

Transportation Information Update*

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AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. Lynx Air passengers - Important information about cessation of air operations

If you are affected by Lynx Air's cessation of air operations, the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) suggests the following: 1. Passengers who are stranded or who have purchased a ticket for future travel with Lynx Air should contact their travel agent or transportation provider as soon as possible to see if it is possible to make alternative arrangements. If not, they may need to secure their own alternative travel arrangements. For passengers that have outstanding complaints about Lynx Air filed with the CTA, or that wish to file a complaint against this air carrier: 1. As a result of a court order by the Court of King's Bench of Alberta on Feb. 22, 2024, all proceedings, including complaints filed with the CTA, against Lynx Air are stayed and suspended pending further order of the Court. 2. Passengers who paid for their tickets by credit card should contact their credit card company to see what they are eligible for. 3. If travel insurance was purchased, passengers should contact the insurance company to see if their coverage includes such circumstances. 4. If passengers purchased their travel arrangements from a travel agent that is registered in Ontario, Quebec or British Columbia, they may be eligible for a refund from the provincial government authorities responsible for travel.

2. Porter announces pair of Newfoundland routes coming to Eastern Canada this summer

Porter Airlines is bringing more of its elevated economy experience to Newfoundland travellers this summer. This includes launching the only non-stop Ottawa-St. John's flight on the market, and the introduction of Deer Lake as a new destination, with service to Halifax. Daily roundtrip Ottawa and St. John's flights start June 6, 2024. It's the first time in five years that any Canadian carrier has served the route. A Porter hub, Ottawa offers passengers connecting flights from St. John's to over a dozen destinations in Canada and the U.S. This includes Western Canada cities like Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg, plus Orlando, Boston and New York. This route will be served by the Embraer E195-E2, the quietest single-aisle aircraft on the market. It features 132 seats configured two-by-two (which means no middle seats!), and fast, free WiFi for all passengers. Deer Lake is the newest pin on the Porter map, with daily roundtrip service connecting the Newfoundland summer destination with Halifax as of June 4, 2024.

3. 2023 Safest Year for Flying By Several Parameters

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released its [2023 Annual Safety Report](#) for global aviation. Aviation continues to make progress on safety with several 2023 parameters showing "best-ever" results. There were no hull losses or fatal accidents involving passenger jet aircraft in 2023. However, there was a single fatal accident involving a turboprop aircraft, resulting in 72 fatalities. There were 37 million aircraft movements in 2023 (jet and turboprop), an increase of 17% on the previous year. Report highlights include: 1. The all accident rate was 0.80 per million in 2023 (one

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

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2. Porter announces pair of Newfoundland routes coming to Eastern Canada this summer, February 27, 2024, www.flyporter.com
3. 2023 Safest Year for Flying By Several Parameters, February 28, 2024, www.iata.org
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8. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, January 2024, March 1, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
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14. U.S. Airlines' January 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon Down 3.4% from December 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 2.3% from Pre-Pandemic January 2019, March 8, 2024, www.bts.gov
15. 70 per cent of Air Canada pilots willing to walk away if pay doesn't improve, union boss says, March 9, 2024, www.nationalpost.ca
16. Air Canada and CAE Announce 2024 Judy Cameron Scholarship Winners, March 8, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
17. ICYMI: Secretary Buttigieg and other USDOT Leaders Celebrate Major Investments in Airports Across the Country as Part of Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America Tour, March 8, 2024, www.dot.gov

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accident for every 1.26 million flights), an improvement from 1.30 in 2022 and the lowest rate in over a decade. This rate outperformed the five-year (2019-2023) rolling average of 1.19 (an average one accident for every 880,293 flights). 2. The fatality risk improved to 0.03 in 2023 from 0.11 in 2022 and 0.11 for the five years, 2019-2023. At this level of safety, on average a person would have to travel by air every day for 103,239 years to experience a fatal accident. 3. IATA member airlines and IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registered airlines experienced no fatal accident in 2023. 4. A single fatal accident occurred in 2023, on a turboprop aircraft, resulting in 72 fatalities. This is reduced from five fatal accidents in 2022 and an improvement on the five-year average (2019-2023) which was five.

4. Air Canada Cargo Named 2024 ATW Cargo Operator of the Year

Air Canada and Air Canada Cargo are honoured to have been named the 2024 Cargo Operator of the Year as part of the 50th annual ATW Airline Industry Achievement Awards, the first Canadian operator to be bestowed the award. Air Canada Cargo Named 2024 ATW Cargo Operator of the Year. Air Canada Cargo was recognized for its digital transformation as a key pillar of its commercial strategy, including a customer-centric digital environment that provides valuable self-serve scheduling and booking tools. Air Canada Cargo has also moved customer accounts to a cloud-based system, reducing the need for paper air waybills.

5. Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, December 2023

During 2023, there were a total of 5.5 million aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports. This was 5.5% higher than in 2022 and roughly 90% of the movements recorded in 2019. Itinerant movements rose 8.8% year over year to 260,236, while local movements climbed 27.7% to 92,044.

6. Air Canada Named one of Montreal's Top Employers for the 11th Consecutive Year

Air Canada has once again been recognized as one of Montreal's top employers for 2024 in the latest edition of the Montréal's Top Employers Awards. This respected award is a reflection of the company's commitment to employees and its continuous efforts to create a positive and inclusive work environment.

7. Secretary Buttigieg Announces Proposed Rule to Ensure Passengers Who Use Wheelchairs Can Fly with Dignity

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on February 29, 2024 announced a new proposed rule from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that

would ensure airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity. The proposed rule would require that airlines meet rigorous standards for accommodating passengers with disabilities safely and with dignity. The proposal will set new standards for prompt, safe, and dignified assistance, mandate enhanced training for airline employees and contractors who physically assist passengers with disabilities and handle passengers' wheelchairs and specify actions that airlines must take to protect passengers when a wheelchair is damaged during transport. Notably, the proposed rule also would make it easier for DOT to hold airlines accountable when they damage or delay the return of a wheelchair by making it an automatic violation of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) to mishandle wheelchairs.

8. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, January 2024

In January 2024, 4.3 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, an increase of 10.2% from January 2023. However, January 2024 traffic was 2.6% below the volume in January 2020, pre-COVID-19 pandemic. This was the second straight month in which traffic was below pre-pandemic levels, after having surpassed them for five consecutive months from July to November 2023. In January 2024, other international traffic (outside the United States) was up 17.0% year over year. The number of passengers screened for these international flights, at 1.4 million, was 4.7% higher than the level reported in January 2020, marking the fourth consecutive month in which international traffic exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

9. Air Travel Consumer Report: December 2023, Full Year 2023 Numbers

18. Lufthansa Cargo profit tumbled 86% last year, March 7, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
19. An end-to-end solution for dangerous goods, March 8, 2024, www.iata.org
20. Building collaborative relationships in the Americas, March 13, 2024, www.iata.org
21. Investment to improve air access to northern Manitoba and Ontario, March 14, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
22. December 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 9.5% from the Same Month in 2022, March 14, 2024, www.bts.gov
23. Improving services for air passengers with disabilities: Transport Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada to hold National Air Accessibility Summit, March 18, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca; and Canadian Airports Council welcomes Accessibility Summit, March 18, 2024, www.cacairports.ca
24. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 1159 Jobs in January 2024; Employment Remains 5.8% Above Pre-Pandemic, March 19, 2024, www.bts.gov
25. JetBlue cuts unprofitable routes in flight network overhaul, March 19, 2024, www.ajot.com
26. Air Canada Completes Closing of U.S.\$2.15 Billion Senior Secured Credit Facilities, March 21, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
27. Secretary Buttigieg Announces First Industry-Wide Privacy Review of U.S. Airlines, March 21, 2024, www.dot.gov
28. UPS continues growth investments in Asia Pacific with new Philippines hub, March 21, 2024, www.ajot.com
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32. Air Canada Issues Annual Report Highlighting its Achievements in 2023, March 26, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
33. Air Canada Wins 2024 APEX Best in Entertainment Award in North America, March 27, 2024, www.aircanada.ca

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on March 1, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of December 2023 and calendar year 2023 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, and oversales. In 2023, airline service quality generally improved. Notably, only 1.29% of flights were cancelled across the 10 largest U.S. airlines, far below the 2.71% cancellation rate for 2022, 1.76% for 2021, 5.99% for 2020, and 1.90% for 2019. Across the National Airspace System, the 2023 cancellation rate was under 1.2% – the lowest in over a decade. Meanwhile, airlines reported better on-time performance. Further, the rate of wheelchair, scooter, and baggage mishandlings as well as denied boardings all decreased, as did the number of tarmac delays.

10. Kuehne+Nagel operating profit cut 50% in 2023

Global logistics powerhouse Kuehne+Nagel suffered substantial revenue and profit erosion in 2023, including the final quarter, as excess air and ocean capacity combined with a post-COVID slow down in trade lowered rate levels, hurting bottom lines across the freight transportation sector. Executives said they are seeing some stabilization in demand, but don't expect a huge improvement this year. In conjunction with Friday's (March 1, 2024) quarterly results, Kuehne+Nagel announced an agreement to acquire City Zone Express, a Malaysia-based trucking company that operates across borders throughout Southeast Asia. The motor carrier has 260 vehicles, 500 employees and 860,000 square feet of warehouse space. Completion of the deal is expected later this year.

11. Air Cargo Demand up 18.4% in January

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for January 2024 global air cargo markets indicating a strong start to 2024. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), increased by 18.4% compared to January 2023 levels (19.8% for international operations). This significant upturn marks the highest annual growth in cargo tonne-kilometers since the summer season of 2021. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres (ACTKs), was up 14.6% compared to January 2023 (18.2% for international operations). This was largely related to the growth in belly capacity. International belly capacity rose 25.8% year-on-year (YoY) on the strength of passenger markets. "Air cargo demand was up 18.4% year-on-year in January 2024. This is a strong start to the year. In particular, the booming e-commerce sector is continuing to help air cargo demand to trend above growth in both trade and production since the last quarter of 2023. The counterweight to this good news is uncertainty over how China's economic slowdown will unfold. This will be on the minds of air cargo executives meeting in Hong Kong next week for the IATA World Cargo Symposium with an agenda focused on digitalization, efficiency and sustainability," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

12. From the runway to the Strip with Porter's inaugural Las Vegas flight

Porter Airlines is celebrating the inauguration of daily roundtrip flights between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Las Vegas Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) on March 5, 2024. Passengers begin their trip in style with Porter's elevated in-flight experience, which includes complimentary beer and wine served in real glassware, free premium snacks, and free WiFi, available to all travellers. Everyone can stream their favourite content or access Porter's inflight entertainment portal on their personal devices. Fresh, healthy meals, pre-mixed cocktails and additional snack options are also available on the new Las Vegas-Toronto Pearson route. Passengers can enjoy these additional features, either as part of PorterReserve all-inclusive fares or for purchase à la carte in PorterClassic. The route is operated by the Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, featuring a 132-seat, all-economy, two-by-two configuration. There are no middle seats on any Porter flight.

13. Passenger Demand Up 16.6% in January

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for January 2024 global passenger demand indicating a strong start for the year. *Total demand*, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), was up 16.6%; total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 14.1%; and the load factor was 79.9% (+1.7pt). *International demand* rose 20.8%; capacity was up 20.9% and the load factor remained at 79.7% (+0.0pt). *Domestic demand* rose 10.4%; capacity was up 4.6% and the load factor was 80.2% (+4.2pt). "2024 is off to a strong start despite economic and geopolitical uncertainties. As governments look to build prosperity in their economies in the busiest election-year ever, it is critical that they see aviation as a catalyst for growth. Increased taxes and onerous regulation are a counterweight to prosperity. We will be looking to governments for policies that help aviation to reduce costs, improve efficiency and make progress towards net zero CO2 emissions by 2050," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

14. U.S. Airlines' January 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon Down 3.4% from December 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 2.3% from Pre-Pandemic January 2019

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics on March 24, 2024 released U.S. airlines' January 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.456 billion gallons of fuel, 8.1% less fuel than in December 2023 (1.584 billion gallons) and 2.3% more than in pre-pandemic January 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in January 2024 (\$2.70) was down 10 cents (3.4%) from December 2023 (\$2.80) and

up \$0.79 (41.5%) from January 2019. Total January 2024 fuel expenditure (\$3.93B) was down 11.2% from December 2023 (\$4.43B) and up 44.7% from pre-pandemic January 2019. Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for January 2024 include 1.8% decrease in domestic fuel consumption, 19.5% decrease in domestic fuel cost, and 18.1% decrease in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption decreased 9.7% from December 2023 to January 2024, while increasing 0.8% from January 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

15. 70 per cent of Air Canada pilots willing to walk away if pay doesn't improve, union boss says

“It’s not justifiable that our American counterparts — flying the same airplanes, same airspace, same routes — that they’re making twice as much as us, if not more,” declares Charlene Hudy, first officer on the 737 Max and chair of the Air Canada pilots union. For the past seven months, Hudy, 41, has been hammering this message at the negotiating table with Air Canada, demanding parity with American counterparts on behalf of the nearly 5,300 pilots on Air Canada’s roster. A decade ago, pilot salaries at Air Canada and United Airlines were nearly equal; today, the Americans earn twice as much. Canadian pilots took a cut to help airlines survive 9/11. Now they make half of what American pilots do. Union boss says that 70 per cent of Air Canada pilots willing to walk away if pay doesn't improve,

16. Air Canada and CAE Announce 2024 Judy Cameron Scholarship Winners

On March 8, 2024, International Women's Day, Air Canada and CAE are proud to announce the eight winners of the 2024 Captain Judy Cameron Scholarships. The two Montreal-based global aviation companies have again joined forces, to award scholarships to eight women from across Canada who are pursuing careers as commercial pilots or aircraft maintenance engineers. The four CAE recipients training to become commercial pilots will become CAE Women in Flight program ambassadors and play a key role in encouraging more women to pursue careers in aviation. The Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship, now in its fifth year, was established in honour of Air Canada's first female pilot. Scholarships are awarded annually by Air Canada and CAE in conjunction with the Northern Lights Aero Foundation, to foster the next generation of women in aviation.

17. ICYMI: Secretary Buttigieg and other USDOT Leaders Celebrate Major Investments in Airports Across the Country as Part of Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America Tour

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Deputy Secretary Transportation Polly Trottenberg and Under Secretary of Transportation Carlos Monje made stops around the country over the past few weeks to celebrate nearly \$1 billion to improve airport terminals. In total, as part of this year’s round of funding from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the DOT was able to support projects at 114 airports across the country to improve the passenger experience, from wider concourses and new gates, to more efficient baggage systems and modern security screening areas. The historic investment will also make airports more accessible and efficient, while creating good-paying jobs.

18. Lufthansa Cargo profit tumbled 86% last year

Sharply lower yields due to excess capacity from passenger flights combined with higher costs led to an 86% plunge in Lufthansa Cargo’s operating profit in 2023, underscoring how challenging the year was for the entire air logistics industry. Lufthansa Group reported its third best financial results in history, but the cargo subsidiary was battered by lower demand and rates as the global economy returned to more normal patterns following the COVID crisis. With more predictable supply chain activity and weak economic growth in Europe, there was less need for faster transportation options. Lufthansa Cargo has 17 Boeing 777 cargo jets and an additional one on the way.

19. An end-to-end solution for dangerous goods

Aviation has always taken the carriage of dangerous goods seriously. As far back as 1956, IATA devised what was then known as restricted articles regulations. These were continually updated and in 1984 put on a more formal footing through ICAO Annex 18. Recently, IATA and ICAO reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate on this critical area of safety and operations. IATA’s Director General, Willie Walsh, says the new agreement ensures that dangerous goods will continue to be handled according to the highest globally applicable standards and will also “lead to more efficient and robust supply chains while upholding aviation’s number one priority of safety.” Annex 18 outlines the core principles of safely transporting dangerous goods. IATA takes these principles to develop practical tools and operational recommendations for the industry, the most important of which is the *Dangerous Goods Regulations* publication, now in its 65th edition. The *DGR* is 1,000-plus pages of crucial guidance and best practices in the carriage of all types of dangerous goods. Following the *DGR* allows operators to comply with all existing regulations. “Importantly, the *DGR* considers the different conditions in which airlines operate on a daily basis,” says David Wall, IATA’s Director, Safety and Cargo Operational Compliance Solutions. “Looking at the regulations as well as State and operator variations helps airlines make better decisions and ensures they can handle dangerous goods safely and consistently. The *DGR* is also applicable across the supply chain so ground handlers, forwarders, and shippers find it equally useful.”

20. Building collaborative relationships in the Americas

Broadly, airlines in the Americas posted solid growth in traffic demand and increasing revenues. “Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico all had record years in aspects of air connectivity,” says Peter Cerda, IATA’s Regional Vice President for the Americas. “The improvements were driven to a large degree by pent-up demand, with the region becoming more attractive to travelers thanks to new connections.” Both international and intra-regional networks have developed significantly since the pandemic. Key routes, such as Bogota-Madrid or Mexico City-Madrid are now served by multiple flights per day, offering departures every three hours on average. Intra-regional connectivity, meanwhile, is overcoming previous shortfalls with more direct connections, particularly between secondary cities. Although IATA is predicting a \$0.4 billion loss for the Latin American region in 2024, airlines are generally in better shape. Those that went through Chapter 11 have come out stronger, leaner, and better able to compete on the global stage. And those going through the process now are also expected to emerge more competitive according to reports.

21. Investment to improve air access to northern Manitoba and Ontario

Westcap Mgt. Ltd. has made an investment in Northway Aviation LP and Northway Aircraft Leasing LP (collectively, Northway). Northway is a regional aviation company, providing remote Manitoba and Ontario communities with scheduled and chartered passenger and freight transportation services. Founded in 1962, the company has remained owned by members of the Johnson family and, over its 60-year history serving the populations of northern Manitoba and Ontario, Northway has developed a reputation for industry leading safety, reliability and service.

22. December 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 9.5% from the Same Month in 2022

U.S. airlines carried 78.7 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in December 2023, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, December 2023 enplanements are up 0.5% from 2023 November and reached a new all-time high the all-time high reached in December 2023. BTS reported 67.9 million domestic passengers and 10.8 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in December 2023, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 and complete data since 2000.

23. Improving services for air passengers with disabilities: Transport Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada to hold National Air Accessibility Summit

On March 18, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, and the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, Kamal Khera, announced that Transport Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada will co-host Canada’s first National Air Accessibility Summit, which will take place on May 9, 2024, in Ottawa. The National Air Accessibility Summit will convene a range of participants across Canada representing the air sector as well as representatives from the disability community. It will focus on: 1. discussing issues currently facing passengers with disabilities; 2. working to identify potential solutions and action plans to address ongoing issues; and 3. reporting on progress made since the coming into force of the Accessible Canada Act in 2019, and the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations in 2022. The Canadian Airports Council (CAC) welcomed Ministers Rodriguez and Khera’s announcement of a National Air Sector Accessibility Summit to be held in May. This summit will be an excellent opportunity for our sector to engage with government, industry stakeholders and the disability community on this important subject.

24. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 1159 Jobs in January 2024; Employment Remains 5.8% Above Pre-Pandemic

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment decreased to 795,554 workers in January 2024, 1,159 (0.14%) fewer workers than in December 2023 (796,713) and 45,215 (5.85%) more than in pre-pandemic January 2020 (750,339). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 536,416 workers in January 2024. Passenger airlines added 744 employees in January 2024. United Air Lines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 478 employees; American Air Lines added 257, and SkyWest Air Lines added 205. Delta Airlines lost 503 employees. U.S. cargo airlines employed 254,608 workers in January 2024. Cargo carriers lost 1,787 employees in January. While other carriers gained employees, FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 2,117 jobs based on revised 2023 data.

25. JetBlue cuts unprofitable routes in flight network overhaul

JetBlue Airways Corp. will eliminate unprofitable routes in California and Florida and drop service to several cities in South America, a sweeping overhaul of its network as the carrier looks to cut costs after growth attempts were twice blocked by the US government. The carrier plans to cut nearly a third of its flights out of Los Angeles International Airport in June, including routes to Las Vegas, Miami and San Francisco, the airline said in a memo Tuesday March 19, 2024 to employees. Flights between Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and cities including Atlanta, New Orleans and Salt Lake City will also be eliminated. “With less aircraft time available and the need to improve our financial performance, more than ever, every route has to earn its right to stay in the network,” Dave Jehn, vice president of network planning and airline partnerships, said in the letter. JetBlue is turning its focus inward after three years of failed legal battles to save

an operating partnership with American Airlines Group Inc. in the US Northeast and then to preserve an acquisition of Spirit Airlines Inc.

26. Air Canada Completes Closing of U.S.\$2.15 Billion Senior Secured Credit Facilities

Air Canada announced on March 21, 2024 that it has completed the closing of U.S.\$2.15 billion senior secured credit facilities, comprised of (i) a U.S.\$1.175 billion term loan B maturing in 2031 (the "Term Loan") and (ii) a U.S.\$975 million revolving credit facility maturing in 2029 (the "Revolving Facility" and, together with the "Term Loan", the "Senior Credit Facilities"). The aggregate gross proceeds of the Term Loan, together with cash from Air Canada balance sheet of U.S.\$1.09 billion, are being applied to refinance all of Air Canada's indebtedness outstanding under its existing U.S.\$2.265 billion term loan B maturing in 2028. The Revolving Facility, which is the result of an upsize and extension of Air Canada's existing U.S.\$600 million revolving credit facility previously maturing in 2025, is undrawn as of the date hereof, and any future borrowings thereunder would be intended to fund working capital and other general corporate purposes of Air Canada and its subsidiaries. Concurrently with the closing of the Senior Credit Facilities, Air Canada also terminated its undrawn C\$200 million revolving credit facility maturing in 2026.

27. Secretary Buttigieg Announces First Industry-Wide Privacy Review of U.S. Airlines

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on March 21, 2024 announced the Department of Transportation (DOT) will undertake a privacy review of the nation's ten largest airlines regarding their collection, handling, maintenance, and use of passengers' personal information. The review will examine airlines' policies and procedures to determine if airlines are properly safeguarding their customers' personal information. In addition, DOT will probe whether airlines are unfairly or deceptively monetizing or sharing that data with third parties. As DOT finds evidence of problematic practices, the Department will take action, which could mean investigations, enforcement actions, guidance, or rulemaking.

28. UPS continues growth investments in Asia Pacific with new Philippines hub

Global logistics leader UPS has taken the value of its investment commitments in Asia Pacific to over \$250m since the start of 2023. The investments include the company's recent agreement with The Luzon International Premiere Airport Development Corporation (LIPAD) to expand its operations at Clark Airport (CRK) in the Philippines. The move will enable UPS to further strengthen its portfolio of integrated express, supply chain and healthcare logistics services. "Asia Pacific continues to be one of UPS's fastest growing regions. UPS has continued to invest in our network to maximize speed and flexibility, build solutions addressing the shift of global trade lanes, and offer resilience for our customers," said Wilfredo Ramos, president, UPS Asia Pacific.

29. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, February 2024

In February 2024, 4.2 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, an increase of 11.2% from February 2023. Screened passenger traffic in February 2024 was just below (0.4% lower) the number posted in February 2020, marking the third consecutive month in which passenger volumes did not reach levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2024, there were 1.3 million passengers screened for international flights, up 18.9% over the same month in 2023. Because 2024 is a leap year, February 2024 had 29 days, while February 2023 had 28 days.

30. Driving digitalization in the air cargo supply chain

Hong Kong International Airport has been the world's busiest air cargo hub for many years, resuming its position at the top after a temporary, pandemic-induced hiatus in 2020. Its speedy return is largely down to the e-commerce boom, with a significant percentage of the world's online purchases funnelling through Hong Kong from the Greater Bay Area. But Hong Kong was ready for the business—which exceeded 4 million tons in total in 2023—and boasts some of the world's leading cargo facilities. Rather than rest on their laurels, however, the key players at the air cargo hub are thinking ahead. A UPS hub is expected to begin operation in 2028 handling around 1 million tons per annum, joining a DHL hub of similar size that opened in 2023. DHL has a partnership with Cathay Cargo through Cathay's dedicated cargo subsidiary, Air Hong Kong, which operates overnight express services to 14 Asian destinations. Meanwhile, some HKD70 million has been invested in cool dollies—mobiles fridges that ensure temperature-controlled goods maintain integrity from aircraft to warehouse—which will complement certification in IATA's Center of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Fresh program. Indeed, the airport and home carrier, Cathay Cargo, possess the full suite of CEIV certifications, with Pharma, Live Animals, and Lithium Batteries making up the portfolio.

31. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, January 2024

In January, aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports totalled 317,569, down 5.9% from January 2023. Local movements fell 15.7% year over year to 79,012, while itinerant movements declined 2.1% to 238,557. At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 6.8 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in January 2024, with the passenger load factor at 83.1%.

32. Air Canada Issues Annual Report Highlighting its Achievements in 2023

Air Canada on March 26, 2024 issued its 2023 Annual Report highlighting the carrier's achievements for the year. In

addition to its strong financial results, including record annual revenue, the airline made progress on key strategic initiatives. The report is available in the Investor Relations section of www.aircanada.com. Air Canada Issues Annual Report Highlighting its Achievements in 2023 (CNW Group/Air Canada) "Air Canada delivered very strong results in 2023. We met key financial objectives and advanced or exceeded most of our strategic and operational goals for the year, demonstrating our ability to perform consistently," said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada.

33. Air Canada Wins 2024 APEX Best in Entertainment Award in North America

Air Canada has earned the 2024 APEX Best in Entertainment Award in North America for its in-flight entertainment (IFE) offering, presented last night at the APEX Awards in Lisbon. This is the first time the airline has won this APEX award, which is based on ratings the organization received from thousands of passengers who flew with Air Canada. John Moody, Managing Director, Onboard Product at Air Canada said "I am extremely proud of the recognition as 2024 APEX Best in Entertainment Award in North America, reflecting the unparalleled entertainment offering onboard our aircraft..."

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. HOPA Ports sees 9% bump in 2023 throughput

The 2023 navigation season saw a combined total cargo of 11,293,179 tonnes (MT) through the ports of Hamilton and Oshawa. The season saw a total of 665 vessels, with 603 in Hamilton and 62 in Oshawa, taking advantage of the longest ever Seaway shipping season. Commodities transiting the Ports of Hamilton and Oshawa represent approximately 30 percent of total cargo transiting the Canada-US Great-Lakes Seaway system. HOPA's cargo totals rose by nine percent in 2023 versus a 3.38 percent increase in the Seaway system cargo as a whole.

2. Union accuses Autoport of using 'scab' labour

Striking Unifor workers at Halifax's Autoport terminal are accusing the employer of bringing in illegal replacement workers. Unifor Local 100 members commenced a legal strike at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Unifor Local 100 represents 239 employees at the Autoport vehicle processing and transshipment hub, situated in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Operating under CN Rail, Autoport stands as one of the most extensive facilities of its kind in North America, processing and transshipping close to 185,000 vehicles annually.

3. Port Houston starts new year on the rise

Port Houston has had a great start to the year as its total container volumes have exceeded any other January on record at its facilities. In the first month of this year, total container volumes reached 332,961 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), which is a 4% increase compared to the same month last year. "Import and export demand through Houston remains strong and we are certainly off to a great start in 2024," said Roger Guenther, Executive Director at Port Houston. In fact, container imports increased by 3% in January to 154,493 TEUs, which were driven primarily by strong imports from China in advance of the Lunar New Year. Loaded export volumes also soared, up 9% from the same period last year and totalling 124,137 TEUs. This set a new Port Houston record for loaded exports in January. Looking toward Port Houston's multipurpose facilities, steel volumes declined by 46% in January 2024 compared to the same month last year. Total tonnage across all of Port Houston's terminals declined by 6% in January, totalling 4,187,541 tons.

4. Minister of Transport announces amendments to the Marine Safety Fees Regulations

On February 28, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced amendments to the Marine Safety Fees Regulations to modernize vessel registry fees. The amendments will come into force

WATER TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. HOPA Ports sees 9% bump in 2023 throughput, February 27, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. Union accuses Autoport of using 'scab' labour, Feb. 28, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
3. Port Houston starts new year on the rise, February 28, 2024, www.ajot.com
4. Minister of Transport announces amendments to the Marine Safety Fees Regulations, February 28, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
5. Fishers' Wharf Reconstruction Project, Port of Cap-aux-Meules, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, February 28, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca; and New step in the fishers' wharf reconstruction project at the Port of Cap-aux-Meules in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, February 29, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
6. Port of Montreal signs with in-water contractor for Contrecoeur, February 29, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
7. PRPA and Kitsumkalum sign relationship agreement, February 29, 2024, www.portofprincerupert.com
8. Red Sea and Panama Canal disruptions: 2024 implications for shippers, March 4, 2024, www.ajot.com
9. IMC acquires American Pacific Transportation, March, 2024, www.ajot.com
10. Jensen sees shift of cargoes back to U.S. West Coast ports, March 6, 2024, www.ajot.com
11. SSA Marine and Port of San Diego introduce zero emissions cargo handling equipment, March 6, 2024, www.ajot.com
12. Deadly ship attack means Red Sea voyages need re-think, union says, March 7, 2024, www.ajot.com
13. Intermodal Briefs: Port NOLA, Port of Oakland, March 7, 2024, www.railwayage.com
14. Port of Vancouver on course for record breaking cruise season in 2024, March 8, 2024, www.metrovancouverport.ca
15. Chinese-made cranes used at Canadian ports flagged as security concern by U.S., March 11, 2024, www.financialpost.ca
16. January volume indicates strong start to 2024 at the Port of NY and NJ, March 11, 2024, www.ajot.com

April 1, 2024. This is a step forward to modernize marine safety and services in Canada. These amendments ensure that Transport Canada's services are sustainably funded and efficiently delivered. Furthermore, these regulations shift a portion of this cost burden from taxpayers to those who directly benefit from these services, like vessel owners.

5. Fishers' Wharf Reconstruction Project and New step in the fishers' wharf reconstruction project at the Port of Cap-aux-Meules in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine

In August 2022, the Government of Canada announced a new investment of nearly \$40 million to rebuild the fishers' wharf at Transport Canada's port in Cap-aux-Meules - a major transportation, fishing, and tourism gateway to Quebec's Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Since the announcement of the reconstruction project, important steps have been reached. Among other things, Transport Canada met with wharf users in the winter and fall of 2023 to inform them about the reconstruction project and to discuss their wharf operations and needs. A pre-conceptual study was also completed to define the project. Transport Canada owns the Port of Cap-aux-Meules, which includes several harbour facilities, including the fishers' wharf. On February 29, 2024, the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, on behalf of Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, announced the awarding of a contract to design and prepare plans and specifications for the reconstruction of the fishers' wharf at the Port of Cap-aux-Meules in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. The contract, with a value of \$2,681,831 million (including taxes), was awarded to the Centre d'affaires Henri IV joint venture by Public Services and Procurement Canada following a public competitive process.

6. Port of Montreal signs with in-water contractor for Contrecoeur

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has entered into an agreement with Contrecoeur Terminal Constructors General Partnership (CTCGP), formed by firms Pomerleau and Aecon, that will assist the MPA in the design of the in-water works for its Contrecoeur expansion project through a progressive design-build (DB) approach.

7. PRPA and Kitsumkalum sign relationship agreement

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) and the Kitsumkalum First Nation are pleased to announce that they have entered into a Relationship Agreement that will govern how the two organizations work together for years to come. The agreement was formally ratified last year, through a community-hosted signing ceremony on Kitsumkalum Laxyuup (territory). The agreement is founded on the shared principles of mutual understanding and openness, respect, trust, commitment, building the economy, and stewarding the environment.

8. Red Sea and Panama Canal disruptions: 2024 implications for shippers

When disruption in the Red Sea co-occurred with ongoing water level challenges in the Panama Canal, shippers were eager to understand immediate supply chain impacts. That uncertainty led many to build contingency plans to address short-term implications. However, due to lower overall demand, those short-term issues have not been as disruptive as many anticipated. Despite this, global and domestic shippers cannot ignore the longer-term cascading impacts that may follow in the coming months. Mike Short, President of Global Forwarding at C.H. Robinson indicates what shippers need to know now about rates, capacity, and the ports as they plan for Q2 through Q4 this year: 1. Capacity Changes May Impact Ocean Rates; 2. Potential Delays In and Out of Ports and Rail Terminals could occur; 3. Selecting the Right Port Will Streamline U.S. Surface Transportation; and 4. Prioritize Disruption Planning in 2024.

17. Great Lakes Ports Issue 2024 Policy Priorities, March 12, 2024, www.jot.com
18. USDOT Announces \$500 Million For Ports Available Through the Port Infrastructure Development Program, March 12, 2024, www.dot.gov
19. Port of Galveston making traffic improvements to manage Growth, March 13, 2024, www.ajot.com
20. Montreal port employers lose bid to make dockwork an 'essential service', March 14, 2024, www.joc.com
21. Trade rises at Port of Long Beach in February, March 14, 2024, www.ajot.com
22. Transport Canada announces funding to increase capacity at the Port of Thunder Bay, March 15, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
23. The Panama Canal averts a crisis for now — but at a cost to drinking water, March 15, 2024, www.ajot.com
24. Borderlands Mexico: Container shipments from China to Mexico skyrocketed in January, March 17, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
25. Two Lake Superior ports see commercial upgrades, March 18, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
26. Cargo still growing in 2024 at ports of LA, Long Beach, March 18, 2024, www.cargo.com
27. Port of Los Angeles' Seroka says potential 2% to 5% cargo shift to West Coast, March 19, 2024, www.ajot.com
28. Port of New Orleans' container-on-barge service has record year, March 19, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
29. Port of Toronto sees uptick in construction materials, March 21, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
30. US House passes 'OSRA 2.0' to set new curbs on China's shipping industry, March 21, 2024, www.joc.com
31. Transport Canada announces a modernized agreement with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, March 22, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca; and Modernized Agreement with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, March 22, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
32. Vancouver port cargo volumes grew 6% in 2023, March 22, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com; Strong Canadian exports support record 2023 trade volumes through the Port of Vancouver, March 22, 2024, www.metroportofvancouver.com
33. Vancouver hit by new round of rail congestion amid early year import surge, March 25, 2024, www.joc.com
34. SC Ports efficiently works big ships as imports increase, March 25, 2024, www.ajot.com
35. Minister of Transport announces funding to relieve congestion in supply chains and enhance infrastructure at the Port of Montréal, March 25, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
36. No timeline for Baltimore port reopening following bridge collapse, March 26, 2024, www.joc.com; and Container ship causes Baltimore bridge to collapse, many missing, March 26, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

9. IMC acquires American Pacific Transportation

IMC Logistics, the largest marine drayage provider in the nation, has acquired American Pacific Transportation, a leading California-based drayage company. This acquisition further bolsters IMC's position as the industry leader in the U.S. while also significantly increasing the company's position and truck capacity in California and across the West Coast. "As a result of this acquisition, we will have more than 500 trucks in California, signifying our commitment to our customers in this region," says Joel Henry, Chief Executive Officer for IMC. This growth will also result in two new locations for IMC in Lompoc and Calexico, California. "The transition should be seamless," says Henry. "We already have so much in common including 42+ years of dedicated expertise, similar values, a commitment to customer service as our top priority, and an eagerness to provide superior care and capacity for our growing client base."

10. Jensen sees shift of cargoes back to U.S. West Coast ports

Lars Jensen, principal at Vespucci Maritime based in Copenhagen, Denmark, says there is a shift of some East and Gulf Coast cargoes going back to the U.S. West Coast. Jensen spoke to *AJOT* at the TPM conference taking place at Long Beach, California produced by S&P Global. Jensen said that cargoes were moving back to the West Coast because of uncertainties over ILA labor contracts with East and Gulf Coast ports plus some cargoes that had shifted away from the West Coast due to labor uncertainties are now shifting back after ratification of the contract with West Coast longshore workers. The added factor has been delays at the Panama Canal due to low water related to prolonged drought and attacks against shipping accessing the Suez Canal. Jensen noted that the Red Sea crisis is causing carriers to avoid the Suez Canal and sail around the African continent which has boosted ocean carrier revenues and prevented the idling of vessels. Once the Suez Canal reopens, there will be a decline in carrier revenues. Some of the factors examined were: 1. Shifting Box Volumes Back To West Coast; 2. Panama Canal Prospect; 3. Red Sea Conflict Benefits Ocean Carriers; 4. Suez Canal Impact On Africa; and 5. Trade Shifting Away From China.

11. SSA Marine and Port of San Diego introduce zero emissions cargo handling equipment

SSA Marine announced on March 6, 2024 that it has put into service the first of six pieces of zero-emissions cargo handling equipment that the company will introduce at the Port of San Diego's Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal over the next 12 to 18 months, while the Port of San Diego has completed the initial installation of the electrical infrastructure needed to support the operation of this equipment. The first piece of zero-emissions equipment that SSA Marine is putting into operation at the terminal is a 55,000-pound capacity Wiggins Yard eBull battery electric forklift. This large-capacity vehicle is one of the largest zero-emissions heavy-duty forklifts in operation in the United States and can lift up to 25 metric tons. Named "The Carrillo," the electric forklift recognizes the accomplishments of SSA Marine Regional Vice President and San Diego County native Joe Carrillo who facilitated the arrival of the first large-capacity electric forklift fleet in the country, including 26 Wiggins Yard eBull electric forklifts at SSA Marine terminals at the Port of West Sacramento and the Port of Stockton. SSA Marine, one of the world's largest independent marine terminal operators, is a leader in the testing and deployment of low and zero-emissions technologies at marine terminals, and the Wiggins Yard eBull is the industry's first commercialized large capacity, zero-emissions forklift manufactured in the United States.

12. Deadly ship attack means Red Sea voyages need re-think, union says

A major transport union urged a full halt of merchant ships sailing through the Red Sea, adding to calls for vessels to reconsider the voyages after a Houthi militant attack killed three sailors. "We call on the industry to divert ships around the Cape of Good Hope until safe transit through the Red Sea can be guaranteed," the International Transport Workers' Federation said in a statement. "No delivery window is worth the loss of seafarers' lives." The ITF lobbies for seafarer rights by acting alongside more than 700 affiliate trade unions. It followed a similar appeal by Nautilus International, one of the world's largest crewing unions earlier on March 7, 2024. Two crew members from the Philippines and another from Vietnam died on March 6, 2024 when the Yemen-based Houthis attacked the bulk commodities vessel *True Confidence* in the Gulf of Aden. At least two other sailors were injured. The incident marks the first deaths of crew members in the militants' campaign against commercial shipping in one of the world's busiest waterways, and follows the recent sinking of another vessel. It also raises questions about how much risk shipowners are willing to accept while trying to keep their crews and cargoes safe. Most merchant vessels are already avoiding the region by sailing around Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

13. Intermodal Briefs: Port NOLA, Port of Oakland

The Port of New Orleans' (Port NOLA) container-on-barge service sets a new record. Also, Port of Oakland's January container volume continues to rise. Port NOLA marked 20,500 container moves by barge during calendar year, the highest since starting the service in 2016 with the *Port of Greater Baton Rouge* and *Ingram Marine Group*, the Port recently reported. The partnership, Port NOLA says, "represents the largest container-on-barge network in the U.S. with connectivity to the nation's heartland." Container-on-barge moves containers by water rather than by truck on roads to reduce air emissions, moving an average of 30,000 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) per year between New Orleans, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, Memphis and St. Louis. "We are poised to expand this service even

further in the coming years,” said Port NOLA President & CEO, Brandy D. Christian. “This is one more example of Port NOLA working alongside our partners to provide innovative solutions for global supply chain disruptions while simultaneously honoring a commitment to sustainability.”

14. Port of Vancouver on course for record breaking cruise season in 2024

The first cruise ship of the season, the Disney Wonder, arrives in Vancouver on Monday, March 11—kicking off what is expected to be another record season for the industry locally. There are 329 cruise ship visits currently scheduled for the Canada Place cruise terminal at the Port of Vancouver between March 11 and October 29, 2024. This could mean a record 1.27 million passengers would travel through the Canada Place cruise terminal at the Port of Vancouver in 2024, about 2% more than last year’s record. “We expect 2024 to be another strong season for the award-winning Canada Place cruise terminal, as we solidify Vancouver as a premier homeport servicing the popular Alaska market,” said Mandy Chan, manager of cruise services at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency mandated to enable Canada’s trade through the Port of Vancouver. “Cruise is an important part of Vancouver’s vibrant tourism sector that supports countless local hospitality and tourism businesses and jobs. We look forward to working alongside our cruise line and industry partners to ensure another successful season.”

15. Chinese-made cranes used at Canadian ports flagged as security concern by U.S.

Chinese-made cargo cranes that have been flagged as a security concern by an ongoing congressional probe in the United States are widely deployed throughout *Canada’s ports*. A House of Representatives’ joint committee said its investigation turned up evidence of cellular modems on the Chinese-made port cranes that “do not appear in any way to contribute to the operation ... raising significant questions as to their intended applications.”

16. January volume indicates strong start to 2024 at the Port of NY and NJ

The Port of New York and New Jersey started the new year with robust volume and auto numbers. Total volume for January 2024 rose by 3.4 percent from the previous year, totaling 667,346 TEUs (368,099 containers), compared to 645,430 TEUs (358,046 containers) in January 2023. Autos posted double-digit gains, as 35,302 autos moved through the Port of New York and New Jersey in January, a 22.1 percent rise compared to January 2023. The port was the second busiest in the nation for loaded imports and exports in January 2024, handling 447,514 loaded TEUs. This was 2.6 percent above January 2023 levels. Imports were up 5.8 percent in January versus the previous year. January 2024 imports totaled 342,790 TEUs (189,699 containers), while 323,981 TEUs (180,197 containers) were posted in January 2023. Import empties rose by 27.1 percent this January compared to 2023. Exports decreased by 6.7 percent from January 2023 to January 2024, tallying 104,724 TEUs (55,890 containers), compared to 112,269 TEUs (60,506 containers) in January 2023. Export empties totalled 217,878 TEUs in January versus 207,643 TEUs in January 2023, a 4.9 percent increase. Rail volume fell slightly (1.3 percent) from the previous year’s figure in January 2024, totalling 53,013 containers.

17. Great Lakes Ports Issue 2024 Policy Priorities

At their winter meeting in Washington, DC last week, the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) adopted the following policy agenda for 2024. AGLPA works to promote public policies that enhanced maritime commerce on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System. In brief: 1. Distribute of Port Infrastructure Grants Equitably. 2. Improve Great Lakes Icebreaking Services. 3. Eliminate the Corps of Engineers’ Great Lakes Navigation Maintenance Backlog. 4. Complete the Soo Lock Project. 5. Improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services. 6. Harmonize the Seaway Navigation Season with the Soo Locks. 7. Stand Up the Great Lakes Authority. 8. Reform Great Lakes Pilotage. 9. Maintain Safe and Efficient Commerce Through the Chicago Area Waterway System. 10. Fund the Great Lakes. 11. Create a Restoration Initiative. 12. Provide State Assistance for Port Infrastructure.

18. USDOT Announces \$500 Million For Ports Available Through the Port Infrastructure Development Program

As a part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$500 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 funding through MARAD’s Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). Investments made under the PIDP focus on modernizing the Nation’s coastal and inland waterway ports as well as strengthening its supply chains and economic security for generations to come. PIDP funds will also aid in the reduction of carriers’ shipping time, costs and ultimately the price of goods for the American people. The Biden-Harris Administration’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$500 million annually, from FY 2022-FY 2026, in funding for the Program.

19. Port of Galveston making traffic improvements to manage Growth

As cruise passenger counts continue to climb at the Port of Galveston, the port has several major projects underway to improve traffic flow in and around our cruise terminals. It is taking best practices from Cruise Terminal 10, which opened in November 2022, and incorporating them at terminals 25 and 28. These terminals opened years before the port handled the large ships and passenger volumes of today. The port will do the same as it plans the Cruise Terminal 16 complex set to open in late 2025. The Cruise Terminal 10 complex, which serves Royal Caribbean ships, is designed

with all cruise parking onsite. This has several benefits. It reduces the amount of cruise-related traffic on Harborside Drive because a cruise passenger turns into the cruise terminal complex and doesn't leave until after their cruise. Cruise Terminal 10 passengers can drop off their luggage and/or park within the terminal complex, unlike at cruise terminals 25 and 28 where passengers who park in lots off-site make two trips on Harborside if they're dropping off luggage before they park and take a shuttle bus to the terminal.

20. Montreal port employers lose bid to make dockwork an 'essential service'

Canada's labor tribunal on March 14, 2024 rejected a request from maritime employers at the Port of Montreal to designate container services at the port as an essential service, leaving the option open for longshore workers to strike. The "essential" designation request, which if granted would have barred workers from striking, comes as talks on a new contract have dragged on for seven months with no resolution. "Although the decision does not correspond to our expectations, we remain convinced that the continuity and stability of the supply chain is of the utmost importance," the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) said in a statement.

21. Trade rises at Port of Long Beach in February

Cooling inflation, rising consumer confidence and an ongoing effort to recapture market share boosted cargo shipments moving through the Port of Long Beach in February 2024. Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 674,723 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) last month, up 24.1% from February 2023. Imports were up 29.4% to 329,850 TEUs and exports declined 21.1% to 87,474 TEUs. Empty containers moving through the Port increased 44.8% to 257,400 TEUs. "Our top-notch customer service and ongoing efforts to attract business back to the West Coast are paying off," said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. "We continue to invest in infrastructure projects that will keep us competitive and sustainable for decades to come." "Our highly skilled workforce has helped us achieve year-over-year increases in cargo for the last six months," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bobby Olvera Jr. "Customers are taking notice that our infrastructure projects and environmental programs make us the Port of Choice." The Port has moved 1,348,738 TEUs during the first two months of 2024, a 20.7% increase from the same period in 2023.

22. Transport Canada announces funding to increase capacity at the Port of Thunder Bay

On March 15, 2024, the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Ontario, Marcus Powlowski, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$6.7 million for two projects at the Port of Thunder Bay through the National Trade Corridors Fund. This commitment aims to enhance reliable trade flows with global markets, foster increased exports and optimize the efficiency of Canada's national transportation system.

23. The Panama Canal averts a crisis for now — but at a cost to drinking water

The Panama Canal has avoided the worst of a shipping crunch that threatened to upend the global economy — but at a cost to marine life and the Latin American country's supplies of drinking water. After imposing strict limits on vessel traffic last year as drought left water levels languishing, the Panama Canal Authority is increasing the number of ships that can cross. Thanks to conservation measures, water levels fell just over a foot for the year through March 12, compared with three feet during the same period of 2023. Those measures, though, come with side effects. The canal recycles water from locks that vessels pass through, instead of simply flushing it into the ocean. This reused water gets saltier, and some of it infiltrates Lake Gatún, an artificial lake that forms part of the channel and is also Panama's largest source of potable supply. The Panama Canal's challenges highlight how combating climate change carries inevitable tradeoffs. As policymakers take action to limit the effects of global warming, there can be unintended consequences for the environment and the economy. And time is of the essence: Drought is already altering the world's trade flows, creating chokepoints last year on the Mississippi River in the US and the Rhine in Europe.

24. Borderlands Mexico: Container shipments from China to Mexico skyrocketed in January

Borderlands is a weekly rundown of developments in the world of United States-Mexico cross-border trucking and trade. Container shipments from China to Mexico skyrocketed in January 2024. China's container exports to Mexico surged nearly 60% year over year (y/y) in January 2024, according to global freight rate intelligence platform Xeneta. China-based shippers moved 117,000 twenty-foot equivalent units during the month compared to 73,000 TEUs in January 2023. "This is probably the strongest growing trade in the world right now," Xeneta chief analyst Peter Sand wrote in a blog post published Thursday, March 14, 2024. Sand highlighted that China could be using Mexico as a way to skirt tariffs because some of the goods could be trucked into the U.S.

25. Two Lake Superior ports see commercial upgrades

Two ports on Lake Superior's north shore are getting upgrades to their cargo handling capabilities. The federal government is funding expansion at the Port of Thunder Bay, Ontario. At the town of Marathon, Ontario, QSL and the Peninsula Harbour Port Authority Corporation are joining forces to redevelop the harbour to improve the water depth. The investment of up to \$6.7 million for two projects at Thunder Bay is coming from through the National Trade Corridors Fund.

26. Cargo still growing in 2024 at ports of LA, Long Beach

Despite cargo numbers increasing at both the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach last month, a growing focus is being put on global disruptions that are impacting trade, said POLA Executive Director Gene Seroka during his monthly virtual news conference on March 18, 2024. There are geopolitical and supply chain risks as conflicts play out in the Middle East and a drought continues impacting shipping routes in the Panama Canal. The U.S. presidential election in November is also being closely watched, Seroka said. And, he added, markets are shifting, with more cargo emanating from places like Vietnam. “There’s a lot of concern,” Seroka said about geopolitical uncertainty. Appearing with Seroka this month was APM Terminals Executive Leo Huisman, who said acceleration in worker training will be needed as technology advances. Ships, Huisman said, are getting much bigger and, overall, terminals will be required to adapt. Huisman oversees 14 container terminals in eight countries across North and South America, including APM Terminals Pacific at the Port of Los Angeles.

27. Port of Los Angeles’ Seroka says potential 2% to 5% cargo shift to West Coast

There could be between a 2% to 5% shift of cargoes from East and Gulf Coast ports to the West Coast, according to Eugene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles. At his 2024 March media briefing, Seroka said that uncertainties with this year’s International Longshore Association (ILA) contract covering Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports as well as continued problems of ocean carriers accessing the Panama and Suez canals have resulted in the possible shift of cargoes to the West Coast: “So, we’re starting to see companies talk about shifting two, three, five percent of their business to different gateways to diversify a little bit. ... As I’ve said before ... we’re not trying to profit on anyone else’s misfortune, but we do have capacity here in Los Angeles and in our effort to support those importing and exporting companies and the American economy, we stand ready to assist.” In addition, Seroka noted that freight rates to the East Coast are on the rise: “There’s also the East and West Coast rate differential right now with East Coast rates having a wider gap versus those here out West than in recent memory. A lot will be made of that as contracts are negotiated ... Don’t be surprised if we see peak season cargo coming here to the West Coast just a little bit earlier than usual ... Here in LA we’re running at about 75 to 80% of peak capacity. We’re ready to pivot and handle whatever comes our way.”

28. Port of New Orleans’ container-on-barge service has record year

In 2023, the Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) recorded 20,500 container moves through its container-on-barge service, the most since the program began in 2016. This service — a collaboration with the Port of Greater Baton Rouge and Ingram Marine Group — forms the largest network of its kind in the U.S. It offers an alternative to road transport, transporting cargo to inland destinations via barges on the Mississippi River. It aims to cut back on some of the emissions associated with traditional cargo movement methods. The initiative led to a reduction of nearly 2.9 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions and conserved over 130,000 gallons of diesel fuel in 2023, the port estimated. Since its inception, the service has achieved a cumulative CO2 emissions reduction exceeding 22.9 million pounds. That’s roughly equivalent to the amount of CO2 that some 478,000 mature trees can absorb in a year. “We are poised to expand this service even further in the coming years,” said Port NOLA President and CEO Brandy Christian in a release.

29. Port of Toronto sees uptick in construction materials

The Port of Toronto moved more than 2.3 million metric tonnes of cargo and welcomed a record 45 cruise ships and nearly 18,000 visitors to its Cruise Ship Terminal in 2023. The number of cargo ships visiting the Port of Toronto remained consistent in 2023, with 189 ships visiting to deliver a range of bulk, project and general cargo products totalling 2,311,616 metric tonnes. In addition to importing 606,060 metric tonnes of sugar from Central and South America to support Toronto’s food and beverage industry, the port moved more than 685,661 metric tonnes of salt, much of which is used for Toronto’s roads during the winter months. With construction in Toronto showing no signs of slowing down, the Port also moved 796,644 metric tonnes of cement (an 11 percent increase over 2022), 97,016 metric tonnes of aggregate, and 123,234 metric tonnes of steel products, including coil, pipe, and rebar, which transited through the Port to construction sites throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

30. US House passes ‘OSRA 2.0’ to set new curbs on China’s shipping industry

The US House passed ‘OSRA 2.0’ to set new curbs on China’s shipping industry. The legislation is an attempt to give federal maritime law more teeth to go after what its backers see as market manipulation and potential espionage from China.

31. Transport Canada announces a modernized agreement with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

On March 22, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, and Terence Bowles, President and CEO of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, announced that they signed an agreement for the Corporation—a not-for-profit organization—to continue managing, maintaining, and operating the Seaway, which it has done since 1998. This stronger, more modern agreement is one that is in the best interest of Canadians. It includes: 1. Continued maintenance of a safe, secure, and efficient transportation channel to foster bilateral cooperation, long-term economic development

and support fluid and resilient supply chains; 2. Enhanced governance mechanisms to ensure the Seaway provides the best value for Canadians and continues to deliver as a transportation corridor of strategic importance; and 3. Modernized measures to strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and improve climate change responsiveness and accountability. Under this new agreement, the Government of Canada and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation will continue working together to ensure the Seaway remains a reliable and efficient transportation corridor for domestic and international shipping.

32. Vancouver port cargo volumes grew 6% in 2023

Cargo volumes through the Port of Vancouver increased by 6% in 2023, as terminal operators moved a record 150.4 million metric tonnes of trade last year. It was a mixed year at the Port of Vancouver, with growth in some sectors and softening in others, shows the recently-released Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's 2023 cargo statistics. While bulk and containerized exports grew, container imports softened in line with trends seen across the West Coast. Last year, trade was affected by global and domestic challenges such as a cooling global economy, disruptions to the Panama Canal and Red Sea trade routes, and a strike that affected container, bulk, breakbulk and auto terminals at the Port of Vancouver. The recovery from July's 13-day strike by B.C. longshore workers was both steady and challenging, the port says, adding that the fluidity was mostly restored in the fall. Bulk exports increased by 13% last year, compared to 2022. Automotive was up 36% in 2023 as the sector returned to pre-pandemic volumes, with supply chain and production issues easing and consumer demand for vehicles remaining resilient. Container volumes were down 12% year over year, to 3.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU). Meanwhile, inbound containers were down 13%, reaching 1.6 million TEU. Containerized exports continued to recover from pandemic-era disruptions and were up 7% in 2023, as Canadian businesses used the increased availability of empty containers to deliver goods to markets across the globe. Empty container volumes were down 24%.

33. Vancouver hit by new round of rail congestion amid early year import surge

The Port of Vancouver has been struggling with rail container backlogs for more than two months caused primarily by a double-digit surge in imports, and it will take at least several more weeks to clear the congestion, according to port and rail executives. "This trend is not what I want to see," Peter Xotta, president and CEO of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, told the Journal of Commerce Friday. "The last two weeks have seen improvement, but there's still volatility." The rail container dwell time at Vancouver's marine terminals for Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) is mostly seven days-plus. Canada's National Supply Chain Office is engaged with Vancouver's stakeholders to relieve congestion before the summer-fall peak season.

34. SC Ports efficiently works big ships as imports increase

South Carolina Ports seamlessly handled big ships and big move counts at Wando Welch Terminal as imports trend back up. The SC Ports team and maritime community recently moved 4,474 containers on and off the ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Mount Olympus vessel. This marked one of the highest move counts ever on a vessel at SC Ports and the highest move count of any ZIM/2M operated vessel to call the Port of Charleston. SC Ports also efficiently worked the 15,286-TEU MSC Kayley at Wando Welch Terminal. With its gross tonnage and capacity, this vessel is among the biggest container ships to ever call the Port of Charleston, as well as the largest MSC vessel to call Charleston. South Carolina Ports handled 202,349 TEUs and 111,902 pier containers in February 2024, with pier containers up 1% from last year. Loaded import TEUs were up 11% over last February, showing signs of strength in the overall economy. Inland ports and rail volumes continue to perform exceedingly well month after month. Inland Port Greer handled 15,801 rail moves last month, a 26% increase year-over-year. Inland Port Dillon handled 4,147 rail moves, up 13% from last year. Fiscal-year-to-date, the two rail-served inland ports saw 34% growth compared to the year prior, handling a combined 151,324 containers.

35. Minister of Transport announces funding to relieve congestion in supply chains and enhance infrastructure at the Port of Montréal

On March 25, 2024, the Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$16.75 million for a project at the Port of Montréal under the National Trade Corridors Fund. This project consists of adding a fourth track on the Pie-IX railway bridge and building a storage area. The rehabilitation of the railway bridge, including the fourth track, involves adding 500 metres into the railway network of the bridge. The project will: 1. preserve the long-term viability of the port's container terminals; 2. increase rail capacity to boost the port's commercial value by more than \$1 billion annually; 3. reduce freight costs; 4. generate labour savings and strengthen modal interconnectivity at the port site; 5. ensure the safety of rail operations on the site; and 6. help to reduce environmental impacts by using rail freight over trucking.

36. No timeline for Baltimore port reopening following bridge collapse

The 948-foot-long container ship Dali, chartered by Maersk, collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge spanning Baltimore's Patapsco River early Tuesday morning. The Port of Baltimore will remain closed for the foreseeable future after a Maersk-chartered container ship lost power and crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge early Tuesday,

collapsing the span and sending construction workers on the bridge into the Patapsco River. At least six workers remained missing, authorities said; two were rescued from the water. With the fifth-largest container port on the US East Coast now effectively isolated from waterborne traffic, the deadly accident will, at least temporarily, reconfigure the region's supply chain. Mediterranean Shipping Co., the world's largest container carrier, said it expects it will be "several months". Many individuals are missing and the accident is expected to billions of dollars and virtually shuts down the Port of Baltimore

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Fastfrate Group and CPKC renew drayage contract

Fastfrate Group and CPKC (Canadian Pacific Kansas City railroad) have renewed their drayage agreement. As part of this announcement, Canada Drayage Inc. (CDI) will become the largest drayage provider in North America for CPKC. Fastfrate Group and CPKC will invest in gate technology which will grant CDI immediate access through Fastfrate private entrances in CPKC facilities in both Toronto and Montreal. Fastfrate Group will also dedicate 15 acres of prime property and invest \$10 million in preparation to create a container yard next to CPKC's Toronto intermodal facility and a pre-pull yard for CPKC's domestic and international container line customers.

2. CN: Keeping it Fresh

CN is using its IntelliGEN™ genset fleet to ensure that customer products reach their destination "safely, on time and at the right temperature." When your peak citrus season occurs annually between November to March, time is of the essence to get your product to market. Last year, CMA CGM turned to CN to successfully move approximately 27,000 tons of Moroccan citrus from Tangier, Morocco, directly to key Canadian consumer markets in just 10-11 days. This was an improvement over its previous arrangement to a U.S. east coast port where the fruit had to be trucked into Canada. The supply chain solution involved loading the Moroccan citrus into CMA CGM reefer containers leaving by vessel from the Port of Tangier to the Port of Halifax.

3. Rail traffic for the week ending February 24, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on February 28, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending February 24, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 483,656 carloads and intermodal units, up 7.7 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending February 24 were 224,251 carloads, up 2.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 259,405 containers and trailers, up 12.6 percent compared to 2023. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included chemicals, up 2,776 carloads, to 33,454; grain, up 2,470 carloads, to 21,698; and motor vehicles and parts, up 2,196 carloads, to 15,931. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 2,561 carloads, to 61,556; nonmetallic minerals, down 1,968 carloads, to 27,533; and forest products, down 150 carloads, to 8,460. Canadian railroads reported 94,066 carloads for the week, up 5.8 percent, and 69,511 intermodal units, up 4.3 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first eight weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,233,049 carloads, containers and trailers, down 2.8 percent.

4. Federal Minister of Labour Has Appointed Conciliators

As part of the collective bargaining process, the Federal Minister of Labour has appointed a conciliator to help CN and the TCRC reach a negotiated agreement. CN recognizes TCRC's efforts in negotiating the terms of the

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Fastfrate Group and CPKC renew drayage contract, Feb. 27, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. CN: Keeping it Fresh, February 27, 2024, www.railwayage.com
3. Rail traffic for the week ending February 24, 2024, February 28, 2024, www.railwayage.com
4. Federal Minister of Labour Has Appointed Conciliators, March 1, 2024, www.cn.ca
5. CN Reaches New Tentative Collective Agreement with United Steelworkers, March 1, 2024, www.cn.ca
6. The Milton Logistics Hub is Critical to North American Supply Chains, March 4, 2024, www.cn.ca; and Federal Court scraps Ottawa's approval for CN Rail hub in Ontario, March 4, 2024, www.financialpost.ca
7. Norfolk Southern, Florida East Coast Railway further expand intermodal service for customers, March 5, 2024, www.ajot.com
8. AAR reports weekly rail traffic for February & the week ending March 2, 2024, March 6, 2024, www.ajot.com; and AAR: February Data Shows Elements That 'Inspire Optimism, Call for Caution', March 6, 2024, www.railwayage.com
9. North American Rail Solutions Acquires West Rail Construction, March 6, 2024, www.railwayage.com
10. Transport Canada to Invest More Than C\$13.5MM Through Rail Safety Improvement Program, March 7, 2024, www.railwayage.com
11. Government of Canada announces rail safety investments in Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas and other regions in Ontario, March 7, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
12. Railroads seek better communication with shippers on cargo movement, March 11, 2024, www.joc.com
13. Minister of Transport prioritizes rail safety investments in Québec, March 13, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
14. Rail traffic for the week ending March 9, 2024, March 13, 2024, www.ajot.com
15. CSX Lands \$5MM for Detroit Intermodal Terminal Improvements, March 18, 2024, www.railwayage.com
16. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending March 16, 2024, March 19, 2024, www.ajot.com; and AAR: Carloads Down, Intermodal Up for Week 11, March 16, 2024, www.railwayage.com
17. Railway carloadings, January 2024, March 25, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
18. CN Releases New Indigenous Policy in Support of its Commitment to Reconciliation, March 26, 2024, www.aircanda.ca
19. Conciliation begins: CN's Offer to the TCRC, March 26, 2024, www.aircanda.ca

contract that expired on December 31, 2023. However, with recent regulatory changes challenging crew availability, along with an evolving workforce coming in, the terms of that contract are no longer meeting the

20. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending March 23, 2024, March 27, 2024, www.ajot.com; and AAR: Carloads Down, Intermodal Up for Week 12, March 27, 2024, www.railwayage.com

needs of our customers, and many of our employees. The Company remains committed to achieving a settlement that is good for our employees and customers – one that enhances our team members’ health and safety, work experience, work-life balance and addresses employee availability.

5. CN Reaches New Tentative Collective Agreement with United Steelworkers

CN announced on March 1, 2024 that a new tentative three-year collective agreement has been reached with the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2004. USW represents approximately 2,500 track and bridge employees at CN, primarily responsible for track maintenance across Canada. No details of the tentative agreement will be released publicly until the agreement is ratified. The current collective agreement expired on December 31st, 2023. For more information on United Steelworkers, visit their website at www.usw.ca.

6. The Milton Logistics Hub is Critical to North American Supply Chains

A Federal Court decision has nixed Ottawa’s approval of a massive rail-and-truck hub in the Greater Toronto Area. The Ruling states Ottawa failed to grapple whether the proposed facility will have harmful effect on human health. CN is reiterating its commitment to the Milton Logistics Hub, while still reviewing a Federal court’s decision related to the Milton Logistics Hub. The Project is a critical piece of infrastructure in Canada’s busiest and fastest growing region, where new capacity is needed to meet the growing demand for goods. The Milton Logistics Hub will not only benefit Ontario, but further strengthen the Canadian economy and its strategic advantages. Authorization to build the Project was subject to Canada’s most extensive environmental review process resulting in an approval including 325 conditions designed to protect both the community and the environment.

7. Norfolk Southern, Florida East Coast Railway further expand intermodal service for customers

Norfolk Southern Corporation and Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) announced on March 5, 2024 an expansion of their international and domestic interline services. The Florida Express service, which is already being leveraged by anchor customer, Crowley, creates a two-way transportation solution for customers moving goods between South Florida and Charlotte, North Carolina. "We are focused on providing reliable service and generating smart, sustainable growth opportunities for our customers," said Norfolk Southern Chief Marketing Officer Ed Elkins. "This new, two-way transportation solution between Western North Carolina and South Florida accomplishes both goals, and we look forward to helping our domestic and international customers unlock the value of this service."

8. AAR reports weekly rail traffic for February & the week ending March 2, 2024

U.S. railroads originated 885,548 carloads in February 2024, down 1.3 percent, or 11,410 carloads, from February 2023. U.S. railroads also originated 1,040,312 containers and trailers in February 2024, up 10.9 percent, or 102,140 units, from the same month last year. Combined U.S. carload and intermodal originations in February 2024 were 1,925,860, up 4.9 percent, or 90,730 carloads and intermodal units from February 2023. In February 2024, 13 of the 20 carload commodity categories tracked by the AAR each month saw carload gains compared with February 2023. These included: motor vehicles & parts, up 6,777 carloads or 12.3 percent; chemicals, up 6,522 carloads or 5.1 percent; and grain, up 4,971 carloads or 6.3 percent. Commodities that saw declines in February 2024 from February 2023 included: coal, down 31,912 carloads or 11.7 percent; crushed stone, sand & gravel, down 8,037 carloads or 10.1 percent; and nonmetallic minerals, down 1,467 carloads or 12.7 percent. Canadian railroads reported 89,148 carloads for the week, down 3.6 percent, and 71,183 intermodal units, up 9.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first nine weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,393,380 carloads, containers and trailers, down 2.3 percent.

9. North American Rail Solutions Acquires West Rail Construction

North American Rail Solutions, a provider of industrial rail inspection, construction, maintenance and terminal services, through its subsidiary, American Track, announced March 4, 2024 that it has acquired West Rail Construction, LLC, in Vancouver, Wash. Led by President Mike Sands, West Rail Construction has been a “key provider of rail maintenance and construction services in the Northwest U.S. for more than 25 years,” and provides services to customers in a wide range of industries, including ports, forestry, chemicals, energy and waste. This acquisition, *North American Rail Solutions* says, provides the company and its subsidiary “the opportunity to expand local presence and service offerings to customers in the Northwest region as well as other areas along the West Coast.”

10. Transport Canada to Invest More Than C\$13.5MM Through Rail Safety Improvement Program

“The projects we’re funding in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas and across Ontario will keep our communities safe and our railway systems efficient,” said Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez. Transport Canada on March 7 announced an investment of more than C\$13.5 million to support 112 projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas and other regions in Ontario, through the Rail Safety Improvement Program. Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and Member of

Parliament for Markham—Unionville, Paul Chiang, attended the announcement on March 7, 2024 at the historic former Unionville train station in Markham. The Rail Safety Improvement Program, which was created in 2016, “provides funds for projects that aim to improve rail safety at grade crossings and along rail lines.” It also provides “investments in rail infrastructure, helps address climate change resiliency, supports innovative solutions through research studies and new technology pilot projects, and helps educate Canadians on railway safety through outreach and awareness initiatives,” according to *Transport Canada*.

11. Government of Canada announces rail safety investments in Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas and other regions in Ontario

On March 7, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and Member of Parliament for Markham—Unionville, Paul Chiang, announced an investment of over \$13.5 million to support 112 projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas and other regions in Ontario, through the Rail Safety Improvement Program at the historic former Unionville train station in Markham. The Rail Safety Improvement Program provides funds for projects that aim to improve rail safety at grade crossings and along rail lines. It provides investments in rail infrastructure, helps address climate change resiliency, supports innovative solutions through research studies and new technology pilot projects, and helps educate Canadians on railway safety through outreach and awareness initiatives.

12. Railroads seek better communication with shippers on cargo movement

Railroads would like shippers to communicate when their import loads idle excessively, and while shippers are willing to share that information, messages often don’t get to the right people because the right relationships don’t exist, market players say. There is strong communication between domestic intermodal shippers and railroads through partnerships with companies such as Hub Group, J.B. Hunt Transport Services and Schneider National, but railroads say there is a breakdown sometimes in messaging on international intermodal business through ocean carriers. “We need to develop a relationship with ocean carriers and BCOs [beneficial cargo owners] to come up with...”

13. Minister of Transport prioritizes rail safety investments in Québec

On March 13, 2024, the Minister of Transport and Québec Lieutenant, Pablo Rodriguez, and the Member of Parliament for Vaudreuil—Soulanges, Peter Schiefke, prioritized investments of \$9.8 million for more than 70 projects across Québec, through the Rail Safety Improvement Program, notably a \$472,679 project in Saint-Lazare for fencing off a section of rail in the Legault Road area. The Rail Safety Improvement Program provides funds for projects that aim to improve rail safety at grade crossings and along rail lines.

14. Rail traffic for the week ending March 9, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) March 13, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 9, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 472,662 carloads and intermodal units, up 5.0 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending March 9 were 214,585 carloads, down 3.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 258,077 containers and trailers, up 13.5 percent compared to 2023. Five of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included chemicals, up 1,916 carloads, to 33,713; petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,399 carloads, to 9,930; and metallic ores and metals, up 685 carloads, to 18,882. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 8,963 carloads, to 55,963; nonmetallic minerals, down 2,691 carloads, to 28,505; and miscellaneous carloads, down 726 carloads, to 7,791. Canadian railroads reported 89,470 carloads for the week, down 1.8 percent, and 71,752 intermodal units, up 7.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 10 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,554,602 carloads, containers and trailers, down 1.9 percent.

15. CSX Lands \$5MM for Detroit Intermodal Terminal Improvements

CSX will use a \$5 million grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to support equipment upgrades, track work, and paving the dirt and gravel yard at its Detroit Livernois Intermodal Facility in southwest Detroit.

16. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending March 16, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on March 19, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 16, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 474,596 carloads and intermodal units, up 6.7 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending March 16 were 219,586 carloads, down 0.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 255,010 containers and trailers, up 13.8 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 3,638 carloads, to 21,108; chemicals, up 2,186 carloads, to 33,134; and petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,836 carloads, to 9,954. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 12,033 carloads, to 55,990; metallic ores and metals, down 903 carloads, to 18,683; and forest products, down 92 carloads, to 8,431. Canadian railroads reported 96,016 carloads for

the week, up 6.5 percent, and 71,109 intermodal units, up 7.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 11 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,721,727 carloads, containers and trailers, down 1.1 percent.

17. Railway carloadings, January 2024

In January 2024, the volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways totalled 29.3 million tonnes, down 8.5% from January 2023 levels. Fewer shipments of coal and grains largely contributed to the decline. While the overall freight volume was down year over year, it was just under the five-year average of 30.8 million tonnes for the month of January. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the "Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard" on Statcan website. The traffic decline in January 2024 was the result of lower volumes across all types of rail operations: non-intermodal loadings (mainly commodities) and intermodal loadings (mainly containers) as well as freight traffic from connections with American railways. Following a year-over-year increase of 10.2% in December 2023, non-intermodal freight loadings fell 8.3% year over year to 23.5 million tonnes in January 2024. While widespread, the decline was led by a sharp drop in shipments of coal as well as ongoing declines in grain.

18. CN Releases New Indigenous Policy in Support of its Commitment to Reconciliation

Building upon its commitment to Reconciliation and Indigenous engagement, CN on March 26, 2024 released its new Indigenous Relations Policy for the company. In this Policy, CN is building a foundation that rests on five guiding principles: 1. Cultural Awareness and Employee Engagement; 2. People and Employment; 3. Community Engagement and Relationships; 4. Economic Reconciliation; 5. Environmental Stewardship and Safety. Olivier Chouc, Senior Vice-President, and Chief Legal Officer said "CN is deeply committed to Reconciliation and continuing to work collaboratively alongside Indigenous communities across our network. This new Indigenous Relations Policy is an opportunity for growth, understanding, and positive change. By acknowledging our past and embracing our responsibilities, we are laying a stronger foundation to continue to develop respectful, sustainable, and mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous peoples."

19. Conciliation begins: CN's Offer to the TCRC

CN and the TCRC union have resumed negotiations with the support of federal conciliators appointed on March 1, 2024. During the conciliation period, the parties will continue meeting to reach a negotiated agreement, and it remains our goal to work towards a negotiated agreement that is good for our employees, customers, and the economy. We value our relationship with unions representing CN employees and will continue to negotiate in good faith with the TCRC union leaders. Additionally, CN remains committed to modernizing the contract to ensure employees are satisfied – both with financial compensation and with work-life balance.

20. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending March 23, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on March 27, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending March 23, 2024. AAR also weighed in on the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and how railroads are working to limit disruptions. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 470,593 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.1 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending March 23 were 215,277 carloads, down 6.1 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 255,316 containers and trailers, up 10.2 percent compared to 2023. Five of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 2,735 carloads, to 21,467; chemicals, up 1,822 carloads, to 33,702; and motor vehicles and parts, up 888 carloads, to 16,109. Canadian railroads reported 91,620 carloads for the week, down 3.1 percent, and 73,851 intermodal units, up 7.9 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 12 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,887,198 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.9 percent.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. When is a decertified ELD not a decertified ELD?

Carriers scanning Transport Canada list of certified ELDs might be shocked to find their current device has been decertified. “I was surprised to see that list,” Millian told *TruckNews.com*. “It wasn’t there when I checked earlier this year. I hadn’t heard anything about the list or what it meant.” There are eight devices presently on the ‘no longer certified’ list. Motor carriers operating in Canada are required to use only devices listed on the department’s list of certified ELDs, so carriers finding their device on the ‘no longer certified’ list would be understandably concerned. However, the delisting of certain devices is more of an administrative problem rather than a technical problem, sources say, prompted by the withdrawal of CSA Group from the certification business last year.

2. National Travel Survey, third quarter 2023

During the 2023 third quarter, Canadian residents took 99.7 million trips, up 3.0 million from the same quarter of 2022 (96.7 million). Most (91.1%) of the third quarter of 2023 trips were domestic. From July to September 2023, Canadian residents spent \$27.5 billion on domestic travel and spent \$11.8 billion on travel outside the country. In the third quarter, Canadian residents took 90.8 million domestic trips, up by 1.3 million from the third quarter of 2022 and reaching 99.2% of such trips recorded in the same quarter in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of domestic overnight trips was 36.3 million in the third quarter of 2023, while same-day trips totalled 54.5 million. From July to September 2023, Canadian residents spent \$27.5 billion on domestic travel expenditures, up 0.7% from the third quarter of 2022 (\$27.3 billion) and increasing 27.1% from the same period in 2019 (\$21.7 billion), before the pandemic. Average domestic trip spending was \$303 (\$127 for same-day and \$568 for overnight) in the third quarter of 2023. The top three domestic expenditures in the third quarter were accommodations (\$6.4 billion), vehicle operations (\$5.0 billion), and spending in restaurants and bars (\$4.5 billion).

3. Visitor Travel Survey, third quarter 2023

Canada welcomed 10.5 million travellers from the United States and overseas in the 2023 third quarter, representing 83.9% of the number of trips made in the same quarter of 2019. More than three-quarters (77.8%) of these travellers were from the United States. From July to September 2023, spending in Canada by non-resident travellers totalled \$10.1 billion, up 6.7% from the third quarter of 2019. This growth was mainly driven by a 17.8% increase in spending in Canada by US travellers. US residents made 8.1 million trips to Canada in the third quarter of 2023, equivalent to 85.9% of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level in the third quarter of 2019. From July to September 2023, holidays, leisure or recreation (4.2 million trips) was the most common reason given by these travellers to visit Canada. US residents made a total of 663,000 business-related trips, accounting for 57.1% of such trips in the same quarter of 2019. In the third quarter of 2023, Ontario (3.9 million visits) was the province most visited by US residents, followed by British Columbia (2.5 million visits) and Quebec (1.0 million visits).

4. Cash infusion to boost Churchill development plans

The federal and Manitoba governments have jointly made a \$60 million grant to the Arctic Gateway Group for development in Churchill, Manitoba. This combined funding will finish work on the Hudson Bay Railway, start to redevelop the Port of Churchill, and further benefit 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.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

Canada

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5. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, January 2024, Feb. 29, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
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24. We Still Need Your Help to Make Highways Safer, March 12, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
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26. Uber Freight eyes tenfold boost in European market by 2028, March 12, 2024, www.ajot.com

5. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, January 2024

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for January 2024. For this month, the index is 133.8 compared to 135.8 for the previous month and 133.4 in January 2023.

6. CTA Pre-Budget Spotlight: Ensuring Tax and Labour Compliance

For over five years, the CTA has been calling on the federal government to combat gross noncompliance, labour abuse, and, in some cases, forced labour in the trucking sector. However, those pleas went unanswered and the abuse has continued to grow exponentially. At the urging of industry, ESDC agreed in 2022 to launch an enforcement pilot project to explore Driver Inc. misclassification in Ontario, which, as expected, found widespread gross noncompliance and contravention of the misclassification rules by more than 60% of employers.

7. Economic Trucking Trends: ‘This downcycle has been the worst one’

There’s no short-term fix coming to the freight markets, with van and reefer spot market rates continuing to fall while flatbed demand improves. ACT Research brought together industry leaders for a recent seminar, with one saying “This downcycle has been the worst one,” he’s ever seen. But ACT also sees some signs for optimism as imports and intermodal trends are pointing to increased trucking demand later this year. Shippers aren’t feeling it though. Conditions for them were flat in December 2023 and a recent survey indicated their expectations going forward are muted. ACT Research reported in its latest *Freight Forecast, U.S. Rate and Volume Outlook* report that rising imports and intermodal trends are pointing to a trucking recovery later this year.

8. Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for Over \$180 Million in Safety Grants for Commercial Motor Vehicles

On, March 4, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced the availability of more than \$180 million in grants to promote roadway safety. These grants, part of the funding included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, are open to state, territorial, and tribal organizations, local jurisdictions, academic institutions, and other training programs and entities to promote commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety-related activities. “When we improve technology, training, and tools to make our roadways safer for truck and bus drivers, everyone benefits,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. “The Biden-Harris Administration is proud to announce more than \$180 million to make commercial vehicle driving safer and more efficient, while creating onramps for veterans and military families entering these great careers.”

9. Border Crossing Data Annual Release 2023

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Border Crossing Data provide summary statistics for inbound crossings at the U.S.-Canada and the U.S.-Mexico border at the port level. Data are available for trucks, trains, containers, buses, personal vehicles, passengers, and pedestrians. Border crossing data are collected at ports of entry by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The data reflect the number of vehicles, containers, passengers, or pedestrians entering the United States. CBP does not collect comparable data on outbound crossings. Users seeking data on outbound counts may therefore want to review data from individual bridge operators, border state governments, or the Mexican and Canadian governments. The source for data in this release is the Border Crossing data website: <https://data.bts.gov/stories/s/jswi-2e7b>. In 2023, the total number of trucks entering the U.S. from Canada increased 0.6 from 2022. The port of Detroit, Michigan had 1,562,531 incoming trucks, and handled 28.3% of the total volume along the Northern border.

10. CTA Pre-Budget Spotlight: Reducing Interprovincial Trade Barriers Mean Flexibility, Supply Chain Efficiency

CTA has highlighted multiple interprovincial trade barriers in the trucking sector which create supply chain inefficiencies across the country that the federal government could address in the Budget 2024. These were first noted in its in its recent report to the Privy Council of Canada (PCO) in October 2023, with the Government of Canada also initiating a series of discussions groups to identify trade and mobility issues beginning in March. “Financial supports from Budget 2024, whether directly for new infrastructure projects, or enhancements to existing provincial/territorial programs, or increased financial support for existing mechanisms at all levels of government to address trade barriers will undoubtedly strengthen and bring resiliency to the Canadian supply chain” said, Lak Shoan, Director, Policy &

27. Kalmar, Forterra jointly developing autonomous terminal tractors, March 13, 2024, www.todaystrucking
28. Source Energy buys RWR Trucking, March 14, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
29. Ontario opens truck inspection station near Thunder Bay, March 15, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca; and Ontario Improving Road Safety in the North, March 15, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
30. Trimac buys North Carolina bulk hauler, March 19, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
31. ATA Truck Tonnage Index increased 4.3% in February, March 19, 2024, www.ajot.com
32. Urban public transit, January 2024, March 21, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
33. Titanium revenues climb, profit falls amid ongoing freight recession, March 19, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
34. CPKC announces filing of proxy circular and annual general meeting, March 21, 2024, www.cpkc.ca
35. Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, March 21, 2024, www.cn.ca
36. FedEx posts strong quarterly results, March 21, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
37. US\$1 trillion needed to provide electric truck infrastructure in US, March 25, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
38. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, February 2024, March 26, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
39. Large carriers face regulatory, market challenges, March 26, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
40. North American Transborder Freight down 1.3% in January 2024 from January 2023, March 27, 2024, www.bts.gov

Industry Awareness Programs. The recommendations CTA highlighted in its 2024 pre-budget submission are: 1. Aligning and Improving Winter Road Maintenance Standards; 2. Increasing Access to Rest Areas for Truck Drivers; 3. Twinning of Highway 185 in Quebec; 4. LCV Harmonizing the Western Provinces; 5. Considering oversize/overweight Sector Issues; 6. Making available Motor Carrier Information; 7. Developing a System of Oversight/Accountability for Truck Safety; 8. Spring Weight Restricting and Road Banning; and 9. Expanding Access to Cell Service.

11. B.C. container truckers will see rate increase in July

The Office of the British Columbia Container Trucking Commissioner (OBCCTC) has increased the minimum rates for drivers that move drayage containers to and from the Vancouver ports and within the Lower Mainland. As of July 1, 2024, independent owner-operators will see a 3.9% increase in wages, while company drivers will receive a minimum of \$33.66 per hour. The change applies to the drivers with 2,340 hours of experience, while truckers with less than the required hours of experience will receive a \$32.26 per hour rate until they reach 2,340 hours. The increase is based on the average annual increase in the 2023 B.C. Consumer Price Index – which was 3.9% – addressing the continuation of the wage gap correction rate for company drivers, the OBCCTC said in a release. “Regular increases tied to the annual inflation rate would provide certainty and stability for drivers and licensees. This is the second year of the minimum rate adjustment.”

12. Morgan Truck Body acquires Laval’s Fourgons Transit

Morgan Truck Body has acquired Fourgons Transit, a van manufacturer based in Laval, Que., establishing its 14th production site in North America. We are delighted to welcome Transit’s team members and customers to Morgan Truck Body. Transit’s expertise and leadership in van manufacturing and customer service in Canada confirms our commitment to providing van innovations to our customers in North America today and for the future, said Corby Stover, president of Morgan Truck Body. Transit has been manufacturing a range of multi-use products for over 45 years, including multi-use, refrigerated and custom vans. Louis Leclair is president.

13. Gincor Werx buys Wiltsie Truck Bodies

Gincor Werx, based in Newmarket, Ont., has announced it acquired Wiltsie Truck Bodies on Feb. 29, 2024. Wiltsie, located in Aylmer, Ont., offers a line of products including dump trucks, truck bodies, pony trailers and flat decks. Wiltsie also offers parts and service support including truck body repairs, sandblasting and painting, custom fabrication, wheelbase changes, and lift-axle calibrations. “Gincor is proud to carry on the Canadian-owned tradition that Russ Wiltsie and his family have been running for over 60 years,” the company said in a statement.

14. Industry could see 40,400 vacancies by 2030, THRC warns

Trucking HR Canada projects that 40,400 available jobs could be vacant in 2030 unless the ongoing efforts and support continue. Of those vacancies, nearly 10,800 are expected to be truck-driving jobs. While current workforce investments and the HR best practices are working, driving the industry’s recruitment performance to new heights with significantly more women, youth and immigrants joining the sector, workforce demand continues to outpace supply, said Angela Splinter, CEO of Trucking HR Canada (THRC). Even if all active job seekers in the sector were readily employable in 2030, employers would still have to recruit and train at least 10,300 new workers to meet their labor requirements, says THRC’s 2024-2030 labor market outlook report. It was compiled based on the 2023 surveys of 376 employers in Canada, that represent 48,385 drivers.

15. Parts and labor costs fell slightly in the fourth quarter of 2023

The American Trucking Associations’ Technology & Maintenance Council and Decisiv Inc. said combined parts and labor expenses fell 1.4% during the fourth quarter of 2023. In the latest Decisiv/TMC North American Service Event Benchmark Report, TMC and Decisiv found that 25 key VMRS systems dipped in the final quarter of 2023, reversing a 2.1% increase the previous quarter. “We are still facing an industry-wide challenge to find technicians, which is increasing labor costs for fleets and service providers. However, quarterly and annual parts cost decreases, driven by a reduction in pricing pressures and the influx of more new trucks, is bringing some welcome relief,” said Decisiv President and CEO Dick Hyatt. “With the Decisiv TMC Benchmark Report, TMC members have the parts and labor data they need to better analyze costs and continue implementing practices that will help them gain efficiency and become even more productive.” The decrease was driven largely by parts costs, which dropped 2.2% in the fourth quarter of 2023 while labor costs fell 0.2%. While quarter-over-quarter parts and labor costs both declined in the last three months of the year, the parts-to-labor ratio held steady at about 1.5 for the past year. On a year-over-year basis, combined parts and labor costs in final quarter of 2023 were 0.2% higher than the same quarter in 2022. However, in the annual comparison, a 2.2% drop in parts prices was offset by a 4.0% rise in labor costs.

16. Government takes Driver Inc. issue “super seriously”: Minister Anand

The Driver Inc. issue remains on the federal government’s radar and is “on the desks” of the ministers of transportation and labor, said Anita Anand, president of the Treasury Board, speaking to Angela Splinter, CEO of Trucking HR Canada, at the 10th annual Women with Drive leadership summit. “At this point, I can say I’ll take that feedback to them, including people clapping when you raised the point with me. I’m certainly in close touch with [Labour] Minister

[Seamus] O'Reagan. I know he's taking it super seriously." Anand noted the Treasury Board needs to hear industry's feedback on all the processes and procedures in place to create more fluid and resilient supply chains through programs like Let's Talk Federal Regulations.

17. Rockwell Automation buys Otto Motors

Rockwell Automation, Inc. has expanded into autonomous production logistics (APL), through its latest acquisition, OTTO Motors. Otto Motors is a Waterloo, Ontario-based manufacturer and innovator of automated material handling equipment. With over five million hours of production experience, OTTO autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) are used in operations by some of the world's most recognized brands. General Electric, Toyota, and Hirotec America, are among its name brand clients. The company has also earned numerous awards for its innovations.

18. ESDC Announces Dedicated National Team to Enforce Misclassification Compliance in Trucking Sector

The trucking industry is facing a tax evasion and labour misclassification crisis. The announcement by ESDC this week is a recognition that this crisis requires special enforcement attention through the creation of a specific road transportation enforcement unit: To specifically tackle the misclassification in the road transportation sector, the Labour Program has set up a dedicated national team that has, to date, completed over 300 inspections and outreach sessions. Non-compliance is addressed through a spectrum of enforcement measures, and it can result in the Labour Program issuing monetary penalties up to a maximum of \$250,000. During the past six months, the Labour Program has issued payment orders totalling over \$600,000 to employers in road transportation sector. This represents 80 % of overall payment orders issued.

19. Economic Trucking Trends: Market coming into balance, truck orders remain strong

Capacity continues to exit the market, leading ACT Research to conclude the market is coming into balance. But spot market rates continue to be mostly flat, with refrigerated carriers seeing the sharpest declines. Meanwhile, Class 8 orders surprised with their strength in February 2024, though most carriers are buying at replacement levels and not looking to add capacity. Preliminary data from FTR shows 25,700 Class 8 trucks were ordered in February, up 11% year over year. It exceeded seasonal expectations and nullifies concerns that demand would rapidly deteriorate in 2024, the industry forecaster reported.

20. TFI acquires LTL carrier Hercules Forwarding

TFI International announced the acquisition of less-than-truckload carrier Hercules Forwarding Monday after the market closed. Hercules operates a 31-terminal network throughout the U.S. and Canada, focusing on intra-U.S. and U.S.-to-Canada shipments. The company has more than 210 trucks, nearly 600 trailers and approximately 75 containers, generating revenue of more than \$100 million annually. The nearly 40-year-old company has two headquarters: Vernon, California, and New Westminster, British Columbia. It's a non-union carrier serving numerous sectors, such as retail, construction, automotive, and food and beverage, as well as 3PLs. TFI's U.S. LTL company, TForce Freight, is represented by the Teamsters union.

21. OEMs bullish on work truck sector growth amid high demand

Growth was the buzzword during Work Truck Week as OEM officials expressed enthusiasm about prospects during the next couple of years. Technology will continue to evolve and help guide the sector's journey, officials said. "I think you have an industry that is going to grow," said Shaun Skinner, president of Isuzu Commercial Truck of America and Isuzu Commercial Truck of Canada during the show in Indianapolis, Ind. Pointing toward mid- and final-mile growth through e-commerce, he said there is going to be an upward trend in Classes 4 to 7 truck demand leading to 2026 as the U.S. Environment Protection Agency's low NOx rule comes into play in 2027. "You may see a little bit of a letdown in 2027 but that's going to come with higher classes of trucks like 6 and 7 because they'll be more affected by that," he said of EPA27 emissions regulations. Skinner said while the U.S. and Canadian economies will not grow as rapidly as hoped, they are still growing and not contracting, which is a positive. Alex Reid, vocational marketing manager, Kenworth, said the OEM is "big on the work truck market. I think it's strong and we continue to see it being that way."

22. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, February 2024

In February 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 18.6% from February 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 519,500 in February 2024, up 23.0% year over year. In February 2024, for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of non-resident arrivals by air surpassed the pre-pandemic level, in February 2020. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad reached 1.8 million, a 15.8% increase from February 2023. By automobile, US residents took 735,100 trips to Canada in February 2024, up 18.8% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States also rose, up 20.7% year over year to 1.5 million trips in February 2024.

23. Challenges remain as EV mandates loom

Major fleets have committed to transitioning at least 30 percent of their new heavy-duty truck purchases to be zero-emission vehicles, including electric models, by 2030. However, many companies are daunted by the extra upfront cost

of electric trucks, as well as challenges like the limited availability of chargers. Nonetheless, the benefits of electric trucks, increased availability of more makes and models, investments in charging infrastructure, the rapid improvement of the upfront and long-term economics, and policy incentives all point to a near-term boom in their adoption. IDTechEx's report, "Electric and Fuel Cell Trucks 2024-2044: Markets, Technologies, and Forecasts", finds that the future of electric trucks hinges on continued innovation in battery technology, further expansion of charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, and acceptance of fuel cell trucks.

24. We Still Need Your Help to Make Highways Safer

OTA continues to engage members to ask their employees to lend their voices to help shape infrastructure improvements and highway safety. The calls to improve highway safety in Canada are getting increasingly louder and OTA and CTA needs to hear from more drivers, as well as fleet operators and safety managers to get insights into the issues and challenges and feedback on what they believe the solutions should be.

25. Modern cab designs evolving with technology, driver needs

Truck manufacturers are rethinking cab design as they look to appeal to the next generation of professional drivers – those who are tech-savvy, diverse and innovative. This means bringing greater consistency to how and where controls are mounted, and aiming to give drivers a consistent experience whether behind the wheel or in the sleeper cab. "What do they need in the environment around them? Simplicity. Situational adaptation. Safety. Integration," rhymed off Johan Agebrand, director of product marketing at Volvo Trucks. He was speaking at a Technology & Maintenance Council session on driver interfaces. Volvo, and other truck makers, are aiming to better integrate systems into the cab. Communication with the driver is also being enhanced. The dashes in older trucks would light up like a Christmas tree when fault codes were active. Now, specific error messages are displayed to the driver in plain language so they know how critical a potential fault is. With the vast majority of highway trucks now spec'd with automated manual transmissions, OEMs are also taking advantage of the shifter stalk to give drivers access to more controls – such as the engine brake – without having to reach. The shift away from manual transmissions means less reaching for drivers, and reduced wear and tear on their shoulders. It also frees up valuable real estate between the seats.

26. Uber Freight eyes tenfold boost in European market by 2028

Uber Freight is stepping up efforts to expand in Europe's fragmented logistics market and aims to increase tenfold to 2 billion euros its freight under management by 2028, with a digital platform that manages companies' entire supply chains. The freight business of Uber Technologies Inc. is smaller than the ride-hailing and delivery divisions, accounting for 14% of total revenue in 2023. While those other two units grew last year, freight revenue was down almost 25% from a year earlier, according to a recent SEC filing. That slump is mostly blamed on weak trucking rates, but there are recent signs of a turnaround as supply chain snarls ease and bloated inventories deflate. Lior Ron, the founder and CEO of Uber Freight, said success with large companies in North America is among the biggest reasons for the digital push on the other side of the Atlantic. "We have the Uber infrastructure in Europe we can build on from a technology perspective and a brand perspective, and on the other end we have US customers, global customers asking us to help," Ron said in an interview. "We are very motivated to invest in Europe." Ron was speaking ahead of Uber Freight's announcement on March 12, 2024 that it's reached 200 million euros (\$218 million) in freight under management in Europe as it competes for a bigger slice of a logistics market that McKinsey & Co. estimates to be worth 1.2 trillion euros. Uber Freight uses some of the same visibility technology as popular ride-hailing and delivery services do, but it's not simply creating an app in Europe where independent truckers are matched with shippers needing deliveries.

27. Kalmar, Forterra jointly developing autonomous terminal tractors

Kalmar and Forterra have partnered to develop autonomous terminal tractors. Kalmar will provide autonomous-read terminal tractors and its Kalmar One fleet management system, while Forterra will supply its AutoDrive autonomous driving platform. Forterra was formerly RRAI, the company working with FPInnovations on off-road autonomous logging trucking in Quebec. "This agreement brings together our vast experience in developing world-class autonomous systems and Kalmar's extensive experience in port and terminal automation with their market-leading terminal tractor product," said Josh Araujo, CEO, Forterra. "We believe AutoDrive is the best platform to create a compelling new offering for the container and trailer-handling market." Added Juuso Kanner, vice-president, automation business line, Kalmar: "We believe that automated operations will eventually become the standard in the container-handling industry, and there is huge potential in automating terminal tractors in terms of safety and productivity."

28. Source Energy buys RWR Trucking

Source Energy Services has announced its acquisition of Camrose, Alta.-based RWR Trucking's sand trucking business. It runs 27 tractors and 52 trailers, specializing in transporting contaminated soil for the oil and gas industry. "The acquisition of the RWR assets strengthens our last mile logistics service offering and, when coupled with the consistency of our Peace River hauls, will result in a highly utilized fleet," said Scott Melbourn, chief executive officer

of Source Energy. “This transaction aligns seamlessly with our commitment to grow free cash flow so as to further leverage the company, enhance our logistics service offerings, and provide the highest level of service to our customers.” Source Energy is a logistics company focused on the distribution of Northern White and domestic frac sand.

29. Ontario Improving Road Safety in the North

The Ontario government is marking the opening of a new commercial vehicle inspection station on Highway 11/17 near Thunder Bay. Located in Shuniah, the \$30 million state-of-the-art facility is part of the province’s plan to improve road safety and deliver faster and better transit infrastructure in the North. “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is working to ensure Ontario’s highways are among the safest in North America,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “The new Shuniah commercial vehicle inspection station will help reduce the risk of accidents, protect everyone on the road and ensure the safe movement of goods across Northern Ontario.” The Shuniah inspection station will be equipped with technology to identify potential problems with commercial motor vehicles, such as underinflated tires and malfunctioning brakes. “This inspection station will play a critical role in addressing road safety in our community,” said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan. In Ontario, there are 34 inspection stations across the province where enforcement officers inspect the condition of commercial vehicles and monitor the behaviour and qualifications of drivers. In 2023, the government increased its enforcement presence on Highways 11, 17, 144, and 101, with officers conducting more than 4,000 inspections and laying 3,200 charges, including 700 for speeding. More than 1,000 vehicles were placed out of service.

30. Trimac buys North Carolina bulk hauler

Trimac Transportation has grown its U.S. fleet, with the acquisition of bulk hauler Feldspar Trucking in Spruce Pine, N.C. Feldspar was founded more than 50 years ago as Norris Trucking with one truck. It now hauls sand, clay and minerals crucial to the ceramics and glass industries. The company employs more than 60 company drivers, and is supported by broker carriers. “We are thrilled to welcome Feldspar to the Trimac family,” said Trimac president and CEO, Matt Faure. “As a family-owned company deeply rooted in our values of integrity and service, joining forces with Trimac marks an exciting chapter in our journey,” said Jim Norris of Feldspar Trucking. The acquisition closed March 18, 2024.

31. ATA Truck Tonnage Index increased 4.3% in February

American Trucking Associations’ advanced seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index increased 4.3% in February 2024 after decreasing 3.2% in January 2024. In February 2024, the index equaled 116.0 (2015=100) compared with 111.3 in January 2024. “After a very soft January, due in part to winter storms, truck tonnage snapped back in February,” said *ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello*. “February’s level was the highest in a year, yet the index still contracted from a year earlier, suggesting truck freight remains in a recession.” January’s decrease was revised up from our February 20 press release. Compared with February 2023, the index fell 1.4%, which was the twelfth straight year-over-year decline. In January 2024, the index was down 4.5% from a year earlier. The not-seasonally adjusted index, which represents the change in tonnage actually hauled by the fleets before any seasonal adjustment, equaled 109.7 in February 2024, the same as in January 2024. ATA’s For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index is dominated by contract freight as opposed to spot market freight. In calculating the index, 100 represents 2015.

32. Urban public transit, January 2024

Canada’s urban transit networks provided an estimated 127.1 million rides in January 2024, an increase of 11.9% (+13.5 million trips) from January 2023. Ridership in January 2024 was 79.0% of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level from January 2019, just below the average recovery rate of 80% observed over the last half of 2023. Indeed, in January 2024 there were about 33.8 million fewer rides than in pre-pandemic January 2019. In the two years prior to the pandemic (2018 and 2019), ridership increased by over 8% from December to January, as students and workers returned from the holiday break. However, ridership in January 2024 increased by 3.8% from December 2023. Labour disputes involving workers for a company that operates bus transit services for B.C. Transit as well as a 48-hour work stoppage in Metro Vancouver were factors affecting ridership. In January 2024, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) was up 14.5% from the same month in 2023 to \$303.7 million, albeit \$46.1 million below the pre-pandemic January 2019 level, before the pandemic.

33. Titanium revenues climb, profit falls amid ongoing freight recession

Titanium Transportation’s move into the U.S. asset-based trucking market helped it grow its 2003 Q4 revenue against the backdrop of an ongoing freight recession, while net income slid 71% year over year. Consolidated revenue grew 7.6% to \$119.3 million in the 2003 fourth quarter. Truck transportation revenue jumped 32% year over year, thanks to contributions from the company’s purchase of Crane Transportation in the U.S. Titanium also marked its second straight quarter of organic growth in logistics, with a 9.3% volume increase year over year, but a 15% decrease in revenue. For the full year 2023, revenue was down 11.6% to \$438.7 million, and net income slid 59% to \$10.23 million, marking the company’s second best year in its history, behind an abnormally strong market in 2022. “In 2023,

the freight transportation industry faced a challenging market including excess capacity, downward pressure on pricing and escalating operating costs,” CEO Ted Daniel said in a release. “Despite these headwinds, Titanium delivered sustainable and profitable growth. “We enter 2024 from a position of strength as our recent strategic acquisition of Crane positions us to drive growth in our U.S.-based logistics business,” Daniel added. “Moreover, with a recently completed fleet refresh we will have a reduced need for capital expenditures.” The company said the headwinds it experienced in 2023 have persisted through the first two months of this year.

34. CPKC announces filing of proxy circular and annual general meeting

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) announced on March 21, 2024 that it has filed its notice of meeting and management proxy circular for CPKC's 2024 annual meeting of shareholders with Canadian and U.S. securities regulators. A copy of the proxy material is available at investor.cpkcr.com. The annual meeting of shareholders will be held virtually on April 24, 2024 at 9 a.m. MT.

35. Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Canadian National Railway Company was conducted via a live webcast meeting on *Friday, April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time)*. From this website, registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders, after logging in, will be able to attend the live meeting, submit questions and exercise the right to vote associated to their shares while the meeting is being held.

36. FedEx posts strong quarterly results

FedEx Corp. late Thursday, March 21 2024 reported adjusted earnings of \$3.86 per diluted share in its fiscal 2024 third quarter, well above analysts' estimates of \$3.45 per share, sending shares up sharply in after-hours trading. The company said cost cuts and efficiency improvements offset continued macroeconomic weakness. FedEx Express, the company's air and international unit posted improved operating results despite lower revenue. FedEx Ground's operating results increased due to lower structural costs and higher base yields. Cost per package was flat. FedEx Freight, the company's less-than-truckload unit, posted lower operating results due to lower fuel surcharges, less volume and reduced weight per shipment, the company said.

37. US\$1 trillion needed to provide electric truck infrastructure in US

Full electrification of the U.S. commercial truck fleet would require nearly US\$1 trillion in infrastructure investment alone, according to a new report by the Clean Freight Coalition (CFC) and consulting firm Roland Berger. The study forecasts a realistic infrastructure buildout for the electrification of medium- and heavy-duty commercial vehicles, exposing what the CFC calls a massive investment gap as state and federal policymakers mandate increased adoption rates of battery-electric commercial vehicles.

38. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, February 2024

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for February. For February 2024 it was 134.1 the same as the previous month and up 2.5 points from 131.6 February 2023.

39. Large carriers face regulatory, market challenges

Regulation is bogging down trucking and the sector is bombarded with issues, according to an industry leader. “In Canada, we’re seeing a move towards telling us what to do all the time,” said Murray Mullen, chairman, senior executive officer and president of Mullen Group during Truckload Carriers Association’s annual Truckload 2024 in Nashville, Tenn. Mullen added trucking will always be subject to regulation and oversight, but it takes away from entrepreneurialism and the very essence of capitalism. “They’re trying to regulate us into doing something that we all have to do exactly the same thing at the same time.” Jim Richards, president and CEO of KLLM Transport Services said while some regulations are positive, like those focused on safety, others are not. During a panel discussion on challenges large carriers face, he said other regulations like those facing independent contractors, make it difficult to strategize on whether carriers should focus on company drivers or go the independent contractor route.

40. North American Transborder Freight down 1.3% in January 2024 from January 2023

Transborder freight (January 2024 vs. January 2023) between the U.S. and North American countries *Canada and Mexico* is indicted hereafter: 1. Total transborder freight: \$124.2 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, down 1.3% compared to January 2023. 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$59.7 billion, down 3.5% from January 2023. 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$64.5 billion, up 0.9% from January 2023. 4. Trucks moved \$79.5 billion of freight, up 2.3% compared to January 2023. 5. Railways moved \$15.6 billion of freight, down 6.9% compared to January 2023. 6. Vessels moved \$10.0 billion of freight, down 4.1% compared to January 2023. 7. Pipelines moved \$9.7 billion of freight, down 7.3% compared to January 2023. 8. Air moved \$4.1 billion of freight, down 13.7% compared to January 2023. US-Canada transborder freight (billions) were as follows: 1. Truck \$33.4. 2. Pipeline \$9.1. 3. Rail \$88.2. 4. Vessel \$3.1. 5. Air \$2.5

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Govt Mandate Rippling Through Supply Chain, Adding Cost and Cuts Productivity: FETCO Study

Absence from work, planned or unplanned, has negative consequences for labour productivity, organizational performance, collective bargaining dynamics and the broader national economy, according to a new study by FETCO, which is comprised of 38 federally regulated organizations, including the Canadian Trucking Alliance. The study points out the statutory requirement for 10 paid sick days has a significant impact on the productivity of the beleaguered supply chain as it faces massive pressure due to labour shortages, supply disruptions and other economic headwinds. The requirement, implemented by federal government in 2022, mandates that all federally regulated employers – including trucking and other critical service sectors such as air, rail, marine, banking, telecommunications, postal service, atomic energy – to provide 10 paid sick days. These days are in addition to mandated three paid and two unpaid days that were introduced in 2019. Overall, 15 leave days and 13 paid leave days were provided to all workers in these and other sectors in just a few short years.

2. Partnerships key to tackling sustainability hurdles, DTNA's Aufdemberg says

Battery electric, hydrogen and diesel are all part of the equation for a cleaner world. Partnerships are the way forward, said Mary Aufdemberg, general manager of product strategy and market development, Daimler Truck North America, during the keynote address that kicked off Green Truck Summit in Indianapolis, Ind. She noted that 30 years ago one truck produced more emissions than 60 trucks produced today. "In the past 15 years the emissions from semitrucks have been reduced by more than 20%, but we want to do more," she said. "With the complexity of vehicle types, customer needs, and ecosystem challenges there's no easy button, but there's a will." Aufdemberg said there are hurdles along the way, the biggest being lack of infrastructure and high cost. She said transformation has an equation, where viable product solutions are multiplied by total cost of ownership parity multiplied by dependable charging infrastructure.

3. Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2024

In January 2024, Canada's merchandise imports decreased 3.8%, while exports fell 1.7%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade balance changed position for a second consecutive month, moving from a deficit of \$863 million in December 2023 to a surplus of \$496 million in January 2024. The January 2024 surplus is close to the typical bounds for monthly revisions to imports and exports. Total imports decreased

3.8% in January to \$61.8 billion, the lowest level since February 2022. Overall, 7 of the 11 product sections were down. On a year-over-year basis, imports were down 6.0% in January 2024. In real (or volume) terms, total imports fell 4.1% in January compared with the previous month.

4. Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Step to Boost Domestic Manufacturing in Transportation, Create Good-Paying American Jobs

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on January 7, 2024 to discontinue its general waiver of Buy America requirements for manufactured products used in federal-aid highway projects. In the rulemaking, the agency proposes discontinuing the waiver and creating standards that would apply to manufactured products if the waiver is discontinued. This rulemaking will change outdated policy and bolster American manufacturing while creating good-paying jobs. This proposed rule is a result of the FHWA's review of the general waiver for manufactured products under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, which will boost domestic manufacturing, bolster critical supply

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Govt Mandate Rippling Through Supply Chain, Adding Cost and Cuts Productivity: FETCO Study, March 6, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
2. Partnerships key to tackling sustainability hurdles, DTNA's Aufdemberg says, March 6, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
3. Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2024, March 7, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Step to Boost Domestic Manufacturing in Transportation, Create Good-Paying American Jobs, January 7, 2024, www.dot.gov
5. February 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.9%) Rises Above the February 2023 Level (4.7%) And the Pre-Pandemic February 2019 Level (4.3%), March 8, 2024, www.bts.gov
6. U.S. Department Of Transportation Announces \$57 Million Available For Innovative Finance And Asset Concession Grants, March 11, 2024, www.dot.gov
7. January 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 3.1% from the Previous Month and Down 2.0% from the Same Month Last Year, March 13, 2024, www.bts.gov
8. Biden-Harris Administration Announces History-Making \$3.3 Billion for Locally-Led Projects That Reconnect Communities as Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, March 13, 2024, www.dot.gov
9. New plan to manage climate risks in Europe, March 13, 2024, www.europa.eu
10. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Investments in Innovative Transportation Technology Projects, March 14, 2024, www.dot.gov
11. Traffic Flow Dashboard March 15, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
12. China set for record Russian oil imports in March, Kpler says, March 18, 2024, www.ajot.com
13. Transport Minister welcomes recommendations in the Office of the Auditor General's report on the National Trade Corridors Fund, March 19, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
14. Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Milestone in First-of-its-Kind Supply Chain Initiative, March 20, 2024, www.dot.gov
15. Travel between Canada and other countries, January 2024, March 22, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
16. National tourism indicators, fourth quarter 2023, March 27, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
17. OTA Lauds Ontario Budget that Supports Skilled Workers & Makes Major Investments in Highway Infrastructure, March 2, 2024, www.ontruck.ca

chains, and support the creation of good-paying union jobs.

5. February 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.9%) Rises Above the February 2023 Level (4.7%) And the Pre-Pandemic February 2019 Level (4.3%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 5.9% (not seasonally adjusted) in February 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 February 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 1.2 percentage points from 4.7% in February 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic February 2019 level of 4.3%. 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 February 2024 was 4.2% or 1.7 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in February 2024 was 3.9%.

6. U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$57 Million Available For Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT's) Build America Bureau (Bureau) on March 11, 2024 released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a new program authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant Program makes \$100 million available over five years to assist public entities in facilitating and evaluating public-private partnerships and exploring innovative financing and delivery opportunities for Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) eligible (TIFIA) eligible projects. The NOFO allocates funds for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, totalling \$57.72 million. Grants up to \$2 million are available, with the first million requiring no local match. NOFO allocated funds for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, totalling \$57.72 million. Grants up to \$2 million are available, with the first million requiring no local match. Applications are due May 9, 2024.

7. January 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 3.1% from the Previous Month and Down 2.0% 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 3.1% in January 2024 from December 2023, falling after a one-month increase, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From January 2023 to January 2024 the index fell 2.0%

8. Biden-Harris Administration Announces History-Making \$3.3 Billion for Locally-Led Projects That Reconnect Communities as Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda

On March 13, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced \$3.33 billion in grant awards for 132 projects through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity discretionary grant programs as part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda. The funding is aimed at reconnecting communities that were cut off by transportation infrastructure decades ago, leaving entire neighborhoods without direct access to opportunity, like schools, jobs, medical offices, and places of worship.

9. New plan to manage climate risks in Europe

The Commission has presented steps to manage climate risks in Europe that set out how the EU and its countries can implement policies that save lives, cut costs, and protect prosperity. This follows the most recent scientific advice and responds to many Europeans' concerns.

10. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Investments in Innovative Transportation Technology Projects

On March 14, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced more than \$50 million in grant awards for 34 technology demonstration projects across the country through the *Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program*. The competitive grant program, established by President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides \$500 million over five years for State, local, and Tribal governments to leverage advances in technology to create safer, more efficient, and more innovative transportation systems. The projects announced on March 14, 2024 are a part of the President's Investing in America agenda and encompass locations across 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

11. Traffic Flow Dashboard

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

12. China set for record Russian oil imports in March, Kpler says

China is on track to import a record amount of Russian crude this month, bolstered by large volumes of Sokol oil which have been shunned by India due to concerns over US sanctions, according to Kpler. The Asian nation is poised to receive about 1.7 million barrels a day of Russian crude this month, data tracked by Kpler show. Volumes of Sokol are expected to triple from a month earlier to an all-time high of 379,000 barrels a day. China has been a consistent buyer of Russian crude since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and has recently taken advantage of cheaper Sokol after flows of

the grade to India eased. Imports of ESPO are expected to be at 882,000 barrels a day this month, the highest since January 2023, according to Kpler. It's unclear if the Sokol cargoes will all end up with actual buyers or discharged into bonded storage, traders said. They cited hesitation from Chinese banks to be involved in the trade amid the latest US sanctions on tankers. Kpler includes flows into Myanmar as imports by China, and actual arrivals may differ at the end of the month due to destination changes.

13. Transport Minister welcomes recommendations in the Office of the Auditor General's report on the National Trade Corridors Fund

On March 19, 2024, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, issued this statement on the report published the Office of the Auditor General on the Government of Canada's efforts related to the National Trade Corridors Fund: "The Office of the Auditor General found that overall, Transport Canada was successful at designing and implementing the National Trade Corridors Fund, but improvements are required to effectively track and report on results. "In particular, I acknowledge and accept the recommendations to better document the program's committee work, and to improve the collection, tracking and reporting on project performance outcomes. Transport Canada is also committed to promptly informing Canadians of performance and accountability outcomes of new and ongoing projects. "The plans to address the audit findings demonstrate our government's commitment to investing in Canada's supply chains and strengthening the economy, while ensuring projects funded through the National Trade Corridors Fund are well tracked and reported."

14. Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Milestone in First-of-its-Kind Supply Chain Initiative

On the second anniversary of the launch of the Freight Logistics Optimizations Works (FLOW) initiative, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on March 20, 2024 announced that the FLOW platform has begun to publish data on inland freight hubs, including rail terminal and warehouse end destination data, that will enable FLOW members to have an enhanced view of future container import volumes and traffic. This data will help inform capacity decisions and avoid supply chain challenges, such as delays, for FLOW participants that will ultimately help lower costs for consumers. FLOW is a first-of-its-kind private-public partnership created and led by DOT that creates a more complete, 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.

15. Travel between Canada and other countries, January 2024

In January 2024, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada accounted for 75.9% of the number observed in January 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic, with US residents taking 910,600 trips to Canada and residents of overseas countries taking 278,700. During the same period, the number of returning Canadian residents reached 91.2% of the level recorded in January 2020, as Canadian residents returned from 4.0 million trips abroad in January 2024. For the first time since December 2021, seasonally adjusted figures are available to allow for comparisons with the previous month. In comparison with December 2023, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada in January 2024 declined by 6.1%, while the number of returning Canadian-resident arrivals increased by 0.6%.

16. National tourism indicators, fourth quarter 2023

Tourism spending in Canada grew 2.3% in the fourth quarter, following a 0.1% decline in the third quarter. Annually, tourism spending rose 13.5% in 2023 after increasing 50.4% in 2022. Tourism gross domestic product rose 2.5% in the fourth quarter of 2023 and was up 9.5% annually. Passenger air transport (+3.8%) and accommodation services (+3.9%) were the main contributors to growth in tourism spending in the fourth quarter. Annually, passenger air transport spending (+34.0%) contributed the most to overall growth in 2023. Pre-trip expenses (-9.0%), such as recreational vehicles, pleasure crafts and camping equipment, was the only product category to decrease in 2023.

17. OTA Lauds Ontario Budget that Supports Skilled Workers & Makes Major Investments in Highway Infrastructure

The Ontario government made a series of announcements in its 2024 Budget to strengthen the economy and reinforce the supply chain by investing in trucking labour and highway infrastructure programs. The Ford government has committed an additional \$100 million in the Skills Development Fund this year, to help job seekers, including those interested in entering the trucking industry, advance their careers. Ontario will invest more than \$62 million in two of the province's foundational skilled trades programs to help young people explore future careers in the skilled trades, including \$21 million to expand the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and \$42 million to launch 100 pre-apprenticeship training projects around the province that will help young people acquire firsthand job experience. In 2023, the OTA and the Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC) announced the launch of the Explore Trucking Careers Program which is supported through the province's Skills Development Fund (SDF). The OTA continues support for this critical fund.