered heavy-duty vehicles (eHDV). Other factors impeding their development include their limited operational range, payload restrictions, and higher running costs compared to diesel-powered models. It is difficult to get a clear picture of how many electric trucks are currently on the roads but what is not in doubt is that their number is extremely modest when compared to the market as a whole. The International Energy Agency (IEA) indicated in its latest Global EV Outlook that in 2022, 60,000 medium- and heavy-duty trucks were sold worldwide, representing only 1.2% of total truck sales. According to estimates published by business consulting and service firm, *Markets and Markets*, the global electric truck market totaled 101,499 units in 2022 and is projected to grow to 1,067,985 units by 2030.

10. Ontario Building New Highway 416 Interchange

The Ontario government is fighting gridlock in south Ottawa by investing \$5 million in a new interchange at Highway 416 and Barnsdale Road. The interchange will save commuters time in the rapidly growing community of Barrhaven and connect more people to housing and jobs across the region.

11. Governments of Canada and Ontario Working Together on Environmental Protections and Greater Regulatory Certainty for the Advancement of Highway 413

On April 15, 2024, the Governments of Canada and Ontario committed to working together to protect the environment and give Ontario greater regulatory certainty to advance Highway 413. Through the agreement announced, both Ontario and Canada have agreed to a collaborative process to assess and manage the issues around federal species at risk throughout Ontario's planning of the project. At Ontario and Canada's request, the Federal Court has ordered that the Highway 413 Project's designation under the Impact Assessment Act be set aside.

12. G&M: Majority of PSBs operate incorrectly

A recent Globe & Mail article tackled the issue of personal services businesses (PSB) and how many – especially in the trucking industry – operate incorrectly in accordance to rules in our tax laws. The *article, special to the G&M*, highlighted how CRA *has completed Phase 1 of its pilot project* on PSBs and found that about three-quarters of PSBs work in three industries: (1) transportation and warehousing, (35 per cent, with 95 per cent of these in general or specialized freight trucking); professional, scientific and technical services (26 per cent); and construction (13 per cent). Furthermore, almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of PSBs are incorrectly claiming the small business deduction, which they are not eligible to claim, the article pointed out. The CRA found that this error results in having to repay the CRA an average of \$16,711 in corporate taxes. The incorrect application of PSBs in trucking is at the heart of the widespread Driver Inc issue, a misclassification scheme which allows employers to mask employees as contractors so that they avoid paying any payroll tax and federally regulated entitlements and benefits to workers

13. Shifting trucking landscapes: Canada's 2024 Top 100 Largest Carriers list reflects industry changes

Today's Trucking's annual list of Canada's Top 100 largest for-hire carriers reflects the impact the economic climate had on the trucking industry's landscape. You will see seven new names on the list this year, while some have disappeared, in some instances due to mergers and acquisitions. The Top 5 largest carriers remained the same, with TFI International and Day & Ross maintaining the top two positions. However, Bison Transport moved to the third spot on the list. Mullen Group is now ranked fourth. With nearly 12,000 power units in 2024, the company expanded through its acquisition of B&R Eckel's Transport, whose numbers are now included within Mullen Group's count.

14. Urban public transit, February 2024

Canada's urban transit agencies provided an estimated 129.6 million passenger trips in February 2024, an increase of 18.9% (+20.6 million) from February 2023, representing almost three years of consecutive monthly year-over-year increases since April 2021. Rising employment in February 2024, along with continued rapid population growth, may have helped nudge transit passenger recovery to a new high—84.3% of its pre-pandemic ridership from February 2019. Despite this, there were still 24.2 million fewer rides in February 2024 compared with the same month in 2019.

February 2024 saw a 2.0% increase in ridership from January, driven by large monthly increases in the west (Calgary Transit, Alberta +11.2% and TransLink, British Columbia +7.8%). In February 2024, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) totalled \$306.2 million—an increase of 16.7%, or \$43.9 million, from February 2023. However, it was still \$28.5 million below the pre-pandemic level in February 2019.

15. Lion electric staff cuts hits office workers

Lion Electric is cutting 120 positions from its workforce in Canada. The move, combined with other cost-cutting measures, is aimed at reducing operating expenses and aligning its cost structure to market dynamics, the company said in a statement. The workforce reduction affects approximately 120 employees, mostly Canada-based employees in overhead and product development functions. The measure should not negatively impact the company's production capacity, it said. Following this workforce reduction, Lion will have approximately 1,150 employees, including more than 600 manufacturing positions, in Canada and the United States.

16. 2023-24 Gas Tax Funding by Municipality

The Ontario government is investing almost \$380 million to help 102 municipalities improve local transit through the 2023-24 Gas Tax program. The funding can be used to expand service hours, increase routes, purchase new vehicles and improve accessibility to increase transit ridership.

17. Nikola sees great potential for hydrogen fuel-cell-electric trucks in Canada

Canada has emerged as one of the most promising markets for hydrogen-fueled Class 8 trucks, representatives from Nikola said during the VIP breakfast at Truck World. "I've been pushing Canada at Nikola for quite some time now," said Jorg Wimbert, head of Canada for the zero emissions truck maker. "To all of us, Canada is a no-brainer. The citizens, the government, the markets – everybody wants to move to greener technology." Nikola has also found a strong partner in the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA), which has purchased two hydrogen-fueled trucks to help its member fleets gain exposure to the technology. The first Hyla-branded hydrogen fueling station was recently opened near Edmonton. The company will soon be opening another fueling station in Ontario with ITD, its exclusive Canadian distributor. The modular stations can fuel between 20 and 40 trucks.

18. BCTA program helps slash 301.8 million kg of CO2 emissions from continent

The B.C. Trucking Association's (BCTA) CleanBC Heavy-duty Vehicle Efficiency (HDVE) program has since 2019 helped eliminate 301.8 million kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in North America, including 210 million kilograms in British Columbia alone. HDVE has reduced the commercial transportation sector's fuel burn by approximately 111.4 million liters of diesel across North America, 77.5 million liters of which were reduced in B.C., according to a news release. This equates to the program removing the equivalent of approximately 64,216.5 passenger vehicles off North American roads, or 44,732.3 vehicles in B.C. This was accomplished by training over 420 companies, which collectively operate more than 35,000 heavy-duty vehicles, on how to implement fuel-efficient practices. Incentives are also provided to promote the adoption of emission-reducing technology.

19. Ontario Raising Highway Speed Limits

Ontario government is raising the speed limit permanently from 100 km/h to 110 km/h on 10 additional sections of provincial highways in northern and southern Ontario. The change builds on the safe and successful increase to six sections of provincial highways in 2022 and aligns with posted speed limits in other jurisdictions across Canada. "Most of Ontario's highways were originally designed to safely accommodate speed limits of 110 km/h and the data from our changes in 2022 shows they do just that," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "These evidence-based increases are a common-sense change to make life more convenient for Ontario drivers while bringing our highway speed limits in line with other Canadian provinces." These increased speed limits do not apply to heavy commercial vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating over 11,794 kg operating on these highways. Heavy commercial vehicles are mandated to have installed speed limiters set at 105 km/h.

20. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$150 Million in Grants to Help Reduce Truck Air Pollution Near America's Ports

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration is announcing \$148 million in grants to 11 states and Puerto Rico under the first round of a new \$400 million program to improve air quality and reduce pollution for truck drivers, port workers and families that live in communities surrounding ports. The Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program, which was created by the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), invests in port electrification and efficiency improvements. This program aims to reduce pollution from idling trucks at our nation's ports while modernizing infrastructure and strengthening supply chains.

21. Honda Canada to build electric vehicle manufacturing facility in Ontario

Honda Canada is investing approximately \$15 billion to create Canada's first comprehensive electric vehicle supply chain. Located in Ontario, this large-scale project will see four new manufacturing plants, including an electric vehicle assembly plant – the first of its kind for Honda Motor Co., Ltd. – as well as a new stand-alone battery manufacturing plant at Honda's facilities in Alliston, Ont. To complete the supply chain, Honda will build a cathode active material

and precursor (CAM/pCAM) processing plant through a joint venture partnership with POSCO Future M Co., Ltd. and a separator plant through a joint venture partnership with Asahi Kasei Corporation.

22. Mullen Group's Q1 earnings hit by slowing economy

Mullen Group's Q1 earnings reflected a slowing economy and reduced freight demand. "Using our first quarter results as a barometer for the state of the general economy, one could conclude that the economy is definitely slowing," said Murray Mullen, chairman and senior executive officer. "Across each of our operating segments we witnessed a softening in demand, accompanied by competitive market conditions. Consumer demand continued to decline, capital investment in Canada was noticeably weaker, and major project construction activity virtually ground to a halt. It's no wonder our results were down year over year." However, acquisitions added about \$20.5 million in new revenue over the quarter. Mullen said the company will continue to pursue acquisitions and says it has already begun preparing for the next business cycle. As for its earnings, revenue slid 7.1% to \$462.6 million in the first quarter. Profit fell 30% to \$22.2 million. Mullen attributed the decline in revenue to reduced economic activity levels and reduced capital investment in the private sector. Lower fuel surcharges were also a factor.

23. TFI's US LTL operations need heavier shipments, CEO says of Q1 results

Some key statistics at the U.S. LTL operations of TFI International remain a cause for concern at the Canada-based trucking conglomerate, and CEO Alain Bedard did not hold back discussing those issues on the company's first-quarter earnings call. The core of the U.S. LTL activities at TFI is known as TForce, and its roots are in the TFI acquisition of UPS' LTL operations, UPS Freight, in 2021. LTL discussions often turn to revenue per hundredweight, or yield, in analyzing how a company performed, but Bedard's focus on the call April 26, 2024 leaned more to average weight per shipment. He sees it as inadequate. The U.S. LTL operations of TFI, which include some smaller carriers beyond TForce, had an average weight per shipment in the first quarter of 1,209 pounds. That is a significant improvement from a year ago when it was 1,063.

24. Ontario's towing industry struggles under new regulations: PTAO cites gaps, unfair practices

It has been nearly five months since Ontario introduced new legislation regulating the towing industry. The Professional Towing Association of Ontario (PTAO) supports the intent behind the legislation but has identified significant gaps it says negatively impact legitimate towing businesses. In April, PTAO issued a distress letter urging the provincial government — specifically the ministries of finance and transportation — to address these legislative gaps. "We agreed that some oversight from the governments and regulation was a good thing if it was done correctly, but things have taken the run for the worse," says Gary Vandenheuval, owner of Sarnia-based Preferred Towing. "It is hurting legit companies instead of the bad actors they are trying to go after."

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. U.K.-Canada trade barriers to increase as countries fail to reach deal

U.K. automakers will now face tariffs on auto parts exported from Canada, with was the eight largest export market last year. Provisions allowing the United Kingdom to sell products containing European Union parts to Canada tariff-free will expire, after the two countries failed to reach an agreement on extensions. While U.K. government officials are trying to play down the impact on British industry, especially carmakers, one critic is calling it "embarrassing" for the country's post-Brexit trade policy that it was unable to reach a deal even with a close ally.

2. The United States was the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter in 2023

The United States exported more liquefied natural gas (LNG) than any other country in 2023. U.S. LNG exports averaged 11.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d)—a 12% increase (1.3 Bcf/d) compared with 2022, according to data from our Natural Gas Monthly. LNG exports from Australia and Qatar—the world's two other largest LNG exporters—each ranged from 10.1 Bcf/d to 10.5 Bcf/d annually between 2020 and 2023, according to data from Cedigaz. Russia and Malaysia were the

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. U.K.-Canada trade barriers to increase as countries fail to reach deal, March 31, 2024, www.finacialpost.ca
2. The United States was the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter in 2023, April 1, 2024, www.ajot.com
3. UK-Canada trade barriers to increase amid failure to reach deal, April 1, 2024, www.ajot.com
4. Biden-Harris Administration to Provide \$20.5 Billion in Federal Funding to Support Transit Systems, Boost Communities, April 4, 2024, www.dot.gov
5. March 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.4%) Rises Above the March 2023 Level (5.0%) And the Pre-Pandemic March 2019 Level (3.9%), April 5, 2024, www.bts.gov
6. Physical flow account for greenhouse gas emissions, by gas type, 2018 to 2021, April 8, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
7. New Report on Single Use Plastics Products Focuses on Mitigation Strategies, April 8, 2024, www.iata.org
8. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, March 2024, April 10, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
9. Challenges remain as supply chain stability

fourth- and fifth-highest LNG exporters globally over the last five years (2019–23). In 2023, LNG exports from Russia averaged 4.2 Bcf/d, and exports from Malaysia average 3.5 Bcf/d.

3. UK-Canada trade barriers to increase amid failure to reach deal

Provisions allowing the UK to sell products containing European Union parts to Canada tariff-free will expire on April 1, 2024, after the two countries failed to reach an agreement on extensions. While UK government officials are trying to play down the impact on British industry, especially car-makers, one critic is calling it “embarrassing” for the country’s post-Brexit trade policy that it was unable to reach a deal even with a close ally. Forming closer trade ties with countries outside the EU was touted by Brexiteers, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, as a key benefit of leaving the bloc. But so far the UK has only signed new bilateral free-trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand, and those deals have been criticized by MPs and farmers alike. The failure to secure an extension on so-called rules of origin provisions with Canada, even after last-ditch talks between UK Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch and her Canadian counterpart Mary Ng on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization conference in Abu Dhabi at the end of February 2024, underlines just how difficult it will be for the UK to

boost its tariff-free trade with non-EU markets. It may also be a sign of deepening rifts in the ruling Conservative Party, which is lagging the opposition Labour in polls ahead of a general election expected later this year as discord against Sunak grows.

4. Biden-Harris Administration to Provide \$20.5 Billion in Federal Funding to Support Transit Systems, Boost Communities

On April 4, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that \$20.5 billion in federal funding, part of the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history, is available to support public transportation in communities throughout the country thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The investments will help people get to work, school, healthcare appointments, and other destinations via subways, light rail, buses, and ferry systems. Transit is such an important part of the transportation system because it drives economic growth, improves equity, and is inherently a climate-friendly option. By allowing transit providers to move forward with applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 federal support, the funding will help communities: 1. expand, modernize, maintain, and operate public transportation systems; 2. upgrade stations, tracks, and maintenance facilities; 3. plan and design new transit corridors; and 4. provide access for seniors and riders with disabilities.

5. March 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.4%) Rises Above the March 2023 Level (5.0%) And the Pre-Pandemic March 2019 Level (3.9%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 5.4% (not seasonally adjusted) in March 2024 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 March 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points from 5.0% in March 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic March 2019 level of 3.9%. 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 March 2024 was 3.9% or 1.5 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in March 2024 was 3.8%.

6. Physical flow account for greenhouse gas emissions, by gas type, 2018 to 2021

Data from the physical flow account for greenhouse gas emissions for industries and households are now available upon request by gas type for reference years 2018 to 2021. Gas types included are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), in CO₂ equivalents. Data for 2018 to 2021 from the physical flow account (PFA) for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are now available on request for Canada and by province and territory by gas type. The Physical flow account for greenhouse gas emissions, by gas type, table is a supplement to the estimates of total GHG emissions, which are also available (38-10-0097-01).

7. New Report on Single Use Plastics Products Focuses on Mitigation Strategies

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released the [Reassessing Single Use Plastics Products in the Airline Sector](#) report to assist airlines, regulators, and the airline supply chain to mitigate the environmental impacts of single use plastic products (SUPP). This publication is timely as the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has convened an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding agreement

gradually returns, April 12, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

10. Minister Rodriguez advances Canada’s supply chain agenda at the G7 Transport Ministers’ Meeting in Italy, April 13, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca

11. Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$23.6 Million To Help 112 Communities Deliver Transformative Infrastructure Improvements, April 15, 2024, www.dot.gov

12. The United States exported a record volume of natural gas in 2023, April 15, 2024, www.ajot.com

13. BTS releases Travel Patterns of Americans with Disabilities, April 19, 2024, www.bts.gov

14. Borderlands Mexico: Experts push infrastructure to boost cross-border trade, April 21, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, February 2024, April 23, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

16. Unifor files applications for two Amazon facilities in BC, April 23, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

17. Canada proposes new working group on transport supply chains, April 26, 2024, www.finsidelogistics.ca

on SUPP use by the end of 2024. SUPP are widely used in aviation due to their strength, lightness, and ability to meet safety and security regulations. However, the airline sector faces challenges associated with improved cabin waste performance and the replacement of SUPP with sustainable alternatives. In addition, airlines face technical and operational obstacles, and the lack of harmonized and risk-based regulations presents a significant barrier to improving recycling and circularity of waste management. The absence of smart regulation continues to constrain airline efforts to improve the sustainability of cabin operations.

8. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, March 2024

In March 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 16.5% from March 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 575,500 in March 2024, up 15.5% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad reached 2.2 million, an 8.3% increase from March 2023. By automobile, US residents took 862,100 trips to Canada in March 2024, up 24.3% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States also rose, up 23.3% year over year to 2.1 million trips in March 2024. All statistics in this release are based on the primary data sources for air and automobile arrivals. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard.

9. Challenges remain as supply chain stability gradually returns

Last year saw improved supply chain stability set against several variables that are still driving continued fragility, a new survey has found. The Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM) and KPMG have released the latest findings from the KPMG Supply Chain Stability Index, which is designed to help supply chain professionals understand the stability of U.S. operations, and serve as a barometer for the greater global supply chain community. The index suggests a complete return to pre-pandemic normalcy remains unlikely in 2024. Factors that have contributed to recent instability include cross-border patrol closures between U.S. and Mexico trade corridors and rising conflicts leading to commercial ship attacks in the Red Sea. However, there are also positive signs including greater nearshoring efforts in Mexico and Canada, reducing reliance on other regions.

10. Minister Rodriguez advances Canada's supply chain agenda at the G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Italy

The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, wrapped up a successful trip at the G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Milan, Italy, from April 11 to 13, 2024. Minister Rodriguez highlighted the importance that Canada places on increasing supply chain resiliency to build a stronger middle class in Canada and building a cleaner economy. He also took the opportunity to share Canada's best practices and hear from other G7 countries on innovation, supply chain crisis management, and the energy transition. As part of the G7 discussions, Canada proposed the creation of a new G7 Working Group on Transport Supply Chains to coordinate efforts of G7 countries. This will increase collaboration, share best practices and explore areas for cooperation to strengthen transportation resiliency and sustainability. Today, Ministers agreed to launch the Working Group.

11. Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$23.6 Million To Help 112 Communities Deliver Transformative Infrastructure Improvements

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced funding through the Thriving Communities Program (TCP) to help 112 communities nationwide access federal funding and resources provided by the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). When added to the inaugural cohort announced in April 2023, this announcement brings the total number of communities supported by this program to 176. DOT is awarding grants totalling \$23.6 million to three national and six regional Thriving Communities Capacity Builders to support the 112 communities, which includes 12 Tribal Nations.

12. The United States exported a record volume of natural gas in 2023

The United States exported 10% more natural gas in 2023 than in 2022, a record of 20.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), according to our Natural Gas Monthly. U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports accounted for more than half of all U.S. natural gas exports, and natural gas exports by pipeline to Canada and Mexico accounted for the remainder. LNG exports continued to drive the growth in total U.S. natural gas exports last year, increasing 12% (1.3 Bcf/d) from 2022. U.S. LNG exports averaged a record 13.6 Bcf/d in December 2023. The United States began exporting LNG from the Lower 48 states in 2016 when Sabine Pass LNG—the first LNG export terminal in the Lower 48 states—began operations. The United States supplied nearly half of Europe's LNG imports last year.

13. BTS releases Travel Patterns of Americans with Disabilities

An estimated 18.6 million people reported travel-limiting disabilities in 2022; down by a statistically significant amount from 25.5 million in 2017. In 2022, 40.2 percent of persons age 18 to 64 with travel-limiting disabilities and 57.1 of persons age 65 and over with travel-limiting disabilities stayed at home on the travel day surveyed compared to 34.1 and 44.7 percent, respectively, in 2017. A new report, "Travel Patterns of American Adults with Disabilities, 2022" uses data from the 2022 National Household Travel Survey to examine the daily travel of adults with self-reported travel-limiting disabilities and compares the findings to data from earlier years.

14. Borderlands Mexico: Experts push infrastructure to boost cross-border trade

With nearshoring accelerating trade growth between the U.S. and Mexico, experts said both countries need to focus on infrastructure, technology, policies and cargo security to keep goods flowing seamlessly. “The reality is there’s never been a time when U.S.-Mexico trade was more important than it is right now,” Mark Yeager, CEO of Chicago-based Redwood Logistics, said during the company’s inaugural Cross-Border Logistics Council. The two-day event brought together more than 75 shippers, technology companies and trade professionals in Monterrey to discuss cross-border supply chains, nearshoring trends and other topics. “This is our Olympics, our World Series. It can be challenging, complex and can require patience and perseverance, but we also all know that that kind of complexity comes with opportunity — opportunity for all of us,” Yeager said. U.S. trade with the world totaled \$5.1 trillion in 2023, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Mexico did almost \$800 billion in trade with the United States last year, once again becoming the nation’s top trade partner.

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, February 2024

In February 2024, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada accounted for 91.5% of the number observed in February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic, with US residents taking 1.1 million trips to Canada in February 2024 and residents of overseas countries embarking on 332,100 trips. During the same period, the number of returning Canadian residents reached 91.0% of the level recorded in February 2020, as Canadian residents returned from 3.9 million trips abroad in February 2024. On a seasonally adjusted basis, compared with January 2024, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada in February increased 10.3%, and the number of returning Canadian-resident arrivals increased by 2.8%.

16. Unifor files applications for two Amazon facilities in BC

The campaign for workers at Amazon facilities in Metro Vancouver to form a union has reached a pivotal stage after Unifor filed two applications to the B.C. Labour Relations Board (BCLRB). After the BCLRB processes the application, it will determine if a vote must be held. If the cards submitted by Unifor represent at least 45 percent of the eligible workforce at a facility, a vote may be called within five business days. If the cards represent more than 55 percent, union certification is granted and work begins on a first collective agreement. “We call on Amazon to respect the wishes of workers and avoid using the legal tricks and games it has played in the past to block unionization,” said Unifor Western regional director Gavin McGarrigle.

17. Canada proposes new working group on transport supply chains

As part of G7 discussions in Italy, April 11-13, Canada proposed the creation of a new G7 Working Group on Transport Supply Chains to coordinate efforts of G7 countries, which was approved by ministers April 13. Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez says the new working group will increase collaboration, share best practices, and explore areas for cooperation to strengthen transportation resiliency and sustainability. Rodriguez highlighted the importance that Canada places on increasing supply chain resiliency to build a stronger middle class in Canada and building a cleaner economy. He also took the opportunity to share Canada’s best practices and hear from other G7 countries on innovation, supply chain crisis management, and the energy transition.