

# Transportation Information Update\*

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

Editor: Joseph Monteiro\*

August 2024, 240

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson\*

## AIR TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Porter Airlines expands Las Vegas service with new service to Ottawa and Montreal

Porter Airlines is offering two new winter seasonal routes connecting Eastern Canada to the vibrant city of Las Vegas, catering to increased demand for travel to the world's premier entertainment destination. Starting Nov. 1, Porter will operate nonstop service between Ottawa International Airport (YOW) and Las Vegas Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) four times weekly. Las Vegas-Montréal-Trudeau (YUL) service begins on Nov. 2, 2024, with flights operating three times weekly. Porter will be the only carrier operating the Ottawa-Las Vegas route.

### 2. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$427 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$427 million in funding for 245 airport-related infrastructure grants across 39 states to modernize and improve America's airports. 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 such as terminal expansions and baggage system upgrades, runway safety enhancements, and air traffic infrastructure improvements. "Americans are flying in record numbers this summer, and the Biden-Harris Administration is continuing to invest in our nation's airports to make travel more convenient for passengers," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "The funding we're announcing, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will help airports across the country make needed improvements to ensure safety and efficiency now and for years to come."

### 3. Secretary Buttigieg Warns Airlines of Their Refund Obligations Under Law

On July 30, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg sent letters to the CEOs of the ten largest U.S. airlines making it clear that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) expects them to provide passengers with cash refunds as required by law. In the letter, Secretary Buttigieg reminds airlines that the refund requirements in the *FAA Reauthorization Act* took effect upon enactment of the law, on May 16, 2024. The letter outlines the following DOT expectations: 1. Airlines must clearly and proactively inform passengers of their right to a refund whenever their flight is cancelled or significantly changed. 2. Cash refunds – not vouchers or credits – must be automatic for passengers when they are owed. 3. Airlines should make it easy for passengers to get free rebooking, meals, hotels, and/or transportation to and from hotels as promised during controllable disruptions. 4. Passengers, if they opt for vouchers or credits after a cancelled or significantly changed flight, they must be valid for at least five years.

### 4. June Air Cargo Demand Surges 14.1%, Boosting Strong First Half

## AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Porter Airlines expands Las Vegas service with new service to Ottawa and Montreal, July 30, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)
2. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$427 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports, July 30, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
3. Secretary Buttigieg Warns Airlines of Their Refund Obligations Under Law, July 30, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
4. June Air Cargo Demand Surges 14.1%, Boosting Strong First Half Performance, July 30, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
5. Passenger Demand Up 9.1% in June, July 31, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
6. Porter adds two new Southern California destinations, Aug. 1, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)
7. Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Ban on Family Seating Junk Fees Charged by Airlines, August 1, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
8. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 30) – 2024, August 5, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
9. Air Canada Reports Second Quarter 2024 Financial Results, August 6, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca); and Air Canada's second-quarter profit falls as excess capacity hurts pricing power, August 6, 2024, [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca)
10. WestJet service update, August 7, 2024, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)
11. Air Canada drops 2 late-model Boeing freighters from fleet, August 8, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
12. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$636 Million in Grants to Improve Airport Infrastructure, August 9, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
13. Air Travel Consumer Report: May 2024 Numbers, August 9, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
14. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 200,196 Jobs in June 2024, August 12, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
15. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$566 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports, August 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
16. Air Canada Resumes Ottawa to London Heathrow Non-stop International Services Beginning Spring 2025, August 14, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
17. Porter Airlines introducing Toronto-Pearson - Thunder Bay route with Embraer E195-E2, August 14, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)

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

## Performance

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for June 2024 global air cargo markets showing continuing strong annual growth in demand. This contributed to an exceptional first half-year performance for air cargo, with volumes exceeding 2023, 2022, and even the record-breaking 2021 levels. 1. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), rose by 14.1% compared to June 2023 levels (15.6% for international operations). This is the seventh consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year growth. 2. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 8.8% compared to June 2023 (10.8% for international operations). 3. Total half-year (H1) demand increased by 13.4% compared to H1 2023, by 4.3% compared to H1 2022, and by 0.02% compared to H1 2021. "Air cargo demand surged in June. Strong growth across all regions and major trade lanes combined for a record-breaking first-half performance in terms of CTKs. Maritime shipping constraints and a booming e-commerce sector are among the strongest growth drivers. Meanwhile, the sector has remained largely impervious to ongoing political and economic challenges, and the US customs crackdown on e-commerce deliveries from China. Air cargo looks to be on solid ground to continue its strong performance into the second half of 2024," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

### 5. Passenger Demand Up 9.1% in June

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for June 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: 1. *Total demand*, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 9.1% compared to June 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 8.5% year-on-year. The June load factor was 85.0% (+0.5 percentage points (ppt) compared to June 2023). 2. *International demand* rose 12.3% compared to June 2023. Capacity was up 12.7% year-on-year and the load factor improved to 85.0% (-0.3ppt on June 2023). 3. *Domestic demand* rose 4.3% compared to June 2023; capacity was up 2.1% year-on-year and the load factor was 85.0% (+1.7ppt compared to June 2023). "Demand grew across all regions as the peak Northern summer travel season began in June. And with overall capacity growth lagging demand we saw a very strong average load factor of 85% achieved in both domestic and international operations. Operating with such high load factors is both good and challenging.

### 6. Porter adds two new Southern California destinations

Porter Airlines is bringing its elevated economy service to more of California, launching non-stop flights to San Diego International Airport and Palm Springs International Airport from Toronto-Pearson International Airport this December 2024. San Diego is a year-round route, starting Dec. 9, 2024, with four weekly flights. Palm Springs is a winter seasonal service, starting Dec. 12, 2024 with three weekly flights.

### 7. Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Ban on Family Seating Junk Fees Charged by Airlines

On August 1, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration proposed a new rule that would ban airlines from charging junk fees to seat families together on a flight. The Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposed rule would require airlines to seat parents next to their young children for free when adjacent seating is available at booking. Mandating fee-free family seating would lower the cost of flying with young children -- saving a family of four as much as \$200 per roundtrip if seat fees are \$25. DOT's proposed family seating junk fee ban is part of President Biden's whole-of-government push to crackdown on corporate rip-offs that can unfairly raise prices for consumers.

### 8. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 30) - 2024

Worldwide air cargo tonnages remained flat in the last full week of July 2024, having dropped around -2% the previous week, taking them around -5% below their level at the end of June 2024, according to the latest weekly figures from

18. Air Canada Vacations Invites Canadians to Share Their Vacation Mood, August 15, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
19. Canada Jetlines grounds all flights, plans to file for creditor protection, August 15, 2024, [www.cbcnews.ca](http://www.cbcnews.ca)
20. WestJet shuts down fledgling freighter network, August 15, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
21. Biden Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$300 Million in Awards for Sustainable Aviation Fuel and Technologies as part of Investing in America Agenda, August 16, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
22. European airlines outpace US carriers on cleaner jet fuel, August 19, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
23. Alaska Air-Hawaiian deal closer as DOJ ends antitrust review, August 20, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
24. North American airlines on slow climb to improved 2025, report says, August 20, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
25. Frequent disruptions are now the norm in Canadian business travel, August 21, 2024, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
26. FAA Refers More Unruly Passenger Cases to the FBI, August 21, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
27. Air Canada pilots vote to give strike mandate to their union, August 22, 2024, [www.aot.com](http://www.aot.com); and Air Canada pilots overwhelmingly vote to approve strike mandate, August 22, 2024, [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca)
28. Quarterly civil aviation statistics, first quarter 2024, August 23, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
29. Air Canada potential pilots' strike would ground 1,000 flights a day. How worried should Canadians be?, August 26, 2024, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
30. WestJet Cargo expands pet transportation services to major European destinations on International Dog Day, August 26, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
31. Air Canada Comments on the End of Federal Conciliation in Negotiations with Air Line Pilots Association, August 27, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
32. Canada's Flair Airlines discusses balance sheet restructure, August 27, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
33. Strong Air Cargo Demand Growth Extends into July, August 28, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
34. Passenger Demand Up 8% in July, August 29, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

WorldACD Market Data. There is no clear evidence that the relatively subdued tonnages in the last two full weeks are linked to the IT outages in many countries on 19 July. However, tonnages flown from Bangladesh have been down significantly since mid-July, due to disruptions caused by political protests that led to blackouts of internet services for several days. Tonnages flown from Bangladesh to Europe declined by -29% in week 29, compared with the week before; although volumes bounced back slightly in week 30, regaining +6%, week over week, both weeks are down by around -50%, year over year, from a market that has generally seen some substantial year over year growth in 2024. Regional data for week 30 (22-28 July) indicates that tonnages fell from four of the six main world regions, on a week-on-week basis, including declines of -4% from Central & South America and -1% from Asia Pacific, North America and Africa origins. But tonnages rose from Europe (+2%), and Middle East & South Asia (MESA, +1%), making overall worldwide tonnages stable compared with the previous week, based on the more than 450,000 weekly transactions covered by WorldACD's data.

#### **9. Air Canada Reports Second Quarter 2024 Financial Results**

Air Canada reported its second quarter 2024 financial results on August 6, 2024. The highlights were as follows: 1. Second quarter operating revenues of \$5.5 billion, increased 2% year over year; 2. Operating income of \$466 million, decreased \$336 million year over year; 3. Adjusted EBITDA of \$914 million, decreased \$306 million year over year; and 4. Leverage ratio was 1.0 as at June 30, 2024, compared to 1.1 at end of 2023. Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada said "Air Canada today reported second quarter operating revenues of more than \$5.5 billion and adjusted EBITDA of \$914 million. We saw healthy demand, with load factors remaining above historical averages. We remained sharply focused on our customers and operations throughout the quarter and experienced a 10-percentage point year-over-year improvement in our on-time performance, even with the increased flying. I thank our employees for their hard work in safely transporting 11.6 million customers in the quarter and I am pleased to see their efforts recognized as we were ranked the best airline in Canada and received five honours at the Skytrax 2024 World Airline Awards, the most of any Canadian carrier." Excess capacity in certain markets and stiff competition on international routes hurt its pricing power. North American carriers are struggling to protect their pricing power as a rush to cash in on booming demand for summer travel left them with excess capacity, forcing them to offer discounts to fill seats. Last month, the carrier cut its full-year core profit forecast citing a lower yield environment and competition in international markets. Airlines are also facing heightened costs associated with labour and aircraft maintenance.

#### **10. WestJet service update**

WestJet teams are working diligently to understand and address the damage caused to its fleet by an unprecedented hailstorm that moved through WestJet's global hub in Calgary on the evening of August 5, 2024. Following a comprehensive safety assessment, WestJet has determined that 16 of its aircraft, comprising 10 per cent of its total fleet capacity, require substantial repairs and inspections before returning to service.

#### **11. Air Canada drops 2 late-model Boeing freighters from fleet**

Air Canada's cargo division has pulled two Boeing 767-300 production freighters from service, including this one (registration C-GXHI) at the airline's hub in Toronto. Air Canada has removed two new cargo jets from its fleet, furthering a strategic reversal in ambitious growth plans for dedicated freighter operations after less than three years even as the air cargo market experiences a robust recovery in 2024. A management analysis published alongside the company's second-quarter earnings report on August 7, 2024 showed the size of the freighter fleet had fallen from eight to six Boeing 767-300 aircraft. A footnote indicated the two planes were sidelined in April 2024. Airline continues to scale back cargo operation after expanding too fast.

#### **12. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$636 Million in Grants to Improve Airport Infrastructure**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration on August 9, 2024 announced more than \$636 million for 320 grants in 46 states and American Samoa to improve our nation's airport infrastructure. "From passenger travel to cargo operations, the Biden-Harris Administration continues to make our aviation system safer, more accessible, and more resilient through initiatives like the Airport Improvement Program," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "Thanks to this latest round of funding, passengers across the country will benefit as we make airports from Rhode Island to American Samoa more modern and efficient."

#### **13. Air Travel Consumer Report: May 2024 Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on August 9, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of May 2024 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. For May 2024, 1.4% of flights were cancelled, higher than the 0.6% cancellation rate for May 2023 and lower than the 2.0% cancellation rate in both 2022 and in pre-pandemic May 2019. The submissions about air travel in calendar year 2023 are the highest number on record except for calendar year 2020. In May 2024, airlines reported 38 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights, compared to 11 tarmac delays of more

than three hours on domestic flights reported in April 2024. In May 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 43.4 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.58%, higher than the rate of 0.46% in April 2024, and higher than the rate of 0.51% in May 2023. For the first quarter of 2024, the 10 U.S. reporting marketing carriers posted an involuntary denied boarding, or bumping, rate of 0.27 per 10,000 passengers, lower than both the rate of 0.29 in the first quarter of 2023 and higher than the rate of 0.20 in the fourth quarter of 2023. In May 2024, carriers reported two incidents involving the death, injury, or loss of an animal while traveling by air, one death and one injury, higher than the zero reports filed in both April 2024 and in May 2023.

#### **14. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 200,196 Jobs in June 2024**

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 1,002,700 workers in June 2024, 200,196 (24.95%) more workers than in May 2024 (802,504). This sharp increase is due to the merger of FedEx Ground and FedEx Services with FedEx Express to form Federal Express Corporation. U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 546,446 workers in June 2024 or 55% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines gained 1,828 employees in June 2024. Delta Air Lines Inc. led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 1,217 employees; American Airlines Inc. added 193, and SkyWest Airlines Inc. added 181. U.S. cargo airlines employed 452,155 workers in June 2024, or 45% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers gained 198,314 employees in June 2024. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 198,388 jobs.

#### **15. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$566 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports**

On August 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$566.4 million via 296 grants in 47 states to modernize airports as part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program, part of the \$25 billion total included in the law for airport and air traffic control infrastructure improvements. The AIG funds can be used for airport planning, development, sustainability, terminal expansions, baggage system upgrades, runway safety enhancements and noise compatibility projects at eligible airports.

#### **16. Air Canada Resumes Ottawa to London Heathrow Non-stop International Services Beginning Spring 2025**

Air Canada on August 14, 2024 announced it is further boosting its schedule serving Canada's capital region with non-stop, international flights from Ottawa to London Heathrow. Flights will be operated four-times weekly with Air Canada's Dreamliner fleet offering a choice of three cabins beginning March 31, 2025. Seats are available for purchase now at aircanada.com, via the Air Canada app, travel agents and Air Canada's contact centres.

#### **17. Porter Airlines introducing Toronto-Pearson - Thunder Bay route with Embraer E195-E2**

Porter Airlines is introducing the newest route with its Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Thunder Bay International Airport (YQT). Flights will operate with three roundtrips per week. Porter has been serving the Thunder Bay community since 2009, currently with up to five times daily roundtrip flights between Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, and twice daily flights between Ottawa using the 78-seat Dash 8-400 aircraft. Toronto-Pearson service begins October 16, 2024.

#### **18. Air Canada Vacations Invites Canadians to Share Their Vacation Mood**

Air Canada Vacations is thrilled to announce the launch of its 'Vacation Mood' fall/winter brand campaign. The social-first campaign was designed to put Canadian travellers at the forefront by inviting them to share their vacation mood on social media with the hashtag #MyVacationMood and tagging @aircanadavacations for a chance to be featured on Air Canada Vacations' social channels. The campaign aims to create a travel community of real people on real vacations, exchanging and sharing unique travel experiences. Nino Montagnese, Vice President at Air Canada Vacations said "We want to inspire Canadians to dream about their next vacation by inviting them to have a voice in our campaign. By creating authentic, emotional connections through travel, we celebrate the way it makes us feel and brings us together."

#### **19. Canada Jetlines grounds all flights, plans to file for creditor protection**

Canada Jetlines is grounding all flights and says it is temporarily ceasing airline operations effective immediately, making it the latest carrier to signal distress within Canada's troubled commercial airline industry. The airline, which flew mainly to sun destinations out of Toronto, said on August 15, 2024 that it has been unable to find the capital needed to stay afloat and plans to file for creditor protection. "The company ... pursued all available financing alternatives including strategic transactions and equity and debt financings," said spokeswoman Erica Dymond in a release. "Unfortunately despite these efforts, the company has been unable to obtain the financing required to continue operations at this time." Passengers with existing bookings should contact their credit card company to secure refunds, the company said. "Every effort is being made to assist passengers at this time."

#### **20. WestJet shuts down fledgling freighter network**

Difficult market conditions have led WestJet to pull the plug on its new freighter network. The airline is now reevaluating its strategy and what to do with its four Boeing 737-800 cargo jets. WestJet has abandoned its scheduled freighter operation and put two of four Boeing 737-800 aircraft in storage one year after launching the business venture,

according to the executive in charge of the airline's cargo operations. The development is a tacit acknowledgement by WestJet that it can't compete in the challenging Canadian cargo market. Air Canada last week disclosed it has parked two new factory-built 767-300 freighter aircraft because of insufficient demand.

#### **21. Biden Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$300 Million in Awards for Sustainable Aviation Fuel and Technologies as part of Investing in America Agenda**

On August 16, 2024, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is announcing \$291 million from the *Inflation Reduction Act* for projects that will help achieve the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from aviation by 2050 as part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda. "The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to enhancing the safety, sustainability and efficiency of our national air transportation system—and reaching our mid-century target of net-zero emissions. These grants will help put the world on a path toward decarbonizing aviation while fostering domestic economic growth and ensuring the U.S. retains its global leadership in aviation," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg

#### **22. European airlines outpace US carriers on cleaner jet fuel**

In the quest to shrink the outsized climate impact of air travel, airlines across the globe have vowed to consume vast quantities of greener jet fuel. But most airlines are lagging far behind their pledges, according to a Bloomberg Green analysis of corporate environmental filings for 2023. Although many airlines have promised to get at least 10% of their propellant from cleaner sources by the end of the decade, the use of sustainable aviation fuel, or "SAF," grew from 0.04% of global aviation fuel in 2021 to 0.17% in 2023, according to estimates from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). European airlines are trouncing competitors in the US and elsewhere. That's due, in part, to a government mandate, with the European Union requiring airlines to use 2% SAF starting next year. Other governments are following with mandates of their own, including the UK, Singapore and British Columbia. By contrast, the US has embraced a voluntary approach, with the government offering lucrative incentives for SAF but not requiring airlines to purchase the cleaner fuels, which cost about three-times more than conventional jet fuel. "There's a real meaningful stick forcing [European airlines] to use it," says Nik Pavlenko, who leads the fuels team at the International Council on Clean Transportation, a nonprofit think tank.

#### **23. Alaska Air-Hawaiian deal closer as DOJ ends antitrust review**

Alaska Air Group Inc. and Hawaiian Holdings Inc. are one step closer to finalizing their \$1.9 billion merger after the US Justice Department decided against challenging it. The airlines said the waiting period for the antitrust review has now expired. But Alaska and Hawaiian still need approval from the US Department of Transportation. The agency must determine the proposed acquisition is in the public interest before it can approve the necessary route transfers. "This is a significant milestone in the process to join our airlines," Alaska Air said in a statement. The decision is an abrupt change of course for the Justice Department, which carried out the Biden administration's pro-competition stance by blocking a merger between JetBlue Airways Corp. and Spirit Airlines Inc. and forcing the breakup of a regional partnership between JetBlue and American Airlines Group Inc. since the beginning of last year.

#### **24. North American airlines on slow climb to improved 2025, report says**

Slower than expected revenue growth this year for the North American airline sector will likely weigh on cash flow generation and credit protection, S&P Global Ratings says in a report published on August 20, 2024. S&P Global Ratings has tempered its outlook for the North American airline sector following underwhelming year-to-date financial results and issuer guidance for the rest of 2024, analyst Jarrett Bilous says in "North American Airlines On Slow Climb To Improved 2025". Passenger growth is normalizing--more than we previously anticipated--following recent reports of domestic overcapacity in North America. The slowing improvement affects earnings estimates for 2024 due mainly to meaningfully higher overall costs that adds pressure to margins. Elevated operating expenses this year are unlikely to ease any time soon. In addition, fuel prices--the second-largest expense component after labor--remain high (albeit, well below 2022 peaks) and are unpredictable.

#### **25. Frequent disruptions are now the norm in Canadian business travel**

Regular or frequent disruptions have become the norm in Canadian business travel, just as the sector is rebounding from the pandemic years. According to a recent survey by the global travel agency Corporate Traveller, one in 10 business people report regularly or frequently facing travel disruptions, while an overwhelming 70 per cent have experienced disruptions at least once.

#### **26. FAA Refers More Unruly Passenger Cases to the FBI**

The Federal Aviation Administration referred 43 more unruly passenger cases to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal prosecution review during the past year. The FAA has now referred more than 310 of the most serious cases to the FBI since late 2021 [under a partnership](#) aimed at ensuring unruly airline passengers face criminal prosecution when warranted. When the FAA refers incidents to the FBI, the FBI works closely with law enforcement partners and appropriate agencies to conduct an investigation if applicable.

#### **27. Air Canada pilots vote to give strike mandate to their union**

Air Canada pilots voted to give their union a strike mandate as negotiations over a new labor agreement have been stalled for more than a year. Workers could walk off the job as soon as mid-September. The Air Line Pilots Association, representing Air Canada's more than 5,400 aviators, is in a federal conciliation process with Air Canada until August 26, which will be followed by a 21-day cooling off period. The workers will be in a legal strike position starting Sept. 17. The unionized pilots gave the strike authorization August 22, 2024 morning with a majority of 98%, with 98% of members participating, ALPA said in a statement. The union seeks to close the pay gap with large US airlines, which have significantly increased their pilots' pay lately. Canada's No. 2 airline, Onex Corp.-owned WestJet Airlines Ltd., agreed to a contract in 2023 that included a 24% compensation bump over four years. Air Canada pilots are paid less than half of what industry counterparts get, according to the union. "Management continues to force us closer to a strike position by not listening to our needs at the negotiating table regarding fair compensation, respectable retirement benefits, and quality-of-life improvements," Charlene Hudy, the ALPA's local head, said in the statement.

#### **28. Quarterly civil aviation statistics, first quarter 2024**

Operating revenue for the 24 largest Canadian air carriers totalled \$8.3 billion in the first quarter of 2024, up 8.1% compared with the same quarter of 2023. At \$7.2 billion, passenger revenue remained the main revenue source for airlines in the first quarter of 2024, while air cargo generated \$522.3 million in revenue. In the first quarter, Canadian carriers transported 22.0 million passengers on scheduled and charter services.

#### **29. Air Canada potential pilots' strike would ground 1,000 flights a day. How worried should Canadians be?**

Pilots at Air Canada (5,400), Canada's largest airline, could walk off the job as early as Sept. 17, 2024 after 98 per cent voted in favour of giving their union a strike mandate. Here's what that would mean for travellers. It would mean that Canada potential pilots' strike would ground 1,000 flights a day. Charlene Hudy, head of the Air Canada contingent of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), told The Canadian Press that wages are a major issue for the membership. Last year, WestJet, the country's second largest airline, agreed to a contract that included a 24 per cent compensation bump over four years. Over the last year and a half, new contracts have been signed between the four biggest U.S. airlines and their pilots, meaning some of those workers now make roughly double what Air Canada pilots are earning. "We all fly passengers under the Star Alliance," Hudy said. "So we're flying the same passengers in the same airspace on some of the very same routes, and those pilots are being compensated dramatically more than us."

#### **30. WestJet Cargo expands pet transportation services to major European destinations on International Dog Day**

As the world marks International Dog Day on August 26, WestJet Cargo has announced the expansion of its pet transportation services to three major European airports: London Gatwick (LGW), London Heathrow (LHR), and Edinburgh (EDI). This expansion comes in response to the growing demand for secure and reliable international pet travel between Canada and Europe, reinforcing WestJet Cargo's commitment to providing specialized care for pets during their journey. "At WestJet Cargo, we recognize that pets are beloved members of the family, and their safety and comfort during travel are our utmost priorities. By extending our pet transportation service to LGW, LHR, and EDI, we are enhancing connectivity for pet owners and ensuring that their pets receive the highest standard of care throughout their journey," said Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice President of WestJet Cargo.

#### **31. Air Canada Comments on the End of Federal Conciliation in Negotiations with Air Line Pilots Association**

Air Canada on August 27, 2024 issued the following update in its ongoing contract negotiations with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). Air Canada's intention remains to reach a negotiated settlement with its pilots, one that recognizes their professionalism and contributions to the airline. During the talks, there has been significant progress and the three-week cooling off period gives the parties more than sufficient time to address any outstanding issues. Air Canada is fully committed to bargaining meaningfully throughout the period. However, certainty about their travel plans is important to customers. For this reason, Air Canada has introduced a goodwill policy to give all customers flexibility with imminent travel plans. Starting on August 27, 2024, customers who have purchased travel on Air Canada flights for the period immediately preceding and after the end of the cooling off period on September 17, 2024, can change any travel already purchased at no additional cost.

#### **32. Canada's Flair Airlines discusses balance sheet restructure**

Canada's Flair Airlines Ltd. is in talks to raise funds that would help ease the debt burden at the budget carrier beset by aircraft repossessions, back taxes and a financial backer accused of fraud. Interim Chief Executive Officer Maciej Wilk is in discussions with "financial institutions that are not shy of taking a slightly higher-risk investment" to participate in an ongoing recapitalization of the low-cost carrier, he said in a phone interview. New lenders or equity funding would help the airline address its significant debt load, which he wouldn't quantify. "In order really to give us breathing space and comfort to continue a restructuring of the company, I think we would be very happy if we received like a hundred million" Canadian dollars, Wilk said by phone. "Just to be clear, it's not like this is something that we desperately need right now." Flair ran into financial trouble after higher costs upset its efforts to rapidly scale up as the pandemic eased. Lessors repossessed four Boeing Co. 737 aircraft in March 2023 — stranding passengers headed for spring break —

and its former lead investor, 777 Partners LLC, has faced accusations of fraud in court. Another 777-backed carrier, Australia's Bonza, entered liquidation in July 2024. Flair still owes the Canadian government tens of millions in back taxes, the Canadian Press reported in January 2024, prompting them to arrange a payment plan with the Canada Revenue Agency. A court dispute over the planes, which Flair alleges were "unlawfully" seized by Airborne Capital Ltd., is ongoing.

### **33. Strong Air Cargo Demand Growth Extends into July**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2024 global air cargo markets showing continuing strong annual growth in demand. 1. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), rose by 13.6% compared to July 2023 levels (14.3% for international operations). This is the eighth consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year growth, with overall levels reaching heights not seen since the record peaks of 2021. 2. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 8.3% compared to July 2023 (10.1% for international operations). This was largely related to the growth in international belly capacity, which rose 12.8% on the strength of passenger markets and balancing the 6.9% growth of international freighter capacity. It should be noted that the increase in belly capacity is the lowest in 40 months whereas the growth in freighter capacity is the highest since an exceptional jump was recorded in January 2024.

### **34. Passenger Demand Up 8% in July**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: 1. *Total demand*, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 8.0% compared to July 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 7.4% year-on-year. The July load factor was 86.0% (+0.5ppt compared to July 2023). There was no significant negative demand impact from the CrowdStrike IT outage on 19 July. 2. *International demand* rose 10.1% compared to July 2023. Capacity was up 10.5% year-on-year and the load factor fell to 85.9% (-0.3ppt compared to July 2023). 3. *Domestic demand* rose 4.8% compared to July 2023. Capacity was up 2.8% year-on-year and the load factor was 86.1% (+1.7ppt compared to July 2023). Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General said "July was another positive month. In fact, passenger demand hit an all-time high for the industry and in all regions except Africa, despite significant disruption caused by the CrowdStrike IT outage."

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Iron, steel, potash and fuel cargo shipments up on St. Lawrence Seaway**

As of the end of June, 12.2 million metric tonnes of cargo had moved on the St. Lawrence Seaway this year. "The seaway continues to demonstrate resilience," said Jim Athanasiou, new president and CEO of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. "This consistent performance underscores the vital role the seaway plays in North America's supply chain, supporting economic growth and environmental sustainability. Our commitment to our customers and to maintaining a reliable and efficient system ensures we can meet the needs of our customers and stakeholders now and in the future." A few cargoes which showed significant increases compared to 2023 are: 1. Dry and liquid bulks, with ores and concentrates up by 110,000 mt at approximately 142,000 mt, and fuel up by 185,000 mt totaling 1.1 million mt. 2. Potash, an agricultural fertilizer, continues to perform well up by 281,000 mt, for a total of 506,000 mt. 3. General cargo shipments of iron and steel went up by 303,000 mt to 815,000 mt. 4. Grain, a Seaway staple, is steady and just ahead of 2023 for a total of 3.3 million metric tonnes.

### **2. Virginia completes FY 2024 with growth in cargo volumes and progress on infrastructure projects**

The Port of Virginia closed fiscal year 2024 (FY24) having processed 3.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a 2 percent increase over fiscal year 2023 and the second-best fiscal year performance in the port's history. The growth in cargo volume is just one of the successes of FY24, the port's chief executive said. The port is making gains on its \$1.4 billion infrastructure program that is creating a modern, efficient and sustainable port that has the capabilities and capacity to serve its customers and users for decades to come. In September 2023, construction began on the renovation

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada**

1. Iron, steel, potash and fuel cargo shipments up on St. Lawrence Seaway, July 30, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
2. Virginia completes FY 2024 with growth in cargo volumes and progress on infrastructure projects, July 30, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
3. Ocean container shipping market reaches a tipping point, July 31, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
4. Canada not prepared to face marine emergencies, says TSB investigation, August 1, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
5. Maersk hikes full-year profit forecast by \$2 billion, ups volume outlook, August 1, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
6. Panama Canal transits rise to almost normal levels as expansion work begins, August 1, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
7. Container rates down for second straight week, August 2, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
8. East Coast, Gulf dockworkers to meet next month on strike plan, August 2, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
9. Panama Canal announces new long-term slot allocation method for Neopanamax vessels, August 2, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
10. ICYMI: Secretary Buttigieg Travels Across the Midwest, Highlighting Biden-Harris Administration's Historic Investments in Great Lakes Ports and Domestic Auto Manufacturing, August 5, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
11. Panama Canal increases maximum

of the North Berth at Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) to enhance the port's capability to serve larger, fully-laden container ships. In January 2024, the port announced its transition to 100 percent clean electricity, leading all major US East Coast ports and accelerating the port's goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. In March, dredging was completed on a wider shipping channel that allows for safe, two-way movement of ultra-large container vessels, reducing port stay by up to 15 percent.

### **3. Ocean container shipping market reaches a tipping point**

The ocean container shipping market reached a tipping point in July 2024, with long term rates on major fronthaul trades showing signs of life just as spiraling short term rates begin to soften. The Xeneta Global XSI, which covers all valid long term contracts in the market, edged up 2.5% in July to stand at 151.5 points. More notably, the underlying XSI sub-index for Far East Exports – which includes the world's biggest fronthaul trades to Europe and the US - increased 12.6% in July 2024 to 178.8 points. This coincides with short term rates on major trades from the Far East to the US and Europe beginning to soften in July from the massive increases seen over recent months. Emily Stausbøll, Xeneta Senior Shipping Analyst, said: "Long term ocean container shipping rates remained subdued despite massive increases on the short term market in May and June – but that is starting to change. "For example, while short term rates on the Far East to US West Coast trade increased more than 140% between 30 April and 1 July, the long term market increased by 20%. However, short term rates to the US West Coast have fallen by 12% since 1 July, just as the long term market shows signs of life." Increasing long term rates and decreasing short term rates means the spread is narrowing between the markets, which presents a delicate balance ahead of long term contract negotiations between shippers and carriers later this year.

### **4. Canada not prepared to face marine emergencies, says TSB investigation**

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) says there are gaps in Canada's preparedness for marine emergencies that exceed the response capacity of a vessel's crew, posing a risk to vessels, the environment and the health and safety of the general public. The findings come following TSB's investigation of the 2021 loss of containers and fire on board the container vessel ZIM Kingston, off Vancouver Island, B.C., which spurred two safety concerns. The first safety concern relates to the risk of a phenomenon called parametric rolling, which led to the loss of containers, and the second concern addresses gaps in Canada's preparedness to respond to marine emergencies.

### **5. Maersk hikes full-year profit forecast by \$2 billion, ups volume outlook**

Maersk expects its global container volumes to grow by up to 6% this year. Maersk added \$2 billion to its full-year profitability forecast of August 1, 2024 as the carrier continues to benefit from robust demand on the main export trade lanes from Asia and an ongoing Red Sea disruption that has held rates at elevated levels since March 2024. But the carrier also released surprisingly lukewarm second-quarter results on August 1, 2024. While revenue of \$12.8 billion was down just 1.4% compared with the same quarter last year, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of \$2.1 billion fell 27% and earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of \$756 million was down 40% year over year.

### **6. Panama Canal transits rise to almost normal levels as expansion work begins**

The additional water taken from a new reservoir to be built would increase the number of transits through the Panama Canal by 11 per day. The Panama Canal is looking to increase the number of daily vessel transits to 36 as of September 2024 as it seeks to resume normal transit levels in the coming

allowable draft to 49 feet, August 6, 2024, [www.aot.com](http://www.aot.com)

12. List reveals top global ocean freight shippers, August 7, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

13. Maersk adjusts its global container market growth estimates, August 7, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

14. 'Near-record surge' possible for US imports in August: retail group, August 8, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

15. Report finds US container imports could approach monthly record, August 9, 2024, [www.freightwavess.com](http://www.freightwavess.com)

16. Transport Canada ensuring safety on the water by restricting vessel traffic on the St. Clair River on August 18, 2024, August 9, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

17. Great Lakes Seaway Announces Port Winners of 2023 Season "Pacesetter Award", August 12, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

18. Port Authority receives \$24.2 million federal grant for runway improvement at NY Stewart International Airport, August 12, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

19. Biden-Harris Administration Expands FLOW Initiative to Largest West Coast Container Ports, Strengthening Our National Supply Chains, August 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

20. A record-setting July at Port of Los Angeles as cargo soars 37%, August 14, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

21. Container rates down for fourth straight week, August 16, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

22. Vancouver port acts ahead of Canada rail stoppage, August 19, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

23. Busiest US ports absorb import surge nearing pandemic-era frenzy, August 19, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

24. Port of Vancouver continues to be important economic driver for Canada, August 20, 2024, [www.portmetrovancover.ca](http://www.portmetrovancover.ca)

25. Transport Canada takes unprecedented action to keep boat passengers safe, August 21, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

26. Number of oil tankers entering Vancouver harbour jumps from two to 20 a month after TMX completion, August 22, 2023, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

27. First shipment of critical minerals leaves Port of Churchill in more than 20 years, August 21, 2024, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

28. Cargo sailing ships: Green transport novelty or here to stay?, August 22, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

29. Grounded cargo ship blocking traffic in St. Lawrence Seaway freed by tugboats, August 24, 2024, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)

30. High container rates, port congestion entice some shippers back to MPVs, August 23, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

31. Study shows impact Port of Vancouver has on economy, August 27, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

32. New Panama Canal long term slot allocation method will begin in October for all market segments except LNG and LPG, August 27, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

months following robust rainfall levels in June and July 2024. “Even though there has not been an official announcement to shipping clients, it is very likely that the increase will take place,” a spokesperson for the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) told the Journal of Commerce. The usual number of transits is between 36 to 38 per day, the spokesperson added, although 40 to 42 vessels can transit in ideal conditions. Drewry’s World Container Index (WCI) decreased one per cent to US\$5,736 per 40-ft container the week of Aug. 1, 2024 marking the second week in a row container rates have fallen. The latest Drewry WCI composite index of US\$5,736 per 40-ft container is 45 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 304 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$3,946 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,161 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,785, which was inflated by the exceptional 2020-22 COVID-19 period.

- 33. Container shipping market continues to be reset by ongoing Red Sea crisis, August 28, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
- 34. Hazmat carrier sues Dali shipowners for negligence, August 28, 2024, [www.frieghtwaves.com](http://www.frieghtwaves.com)
- 35. First critical mineral shipment from Port of Churchill in decades, August 30, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
- 36. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, June 2024, August 30, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
- 37. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, July 2024, August 30, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
- 38. 2024 Flight Cancellation Rate Below Pre-Pandemic Levels Heading into Labor Day Weekend, August 29, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

Freight rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles decreased three per cent or US\$194 to US\$6,740 per 40-ft container.

#### **8. East Coast, Gulf dockworkers to meet next month on strike plan**

A labor strike that would shut down six out of 10 of the busiest ports in the US just weeks before the presidential election is looking increasingly likely. Negotiations on a labor contract covering trade hubs from Boston to Houston have stalled since June 2024 when the dockworker union called off high-level wage talks with the United States Maritime Alliance, which represents ocean carriers and terminal operators. The International Longshoreman’s Association now says it will present final contract demands to union delegates at a meeting on Sept. 4-5, and will also discuss strike strategies in the event a deal isn’t reached before the Sept. 30 deadline. “With less than 30 days to go before the end of our current Master Contract when these meetings are held, we must prepare our locals and our ILA membership for a strike on Oct. 1,” said ILA President Harold Daggett in the statement on Saturday. The USMX declined to comment.

#### **9. Panama Canal announces new long-term slot allocation method for Neopanamax vessels**

The Panama Canal announced on August 2, 2024, through an advisory to shipping, the introduction of a Long-Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) method for Neopanamax vessels, as part of the transit booking system, to increase transit certainty and flexibility for our clients. Currently, the slot offering in the transit booking system is done daily with an anticipation period before the required transit date. Through this method, several transit booking slot packages corresponding to January of the following year will be offered to different market segments; meaning a single client will be able to obtain multiple bookings in one transaction. Each package will include a specific number of slots with weekly or monthly frequency per year, for both northbound and southbound transits. These packages, and their characteristics, will be announced through the Booking Slot Projected Availability published on the website [pancanal.com](http://pancanal.com) and will be awarded to the highest bidder through an auction. The auction amount of the sealed bid will refer to the maximum amount the customer is willing to pay for each slot included in the package with a starting base of \$200,000.00 USD.

#### **10. ICYMI: Secretary Buttigieg Travels Across the Midwest, Highlighting Biden-Harris Administration’s Historic Investments in Great Lakes Ports and Domestic Auto Manufacturing**

Over three days last week, Secretary Buttigieg was in three different Midwest states highlighting the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda. He saw projects receiving funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, met with agriculture producers, port leaders, and workers at small and mid-sized ports in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in facilities in Kokomo, Indiana, including a new EV battery manufacturing facility that is fueling a construction boom and adding thousands of jobs to the region. The Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda—which includes the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act—is catalyzing private sector investments and supporting tens of thousands of projects in all 50 states.

#### **11. Panama Canal increases maximum allowable draft to 49 feet**

The Panama Canal announced through an Advisory to Shipping, that effective immediately, the maximum authorized draft allowed for vessels transiting the Neopanamax Locks will be 49.0 feet (14.94 m), based on the present and projected level of Gatun Lake for the upcoming weeks. The Panama Canal had to adapt its operations because of the prolonged drought resulting from the climatic variations that affected the levels of the Gatun and Alhajuela Lakes. In spite of this situation, this last one has been of adaptation, seeking the well-being of the population, guaranteeing the supply of drinking water and, on the other hand, assuring the reliability of the transit service to our clients. Additionally, as announced in Advisory to Shipping No. A-20-2024, a new booking slot for the Newpanamax Locks

has been added beginning on August 5, 2024, thus increasing total transits to 35 vessels per day. The previous draft adjustment to 48 feet was effective July 11. The rainy season is gradually bringing the reservoirs to its optimum levels.

#### **12. List reveals top global ocean freight shippers**

AXSMarine, a company that provides structured maritime and commodity data, released its Alphaliner Top 100 list recently, showing Mediterranean Shipping Company with a 20 per cent market share in the ocean shipping sector. Maersk came in second with a 14.4 per cent market share, with French shipping company CMA GGM Group at 12.6 per cent. Rounding out the Top 5 were Cosco Group with a 10.7 per cent market share and Hapag-Lloyd with 7.2 per cent. The Alphaliner list shows there are 7,044 active ships operating globally, more than 30 million TEUs and over 360 million deadweight tonnage (DWT). Leading the way, Mediterranean Shipping boasts 847 ships carrying more than six million TEUs. Maersk operates 713 ships with over 4.3 million TEUs.

#### **13. Maersk adjusts its global container market growth estimates**

A.P. Moller – Maersk says due to continued supply chain disruptions caused by the ongoing situation in the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden and robust container market demand, the company now expects the global container market growth to be between four to six per cent and to grow in line with the market compared to the previous expectations of toward the upper end of 2.5 to 4.5 per cent.

#### **14. ‘Near-record surge’ possible for US imports in August: retail group**

US imports from Asia have risen on a year-over-year basis for every month since October 2023. US retailers said on August 8, 2024 they do not expect any slowing of imports in the second half of the year that will feature a “near-record surge” in August driven by fast-forwarding of shipments ahead of potential longshore labor disruption at ports along the East and Gulf coasts. Some carriers, forwarders and industry analysts in recent months have indicated that US imports could taper off during the traditional August through October peak shipping season because of the front-loading of cargo that took place earlier this year.

#### **15. Report finds US container imports could approach monthly record**

The threat of a strike by longshore workers at U.S. ports could swell import container traffic to “a near-record surge” as shippers look to get holiday goods ashore by August, 2024. Fresh off June’s early peak shipping season for end-of-year holiday merchandise, the latest Global Port Tracker indicates container traffic approaching record monthly levels as retailers bring in merchandise ahead of a potential job action at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports this fall, according to the report by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates. The contract between the International Longshoremen’s Association and the United States Maritime Alliance expires on Sept. 30, 2024. Negotiations have stalled, and the ILA has threatened a walkout if a new contract is not agreed to by then.

#### **16. Transport Canada ensuring safety on the water by restricting vessel traffic on the St. Clair River on August 18, 2024**

To ensure the safety of everyone on the water, Transport Canada is restricting the movement of vessel traffic within the public Port of Sarnia. Under these restrictions, no unauthorized traffic will be permitted on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River, from the Blue Water Bridge to the upper end of Stag Island, between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. on August 18, 2024. A Navigational Warning (NAVWARN) about temporary vessel restrictions for this day was issued on August 8, 2024. Mariners are requested to adjust the timing of their transit in the area to avoid entering the safety zone during the temporary restrictions. If a vessel seeks to maneuver within these waters during this time, they must obtain authorization from Transport Canada.

#### **17. Great Lakes Seaway Announces Port Winners of 2023 Season “Pacesetter Award”**

Last week, the U.S. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) announced that two U.S. ports in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System received the Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award for increases in international cargo tonnage shipped through their ports during the 2023 navigation season. “Great Lakes ports play a key role in moving goods through our nation’s supply chains and lowering costs for consumers, as I recently saw firsthand with visits to ports in Menominee, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “This year’s winners reflect the vital importance of these ports and are a credit to the skill and dedication of workers who do so much for our freight systems.”

#### **18. Port Authority receives \$24.2 million federal grant for runway improvement at NY Stewart International Airport**

Rehabilitation project completed in 2017, restored two airport runways and replaced embedded runway lighting with environmentally friendly fixtures. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on August 12, 2024 announced that New York Stewart International Airport has received a \$24.2 million grant from the Biden-Harris administration for a rehabilitation project that restored two airport runways to a state of good repair and installed new environmentally friendly LED lights into the runway pavement, ensuring safe aircraft operations at the airport.

#### **19. Biden-Harris Administration Expands FLOW Initiative to Largest West Coast Container Ports, Strengthening Our National Supply Chains**

On August 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the Port of Oakland and the Northwest Seaport Alliance, which includes the Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma, are now members of the Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) initiative, expanding the initiatives reach to the five largest container ports on the West Coast. FLOW is a first-of-its-kind private-public partnership created and led by DOT that helps create a shared picture of the U.S. supply chain for members, which include the nation's busiest container ports, major ocean carriers, and some of the largest retail importers. FLOW is a critical part of the Biden-Harris Administration's work to strengthen our supply chains, which has lowered everyday costs and supported American workers and businesses.

#### **20. A record-setting July at Port of Los Angeles as cargo soars 37%**

The Port of Los Angeles handled a record-breaking 939,600 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in July 2024, a 37% increase over the previous year. It was the best July in the Port's 116-year history and the busiest month in more than two years. Seven months into 2024, the Port of Los Angeles is 18% ahead of its 2023 pace. "We've seen an influx of year-end holiday goods coming across our docks a bit earlier than usual to avoid any risk of delay later in the year," Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka said at a media briefing. "These goods – think toys, electronics and clothing – are arriving at the same time as more typical back-to-school, fall fashion and Halloween merchandise. An early peak season has helped to boost volumes here in Los Angeles.

#### **21. Container rates down for fourth straight week**

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) dropped to US\$5,428 per 40-ft container for the week of Aug. 12-16, 2024 the fourth consecutive week rates decreased. The latest WCI composite index of US\$5,428 per 40-ft container is a two per cent drop from the previous week, and is 48 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 282 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420.

#### **22. Vancouver port acts ahead of Canada rail stoppage**

Canada's busiest West Coast container gateway is implementing measures to sustain cargo flows in the event of a work stoppage by railroad employees. A work stoppage could bring stack trains at the Port of Vancouver's Centerm terminal to a halt August 22, 2024. "We are concerned about the prospect of further labor disruptions impacting port and supply chain operations," the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority said in a statement on August 19, 2024. "The impact to the Port of Vancouver will be significant, with approximately two-thirds of all cargo volumes at the port moved by rail, including 90% of international exports."

#### **23. Busiest US ports absorb import surge nearing pandemic-era frenzy**

The busiest port complex in the US is churning through import volumes near the highs set during the pandemic despite worries about a cooling economy. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which account for roughly a third of all US container imports, had their third-strongest month ever in July 2024, just shy of an all-time high reached in May 2021. Back then, a wave of inbound consumer goods caused supply bottlenecks on land and a queue of cargo ships waiting for a berth offshore was getting longer by the day. Demand now is driven by retailers and other importers that are stocking up ahead of US tariffs on Chinese goods and a possible strike by a large group of American dockworkers — adding to the usual frenzy of pre-holiday ordering that occurs this time of year. The marine terminals in Southern California's San Pedro Bay are withstanding the crush so far, though some gauges of capacity constraints are starting to rise. "We're in a strong position heading into the peak shipping season as consumers purchase back-to-school supplies and shippers move goods ahead of potential tariff increases," Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero said in a statement. "We have plenty of capacity across our terminals and cargo continues to move efficiently and sustainably."

#### **24. Port of Vancouver continues to be important economic driver for Canada**

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on August 20, 2024 released its latest Economic Impact Study, confirming the important role Canada's largest and most diversified port continues to play supporting jobs and businesses across the country. The study found the port and its supply chains sustain more than 132,000 jobs paying \$9.3 billion in wages, and contribute \$32.7 billion in economic output and \$16.3 billion in GDP. "Canada is a trading nation and this study illustrates that the Port of Vancouver continues to play a crucial role supporting the movement of goods in and out of our country—helping countless Canadians and their communities prosper," said Victor Pang, chief financial officer at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority. "The study highlights the important role port operators and supply chain partners play for Canadian businesses from coast to coast. It has never been more important for everyone to work together to support reliable, efficient and sustainable goods movement through Canada's most important marine gateway—the Port of Vancouver."

#### **25. Transport Canada takes unprecedented action to keep boat passengers safe**

On August 21, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced that Transport Canada has taken unprecedented action to put an end to serious violations of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 concerning unlicensed passenger vessels. This action underscores Transport Canada's commitment to enforcing marine safety and protecting Canadians. In Canada, all vessels that provide a paid service to carry passengers must be registered as passenger vessels and meet applicable safety requirements. Furthermore, vessels carrying passengers in non-compliance with the

Canada Shipping Act, 2001 may be subject to an Administrative Monetary Penalty of up to \$250,000 related to safety deficiencies.

**26 Number of oil tankers entering Vancouver harbour jumps from two to 20 a month after TMX completion**

Trans Mountain pipeline expansion drives 900% increase in tanker traffic. This is evident by Crude oil tankers SFL Sabine, and Tarbet Spirit docked at the Trans Mountain Westridge Marine Terminal, where crude oil from the expanded Trans Mountain pipeline is loaded onto tankers in Burnaby, B.C. The number of oil tankers travelling under the Lions Gate Bridge and into Vancouver harbour has increased from around two a month to around 20 since the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion was completed, according to a local researcher. David Huntley has been monitoring tanker traffic for several years and every few months publishes a record that details the name of each oil tanker that arrives in Vancouver, where it comes from and where it is headed. He uses marine traffic and vessel finder websites to track the ships.

**27. First shipment of critical minerals leaves Port of Churchill in more than 20 years**

First shipment of critical minerals leaves Port of Churchill in more than 20 years on August 16, 2024. “It has got a great deal of geopolitical security implications,” Chandra Arya, a federal member of parliament and a member of the standing committee on international trade, said during an event hosted by the port’s current ownership group, Arctic Gateway Group LP.

**28. Cargo sailing ships: Green transport novelty or here to stay?**

A cargo sailing ship, the Anemos, recently left France to undertake its maiden commercial voyage of approximately 12-15 days to New York with 1,100 tonnes of goods on board, including 15,000 bottles of Burgundy wines. Operated by Brittany-based shipping company, TOWT (TransOceanic Wind Transport), its CEO, Guillaume Le Grand describes the vessel as “a technological marvel that propels itself more than 90% of the time by wind power. It has an average speed of 10 knots. Earlier this year, a cargo sailboat of another French company, Grain de Sail, crossed the Atlantic to New York from St Malo almost at its full capacity of 350 tonnes.

**29. Grounded cargo ship blocking traffic in St. Lawrence Seaway freed by tugboats**

A ship ran aground late Thursday, August 22, 2024 in the Kahnawake area in the St. Lawrence Seaway following an engine problem, forcing navigation to be suspended in the South Shore Canal. A stuck 138-metre cargo ship that had been blocking traffic in the St. Lawrence Seaway near Montreal has now been freed. Fisheries and Oceans Canada says two tugboats successfully towed the Dutch ship Heemskerckgracht to safety earlier today.

**30. High container rates, port congestion entice some shippers back to MPVs**

Multipurpose vessel (MPV) operators are seeing a return of so-called “spillover” cargoes due to elevated container rates, shipping delays and port congestion, saying they are fielding inquiries from shippers who normally use liner services about transporting shipments — either containerized or as breakbulk cargoes — on MPVs. Still, interest remains well below the level seen during the peak of the pandemic market two years ago, shipping executives told the *Journal of Commerce*. Most of the recent interest from shippers is for mode-malleable cargo — freight that can be easily switched between breakbulk and container modes.

**31. Study shows impact Port of Vancouver has on economy**

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s latest Economic Impact Study shows that the Port of Vancouver and its supply chains contributed \$32.7 billion in economic output and \$16.3 billion to the GDP in 2021. The port authority says this snapshot from 2021 confirms the important role Canada’s largest and most diversified port continues to play supporting jobs and businesses across the country. The study found the port and its supply chains sustain more than 132,000 jobs paying \$9.3 billion in wages.

**32. New Panama Canal long term slot allocation method will begin in October for all market segments except LNG and LPG**

The Panama Canal announced, through an Advisory to Shipping No. A-30-2024, that the new Long Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) methodology will be implemented beginning October 1, 2024, for all market segments except LNG and LPG. The LNG and LPG market segments will maintain the previously date announced on the Advisory To Shipping No. A-25-2024. Following the announcement of the LoTSA methodology, several customers from the full container market segment have requested additional time to properly evaluate this new initiative. In response to these requests, the implementation date for these segments has been postponed, allowing for greater participation and to ensure the success of the LoTSA methodology. The introduction of the Long-Term Slot Allocation Method for Neopanamax vessels, as part of the Transit Booking System, was developed to increase transit certainty and flexibility for our clients. Through this method, several transit booking slot packages will be offered to different market segments; meaning a single client will be able to obtain multiple bookings in one transaction. The sealed bidding process for the first calendar year period for booking dates from January 5, 2025, to January 3, 2026, will be held.

**33. Container shipping market continues to be reset by ongoing Red Sea crisis**

It is now more than nine months ago that the Red Sea crisis began with the hijacking of the car carrier Galaxy Leader. The crisis caused a major reduction in available container vessel capacity and is the core reason for the huge jump in

freight rates this year, superseded only by the pandemic. It might be time to take stock of the situation, as well as consider what lies ahead. The fact of the matter is that more than 100 merchant vessels have been attacked. At least 39 have been hit and sustained some level of damage. This all affects container capacity and rates of vessels transiting the Suez Canal.

#### **34. Hazmat carrier sues Dali shipowners for negligence**

A Baltimore trucking company is suing the owners and managers of the container ship Dali for indirectly crippling its business. Company's freight costs up 30% due to rerouting after Francis Scott Key Bridge collision. Grace Ocean Private Ltd. and Synergy Marine Group, the owner and crew manager, respectively, of the Singapore-flagged ship that destroyed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore after crashing into it in March 2024, have petitioned for liability protection in a federal court in Maryland. But Underwood Energy Inc., which owns hazmat trucks and runs a rail-to-truck transfer service for other hazmat trucking companies adjacent to where the bridge used to stand, contends that the negligence of the vessel's owners and managers led directly to the destruction of the bridge.

#### **35. First critical mineral shipment from Port of Churchill in decades**

For the first time in over two decades, an export shipment of critical minerals has departed from the Port of Churchill. The zinc concentrate shipment marks a significant milestone in Arctic Gateway Group's (AGG) work to revitalize the Hudson Bay Railway, diversify the Port of Churchill and seize the opportunity to further develop Canada's Arctic trade corridor to global markets. Over the past two months, more than one hundred rail cars of zinc concentrate from Hudbay Minerals Inc. (Hudbay) operations in Snow Lake, Man., were delivered to the Port of Churchill. The zinc concentrate was then stored temporarily at a recently built storage facility, which is the first new building at the port in over 20 years. This new storage facility is the first step in a broader plan to significantly increase critical minerals storage capacity at the Port of Churchill.

#### **36. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, June 2024**

In June 2024, aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports totalled 520,024, up 2.6% from June 2023. Itinerant movements increased 2.5% year over year to 367,247 in June 2024, while local movements rose 3.1% to 152,777. At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 7.5 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in June 2024, with a passenger load factor of 86.5%. Aircraft movements increased in all sectors in June 2024, compared with the same month in 2023.

#### **37. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, July 2024**

In July 2024, 5.6 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, an increase of 3.3% from July 2023. Screened passenger traffic in July 2024 came in above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, with 4.1% more screened passengers than in July 2019. Transborder (to the United States) traffic in July 2024 was 12.5% higher than in the same month in 2023 and 9.1% higher than in July 2019. July 2024 was the third consecutive month in which transborder traffic topped pre-pandemic volumes. In July 2024, international screened passenger counts (outside of the United States) grew 6.2% over July 2023, exceeding pre-pandemic levels from July 2019 by 2.7%. The number of passengers screened for domestic flights was down 3.0% year over year in July 2024 albeit 2.0% higher than in July 2019.

#### **38. 2024 Flight Cancellation Rate Below Pre-Pandemic Levels Heading into Labor Day Weekend**

On August 29, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) indicated that the year-to-date flight cancellation rate for 2024 is 1.6% heading into the Labor Day holiday weekend. Despite significant flight disruptions in July 2024 brought on by the global CrowdStrike outage, summer storms, and record-breaking air travel volumes, the year-to-date cancellation rate remains below 2022 and pre-pandemic levels. Air travel volumes this summer are the highest on record. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has already screened 239.8 million people since Memorial Day weekend, which is an average of 2.7 million per day. The top ten busiest travel days in the agency's history have all occurred this year since May 2024, and a new milestone was reached on July 7, 2024 when more than 3 million people were screened in a single day for the first time.

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### 1. CPKC's strong second-quarter results demonstrate advantages of North American network; carrying momentum into second half of 2024

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) on July 30, 2024 announced its second-quarter results, including revenues of \$3.6 billion, diluted earnings per share (EPS) of \$0.97 and core adjusted combined diluted EPS of \$1.05. "Our excellent second quarter results showcase how the advantages of this unrivalled North American network are being realized," said Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer. "These results are a direct reflection of the dedication and hard work of our railroaders, whose commitment to safety, service and efficiency remains the cornerstone of our achievements. We delivered robust revenue growth driven by synergies, along with strong operating and safety performance." Second quarter highlights were as follows: 1. Reported operating ratio (OR) decreased by 550 basis points to 64.8 percent from 70.3 percent in Q2 2023; 2. Core adjusted combined OR decreased 280 basis points to 61.8 percent from 64.6 percent in Q2 2023; 3. Reported diluted EPS decreased to \$0.97 from \$1.42 in Q2 2023; 4. Core adjusted combined diluted EPS increased 27 percent to \$1.05 from \$0.83 in Q2 2023; 5. Volumes, as measured in Revenue Ton-Miles<sup>3</sup> (RTMs), increased six percent on a combined basis; 6. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-reportable train accident frequency decreased to 0.77 from 0.80 in Q2 2023 on a combined basis; and 7. FRA-reportable personal injury frequency decreased to 0.81 from 1.31 in Q2 2023 on a combined basis.

### 2. Freight Rail Services Price Index, July 2024

Data for July for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on Statcan website. For July 2024 the index was 126.7 compared to 128.2 a month ago and 120.8 in July 2023.

### 3. 2024-2025 CN Grain Plan Builds on Strong Performance

CN on July 31, 2024 published its 2024-2025 Grain Plan, which builds on the Company's successful operational improvements and strategic capital investments from the previous grain season. The CN Grain Plan highlights several new actions and initiatives for 2024-25. These include: 1. the delivery of 750 new high-efficiency grain hopper cars this crop year; 2. a continued focus on scheduled railroading which has produced demonstrated improvement since implementation in 2022-23; 3. the deployment of new firefighting equipment to help protect the supply chain, and 4. the use of new technologies to improve safety, such as testing new mobile fire detection equipment and the continued use of CN's autonomous track inspection program. Tracy Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said "We are confident that we have the right approach and resources in place to move this year's Canadian grain crop efficiently. We continue to lean into our scheduled railroading model and making sure that our ongoing capital investments position us for success again this year. Working with supply chain stakeholders and governments, we are taking steps to address several regulatory issues impacting the sector, to remove obstacles so we can focus our attention on continuing to deliver even better service to our customers." CN builds on last year's strong, steady performance with continued fleet enhancements, deployment of new technologies and a focus on building its team of railroaders.

### 4. AAR: North American Rail Volume Continues Upward Trend in Week 30

Through the first 30 weeks of 2024 (ending July 27), total North American carload and intermodal traffic rose 5.3% from the same point last year, according to the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The U.S., Canada and Mexico all experienced gains.

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### Canada

1. CPKC's strong second-quarter results demonstrate advantages of North American network; carrying momentum into second half of 2024, July 30, 2024, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca); CPKC: Carrying 2Q24 'Momentum' Into Second-Half 2024, July 30, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
2. Freight Rail Services Price Index, July 2024, July 31, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
3. 2024-2025 CN Grain Plan Builds on Strong Performance, July 31, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
4. AAR: North American Rail Volume Continues Upward Trend in Week 30, July 31, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
5. CPKC Grain: 'Return to More Typical Demand', August 1, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
6. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending July 27, 2024, August 1, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
7. Hub Group regains rail share, while Schneider's Q2 volume stays flat, August 2, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
8. Calgary Green Line LRT Phase 1 Revised, August 2, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
9. BNSF's Second Quarter 2024 Financial Performance, August 5, 2024, [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com); and BNSF 2Q24: 'Higher Canada labor minister launches talks to avert rail strike, August 5, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
10. Volumes, Improved Productivity, Lower Costs', August 5, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
11. Negotiations with the TCRC, August 6, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
12. CSX Corp. announces second quarter 2024 results, August 6, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
13. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 03, 2024, August 7, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com); and AAR: Rail Traffic Upticks for July, Early August, August 7, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
14. CN breaks ground of new loop track in Minnesota, August 8, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
15. Union Pacific partners with Canpotex to haul record potash shipments, August 8, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
16. CIRB ruling means Canadian rail strike could happen on Aug. 22, August 9, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
17. CN Asks Federal Government to Order Binding Arbitration to Protect Canada's Economy, August 9, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
18. CPKC to issue TCRC lockout notice for Aug. 22, August 9, 2024, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca)
19. Container shipping rates up for rail, down for trucking, says Stats Canada, August 12, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
20. Canadian Rail Shutdown on the Way?, August 12, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
21. VIA Rail Plots a Path for Transformation, August 12, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
22. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 10, 2024, August 14, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com); and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up in Week 32, August 14, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
23. Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes National Regulation on Training Requirements to Improve Transit Safety Oversight, August 14,

## 5. CPKC Grain: ‘Return to More Typical Demand’

Canadian Pacific Kansas City’s 2024-2025 Grain Service Outlook Report, which outlines the railroad’s grain transportation plan for export to international markets, notes that, “based on current forecasts, we expect a return to more typical demand.

## 6. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending July 27, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on July 31, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending July 27, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 508,496 carloads and intermodal units, up 5.3 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending July 27 were 228,845 carloads, down 0.5 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 279,651 containers and trailers, up 10.5 percent compared to 2023. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 5,676 carloads, to 20,665; farm products excl. grain, and food, up 1,461 carloads, to 16,811; and forest products, up 418 carloads, to 8,360. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 6,142 carloads, to 61,382; nonmetallic minerals, down 1,316 carloads, to 33,264; and metallic ores and metals, down 602 carloads, to 21,455. Canadian railroads reported 84,556 carloads for the week, down 4.0 percent, and 64,306 intermodal units, down 6.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 30 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 4,803,839 carloads, containers and trailers, up 1.6 percent.

## 7. Hub Group regains rail share, while Schneider’s Q2 volume stays flat

Hub Group reported an 8% year-over-year increase in intermodal volume in the second quarter, far better than the flat volume seen by competitors J.B. Hunt and Schneider for the same period. That’s a signal Chicago-area Hub has regained market share this year. Hub Group became more competitive on rates this year, winning back market share. The Intermodal Association of North America (IANA) reported that domestic container volume rose by 5% year over year in the second quarter. While J.B. Hunt and Schneider underperformed the overall market, Hub Group overperformed. Hub Group’s volume staying within the eastern US surged 26% in the quarter, an eye-opening number given that IANA showed relatively flat volume on intermodal movements.

## 8. Calgary Green Line LRT Phase 1 Revised

The Calgary City Council has approved a revised project scope, capital funding request and delivery model for the Calgary Transit C-Train light rail Green Line Phase 1 project.

## 9. Canada labor minister launches talks to avert rail strike

Negotiations to avert a major railroad strike in Canada will resume on August 7, 2024 after talks between the three parties were stalled for months. Leaders from Canadian National Railway Co., Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. and the union representing their workers met with Labor Minister Steve MacKinnon on August 5, 2024 in an effort to forestall a work stoppage that could lead to massive supply chain disruptions. “The meet-

ings were frank, constructive discussions that reflected the gravity of the situation before Canada’s railways, workforce, and entire economy,” MacKinnon wrote in a statement. These parties transport close to C\$400 billion in goods annually, he said, or about \$290 billion. Federal mediators will also participate in the talks. Christopher Monette, a spokesperson for the union, Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, told Bloomberg that the goal was to increase “the pace and frequency of discussions.” “A work stoppage can be avoided, provided both companies are willing to return with fair and equitable proposals,” he wrote in an email. The union represents close to 10,000 workers at the two companies.

## 10. BNSF's Second Quarter 2024 Financial Performance

BNSF released its second quarter 2024 results on August 5, 2024. Earnings in the second quarter were negatively

[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

24. Ottawa rejects call to head off Canada rail work stoppage, August 15, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

25. Railways halt more shipments ahead of potential lockout as bargaining tensions rise, August 16, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca); CN Issues Lockout Notice to Teamsters, August 18, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca); and Canadian Rail Shutdown on the Way? (UPDATED 8/19; TCRC Serves Strike Notice to CPKC; CN Formally Advises TCRC of Lockout), August 19, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)

26. Canadian Chamber of Commerce warns of economic fallout as railways issue strike notices, August 19, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

27. Rail strike would leave Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver commuters in limbo, August 19, 2024, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

28. Trudeau calls on railways, union to reach deal to avoid strike, August 21, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

29. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 33, August 21, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com); and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 17, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

30. Railway carloadings, June 2024, August 23, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

31. Canada’s labor minister puts an end to CN, CPKC work stoppage, August 23, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com); and CN Ends Lock Out and Initiates Recovery Plan, August 22, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)

32. Railways say lockouts ending after federal government orders binding arbitration, August 22, 2024, [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca)

33. Investment aims to complete work on Hudson Bay Railway, August 2, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

34. Railways to resume operations; union blasts CIRB ruling, August 26, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

35. BNSF, NS Reach Tentative Agreements with Unions, August 23, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)

36. CSX Tentative Agreements with BRC and SMART-TD GO-049 Extended to 12 Unions (Updated Aug. 23), August 23, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)

37. CPKC’s brand value surges in new report, August 27, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

38. Analysis: Trudeau flip-flop gives Canada railroads win over unions ... for now, August 27, 2024, [www.freightwaves.ca](http://www.freightwaves.ca)

39. AAR: North American Rail Volume Up in Week 34, August 28, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com); and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 24, 2024, August 29, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

40. Train movements in Canada close to normal after labor turmoil, August 28, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

affected by cost accruals primarily related to a recent judgement in an ongoing legal case, which BNSF has appealed. However, earnings benefited from higher volumes, improved productivity, and lower costs. Likewise, materials and other expense were negatively impacted in both the second quarter and first six months of 2024 as compared to 2023. Otherwise, materials and other expense in the 2024 periods declined compared to 2023. Excluding the impact of litigation costs, our earnings and operating ratio showed solid improvement. Operating income for the second quarter and first six months of 2024 was \$1.8 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively, an increase of \$13 million (1%) and a decrease of \$123 million (3%), respectively, compared to the same periods in 2023. The operating ratio for the second quarter of 68.2% was flat compared to the prior year, while the operating ratio for the first six months of 68.8% was an increase of 0.5% compared to the same period in 2023. Net income was \$ 1,227m down 3% from \$ 1,264m for the second quarter and \$ 2,370m down 6% from \$ 2,511m for the first six months. Total revenue was \$ 5,739m down 2% from \$ 5,828m for the second quarter of 2024 and down 4% from \$ 11,399m for the first six months.

#### **11. Negotiations with the TCRC**

On August 5, 2024, CN met with the Minister of Labour, Steven MacKinnon and Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez to discuss the impact of a work stoppage on Canadian supply chains. CN reiterated the desire to reach a negotiated outcome that is good for employees, for the Company, and for its customers, and reinforced that we have made many offers to the Union since bargaining started at the end of November 2023. Negotiations have been on hold since former Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan, requested clarity from the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) regarding essential services during a work stoppage. The response from the CIRB is expected by August 9, 2024.

#### **12. CSX Corp. announces second quarter 2024 results**

CSX Corp. on August 6, 2024 announced second quarter 2024 operating income of \$1.45 billion compared to \$1.47 billion in the prior year period. Net earnings were \$963 million, or \$0.49 per diluted share, compared to \$984 million, or \$0.49 per diluted share, in the same period last year. Total volume of 1.58 million units for the quarter was 2% higher compared to second quarter 2023. Joe Hinrichs, president and chief executive officer said "CSX remained focused on efficiently serving our customers over the second quarter, allowing us to deliver strong sequential increases in volume, operating income, margin, and earnings per share. I am proud of our railroad's performance, including our team's effective response to the disruptions at the Port of Baltimore. As we continue to execute through shifting markets, CSX is well-positioned to achieve solid year-over-year margin expansion over the remainder of 2024."

#### **13. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 03, 2024**

Total combined U.S. traffic for the first 31 weeks of 2024 was 14,605,493 carloads and intermodal units, an increase of 2.4 percent compared to last year. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included chemicals, up 2,971 carloads, to 33,218; petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,629 carloads, to 11,016; and grain, up 1,368 carloads, to 17,022. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 5,528 carloads, to 58,978; nonmetallic minerals, down 2,052 carloads, to 31,312; and metallic ores and metals, down 1,357 carloads, to 20,721. North American rail volume for the week ending August 3, 2024, on 10 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totalled 322,520 carloads, down 1.2 percent compared with the same week last year, and 351,513 intermodal units, up 6.1 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 674,033 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.5 percent. North American rail volume for the first 31 weeks of 2024 was 20,471,828 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.3 percent compared with 2023. Canadian railroads reported 90,465 carloads for the week, up 1.6 percent, and 64,067 intermodal units, down 10.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 31 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 4,958,371 carloads, containers and trailers, up 1.5 percent.

#### **14. CN breaks ground of new loop track in Minnesota**

Canadian National (CN) broke ground on a new loop track in Two Harbors, Minn., the railway posted on social media Aug. 8. With nearly 600,000 cubic yards of soil excavated to make way for operational and supply chain improvements for the railway's steel customers. For CN, Minnesota is an important gateway from Canada into the U.S. via Ranier and then south to the port city of Duluth on Lake Superior. Turning west near Longwood, Wis., CN's track heads toward Minneapolis-Saint Paul, one of the Top 15 markets in the U.S. Minnesota is home to CN's iron ore supply chain, which brings taconite pellets from the Minnesota Iron Range mines to the CN docks in Duluth and Two Harbors. There, the pellets are loaded onto Great Lakes ships for transport to the lower Great Lakes. CN's major facilities in Minnesota include an intermodal terminal in Duluth, a rail classification yard and railcar/locomotive repair shop in Proctor, a yard near the Two Harbors iron ore dock and the Duluth iron ore dock itself. There is also a yard in Ranier where CN trains cross the U.S.-Canada border.

#### **15. Union Pacific partners with Canpotex to haul record potash shipments**

Since Canpotex completed a \$150 million facility expansion at the Port of Portland's Terminal 5 in 2018, it has typically received more than a dozen unit trains per month, each comprising 188 carloads of potash. In the second

quarter of this year, Canpotex's increased shipments to Portland led to record potash levels for Union Pacific. Sourcing potash produced by its shareholders, Mosaic and Nutrien in Saskatchewan, Canada, Canpotex annually supplies more than 13 million tons of potash to 40 countries overseas, including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia. Approximately 20% of those exports go through the Port of Portland. It also involved coordination with the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), as Union Pacific interchanges with CPKC at Eastport, Idaho, and transports the unit trains to Portland via Hinkle, Oregon. Union Pacific's ongoing capital investments to expand the Eastport route's capacity are helping accommodate this growth.

#### **16. CIRB ruling means Canadian rail strike could happen on Aug. 22**

Commodities transported on Canadian rails are not considered essential services because "reasonable alternatives" exist through long-haul trucking, the Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) ruled August 9, 2024, opening the door for a strike to occur as soon as Aug. 22, 2024 that would shut down both Canadian railroads. If the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) went on strike against Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), the result would be "inconvenience and economic hardship ... [but] ... not pose an immediate and serious danger to the safety and health of the public," the CIRB wrote in its unanimous ruling.

#### **17. CN Asks Federal Government to Order Binding Arbitration to Protect Canada's Economy**

Following the Canada Industrial Relations Board's (CIRB) decision that does not bring the labour conflict any closer to a resolution, CN is formally requesting the Minister of Labour's intervention under section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to protect Canada's economy from the impacts of prolonged uncertainty. Negotiations with the TCRC resumed on August 7, 2024. However, no progress has been made as the TCRC has not engaged meaningfully at the negotiating table. While CN is willing to keep negotiating with the TCRC, the Company has lost faith in the process and is concerned that a negotiated deal is no longer possible without a willing partner. Therefore, the Company formally requests the Minister of Labour's intervention.

#### **18. CPKC to issue TCRC lockout notice for Aug. 22**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) on August 9, 2024 said it will issue notice to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) – Train and Engine (T&E) division and TCRC - Rail Traffic Controller (RRTC) division of its plan to lock out employees at 00:01 ET on Aug. 22 if union leadership and the company are unable to come to a negotiated settlement or agree to binding interest arbitration. CPKC is committed to continuing good faith negotiation throughout.

#### **19. Container shipping rates up for rail, down for trucking, says Stats Canada**

Statistics Canada released a report indicating that container shipping rates have increased over the past year by rail, but have decreased on the trucking side. The Freight Rail Services Price Index estimates price changes for the mainline freight rail industry in Canada. In July 2024, the price to move intermodal containers by rail increased 2.5 per cent compared with July 2023. Similarly, the For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index tracks price movements for truck transport. Prices charged by the general freight trucking industry group, which transports a variety of commodities generally palletized and carried in a van trailer, box or container (including intermodal containers), decreased by 3.7 per cent from March 2023 to March 2024.

#### **20. Canadian Rail Shutdown on the Way?**

CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) report that lockdowns could begin as soon as Aug. 22 unless there is progress at the negotiating table or binding arbitration with Teamsters Canada Rail

#### **21. VIA Rail Plots a Path for Transformation**

Canada's passenger operator Via Rail launched a strategic plan earlier this summer. Mark Simmons, Deputy Editor of IRJ, a Railway Age sister publication, talks exclusively to the president and CEO Mario Pélouquin about his ambitions to transform the company's operations.

#### **22. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 10, 2024**

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on August 14, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending August 10, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 496,509 carloads and intermodal units, up 5.2 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending August 10 were 222,039 carloads, down 0.9 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 274,470 containers and trailers, up 10.6 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 3,866 carloads, to 18,402; chemicals, up 2,969 carloads, to 32,959; and farm products excl. grain, and food, up 546 carloads, to 16,193. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 7,633 carloads, to 61,031; nonmetallic minerals, down 1,295 carloads, to 31,849; and metallic ores and metals, down 906 carloads, to 19,432. Canadian railroads reported 89,620 carloads for the week, up 2.5%, and 66,976 intermodal units, down 5.5% compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 32 weeks of 2024, Canadian rail reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,114,967 carloads, containers and trailers, up 1.4%.

### **23. Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes National Regulation on Training Requirements to Improve Transit Safety Oversight**

The Biden-Harris Administration continues its focus on keeping public transportation the safest mode of surface travel by finalizing training requirements for transit agency and state agency officials who conduct safety oversight of rail transit operations. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on August 14, 2024, announced a final rule updating FTA's Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program. These updates maintain a uniform safety training curriculum and minimum requirements for rail transit and state safety personnel, building upon existing training requirements for safety professionals.

### **24. Ottawa rejects call to head off Canada rail work stoppage**

The decision by Canada's labor minister to not intervene in contract talks between the country's Class I railroads and unions has upped the risk of a work stoppage within the next week, and both railroads have stopped accepting containerized freight in response. The Port of Vancouver will see the most immediate impact from a Canadian rail strike as the port is already dealing with a sizeable intermodal backlog. Labor Minister Steve MacKinnon declined a request by Canadian National Railway (CN) to invoke a labor law the railroad had argued would "secure industrial peace" in contract talks with Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), his office said in a letter sent on August 15, 2024.

### **25. Railways halt more shipments ahead of potential lockout as bargaining tensions rise**

The country's two main freight railways are turning away a growing number of goods ahead of a potential work stoppage next week that could snarl supply chains and disrupt industry. Canadian National Railway schedules show that, starting Friday, August 23, 2024. It is barring container imports that originate at some ports, including New York City. CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City are also beginning to halt shipments that need cooler temperatures, such as meat and medicine, to avoid seeing stranded loads go bad should a work stoppage occur. The two rail companies have warned that 9,300 engineers, conductors and yard workers will be locked out at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2024, unless they can reach new collective agreements, while the union has also said it is poised for a strike. Both sides remain at the bargaining table after weeks of deadlock over scheduling and wages, with shipments of chlorine for drinking water already halted as part of a phased shutdown poised to progress even further next week. Railways halt more shipments ahead of potential lockout as bargaining tensions rise. On August 18, 2024, CN issued notice to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) formally advising them of its intention to lockout Canadian TCRC-represented employees on Aug. 22 at 00:01 ET unless an agreement or binding arbitration is achieved before that time. Despite negotiations over the weekend, no meaningful progress has occurred, and the parties remain very far apart. CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) report that lockdowns could begin as soon as Aug. 22 unless there is progress at the negotiating table or binding arbitration with Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC).

### **26. Canadian Chamber of Commerce warns of economic fallout as railways issue strike notices**

Pascal Chan, senior director of transportation, infrastructure, and construction at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the potential severity of the rail strike. "The statistic from the Railways Association of Canada is that they move \$380 billion worth of goods annually, so over a billion dollars worth of goods a day, and they're also responsible for half of the country's exports. So yes, [there will be] massive, massive consequences, and especially with everything that goes in and out of the U.S., given that they're our most important trading partner and ally," he said in an interview with *TruckNews.com*. "If there's a lockdown and a work stoppage and everything stops moving, that is, make no mistake, devastating for the economy. It's absolutely terrible." In the event of the railway services stopping, the industry expects increased reliance on the transportation sector to carry the load. Chan said there's 'nowhere near enough capacity' in the transportation system to compensate for the suspended rail operations. "Having both class one freight railways shut down – there's just no substitute for that. It's really unprecedented." The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) echoed these concerns in a statement last week.

### **27. Rail strike would leave Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver commuters in limbo**

Workers in Canada's largest cities may have a more difficult commute starting August 22, 2024, as the country's two largest railways are set to shut down if a deal isn't reached between the companies and the union. Several Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal commuter trains use Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. tracks. If the lockout goes ahead, local transit agencies say there will be service disruptions to passenger rail on the Canadian Pacific tracks they use.

### **28. Trudeau calls on railways, union to reach deal to avoid strike**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on Canada's two largest railways and unionized workers to reach an agreement to avert a strike or lockout that businesses warn will cause significant harm to the Canadian and US economies. Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. plan to lock out more than 9,000 workers from the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference on August 22, 2024 at 12:01 a.m. New York time. The union issued a strike notice to Canadian Pacific for the same time. Trudeau said Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon is meeting with the parties in

Calgary, following a meeting in Montreal on August 20, 2024. “My message has been straightforward: It is in the best interest of both sides to continue doing the hard work at the table to find a negotiated resolution,” Trudeau told reporters on August 21, 2024 in Buckingham, Quebec. “Millions of Canadians — workers, farmers, businesses — right across the country are counting on both sides to do the work and get to a resolution.”

### **29. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 33 and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 17, 2024**

Weekly rail traffic volumes are up again over the prior-year period, according to the latest Association of American Railroads (AAR) report, but for the week ending Aug. 17, 2024 (Week 33), carloads and intermodal units both saw gains. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 516,819 carloads and intermodal units, up 8.0 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending August 17 were 231,081 carloads, up 1.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 285,738 containers and trailers, up 14.3 percent compared to 2023. Eight of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 5,861 carloads, to 21,651; chemicals, up 2,008 carloads, to 33,599; and petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,849 carloads, to 11,267. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 7,409 carloads, to 62,194; and nonmetallic minerals, down 2,110 carloads, to 31,897. Canadian railroads reported 86,349 carloads for the week, down 4.6 percent, and 69,111 intermodal units, down 2.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 33 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,270,427 carloads, containers and trailers, up 1.2 percent.

### **30. Railway carloadings, June 2024**

Canadian railways carried 30.2 million tonnes of freight in June 2024, up 4.9% from June 2023. Higher shipments of iron ores, canola, potash and other cereal grains were the main contributors to this third straight month of year-over-year growth. The volume of freight carried in June 2024 was on par with the five-year monthly average of 30.3 million tonnes. For the first two quarters of 2024, the cumulative volume was 188.8 million tonnes, up slightly (+1.5%) compared with the same period in 2023. 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 increase in June 2024 was entirely attributable to higher volumes of non-intermodal freight loadings, as intermodal loadings and rail traffic from American connections both declined.

### **31. CN Ends Lock Out and Initiates Recovery Plan**

Following Order by Minister of Labour, CN Resumes Train Movements. CN announced on August 22, 2024 that effective 18:00 ET, it ended its lock out and immediately initiated its recovery plan. As CN awaits the formal order from the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB), the Company is making this decision to expedite the recovery of the economy. While CN is satisfied that this labour conflict has ended and that it can get back to its role of powering the economy, the Company is disappointed that a negotiated deal could not be achieved at the bargaining table despite its best efforts.

### **32. Canada’s labor minister puts an end to CN, CPKC work stoppage**

Railroads must resume operations and enter binding arbitration with Teamsters Canada. The Canadian government has moved to end Canada’s freight rail work stoppage — the first to shut down both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City simultaneously. However, while the two railroads say they are preparing to resume operations after Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon sent the dispute to binding arbitration, the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference says it will maintain picket lines while it reviews MacKinnon’s action. And the CBC reports that MacKinnon’s move might not bring an immediate end to the lockouts of TCRC engineers and conductors that began at the two railroads at 12:01 a.m. today (Aug. 22). Also locked out were rail traffic controllers at CPKC represented by the same union.

### **33. Investment aims to complete work on Hudson Bay Railway**

The federal government and Province of Manitoba are investing up to \$60 million into the Arctic Gateway Group to finish work on the Hudson Bay Railway, start to redevelop the Port of Churchill and help the communities and sectors of the economy that depend on the Arctic Gateway Group’s operations. The Arctic Gateway Group is a partnership of 41 First Nation and Bayline communities in Manitoba. The Hudson Bay Railway, owned and operated by the Arctic Gateway Group, is the only year-round, all-weather mode of transportation for both passenger and freight traffic to access several northern Manitoba communities. The rail line is an essential transportation mode for supply chains, local food security and regional connectivity.

### **34. Railways to resume operations; union blasts CIRB ruling**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) said its railway operations will restart in Canada by 12:01 a.m. ET Monday, Aug. 26, following the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) order requiring CPKC and CN Rail to resume operations and Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) employees to resume their duties. “While CN is disappointed an agreement could not be reached at the bargaining table, the company is satisfied that this order effectively ends the unpredictability that has been negatively impacting supply chains for months,” CN said in a

statement. CPKC said it asked TCRC for employees to return to work for the day shift on Sunday (Aug. 25) so it could get the Canadian economy moving again as quickly as possible and avoid further disruption to supply chains.

### **35. BNSF, NS Reach Tentative Agreements with Unions**

Four months before the next collective bargaining round, BNSF and Norfolk Southern (NS) on Aug. 23, 2024 separately reported reaching tentative five-year agreements with the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Division/TCU (BRC); International Association.

### **36. CSX Tentative Agreements with BRC and SMART-TD GO-049 Extended to 12 Unions (Updated Aug. 23)**

Two days after CSX announced that it reached tentative agreements on new five-year collective bargaining agreements with the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (BRC) and General Committee of Adjustment GO-049 of the International, the agreements were extended to 12 unions.

### **37. CPKC's brand value surges in new report**

Canadian rail company CPKC's brand value increased 28 per cent to US\$2.7 billion Brand Finance's Logistics 25 2024 report, and is this year's global logistics brand with the largest brand value growth by percentage, paving the way for the brand to be included in the Brand Finance's global logistics ranking. DoorDash's brand value went up 14 per cent to US\$4.3 billion, holding second place in terms of largest brand value growth as the brand climbed six ranks from 2023 to emerge as the 12th most valuable logistics brand ranked in 2024, while France's dpd placed third with a 10 per cent increase. UPS is the most valuable logistics brand that has been ranked for the past decade, valued at US\$34.6 billion.

### **38. Analysis: Trudeau flip-flop gives Canada railroads win over unions ... for now**

The good news: Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City trains are rolling just days after a work stoppage for the first time shut down most of the country's rail network. The restart of operations on the two largest railroads came after the Canada Industrial Relations Board on Saturday, August 24, 2024 backed an order by Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon ending the lockout and sending the contract dispute between the railroads and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference to binding arbitration. The not-so-good news: While the order bars labor stoppages during arbitration, the TCRC said it would challenge the constitutionality of the decision in court, so it's unclear when the sides will reach agreement on new contracts. Moreover, recent Canadian Supreme Court rulings regarding government-imposed contracts could set up another work stoppage in as soon as a year. It's expected to take several weeks for the supply chain to catch up as idled shipments begin moving again. The railroads had earlier called for government intervention in negotiations but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, unwilling to offend labor and its support for his government, had rejected those pleas throughout bargaining on contracts that expired in December 2023. His speech finally gave railroads what it wanted.

### **39. AAR: North American Rail Volume Up in Week 34**

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on August 29, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending August 24, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 516,807 carloads and intermodal units, up 9.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending August 24 were 228,858 carloads, up 1.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 287,949 containers and trailers, up 17.1 percent compared to 2023. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 5,519 carloads, to 18,914; petroleum and petroleum products, up 951 carloads, to 10,867; and miscellaneous carloads, up 602 carloads, to 9,360. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 5,785 carloads, to 62,543; nonmetallic minerals, down 329 carloads, to 32,891; and metallic ores and metals, down 212 carloads, to 21,812. Canadian railroads reported 65,550 carloads for the week, down 22.0 percent, and 49,890 intermodal units, down 28.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 34 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,385,867 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.5 percent.

### **40. Train movements in Canada close to normal after labor turmoil**

Train movements at Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. are almost back to normal after a short lockout of unionized workers, according to RailState, a provider of real-time rail data. Canadian National train movements were at 96% of pre-lockout levels as of Tuesday, while Canadian Pacific was at 95%, RailState said. The two railways came to a halt Aug. 22 in Canada due to a labor dispute with more than 9,000 workers represented by the Teamsters union. The federal government stepped in the same day, sending the dispute to the Canada Industrial Relations Board. The labor body released a decision Saturday evening that ordered the railways to resume normal operations and prevented workers from striking this week.

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

### 1. MTO DriveON Provides Details of Mobile Inspection Pilot for Trailers

In a notice sent to industry on July 30, 2024, MTO's DriveON program has identified details of a pilot program that will commence to test the capabilities for conducting mobile trailer inspections. MTO's notice highlights this initiative aims to enhance accessibility and convenience for trailer operators, and reduce downtime by overcoming the logistical and capacity constraints of fixed-location inspections. The pilot program will commence on August 1, 2024, and will run until December 31, 2024. MTO aims to include 10 participants in the pilot program to allow for efficient administration and evaluation.

### 2. Five takeaways from TFI International's Q2 earnings call

TFI International is looking at ways to improve margins, while not counting on the general freight markets to help. Total revenue for the quarter came in at \$2.26 billion (US), up from \$1.79 billion in Q2 2023 thanks to contributions from acquisitions, most notably Daseke Group. However, lower freight volumes and a "continued weaker transportation environment" weighed on those gains, Alain Bedard, chairman and CEO of TFI said. Net income slid to \$117.8 million, compared to \$128.2 million in the prior year period. That reflected a one-time charge of \$19.7 million related to the Daseke acquisition. Revenue was up across all segments, including 78% in truckload thanks to the Daseke acquisition and 24% in logistics. But Bedard said on a call with analysts there's still work to be done, and he's not counting on a sharp improvement in freight conditions to make things easy.

### 3. KAG Canada acquires Groupe Sylvain Simard

KAG Canada has acquired Chicoutimi, Que.-based Groupe Sylvain Simard. The company specializes in the transportation of aggregates, chemicals along with cement and aluminum dross throughout eastern Canada, according to a news release. "Acquiring Groupe Sylvain Simard will allow our footprint to expand in Quebec and continue to diversify our commodities in the East," said Lynette McMann, KAG Canada's EVP of operations. "We are looking forward to welcoming our new team members to the KAG Canada team. This acquisition is accompanied by their team of professional drivers, mechanics and office staff along with their hauling equipment."

### 4. Uber Freight sees growth in Canadian market

Uber Freight, an end-to-end enterprise suite powering intelligent logistics, said the company has seen growth in the Canadian market propelled by its collaborative shipping model. Since 2021, Uber Freight's engineered less-than-truckload (LTL) network has expanded by 50 per cent, contributing significantly to the company's overall Canadian market growth. This translates to approximately \$800 million in total freight under management (FUM). "Canada is a crucial market for Uber Freight, and our unique LTL solutions have been a key driver of our success here," said Craig Watson, vice-president and managing director (Canada) at Uber Freight. "Our collaborative network optimizes load combinations and routing, significantly improving reliability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness for shippers across the country."

### 5. ITD opens Ontario's first commercial hydrogen fuelling station

The opening of Ontario's first commercial fuelling station for hydrogen-powered heavy trucks was celebrated July 30, 2024 during a ceremony attended by Premier Doug Ford. ITD Industries and Nikola have constructed the permanent Hyla-branded station at ITD's Etobicoke manufacturing facility, which also serves as Canada's Nikola showroom.

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. MTO DriveON Provides Details of Mobile Inspection Pilot for Trailers, July 30, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

2. 5 takeaways from TFI International's Q2 earnings call, July 30, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

3. KAG Canada acquires Groupe Sylvain Simard, July 30, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

4. Uber Freight sees growth in Canadian market, July 31, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

5. ITD opens Ontario's first commercial hydrogen fuelling station, August 1, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

6. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, June 2024, July 31, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

7. The HW Transportation Group has acquired a Flying J truck stop in Windsor, Ont., August 2, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

8. Freight forwarding report shows market contracted in 2023, August 6, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

9. Feds Looking at Curbing Known Abuse in the TFWP, August 6, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

10. Collaboration, digital tools will help industry overcome challenges: Trimble report, August 7, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

11. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$26.5 Million in Grant Awards for Planning Projects to Restore and Replace Bridges Nationwide, August 7, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

12. US shippers resisting truckload rate hikes amid ongoing market softness, August 7, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

13. Government of Canada invests in infrastructure projects in the Prairies to connect communities and make life cost less, August 8, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

14. Canada sees steady trends in marijuana positive tests among truck drivers since legalization, August 12, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

15. Goodyear Canada invests over \$575M to expand Ontario plant, August 14, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

16. Ontario Upgrading Batchawana Bay Rest Area, August 13, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

17. TFI International acquires Quebec carrier CMW Express, August 15, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

18. USDOT Releases National Deployment Plan for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Technologies to Reduce Death and Serious Injuries on America's Roadways, August 16, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

19. Urban public transit, June 2024, August 19, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

20. Trucking to feel pinch as Canada-Alberta Job Grant put on hold, August 20, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

21. Manitoba highway improvements to enhance region's supply chain network, August 1, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

22. ICYMI: U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Travels to Nevada to Speak to Union Workers, Break Ground on Infrastructure Projects as Part of Summer of Construction Tour,

Nikola produces both battery-electric and hydrogen fuel-cell-electric trucks, and is the only Class 8 manufacturer to offer both options today, said Steve Girsky, Nikola CEO, who was also in attendance. “It is inspiring to witness the vision of a hydrogen-powered future coming to life with the opening of this refuelling station in the Greater Toronto Area,” Girsky said. “Collaborating with ITD Industries, we are not only providing trucks but also the fuelling solutions to support the entire hydrogen ecosystem. This station marks significant progress in our mission to build a comprehensive hydrogen infrastructure in North America.”

#### **6. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, June 2024**

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for June on Statcan website. For June 2024 the index was 136.1 compared to 136.4 a month ago and 127.5 in June 2023. For the period April to June 2024 or the second quarter of 2024, the index rose 1 point from 135.1 to 136.1, this compares with a fall of 2.6 points from 130.1 to 127.5 in 2023.

#### **7. The HW Transportation Group has acquired a Flying J truck stop in Windsor, Ont.**

The HW Transportation Group has acquired a Flying J truck stop in Windsor, Ont. Harry Wadhwa, HWTG founder and president announced on LinkedIn. “We have significant business in this region and we are committed to providing the best service to our customers by having a bigger presence in this community. Also, this fits perfectly with our diversification strategy,” HWTG based in Milton, Ont., includes brands like Canadian Flatbeds, Canadian Reefers, CFL Heavy Haul, Ontario Tarp & Trailer Systems, CFL Specialized Carrier, CFL Truck & Trailer Sales, CFL Logistics Management, Lignes de Camions Zora, and Big Truck Spa & Service.

#### **8. Freight forwarding report shows market contracted in 2023**

The Global Freight Forwarding 2024 report shows the global freight forwarding market continuing to normalize, with demand for air and sea freight forwarding services remaining soft. Challenges arising from a global economic downturn, shifts in consumer behaviour and an oversupply surpassing demand have led the global freight forwarding market to contract by 1.3 per cent in real terms (holding prices and exchange rates constant) in 2023. Key findings from the report include: 1. Global market contracted 1.3 per cent in 2023 and will expand slightly in 2024. 2. Data shows that the total the global freight forwarding market will see a real CAGR of 3.3 per cent over the five years to 2028. 3. 91 per cent of freight forwarders are experiencing increased pressure on margins. 4. Profits and revenues fall ‘back-to-earth’ in 2023 as market returns to ‘normal’. 5. Asia Pacific experienced the third-largest market contraction compared to other regions, but remains the largest region. 6. All of the Top 20 forwarders saw revenue declines in 2023.

#### **9. Feds Looking at Curbing Known Abuse in the TFWP**

Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, convened representatives from Canada’s largest business associations, including CTA, to say the government is willing to hear suggestions on how to weed out misuse and prevent fraud within the Temporary foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The news was welcomed by CTA, which has been calling for a crackdown on the abuse within the TFWP.

#### **10. Collaboration, digital tools will help industry overcome challenges: Trimble report**

Enhanced collaboration via transportation management platforms, real-time freight visibility to guard against freight fraud, and digital tools to speed up and streamline processes will help the transportation industry overcome obstacles it is presently facing. Trimble released a Transporeon report identifying key developments impacting the future of the truckload transportation sector in North America – *The Road Ahead: Key Trends and Capabilities Shaping the North American Freight Transportation Market*. The report highlights the growing importance of Mexico as a source of U.S. imports, sustainability and the electrification of trucking, California’s AB5 bill and freight fraud.

#### **11. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$26.5 Million in Grant Awards for Planning Projects to Restore and Replace Bridges Nationwide**

On August 7, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced more than \$26.5 million in planning grants through the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) competitive Bridge Investment Program, created by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These planning grants, which will fund 28 projects in 18 states, will be used to create a pipeline of future bridge construction projects to improve safety, support economic competitiveness, and make our highway infrastructure more resilient to the effects of climate change.

#### **12. US shippers resisting truckload rate hikes amid ongoing market softness**

Fewer US shippers are expecting significant rate increases from truckload carriers in early 2025 as economic indicators

August 22, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

23. Biden-Harris Administration Provides Millions to Boost Trucking Workforce Programs, August 26, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

24. Feds Tighten Rules for TFWP, August 27, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

25. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Number of Publicly Available Electric Vehicle Chargers Has Doubled Since Start of Biden-Harris Administration, August 27, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

26. Ontario Completes Improvements to Bay of Quinte Skyway Bridge, August 28, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

27. May 2016 North American Freight Numbers, August 28, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

28. March 2015 North American Freight Numbers, August 28, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

29. Cleo providing Quebec charging infrastructure for Purolator, August 28, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

30. Team work, technology will help combat cargo theft: CargoNet, August 29, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

and reports point to slower economic growth than recently anticipated and uncertainty about freight demand. Spot US truckload rates have risen since May 2024 but are sticking close to last year's prices. The national average dry-van spot rate from DAT Freight & Analytics was \$1.64 per mile for the week ending Aug. 4, 2024 up 1 cent per mile from the same week one year ago. Uber Freight said truckload demand rose 1.2% in the second quarter from a year earlier, but the logistics firm expects a slow supply-driven truckload recovery.

### **13. Government of Canada invests in infrastructure projects in the Prairies to connect communities and make life cost less**

On August 8, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$46.3 million for three projects under the National Trade Corridors Fund in Canada's Prairie provinces. These projects will make products cost less, support economic growth, and better connect communities and regions across Canada. The Government of Canada will contribute up to: 1. \$9.5 million to Perimeter Aviation to renovate and expand the existing Perimeter Aviation terminal building at the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport. 2. \$25 million to the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Highways to upgrade three highways in Northern Saskatchewan. 3. \$11.8 million to the Town of Oyen, Alberta, to expand the Oyen Rail Yard.

### **14. Canada sees steady trends in marijuana positive tests among truck drivers since legalization**

Despite the legalization of marijuana in Canada and several U.S. states, the rate of positive drug tests among Canadian cross-border truck drivers has remained consistent. This is according to Jonathan Davids, corporate medical director of DriverCheck Inc., Canada's provider of workplace medical testing and assessments. He says the stability highlights the critical role of testing, education, and supervisor training in maintaining road safety. "In regulated trucking, where drivers cross into the U.S. and are subject to Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, the positivity rates hover around 1%," said Davids. However, the rates for non-regulated trucking involving domestic routes are about 7%. This is based on 'hundreds of thousands' of annual tests for regulated trucking companies and 'tens of thousands' of tests per year for non-regulated companies.

### **15. Goodyear Canada invests over \$575M to expand Ontario plant**

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company is investing more than \$575 million to modernize and expand its plant in Napanee, Ont., which Goodyear says will create an energy-efficient, end-to-end manufacturing process and increase its production capacity, including EV and all-terrain tires. The project will create 200 new, highly skilled manufacturing jobs by 2027 and secure more than 1,000 jobs in Napanee. Goodyear says this project will get its Napanee plant to net-zero emissions by 2040.

### **16. Ontario Upgrading Batchawana Bay Rest Area**

The Ontario government is making travel easier for drivers and truck drivers in northern Ontario by investing more than \$6 million to upgrade the Batchawana Bay rest area on Highway 17 north of Sault Ste. Marie. The rest area is being expanded to accommodate commercial vehicles and support the safe movement of people and goods across the region.

### **17. TFI International acquires Quebec carrier CMW Express**

TFI International has acquired Beauce, Que.-based carrier CMW Express and its subsidiary FRL Express. Headquartered in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, the company also has facilities in Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce. The company specializes in truckload and less-than-truckload transport, serving Quebec, the Maritimes, Ontario and the eastern United States, [Transport Routier](#) reported. It also handles specialized and dangerous goods transportation.

### **18. USDOT Releases National Deployment Plan for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Technologies to Reduce Death and Serious Injuries on America's Roadways**

On August 16, 2024, as part of its commitment to reducing deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the Saving Lives with Connectivity: A Plan to Accelerate V2X Deployment. This plan will guide the implementation of vehicle-to-everything technologies across the nation and support USDOT's commitment to pursue a comprehensive approach to reduce the number of roadway fatalities to zero.

### **19. Urban public transit, June 2024**

In June 2024, the number of urban transit passenger trips in Canada totalled 125.8 million compared to 119.6 million for June 2023, more than 82% of the June 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Total revenue excluding subsidies for June 2024 was \$304.8 million compared to \$309.9 million for May 2024 and \$286.7 for June 2023.

### **20. Trucking to feel pinch as Canada-Alberta Job Grant put on hold**

Alberta's trucking industry will feel the pain of recently announced funding cuts that have put the Canada-Alberta Job Grant (CAJG) on hold. Carriers have relied on these funds to offset safety training costs and truck driving schools have banked on students who have utilized CAJG to cover the cost of training. "As a result of Ottawa's unexpected and unreasonable decision to cut \$70.8 million in Labor Market Transfer Agreement funding for Alberta, our government has been forced to put an indefinite hold on the Canada-Alberta Job Grant program for the remainder of the 2024-25 fiscal year," Matt Jones, Alberta's minister of jobs, economy and trade said in a recent statement. "As a result of this

cut, Alberta's employers will be short roughly \$10 million in skills and training funding for 2024-25. This means approximately 1,000 businesses, and the training for up to 4,000 Albertan employees, will be impacted."

#### **21. Manitoba highway improvements to enhance region's supply chain network**

The Manitoba government is providing more than \$39 million to repair and improve highways and culverts throughout Manitoba's Parkland region to improve the supply chain network. "Our government continues to get work done that builds and strengthens essential roadways and improves infrastructure for rural residents and their communities, which connect them to neighbouring areas and ensure smooth transportation of goods and services," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Lisa Naylor. "Our investment strategy in highways is robust and we are on track to build up areas that have been ignored for too long."

#### **22. ICYMI: U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Travels to Nevada to Speak to Union Workers, Break Ground on Infrastructure Projects as Part of Summer of Construction Tour**

In the week of August 11, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg traveled to Nevada to continue his Summer of Construction Tour and celebrate investments made possible by the Biden-Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Across the country, projects are underway to improve safety and the way people get around their communities, create new opportunities for American workers and small businesses, and strengthen our supply chains and lower the costs of everyday goods.

#### **23. Biden-Harris Administration Provides Millions to Boost Trucking Workforce Programs**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on August 26, 2024 announced awards totalling nearly \$3.5 million to 27 colleges and other commercial driver's license (CDL) training programs through the agency's Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST) Grant Program. These grants will help improve roadway safety by providing additional training for current CDL holders and creating new pathways for career opportunities as drivers in the commercial motor vehicle industry.

#### **24. Feds Tighten Rules for TFWP**

Prime Minister Trudeau announced more changes to the Low Wage Stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). This follows changes recently announced by Minister Boissonnault in a meeting with stakeholders [earlier this month](#). It was announced that the government will be making significant changes to the Low Wage Stream of the TFWP in Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) as defined by Statistics Canada across the country. The following changes to the Low Wage Stream of the TFWP will take effect in four weeks: 1. A refusal to process Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) applications for low-wage jobs in metropolitan areas (using CMA definitions) where the unemployment rate is 6 percent or higher. 2. A return to the pre-pandemic cap of no more than 10 percent of an employer's low-wage workforce can be temporary foreign workers. This change will take effect in all regions. 3. A reduction in the maximum duration of employment from two years to one year. Additionally, over the next 90 days, Minister Boissonnault will be undertaking a review of further aspects of the TFWP.

#### **25. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Number of Publicly Available Electric Vehicle Chargers Has Doubled Since Start of Biden-Harris Administration**

The Biden-Harris Administration on August 27, 2024 announced \$521 million in grants to continue building out electric vehicle (EV) charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure across 29 states, eight Federally Recognized Tribes, and the District of Columbia, including the deployment of more than 9,200 EV charging ports. This new EV infrastructure will increase access and reliability to communities across the country and provides EV charging to light-, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles along designated highways, interstates, and major roadways. The funds are a part of the Biden-Harris Administration's goals to support the growth of a convenient, affordable, reliable and Made-in-America national network of EV chargers so drivers can charge close to home, at work, and along significant corridors throughout the U.S.

#### **26. Ontario Completes Improvements to Bay of Quinte Skyway Bridge**

The Ontario government has completed major improvements to the Bay of Quinte Skyway Bridge that serves as an important connection to Highway 401 for communities in Prince Edward County and hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit wine country every year.

#### **27. May 2016 North American Freight Numbers**

Trucks carried more U.S. freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in May 2016 compared to May 2015 but declines in all other freight modes led to a 3.1 percent decrease to \$89.8 billion in the total current dollar value of cross-border freight. May was the 17th consecutive month that the total value of U.S.-NAFTA freight declined from the same month of the previous year, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

#### **28. March 2015 North American Freight Numbers**

U.S.-NAFTA freight totalled \$96.1 billion in March 2015 as three out of five transportation modes – air, rail, and truck – carried more U.S.-NAFTA freight than in March 2014, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released on August

28, 2024 by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Table 1). Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows by all modes decreased by 5.3 percent. The value of NAFTA trade by pipeline and vessel declined in March due to the reduced unit price of mineral fuel shipments.

### **29. Cleo providing Quebec charging infrastructure for Purolator**

Cleo has been tapped to deploy electric charging infrastructure for Purolator's fleet in Montreal and Laval, Que. The company says it will provide turnkey service, conducting the design, installation, commission and grid connection of Purolator's movable charging infrastructure. Two DC Level 3 fast chargers, 50 Level 2 charging stations and related power units will be installed. Cleo said Purolator was seeking a modular, scalable charging system that was also relocatable. Cleo will also offer smart charging management support and ongoing infrastructure maintenance services. "We are thrilled to contribute to Purolator's decarbonization efforts. As a leader in transportation and courier services, Purolator's influence will encourage other industry players, both small and large, to embark on their own green transition — an endeavor that aligns perfectly with Cleo's mission," Emmanuelle Toussaint, vice-president, commercial at Cleo, said in a news release.

### **30. Team work, technology will help combat cargo theft: CargoNet**

Combatting cargo theft is a team sport in which carriers, truckers, shippers and brokers must work together to thwart technically savvy criminals. "It's a surgical strike, the bad guys are using technology. They've figured out what's on the trailer before they attack it," said Keith Lewis, vice-president of operations with CargoNet during a webinar organized by the Truckload Carriers Association. He added that in the past, domestic criminals were involved. Now, the threat is global. Thefts been traced back to 22 countries. And they are using sophisticated methods including fictitious pickups, diverted loads and altered bills of lading. "The bad guys are taking advantage of the speed and efficiency built in the supply chain. The faster we can move goods, the faster they can steal them." Only 10% of cargo theft is reported in the U.S. "It's a serious problem and it's getting worse. Sunlight is the best solution, so let's get some transparency on it," Lewis urged.

## **GENERAL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Canada**

#### **1. Medline Canada expands its distribution space in Manitoba**

Medline Canada, a medical supplies manufacturer and distributor, is expanding its western operations with a new 46,000-square-foot distribution centre in Rosser, Man., doubling its current warehouse space in the province. Over the last decade, Medline Canada has expanded its supply chain network nationally while growing product offerings, capabilities and market share. Medline's expansion in Manitoba follows the company's recent opening of a 160,000-square-foot western distribution hub in Rocky View County, Alta., north of Calgary.

#### **2. Cycling and Scooting Through the Years**

The [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#) (BTS) released the annual update of bikeshare and electric scooter (e-scooter) system data. The dataset includes cities with a bikeshare (docked or dockless) and/or e-scooter system in operation as of June 30th in each year from 2015 to 2024. As of June 30, 2024, 54 docked bikeshare systems open to the public operated 8,862 docking stations in the U.S. One docked bikeshare system closed in July 2024 bringing the number of docked bikeshare systems down to 53 and the total number of stations to 8,838. Excluding the system that closed in July 2024, on average, each system operated 167 docking stations. The largest system (Citi Bike serving New York City, NY; Jersey City, NJ; and Hoboken, NJ) operated just over 2,000 stations, and six systems had 10 or fewer stations. As of June 30, 2024, there are 60 dockless bikeshare systems and 194 e-scooter systems (not counting systems limited to college or employer campuses), down from 66 and 240, respectively, in 2023. These dockless bikeshare systems served 49 cities and e-scooters served 130 cities.

#### **3. July 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.7%)**

## **GENERAL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Canada**

1. Medline Canada expands its distribution space in Manitoba, August 1, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
2. Cycling and Scooting Through the Years, August 1, 2024, [www.bts.gov](#)
3. July 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.7%) Rises Above the July 2023 Level (4.9%) And the Pre-Pandemic July 2019 Level (4.2%), August 2, 2024, [www.bts.gov](#)
4. Travelling with your pets in Europe, August 2, 2024, [www.europa.eu](#)
5. Economy still growing, but could be slowing enough for Fed to lower interest rates this year, August 2, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
6. Canadian international trade in services, June 2024, August 6, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
7. Canadian international merchandise trade, June 2024, August 6, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
8. June 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.3% from the Previous Month and Up 0.7% from the Same Month Last Year, August 7, 2024, [www.bts.gov](#)
9. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, July 2024, August 12, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
10. U.S. DOT Awards \$2.4 Million to 12 Small Businesses for the Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative, August 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](#)
11. Union ratifies new agreement with Ontario logistics firm, August 13, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
12. Humanoid robot industry expected to reach \$138.09 billion by 2033, August 15, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
13. Less plastic waste means cleaner beaches, August

## Rises Above the July 2023 Level (4.9%) And the Pre-Pandemic July 2019 Level (4.2%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 5.7% (not seasonally adjusted) in July 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 July 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 0.8 percentage points from 4.9% in July 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic July 2019 level of 4.2%. 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 July 2024 was 4.5% or 1.2 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in July 2024 was 4.3%.

### 4. Travelling with your pets in Europe

It's not just EU citizens who enjoy freedom of movement within the European Union. Thanks to the adoption of harmonised EU rules on travelling with pets, your cats, dogs, and indeed, ferrets, also enjoy this right too. If you're travelling this summer around the EU with your four-legged friend, simply *make sure their EU pet passport is up to date*. An EU pet passport contains a description and details of your pet, including its microchip or tattoo code, as well as its rabies vaccination record and

contact details of the vet who issued the passport. *You can get an EU pet passport for your dog, cat or ferret from any authorised vet*. The most important requirement, which also applies to pets travelling to the EU from a non-EU country, is that your pet's vaccination against rabies is up to date. And, in case you are travelling to a country that is free from the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* (i.e. Finland, Ireland, Malta, Norway and Northern Ireland), it's important that your pet has had a treatment against this tapeworm.

### 5. Economy still growing, but could be slowing enough for Fed to lower interest rates this year

Key elements of the economy are still growing but appear to have slowed enough to be on track for the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates later this year, National Retail Federation Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz said on August 2, 2024. "The consumer environment has kept the expansion on a positive path toward a 'soft landing' despite high interest rates," Kleinhenz said. "Meanwhile, inflation has not yet been fully tamed, but we are seeing progress." Kleinhenz's comments came in the August issue of NRF's Monthly Economic Review, which said year-over-year gross domestic product growth rebounded to 2.8% in the second quarter, doubling the 1.4% seen in the first quarter and working out to 2.1% for the first six months of the year. Inflation as measured by the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index followed by the Fed fell to 2.6% year over year from 3.4% in the first quarter. That was still above the Fed's target of 2%, but inflation was driven mostly by prices for services and was near-zero for retail goods. In addition, "Job growth has been lumpy but has clearly moderated and is likely to keep the Federal Reserve on course to begin cutting interest rates later this year," Kleinhenz said. The three-month average for payroll gains slowed to 177,000 jobs in June from 267,000 in March, showing that the economy is growing but cooling. Hiring fell from 5.7 million jobs in May to 5.3 million in June, and job openings fell from 8.23 million to 8.18 million in the same period.

### 6. Canadian international trade in services, June 2024

Canada's monthly international trade in services deficit widened from \$1.0 billion in May 2024 to \$1.1 billion in June 2024. Overall, imports of services increased 1.6% to \$18.3 billion, and exports of services were up 0.6% to \$17.2 billion. Imports of commercial services rose 1.8% to \$10.5 billion in June 2024, mainly because of higher payments for financial services. Imports of travel services increased 2.5% to \$4.7 billion on higher spending by Canadian travellers visiting US destinations. Exports of transportation services rose 4.3% to \$1.7 billion in June 2024. Transportation services related to the shipment of goods drove the increase, as exports of goods experienced strong monthly growth. Exports of commercial services (+0.5%) also rose.

### 7. Canadian international merchandise trade, June 2024

In June 2024, Canada's merchandise exports increased 5.5%, while imports rose 1.9%. Consequently, after three consecutive monthly deficits, Canada's merchandise trade balance with the world moved from a deficit of \$1.6 billion in May 2024 to a surplus of \$638 million in June 2024. Total exports were up 5.5% in June 2024, the largest percentage

15, 2024, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

14. Small- to medium-sized businesses slow to invest in AI, says report, August 15, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

15. Traffic Flow Dashboard, August 15, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

16. CTA Urges Suspension of Carbon Tax on Diesel, Excise Tax Relief in Pre-Budget Submission, August 15, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

17. CTA: CBSA Must be Prepared for CARM Implementation on Oct. 21, August 16, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

18. Leveraging network effects to mitigate risk, August 19, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

19. Supply Chain Canada enters into new agreements with provincial partners, August 20, 2024, [www.ctl.ca](http://www.ctl.ca)

20. Advanced warehouses in Canada and U.S. drive North American logistics robot market share, August 21, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

22. Travel between Canada and other countries, June 2024, August 23, 2024, [www.statca.gc.ca](http://www.statca.gc.ca)

23. Canada to restrict low-wage foreign workers, consider lower immigration targets, August 26, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

24. Canada to hit China with tariffs on electric vehicles, steel, August 26, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

25. National Travel Survey, first quarter 2024, August 28, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

26. Visitor Travel Survey, first quarter 2024, August 28, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

increase since February 2024. Overall, 9 of the 11 product sections increased. In June 2024, crude oil and unwrought gold accounted for more than three-quarters of the increase in the value of total exports. In real (or volume) terms, exports rose 3.8% in June 2024. Total imports increased 1.9% to \$66.0 billion in June 2024, a level virtually identical to the all-time high seen in June 2022. Overall, increases were observed in 9 of the 11 product sections in June 2024. In real (or volume) terms, total imports increased 1.3%.

#### **8. June 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.3% from the Previous Month and Up 0.7% 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, fell 0.3% in June 2024 from May 2024, after a one-month increase, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From June 2023 to June 2024 the index rose 0.7%

#### **9. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, July 2024**

In July 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 6.5% from July 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 1.4 million in July 2024, up 7.9% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad by air reached 1.5 million, a 11.6% increase from July 2023. By automobile, US residents took 1.9 million trips to Canada in July 2024, up 5.5% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips by automobile also rose, up 3.7% year over year to reach 2.7 million trips in July 2024.

#### **10. U.S. DOT Awards \$2.4 Million to 12 Small Businesses for the Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative**

On August 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that it intends to award a total of \$2.4 million in contracts to twelve (12) American small businesses from across the country to leverage advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve transportation. With funding from the Department's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the Complete Streets AI Initiative is a multi-phase effort to develop robust new decision support tools for state, local, and Tribal transportation agencies that assist in the sitting, design, and deployment of Complete Streets, which are streets and networks that prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for all people who use them.

#### **11. Union ratifies new agreement with Ontario logistics firm**

Union members ratified a new collective agreement on Aug. 9, 2024 with warehousing firm HCL Logistics, ending an 18-day strike. Members of Unifor Local 27 said in a release that they secured a wage increase in the new agreement. "Local 27's fight for fairness has resulted in a contract that ensures wages and working conditions keep up with Ontario's rising costs of living," said Unifor national president Lana Payne. The three-year contract increases wages by more than 17 per cent by 2027. The agreement also improves health and safety procedures and augments the boot allowance. HCL Logistics provides warehousing and logistics support to companies large and small. The 147 members of Local 27 began strike action July 22. The new contract will expire in July 2027.

#### **12. Humanoid robot industry expected to reach \$138.09 billion by 2033**

The global humanoid robot market is on a trajectory of rapid growth, with industry projections estimating a market valuation of US\$138.09 billion by 2033, according to market research company *The Brainy Insights*. This reflects a significant increase from the current valuation of US\$1.38 billion in 2023. Labour shortages in industries such as manufacturing and logistics have accelerated the adoption of humanoid robots to perform repetitive and physically demanding tasks, enhancing efficiency and productivity. The market's expansion is also fuelled by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics technology and the increasing adoption of humanoid robots across various industries.

#### **13. Less plastic waste means cleaner beaches**

Since July 3, 2024 single-use plastic bottles sold in the EU must come with their caps or lids attached. This may seem a small change, but its impact could be huge. Plastic caps or lids are part of the *almost 26 million tonnes of plastic waste generated every year in Europe*, much of which washes up on beaches around the world. Some *80% of marine litter is plastic*. Why was the caps change introduced? It's just one of the outcomes of the *EU law on single-use plastics*.

#### **14. Small- to medium-sized businesses slow to invest in AI, says report**

Research into today's largest supply chain trends has revealed that only 23 per cent of small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are investing in artificial intelligence (AI). Netstock's latest Inventory Management Benchmark Report highlights issues like AI adoption, rising inventory challenges and best practices for optimization across supply chains in 2024.

#### **15. Traffic Flow Dashboard**

Statistics Canada has launched the Traffic Flow Dashboard as a source of experimental statistics to provide information on the traffic flow on selected road segments in the cities of Calgary and Toronto. This dashboard shows traffic count

data that are obtained from traffic camera imagery using a computer vision-based system developed at Statistics Canada's Data Exploration and Integration Lab.

#### **16. CTA Urges Suspension of Carbon Tax on Diesel, Excise Tax Relief in Pre-Budget Submission**

The Canadian Trucking Alliance outlined a path to a greener trucking industry and a fairer tax and policy system in its pre-budget submission for 2025. CTA president Stephen Laskowski said “The trucking industry needs to be a part of the solution to a zero-carbon based transportation sector. The industry is currently spending billions of dollars on technologies to reduce its carbon footprint and we continue this financial commitment towards capital purchases and operational practices designed to reduce carbon. In turn, the Government of Canada policy and regulations must come to the hard realization of the technological limitations for the trucking industry in obtaining this solution and an understanding that the journey towards zero emission engines for the heavy truck industry is a long one.”

#### **17. CTA: CBSA Must be Prepared for CARM Implementation on Oct. 21**

Since the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) *announced another delay* to the long-awaited launch of the CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management (CARM) system, the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) has continued to reach out to members for feedback about the initiative, with fleets indicating that CBSA must continue to work with industry to alleviate border fluidity concerns, and be ready to implement CARM as scheduled on October 21, 2024. CARM is a digital initiative which will modernize collection and taxation of goods entering Canada.

#### **18. Leveraging network effects to mitigate risk**

From Jan. 1, 2023, through 2024, *TriumphPay* has prevented \$113.58 million in potential losses through the capabilities of the *TriumphPay* Network. An upcoming white paper by *FreightWaves*, in partnership with *TriumphPay*, examines how the Network identified and prevented potential losses for Network participants. The Network is modernizing and simplifying freight transactions. By exchanging real-time structured data, the Network reduces inefficiency, automates secure transactions, and provides personalized cash flow solutions to network participants. Handling over \$51 billion in unique brokered freight transactions annually, the Network has the data density required to verify real-time data, detail trends, and prevent losses. This allows it to serve as the data source of truth for its broker partners. This article details the data demonstrating these potential losses identified and prevented due to fraud, bad data, incorrect bank account information, as well as additional friction related to misdirected payments.

#### **19. Supply Chain Canada enters into new agreements with provincial partners**

Supply Chain Canada says it has solidified its relationships across the country and entered into new agreements with its institute partners. “Some 14 months ago the decision was made that the Federation Council was not working and in order to move forward as an association we had to do things differently,” said Michael Whelan, board chair, Supply Chain Canada. “I am pleased to advise that the Federation Council has been dissolved and we have implemented new bilateral affiliation agreements with our provincial institute partners. As a long-standing member of Supply Chain Canada, I am grateful to the association for taking this step to securing our future.”

#### **20. Advanced warehouses in Canada and U.S. drive North American logistics robot market share**

The use of robots in the logistics market is expected to jump over the next decade, reaching US\$33.08 billion by 2032, according to SNS Insider Research. Online shopping is seen as one of the key drivers of the increase, which the report indicates will grow by nearly US\$25 billion in 10 years. In 2023, with e-commerce sales accounting for 22 per cent of U.S. retail and average order values hitting US\$90, retailers are under growing pressure to provide fast delivery. In order to keep up with the need for quicker shipping, companies are making big investments in automation technologies such as logistics robots to improve warehouse functions and boost the effectiveness of order processing.

#### **21. ICYMI: U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Travels to Nevada to Speak to Union Workers, Break Ground on Infrastructure Projects as Part of Summer of Construction Tour**

In the week of August 11, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg traveled to Nevada to continue his Summer of Construction Tour and celebrate investments made possible by the Biden-Harris Administration’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Across the country, projects are underway to improve safety and the way people get around their communities, create new opportunities for American workers and small businesses, and strengthen our supply chains and lower the costs of everyday goods.

#### **22. Travel between Canada and other countries, June 2024**

In June 2024, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada represented 93.7% of the number observed in June 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. US residents took 2.9 million trips to Canada in June 2024, and residents of overseas countries took 745,900 trips. The number of returning Canadian residents reached 90.0% of the level recorded in June 2019 as Canadian residents returned from 3.8 million trips abroad in June 2024. Using seasonally adjusted data, compared with May 2024, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada (-2.0%) and returning Canadian-resident arrivals (-1.5%) both decreased in June 2024. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard.

#### **23. Canada to restrict low-wage foreign workers, consider lower immigration targets**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is urging businesses to hire Canadians as his government announces new restrictions to limit low-wage temporary foreign workers. Ottawa is also considering whether to reduce its immigration targets for permanent residents. Speaking to reporters at the Liberal cabinet retreat in Halifax, Trudeau said his government loosened the rules to help The Liberal government, which has been criticized for the recent influx of temporary foreign workers, is bringing back pre-pandemic rules that made it more difficult for businesses to hire low-wage workers from abroad. But the economic situation is different now, he said, and Canada “no longer needs as many temporary foreign workers.” “We need Canadian businesses to invest in training and technology and not increasing their reliance on low-cost foreign labor,” Trudeau said. “It’s not fair to Canadians struggling to find a good job, and it’s not fair to those temporary foreign workers, some of whom are being mistreated and exploited.”

#### **24. Canada to hit China with tariffs on electric vehicles, steel**

Canada will impose new tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, aluminum and steel, lining up behind western allies and taking steps to protect domestic manufacturers. The government announced a 100% levy on electric cars and 25% on steel and aluminum, confirming an earlier report from Bloomberg News. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveiled the policy Monday in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he’s gathered with the rest of his cabinet for a series of meetings about the economy and foreign relations. The surtax on electric vehicles will take effect Oct. 1 and will also include certain hybrid passenger automobiles, trucks, buses and delivery vans. It will be added to an existing 6.1% tariff that applies to Chinese EVs. The levies on aluminum and steel will come into place Oct. 15. The government released an initial list of goods on Monday and the public will have a chance to comment before it is finalized on Oct. 1, 2024. Trudeau’s government is also launching a new 30-day consultation on other sectors, including batteries and battery parts, semiconductors, solar products and critical minerals. “We are transforming Canada’s automotive sector to be a global leader in building the vehicles of tomorrow,” Trudeau told reporters in Halifax.

#### **25. National Travel Survey, first quarter 2024**

During the first quarter, Canadian residents took 66.3 million trips in Canada and abroad, down 0.3% from the same quarter of 2023 (66.5 million) but up 4.3% from the same quarter of 2019 (63.5 million). Most (85.6%) of the trips taken in the first quarter of 2024 were domestic, while 9.0% were trips to the United States and 5.4% were trips taken overseas. In the first quarter, Canadian residents took 56.8 million domestic trips, down 2.5% from the first quarter of 2023 (58.2 million) but up 4.6% from the same quarter of 2019 (54.2 million), before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of domestic overnight trips was 17.9 million in the first quarter of 2024, while the number of same-day trips totalled 38.9 million. Most of the domestic trips taken by Canadian residents in the first quarter were to visit friends or relatives (24.1 million) or for holiday, leisure or recreation (18.5 million).

#### **26. Visitor Travel Survey, first quarter 2024**

In the first quarter, Canada welcomed 4.3 million visitors from the United States and overseas, representing 90.4% of the number of trips taken in the same quarter of 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. From January to March 2024, more than three-quarters (77.9%) of these visitors were from the United States. In the first quarter, spending in Canada by non-resident visitors totalled \$3.3 billion, almost on par with the \$3.4 billion in expenditures in the same quarter of 2019. On average, these visitors spent \$767 per trip in the first quarter of 2024.