

Transportation Information Update*

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

Editor: Joseph Monteiro*

September 2024, 241

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson*

AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. Air Travel Consumer Report: June 2024 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on August 30, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of June 2024 and the first six months of 2024 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, and second quarter oversales. For June 2024, 1.3% of flights were cancelled, lower than the 2.1% cancellation rate for June 2023, lower than the 3.1% cancellation rate for June 2022, and lower than the 2.1% cancellation rate in pre-pandemic June 2019. For the first six months of 2024, the reporting marketing carriers posted a cancellation rate of 1.4%, down from 1.6% for the same period in 2023, down from 3.2% for the same period in 2022, and down from 2.4% for the same period in 2019. In June 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an on-time arrival rate of 74.3%, up from both 72.6% in May 2024 and 71.3% in June 2023. The year-to-date on-time arrival rate for 2024 is 76.9%. In June 2024, airlines reported 70 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights, compared to 38 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights reported in May 2024. In June 2024, airlines reported six tarmac delay of more than four hours on an international flight, compared to four tarmac delay of more than four hours on international flights reported in May 2024. In June 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 44.6 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.58%, same as the rate of 0.58% in May 2024, and lower than the rate of 0.70% in June 2023. In June 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 82,778 wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling 1,075 for a rate of 1.30% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, higher than the rate of 1.24% mishandled in May 2024 and lower than the rate of 1.45% mishandled in June 2023. In June 2024, carriers reported one incident involving the death, injury, or loss of an animal while traveling by air, lower than the two reports filed in May 2024 and equal to the one report filed in June 2023. June's incident involved the death of one animal.

2. Cabin waste audit to provide compelling evidence for change

IATA and the Aviation Sustainability Forum (ASF) are collaborating to launch a standardized Cabin Waste Composition Audit (CWCA). The CWCA will be an essential tool in aviation's sustainability efforts. Previous IATA research identified the lack of a standardized methodology in cabin waste audits. As a result, harmonized data is not available to underpin decision-making by airlines, caterers, and policymakers regarding waste management and circularity issues. A standardized approach to CWCA analysis will help to solve these concerns and enable the sector to enable and demonstrate progress in waste reduction. "Managing and reducing waste is an important component of aviation's overall sustainability," says Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's Senior Vice President Sustainability and Chief Economist. "Obtaining standardized and comparable data regarding the composition and quantity of waste from flights will help the industry to

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Air Travel Consumer Report: June 2024 Numbers, August 30, 2024, www.dot.gov
2. Cabin waste audit to provide compelling evidence for change, September 2, 2024, www.iata.org
3. IVL Increase Will Hurt NZ's Travel and Tourism Sector, September 3, 2024, www.iata.org
4. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 34) – 2024, August 30, 2024, www.ajot.com
5. Air Canada Offers Pilots a 30% Pay Boost as Strike Deadline Nears, September 4, 2024, www.yahoo.com
6. USDOT Seeks to Protect Consumers' Airline Rewards in Probe of Four Largest U.S. Airlines' Rewards Practices, September 5, 2024, www.dot.gov
7. U.S. Airlines' July 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon up 1.6% from June 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 3.5% from Pre-Pandemic July 2019, July 5, 2024, www.bts.gov
8. Summer provides perfect 'warm up act' as the global air cargo market heads towards hotly anticipated Q4 peak, September 5, 2024, www.ajot.com
9. EU top court should reject Air France-KLM cartel fine appeal, court adviser says, September 5, 2024, www.ajot.com
10. Air Canada Prepares for Orderly Shutdown to Mitigate Customer Impact Resulting from Labour Disruption, September 9, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
11. Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than \$2 Billion in Grants to Improve Airport Infrastructure Across the U.S., September 6, 2024, www.dot.gov
12. Singapore to begin building Changi's T5 mega airport terminal in 2025, September 9, 2024, www.aot.com
13. Cargo shipments face delays if Air Canada pilots go on strike, September 9, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
14. Air Canada's Best New Restaurants 2024 Longlist is Unveiled, Showcasing the Best of New Culinary Talent across Canada, September 10, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
15. WestJet Cargo showcases success of specialized charter service across North and Latin America, September 10, 2024, www.ajt.com
16. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 1,513 Jobs in July 2024, September 10, 2024, www.bts.gov

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

reduce the waste it generates. Better data will also help policymakers to harmonize regulations, which in turn can help optimize the industry's capability to sort, recycle, and safely re-use waste that cannot be avoided. Working with ASF in developing this audit program is a significant step forward in improving the circularity of the sector.”

3. IVL Increase Will Hurt NZ's Travel and Tourism Sector

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) expressed disappointment with the New Zealand Government's decision to increase the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). “It has been a double whammy for the New Zealand travel and tourism sector, starting with New Zealand Immigration announcing steep increases in visa fees, and now the increase in the IVL. These changes make travel to New Zealand more expensive and less attractive and could further delay the recovery in visitor numbers to beyond 2026,” said Dr. Xie Xingquan, IATA's Regional Vice President for North Asia and Asia-Pacific (ad interim). The recovery of the New Zealand aviation market currently lags behind major markets such as Australia, Canada, France, Spain, the UK, and the US. These markets have either recovered to pre-pandemic passenger levels or will achieve full recovery in 2024.

4. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 34) - 2024

Air cargo tonnages from Asia Pacific have rebounded strongly in the last full week of August 2024 after slipping sharply the previous week due to flight cancellations resulting from a typhoon in Northeast Asia, although tonnages from Europe have yet to bounce back from the mid-August ‘Assumption’ holiday. According to the latest figures and analysis from WorldACD Market Data, worldwide air cargo tonnages in week 34 (19-25 August) rebounded by +5%, compared with the previous week, mainly driven by a week-on-week (WoW) increase of +11% from Asia Pacific origins. That follows a -7% drop in worldwide flown cargo the previous week, most of which was linked to the impact of Typhoon Ampil on air cargo to and from Japan – and to a lesser extent South Korea – and to the 15 August holiday in various European countries. The impact of this week's typhoon is to affect Japan further.

5. Air Canada Offers Pilots a 30% Pay Boost as Strike Deadline Nears

Air Canada has offered to boost the pay of more than 5,000 pilots by about 30% within the next three years, according to people familiar with the matter, as it seeks to prevent a strike. Pilots at Canada's largest airline would receive a minimum 20% increase up front, followed by annual raises over a three-year period, said the people, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private. Pilots with one to four years of service would receive more, the people said. The offer means that a captain with 10 years of service flying a widebody aircraft such as a Boeing 777 with a current salary of just over C\$350,000 (US\$259,000) per year may see an increase of more than C\$100,000 over the life of the contract, the people said. The airline's offer also includes improvements in pension and health benefits. Air Canada and the Air Line Pilots Association have been in talks for more than a year. The last contract, a 10-year deal that was ratified in 2014, provided pay increases of about 2% annually. The pilots haven't received a raise since last year.

6. USDOT Seeks to Protect Consumers' Airline Rewards in Probe of Four Largest U.S. Airlines' Rewards Practices

On September 5, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) launched an inquiry into the four largest U.S. airlines' rewards programs that is aimed at protecting rewards customers from potential unfair, deceptive, or anticompetitive practices. As part of the probe, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg sent letters to American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines ordering them to provide

17. Air Canada pilots get more political support as strike looms, September 11, 2024, www.ajot.com

18. ICAO and International Transport Forum joint agreement to advance sustainable aviation, September 11, 2024, www.itf-oeecd.org

19. Air Canada Urges Federal Government to Direct Arbitration to Avert Disruption for Travellers, September 12, 2024, www.aircanada.ca; and [Air Canada strike could cost Canada's economy \\$1.4 billion, economists estimate, September 12, 2024, www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

20. Air Canada labor dispute puts supply chains at risk, September 12, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

21. June 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 6.7% from the Same Month Last Year, September 12, 2024, www.bts.gov

22. Air Canada agrees to new contract with pilots, avoids strike, September 15, 2024, www.freightwaves.com; and [Air Canada and ALPA Reach Tentative Agreement on a New Four-Year Contract, Sept. 15, 2024, www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

23. Porter Airlines introducing Toronto-Pearson - Thunder Bay route with Embraer E195-E2, Sept. 15, 2024, www.flyporter.com

24. Air Canada Cargo resumes normal operations, Sept. 16, 2024, www.ajot.com

25. The positive impact of CASS, September 15, 2024, www.iata.org

26. USDOT Requires Alaska and Hawaiian Airlines to Preserve Rewards Value, Critical Flight Service as Merger Moves Forward, September 17, 2024, www.dot.gov

27. SAF Registry to create global, transparent, and fluid SAF market, September 17, 2024, www.iata.org

28. Consultation process opens after the Canadian Transportation Agency publishes a fee proposal for the cost recovery of air travel complaints, September 18, 2024, www.cta-otc.gc.ca

29. Air Travel Consumer Report: January-May 2024 Airline Consumer Submissions Data, September 19, 2024, www.dot.gov

30. Air Canada union head says she'll resign if pilots reject deal, September 22, 2024, www.cbcnews.ca

31. Press Release: Introducing the Leadership in Flight Training (LIFT) Program, September 20, 2024, www.atac.ca

32. US Airlines gain \$3.8 billion in second quarter 2024, a decrease from second quarter 2023, September 24, 2024, www.bts.gov

33. IATA and FIATA Collaborate to Strengthen Global Air Cargo Standards with FIATA Endorsement of ICHM

34. Boeing makes final offer of 30% wage increase to striking workers, September 23, 2024, www.ajot.com

35. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, August 2024, September 24, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

36. Canadian Airports Gear Up for 2024 Airports Safety Week, September 23, 2024, www.cacairports.ca

Records and submit reports with detailed information about their rewards programs, practices, and policies. DOT's probe is focused on the ways consumers participating in airline rewards programs are impacted by the devaluation of earned rewards, hidden or dynamic pricing, extra fees, and reduced competition and choice.

7. U.S. Airlines' July 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon up 1.6% from June 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 3.5% from Pre-Pandemic July 2019

July 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.735 billion gallons of fuel, 3.1% more fuel than in June 2024 (1.683 billion gallons) and 3.5% more than in pre-pandemic July 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in July 2024 (\$2.58) was up 4 cents (1.6%) from June 2024 (\$2.54) and up \$0.59 (29.9%) from July 2019. Total July 2024 fuel expenditure (\$4.47B) was up 4.7% from June 2024 (\$4.27B) and up 34.5% from pre-pandemic July 2019. The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on July 5, 2024 released U.S. airlines' Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for July 2024 includes a 2.7% increase in domestic fuel consumption, a 5.8% increase in domestic fuel cost, and a 3.0% increase in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption increased 3.1% from June 2024 to July 2024, while increasing 3.5% from July 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

8. Summer provides perfect 'warm up act' as the global air cargo market heads towards hotly anticipated Q4 peak

The global air cargo market's hot summer of double-digit demand growth continued in August 2024 with average spot rates showing their largest year-on-year growth of +24%, according to the latest weekly analysis by Xeneta. Global average air cargo spot rates of USD 2.68 per kg in August were boosted by continuing supply and demand imbalance. August's global cargo supply grew at its slowest ratio in 2024 to-date at 2% year-on-year, while global cargo demand continued its double-digit growth, rising +11%. The increase was further supported by ocean-to-air shift due to Red Sea disruptions and e-commerce demand. E-commerce continued to show strong growth as the air cargo market continued to cruise towards its hotly anticipated peak season. According to Trade and Transport Group, e-commerce and low-value goods exports from China in the first seven months of 2024 increased +30% year-on-year. Notably, shipments to Europe and the US showed +38% and +30% growth respectively. "Typically, air cargo market performance in August tends to follow the July trend. But another month of double-digit demand growth and the strongest rate growths of the year means there was definitely no summer slack season in 2024," said Niall van de Wouw, Xeneta's Chief Airfreight Officer.

9. EU top court should reject Air France-KLM cartel fine appeal, court adviser says

Europe's top court should reject an appeal by Air France KLM and its Dutch unit KLM, British Airways, Singapore Airlines and some of their peers against cartel fines imposed by EU antitrust regulators in 2017, an adviser to the court said on September 5, 2024. The European Commission seven years ago reissued fines totalling 776 million euros to 11 airlines for taking part in a cartel to fix air cargo prices, after the Luxembourg-based General Court scrapped its first decision levied in 2010 due to a procedural error. The carriers took their grievance back to the lower tribunal which threw out their challenges in 2022, prompting them to appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The court's judges should dismiss their appeals, CJEU Advocate General Athanasios Rantos said in a non-binding opinion, as he sided with the EU competition enforcer. He said SAS' appeal for a cut in its fine should be referred back to the General Court to be reviewed.

10. Air Canada Prepares for Orderly Shutdown to Mitigate Customer Impact Resulting from Labour Disruption

On Sept. 9, 2024, Air Canada said that it is finalizing contingency plans to suspend most of its operations. Talks between the company and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), representing more than 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge, continue, but the parties remain far apart. Unless an agreement is reached, beginning on September 15, 2024, either party may issue a 72-hour strike or lockout notice, which would trigger the carrier's three-day wind down plan.

11. Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than \$2 Billion in Grants to Improve Airport Infrastructure Across the U.S.

On September 6, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced \$1.9 billion for 519 grants in 48 states, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, in its fifth announcement under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). An additional \$269 million was also announced in FY 2023 Supplemental Discretionary Grants to fund 62 projects at 56 U.S. airports. This competitive grant program under the Airport Improvement Program assists airport owners and operators in the

37. Porter Airlines wins USA Today Best Economy Class, September 25, 2024, www.flyporter.com

38. US Senate committee faults Boeing safety practices, FAA oversight, September 25, 2024, www.ajot.com

39. Thrust Carbon Joins IATA CO2 Connect Emissions Calculations Distribution Network, September 25, 2024, www.iata.org

40. Consultation process opens after the Canadian Transportation Agency publishes a fee proposal for the cost recovery of air travel complaints, September 26, 2024, www.cta-otc.gc.ca

41. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, July 2024, September 26, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

42. IATA Wings of Change Europe to Offer Agenda for European Competitiveness, September 26, 2024, www.iata.org

development and improvement of our nation's airport system.

12. Singapore to begin building Changi's T5 mega airport terminal in 2025

Singapore will start construction of a new mega terminal at Changi Airport in the first half of next year, aiming to lift the aviation hub's annual passenger handling capacity by more than half, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said. The new Terminal 5 would add capacity for another 50 million passengers a year when operational in the mid-2030s, up from 90 million, and would allow the aviation hub serve more than 200 destinations, from almost 150 now. "We will break ground for the construction of T5 in the first half of next year," Wong said at a dinner on September 6, 2024 celebrating the 40th anniversary of the nation's civil aviation authority. Changi Airport is the busiest in Southeast Asia, handling almost 60 million passengers last year as international travel bounced back from Covid. In the first half of this year, passenger traffic at Changi returned to almost 100% of pre-pandemic levels, Wong said. But other cities in the region have also been adding capacity in an effort to gain a bigger slice of a growing global market for air travel. Global passenger traffic is expected to double by 2042 to nearly 20 billion, according to Montreal-based Airports Council International. "Some have announced plans for mega airports that can handle more than 100 million passengers a year," Wong said. "So they are narrowing the gap with Singapore."

13. Cargo shipments face delays if Air Canada pilots go on strike

Air cargo shipments will be halted on Sept. 19, 2024 at Air Canada if pilots follow through on a threat to strike without a new labor deal. The airline on September 9, 2024 said it is finalizing contingency plans for a phased shutdown of most operations. Talks between the company and the Air Line Pilots Association, representing more than 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge, are stalled and the parties remain far apart on contract terms. Unless an agreement is reached by September 15, 2024, either party may issue a 72-hour strike or lockout notice, which would trigger the carrier's three-day wind-down plan.

14. Air Canada's Best New Restaurants 2024 Longlist is Unveiled, Showcasing the Best of New Culinary Talent across Canada

The 30 nominees for Air Canada's Best New Restaurants 2024 were unveiled on September 10, 2024, celebrating new culinary talent across Canada. Since 2002, Air Canada has championed the country's distinct culinary scene through the longest running Canadian restaurant ranking and its signature program, Air Canada's Best New Restaurants. The 2024 highly anticipated longlist is out today on CanadasBestNewRestaurants.com.

15. WestJet Cargo showcases success of specialized charter service across North and Latin America

Designed to meet the complex logistics needs of businesses, the service leverages a fleet of Boeing 737-800 Converted Freighters to deliver specialized, flexible, and reliable cargo transport for a wide range of industries. With up to 23 tons of cargo capacity per aircraft, the service stands out for its ability to accommodate special loads, including non-standard or bulky items, making it ideal for a wide range of commodities. From high volumes of e-commerce packages and sensitive electronics to perishables like fresh produce and seafood, WestJet Cargo's charter service ensures that cargo is handled efficiently and delivered reliably. A dedicated 24/7 charter desk provides around-the-clock support, ensuring seamless operations and communication at every step. "Our charter service has rapidly gained momentum, completing over 40 charters since its launch," said Kirsten De Bruijn, Executive Vice President, WestJet Cargo. "We are able to offer our clients a unique combination of flexibility, expertise, and reliable service that caters to their specific needs. Our experienced team works tirelessly to ensure that every shipment is handled with the utmost care, reflecting our commitment to operational excellence." WestJet Cargo spotlights the growing impact of its charter service, launched in Q4 2023, which offers unparalleled cargo solutions across North and Latin America.

16. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 1,513 Jobs in July 2024

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 1,004,213 workers in July 2024, 1,513 (0.15%) more workers than in June 2024 (1,002,700). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 546,083 workers in July 2024, or 55% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines lost 363 employees in July 2024. United Air Lines Inc. led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 157 employees; PSA Airlines Inc. added 115, and SkyWest Airlines Inc. added 111. U.S. cargo airlines employed 454,569 workers in July 2024, or 45% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers gained 2414 employees in July. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 2352 jobs.

17. Air Canada pilots get more political support as strike looms

Canada's Conservative party chief says he stands with pilots in a labor dispute with Air Canada, as the carrier prepares to suspend flights ahead of a potential strike. Pierre Poilievre, leader of the opposition and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's chief rival, said he would not support any action that preempted negotiations between the airline and union. "I would call on Air Canada to negotiate in good faith with the pilots," he told reporters on September 11, 2024. "We stand with the pilots and their right to fight for a fair deal, good wages." The airline is set to suspend flights starting Sunday if a deal can't be reached with the union representing more than 5,000 pilots. The pilots will be in a position to issue a 72-hour strike notice that day, and the airline plans to begin progressively cancelling flights before shutting

down completely on Sept. 18, 2024. It's the latest labor headache for Trudeau's Liberal government. Last month, a tribunal agreed to the government's request to order locked-out rail workers back on the job and to undergo binding arbitration, after a one-day stoppage choked supply chains. If a strike against Air Canada goes ahead, the government could make a similar request — but an official who asked not to be named to discuss internal matters said it doesn't plan on being trigger-happy with that power. Another option would be to put forward back-to-work legislation in parliament, but the Liberals would need the support of one of the three main opposition parties to pass it.

18. ICAO and International Transport Forum joint agreement to advance sustainable aviation

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD will deepen collaboration and broaden the scope of their joint work towards the sustainable development of air transport. The renewed Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) focuses on data sharing and exploring future joint projects in areas including liberalisation and inclusivity in international air transport, aviation safety and efficiency, infrastructure investment and sustainability. The MoC builds on a 2015 agreement and 2019 renewal that allows the exchange of information and staff across both bodies.

19. Air Canada Urges Federal Government to Direct Arbitration to Avert Disruption for Travellers

Air Canada on September 12, 2024 said that if the airline's contract negotiations with its pilot union fail, a government direction for binding arbitration will be necessary to avoid a major disruption of air travel that would upset the plans of 110,000 or more travellers a day and delay time-sensitive cargo shipments. There have now been 100 days of meetings in contract negotiations between the company and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), which represents 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge. Tentative agreement has been reached on 70 per cent of the more than 1,000 proposed changes suggested by ALPA. Air Canada has offered unprecedented wage increases, which the union has refused, publicly citing U.S. based wage levels. The negotiations have stalled between the parties, who will be in a legal strike or lock-out position as early as September 18, 2024. A two-week pilot strike at Canada's largest carrier could result in losses of \$98 million a day

20. Air Canada labor dispute puts supply chains at risk

Air Canada joined business groups on September 12, 2024 in calling for the Canadian government to intervene to prevent a strike by the airline's pilots that could start within days. The nation's flag carrier urged officials to order binding arbitration to resolve stalled contract talks between the company and its 5,200 unionized pilots, saying a potential strike would cause severe economic disruption for the country by halting air travel and delaying time-sensitive cargo shipments. Air Canada operates six Boeing 767-300 cargo jets that would be grounded, along with the rest of the fleet, if pilots go on strike next week. Last week, Air Canada announced contingency plans to wind down operations over three days if no deal is reached by Sunday so aircraft, passengers and crews aren't stranded away from home. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, along with more than 90 industry trade associations, on September 11, 2024 said in a letter that Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon should move quickly to avert a work stoppage as he did last month to end a dispute between freight railroads and labor. They too recommended the Liberal government impose binding arbitration if the parties fail to reach an agreement.

21. June 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 6.7% from the Same Month Last Year

U.S. airlines carried 89.7 million systemwide (domestic and international) on scheduled service passengers in June 2024, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, June enplanements are up 2.8% from May and reached a new all-time high the all-time high reached in June 2024. BTS reported 77.2 million domestic passengers and 12.5 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in June 2024, not adjusting for seasonality.

22. Air Canada agrees to new contract with pilots, avoids strike

Air Canada on September 15, 2024 said it has reached a tentative, four-year collective agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), representing more than 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge. It thereby averted a threatened strike that could have started within days. The preliminary deal must still be ratified by members of the Air Line Pilots Association. Air Canada said contract terms will remain confidential until the ratification vote, which is expected to take place within a month, and approval of the Air Canada board of directors. Ratification requires approval by a majority of the voting membership. ALPA said the tentative agreement will deliver an additional \$1.9 billion of value for pilots over the length of the contract. Canadian newspapers reported that pilots received a 42% pay raise, with a large chunk of it retroactive to September 2023. Air Canada operates a diversified fleet that includes Boeing 777s and 767-300 converted freighters. Tentative deal ensures cargo shipments will get delivered without delays

23. Porter Airlines introducing Toronto-Pearson - Thunder Bay route with Embraer E195-E2

Porter Airlines is introducing the newest route with its Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Thunder Bay International Airport (YQT). Flights will operate with three roundtrips per week. Porter has been serving the Thunder Bay community since 2009, currently with up to five times daily

roundtrip flights between Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, and twice daily flights between Ottawa using the 78-seat Dash 8-400 aircraft. Toronto-Pearson service begins on October 16, 2024.

24. Air Canada Cargo resumes normal operations

Air Canada on September 16, 2024 said it has reached a tentative, four-year collective agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), representing more than 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge. The new agreement recognizes the contributions and professionalism of Air Canada's pilot group, while providing a framework for the future growth of the airline. Terms of the new agreement will remain confidential pending a ratification vote by the membership, expected to be completed over the next month, and approval by the Air Canada Board of Directors. Customers who used the airline's labour disruption goodwill policy to change their flights originally scheduled from between September 15 and 23, 2024, to another date before November 30, 2024, can change their booking back to their original flight in the same cabin at no cost, providing there is space available. Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge will continue to operate as normal and for more information customers should consult www.aircanada.com/action.

25. The positive impact of CASS

In 2024, total participants in IATA's Cargo Accounts Settlement System (CASS) are expected to exceed 20,000 level for the first time. The heightened involvement confirms CASS's importance to air cargo's financial operations, says Muhammad Albakri, IATA's SVP for Financial Settlement and Distribution Services. "CASS is a critical industry service for the development of the global air cargo industry on which so much of the global economy relies," says Albakri. "It supports airlines and freight forwarders by reducing administrative burdens, minimizing errors, and enhancing efficiency. This improves cash flow management and financial accuracy, ultimately benefiting all parties involved in the air cargo industry." The core value proposition of CASS has remained constant: by simplifying the billing and settling of accounts between airlines and their appointed agents and freight forwarders, CASS enhances a participant's cash flow management and reduces costs. CASS provides a "one-stop-shop" to do business with up to 122 airlines as is the case in France or an average of 35 airlines per market. Freight forwarders receive one batch of standardized invoices through one single portal that can be settled through one single payment to a local bank account.

26. USDOT Requires Alaska and Hawaiian Airlines to Preserve Rewards Value, Critical Flight Service as Merger Moves Forward

On September 17, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation secured binding, enforceable public-interest protections from Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines prior to the close of their merger. The protections, necessary for the Department's consideration of the airlines' needed approvals, are aimed at preventing harms to the traveling public, rural communities, and smaller airline competitors. As the merger moves forward, Alaska and Hawaiian are required to protect the value of rewards, maintain existing service on key Hawaiian routes to the continental United States and inter-island, preserve support for rural service, ensure competitive access at the Honolulu hub airport, guarantee fee-free family seating and alternative compensation for controllable disruptions, and lower costs for military families.

27. SAF Registry to create global, transparent, and fluid SAF market

Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) will represent up to 65% of aviation's net zero efforts. They can be produced from multiple feedstocks, including waste oil and fats, green and municipal waste, and non-food crops, and will reduce CO2 emissions by up to 80%. Already, nine biofuel production pathways are certified to produce SAF, which, by design, are drop-in solutions. Governments and regulatory bodies are already beginning to insist on their use. In October 2023, the European Union adopted ReFuelEU, which requires a minimum of 2% SAF supply in 2025, rising to 70% in 2050. A month later, the ICAO CAAF/3 called for international aviation to be 5% less carbon intensive by 2030. But the problem is that the global SAF market is still in its infancy with varied capacity across the regions and overall production lagging requirements. In 2023, global SAF production doubled to more than 0.5 million tonnes (625 million liters), but this was still just 0.2% of global jet fuel use. Although production is expected to triple to 1.5 million tonnes (1.875 billion liters) in 2024, 500 million tonnes (625 billion liters) will be needed by 2050.

28. Consultation process opens after the Canadian Transportation Agency publishes a fee proposal for the cost recovery of air travel complaints

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has published a fee proposal outlining how it intends to recover costs for processing eligible air travel complaints, and is now accepting comments. Interested parties have until Monday, October 21, 2024, to submit their comments online. Consult the CTA web cta-otc.gc.ca for more details about this consultation on the fee proposal, background information and to provide feedback.

29. Air Travel Consumer Report: January-May 2024 Airline Consumer Submissions Data

In January 2024, DOT received 6,921 airline service submissions, compared to 11,584 submissions in January 2023. Of the 6,921 submissions received in January 2024, 4,478 concerned U.S. carriers, 2,197 concerned foreign air carriers, and 189 concerned travel companies. The Department received a total of 226 disability-related complaints, up from the total of 222 complaints received in January 2023. It also received a total of 13 discrimination-related complaints, down from the total of 26 complaints received in January 2023. In comparison, in May 2024, DOT received 7,749 airline

service submissions, compared to 7,000 submissions in May 2023. Of the 7,749 submissions received in May 2024, 5,831 concerned U.S. carriers, 1,591 concerned foreign air carriers, and 174 concerned travel companies. The Department received a total of 233 disability-related complaints, up from the total of 221 complaints received in May 2023. It also received a total of nine discrimination-related complaints, down from the total of 27 complaints received in May 2023.

30. Air Canada union head says she'll resign if pilots reject deal

The head of the Air Canada pilots union says she'll step down if members opt not to approve a tentative deal with the airline, raising the stakes as aviators mull whether to accept hefty salary gains or drive an even harder bargain. Charlene Hudy, who chairs the Air Canada contingent of the Air Line Pilots Association, told her fellow employees in a virtual townhall on September 20, 2024 that she "will have no choice but to resign" if they vote down the would-be contract. "If the membership votes no to this [tentative agreement], it would clearly indicate to the public, media, government and company that I no longer speak on your behalf," she said in a question-and-answer session that followed the online gathering. The Canadian Press has obtained a copy of her statement and confirmed it with two pilots. "If I stayed, it would be to your detriment," Hudy said.

31. Press Release: Introducing the Leadership in Flight Training (LIFT) Program

The Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) is excited to announce the launch of the Leadership in Flight Training (LIFT) program, an innovative certificate initiative developed in partnership with the Canadian Council for Aviation & Aerospace (CCAA) and top educational experts. This comprehensive program is designed to equip flight instructors with the essential leadership skills required to thrive in today's dynamic aviation industry.

32. US Airlines gain \$3.8 billion in second quarter 2024, a decrease from second quarter 2023

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines (25) reported a second-quarter 2024 after-tax net gain of \$3.8 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$6.3 billion. One year earlier, in the second quarter of 2023, the airlines reported an after-tax net gain of \$5.4 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$7.7 billion.

33. IATA and FIATA Collaborate to Strengthen Global Air Cargo Standards with FIATA Endorsement of ICHM

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the [FIATA International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations](#) announce FIATA's endorsement of the [IATA Cargo Handling Manual \(ICHM\)](#). This follows an extensive one-year process of discussions, review, and collaboration between the two organizations. The ICHM provides standardized procedures for airlines, ground handling agents (GHAs), and freight forwarders, ensuring consistency and efficiency throughout the cargo process. By adopting these standards, freight forwarders, airlines and GHAs will better align their operations, by leveraging their respective expertise to improve efficiency across the supply chain. "FIATA's endorsement of the ICHM supports IATA's goal of creating a safer, more efficient air cargo industry. Standardization of procedures reduces risks, enhances operational performance, and improves efficiency. Importantly, this brings enormous benefits to the global supply chain and the millions of businesses and people that depend on it," said Brendan Sullivan, IATA Global Head of Cargo.

34. Boeing makes final offer of 30% wage increase to striking workers

Boeing upped its wage proposal to thousands of striking workers on Monday, September 23, 2024 offering a 30% general wage increase over four years in what it called its "best and final" offer as the strike drags on. The U.S. planemaker is also offering to reinstate a performance bonus, improve retirement and double a ratification bonus to \$6,000, if the workers accept by Friday, September 27, 2024. The Seattle-area Boeing workers who build the planemaker's strongest-selling 737 MAX jet and other planes assembled in its Washington state factories went on strike on Sept. 13, 2024 after rejecting their first full contract in 16 years. Boeing has frozen hiring and started furloughs for thousands of U.S. employees to reduce costs. A prolonged strike could cost several billion dollars, fraying the planemaker's already strained finances and threatening a downgrade of its credit rating. The strike, Boeing's first since 2008, is the latest event in a tumultuous year for the company that began with a January incident when a door panel detached from a new 737 MAX jet mid-air.

35. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, August 2024

In August 2024, 5.8 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, an increase of 6.0% from August 2023. Screened passenger traffic in August 2024 was 6.1% higher than pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels in August 2019. In August 2024, screened passenger traffic at seven of Canada's eight largest airports exceeded their pre-pandemic volumes, including Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International for the first time.

36. Canadian Airports Gear Up for 2024 Airports Safety Week

The Canadian Airports Council (CAC) is proud to announce plans for the upcoming 2024 Canadian Airports Safety Week, taking place from September 23rd to 27th. This annual event underscores the unwavering commitment of Canada's airports to fostering a safe and secure environment for both passengers and employees. In addition to the

central theme, the week will include activities and discussions that promote excellence in the following areas: 1. Worker Safety; 2. Security Safety; 3. Hazard Reporting; 4. Environmental Safety; 5. Psychological Safety; 6. Foreign Object Debris (FOD)

37. Porter Airlines wins USA Today Best Economy Class

Porter Airlines was selected as the world's Best Economy Class by the USA Today Readers' Choice Awards. These awards highlight the best of the best in a variety of categories such as travel, food and drink, and things to do, with all nominees submitted by a panel of experts. Porter was ranked #1 out of 20 international airlines.

38. US Senate committee faults Boeing safety practices, FAA oversight

A U.S. Senate panel investigating Boeing's safety culture on September 25, 2024 faulted the planemaker's quality practices and oversight by the Federal Aviation Administration citing documents obtained in an ongoing investigation. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which held a hearing on September 25, 2024 with FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker, said Boeing workers continue to feel pressure to prioritize speed of production over quality. The committee's Democratic staff said in a memo Boeing struggles to ensure employees are adequately trained, fails to ensure improper parts are not installed and its quality inspection procedures and the FAA's review raises questions about qualifications and the independence of individuals performing inspections. In some facilities, Boeing personnel are allowed to inspect their own work. "Given the depth and history of Boeing's safety deficiencies, its lack of candor with the FAA, and the agency's reactive regulatory posture, the newly released information raises questions about the effectiveness of the FAA's oversight of the company," the committee said. Boeing said it has "taken important steps to foster a safety culture that empowers and encourages all employees to share their voice, but it will require continuous focus."

39. Thrust Carbon Joins IATA CO2 Connect Emissions Calculations Distribution Network

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is expanding the distribution network for its [IATA CO2 Connect](#) emissions calculations with [Thrust Carbon](#), a sustainability intelligence platform provider for the travel industry. The agreement was concluded during [IATA's World Sustainability Symposium](#) and will commence in October 2024. "The corporate travel sector needs accurate and comparable CO2 emissions calculations for its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) monitoring and reporting. By working with Thrust Carbon, we will respond to this important need with calculations based on actual operational data provided by a growing community of airlines," said Frederic Leger, IATA's Senior Vice President Commercial Products and Services.

40. Consultation process opens after the Canadian Transportation Agency publishes a fee proposal for the cost recovery of air travel complaints

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has published a fee proposal outlining how it intends to recover costs for processing eligible air travel complaints, and is now accepting comments. Interested parties now have until Monday, November 4, 2024, to submit their comments online. Consult the CTA web for more details about this [consultation on the fee proposal](#), background information and to provide feedback.

41. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, July 2024

In July 2024, aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports totalled 592,193, up 7.5% from July 2023. Itinerant movements increased 5.6% year over year to 419,341 in July 2024, while local movements rose 12.5% to 172,852. At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 8.3 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in July 2024, with a passenger load factor of 88.0%. Consult the Aviation Data Visualization Hub to explore aircraft movement statistics and monthly civil aviation statistics in an interactive format.

42. IATA Wings of Change Europe to Offer Agenda for European Competitiveness

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the theme for the 2024 [Wings of Change Europe \(WOCE\)](#) conference will focus on **furthering competitive and sustainable European aviation**. WOCE will take place on 20-21 November 2024 in Rome, Italy, hosted by ITA Airways. "Europe's prosperity is inextricably linked to its competitiveness. Europe's politicians are finally waking up to the erosion of competitiveness after years of over-regulation. With the next European Commission aiming to kick-start a European renaissance, Wings of Change Europe will focus on policy options to strengthen European aviation's competitiveness. The significance of a strong aviation sector was highlighted in the recent Draghi report which noted how aviation 'enables the prosperity of other branches of the economy.' It is that vision which must be strategically developed with regulators and industry working side-by-side," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Container rates down three per cent

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) decreased three per cent to US\$5,181 per 40-ft container for the week of Aug. 26-30, 2024 the fifth week in a row

WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Container rates down three per cent, August

rates have declined. The latest Drewry WCI composite index is 50 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 265 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,108 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,299 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,809, which was inflated by the exceptional 2020-22 COVID-19 period.

2. Container carrier profits soar on record volumes, higher rates

The global container shipping industry saw profits surge to more than \$10 billion in the second quarter on record volumes and rising freight rates after Red Sea diversions, according to a new analysis. Net income for the world's major container carriers, including Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S and China's Cosco Shipping Holdings Co., almost doubled from the first three months of the year and topped the \$8.88 billion haul from the second quarter of 2023, according to a report released by industry veteran John McCown. Profit for the current quarter may also be set to show another "material increase" given how well the market for international goods trade has been holding up, he said. Demand has been especially strong in the US, where retailers and other importers are stocking up at warehouses amid worries about new tariffs on Chinese goods and a possible dockworkers strike at East and Gulf Coast ports.

3. Tech vendor aims to help forwarders preserve margins in growing LCL market

Forwarders typically work with the top less-than-containerload consolidators to get vessel space for smaller shipments. A technology vendor founded by two veterans of the less-than-containerload (LCL) industry is arming forwarders with the ability to preserve profit margin on LCL shipments moved by the large neutral non-vessel-operating common carriers (NVOs) that collectively control a large share of the LCL market. The company, AllMasters, has developed a platform to provide such service.

4. North America's LNG export capacity is on track to more than double by 2028

North America's liquefied natural gas (LNG) export capacity is on track to more than double between 2024 and 2028, from 11.4 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2023 to 24.4 Bcf/d in 2028, if projects currently under construction begin operations as planned. During this time, we expect developers in Mexico and Canada to place their first LNG export terminals into service and in the United States to add to existing LNG capacity. By the end of 2028, we estimate LNG export capacity will grow by 0.8 Bcf/d in Mexico, 2.5 Bcf/d in Canada, and 9.7 Bcf/d in the United States from a total of 10 new projects that are currently under construction in the three countries.

5. LA port terminal getting \$52 million for on-dock rail

The U.S. container port arms race is moving by rail. The Los Angeles Harbor Commission on September 5, 2024 said it has approved a lease amendment that finalizes plans for \$52 million to improve the on-dock rail capacity at the Port of Los Angeles Pier 300. Pier 300, the second-largest terminal at Los Angeles, is owned by CMA CGM Group of Marseille and operated by subsidiary Fenix Marine Services (FMS). Construction is expected to begin in 2025, the port said in a release, and will add five loading/unloading tracks in the intermodal yard. "This project enhances cargo capacity and efficiency while improving the sustainability of port operations," said Los Angeles Harbor Commission President Lucille Roybal-Allard in the announcement. "It's yet another step forward toward both our productivity and clean air goals."

6. Ocean freight rates now 54 per cent lower than pandemic peak

Drewry's World Container Index took its steepest drop in several weeks, decreasing eight per cent to US\$4,775 per 40-ft container for the week of

30, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

2. Container carrier profits soar on record volumes, higher rates, September 1, 2024, www.ajot.com

3. Tech vendor aims to help forwarders preserve margins in growing LCL market, September 3, 2024, www.joc.com

4. North America's LNG export capacity is on track to more than double by 2028, September 3, 2024, www.jot.com

5. LA port terminal getting \$52 million for on-dock rail, September 5, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

6. Ocean freight rates now 54 per cent lower than pandemic peak, September 5, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

7. Potential U.S. port strike would increase traffic through Canadian port, September 9, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

8. B.C. ferry sidelined for six months, September 9, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

9. East Coast spot rates plunge as peak-season imports shift to West Coast, September 9, 2024, www.joc.com

10. ONE, HMM, Yang Ming form new shipping alliance, September 9, 2024, www.porttechnology.com

11. Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd's Gemini Corp. to set sail, September 10, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

12. ILWU has pledged to support ILA in contract fight, September 11, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

13. MSC's global scale enables standalone network coverage, September 12, 2024, www.joc.com

14. Port of Long Beach hits 113-year historic high in cargo influx for month of August, September 12, 2024, www.prestelgram.com

15. Container rates take steep decline due to looming port strike, September 16, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

16. Port of Long Beach's Cordero says port processed 913,873 TEUs in August up 33.9%, September 13, 2024, www.ajot.com

17. Seaway Traffic Results (as of August 31, 2024), September 16, 2024, www.ajot.com

18. Potential U.S. port strike would increase traffic through Canadian ports, September 16, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

19. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$300 Million in Grants to Modernize America's Ferry Systems, September 16, 2024, www.dot.gov

20. US shippers again ask White House to intervene in longshore contract talks, September 17, 2024, www.joc.com

21. Report: Biden won't block dock strike, September 17, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

22. LA-LB port stakeholders urge mayors to act against proposed emissions rules, September 18, 2024, www.joc.com

23. Maersk: Q4 container demand to remain strong, September 18, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

24. Southern California supply chain fluid despite surging import volumes, September 19, 2024, www.joc.com

25. Container rates have dropped since mid-

Sept. 2-6, 2024. The latest Drewry WCI composite index is 54 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 236 per cent more than the average 2019 rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,127 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,313 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,814, which was inflated by the exceptional 2020-22 COVID-19 period.

7. Potential U.S. port strike would increase traffic through Canadian port

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) voted to support a call for a strike at East Coast ports in the U.S. Nearly 300 ILA wage scale delegates ended their two-day meetings in New Jersey by unanimously supporting international president Harold J. Daggett's call for a coastwide strike at ports from Maine to Texas, which would begin Oct. 1, 2024 if a new agreement with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) is not reached by that time. Frank Kenney, director of industry solutions at Cleo, an end-to-end supply chain integration software company, said a port strike along the U.S. East Coast would significantly increase traffic through the Port of Halifax and Port of Montreal due to their proximity to rail carriers.

8. B.C. ferry sidelined for six months

BC Ferries' *Queen of New Westminster*, a ferry that regularly carries commercial vehicles and passengers between Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay – linking Vancouver to Victoria, will be out of service for approximately six months due to significant repairs. According to preliminary assessments, the vessel, which was built in 1964 and is a key part of the fleet, suffered a propeller shaft fracture that could be attributed to structural fatigue. "If we had a backup vessel available, this incident would have had minimal impact on service," said BC Ferries chief executive officer Nicolas Jimenez in a news release. "Our priority is to ensure we can accommodate customers on other vessels," he added. "We'll also continue maximizing the loading of existing sailings to minimize disruption."

9. East Coast spot rates plunge as peak-season imports shift to West Coast

A front-loading of shipments ahead of a threatened port strike threat, coupled with intensified rate pressures, is sending Asia container spot rates to the East Coast plunging faster than usual on the trade lane. Container spot rates from Asia to the US East and Gulf coasts fell \$2,300 per FEU this week, much faster than in past years, as peak-season shipments on all-water services drop off and retailers, fearing a dockworker strike on the East and Gulf coasts on Oct. 1, shift discretionary cargo to the West Coast. Furthermore, carriers this year are utilizing special or "bullet" rates to compete.

10. ONE, HMM, Yang Ming form new shipping alliance

Ocean Network Express (ONE), Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM), and Yang Ming Marine Transportation have announced a new collaboration under the name 'Premier Alliance'. The Premier Alliance will be effective for five years beginning in February 2025. The partnership will provide mainline services with the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) across East-West tradelines, including Asia-North America West Coast, Asia-North America East Coast, Asia-Mediterranean, Asia-North Europe, and Asia-Middle East. Jeremy Nixon, CEO of ONE, said: "Collectively this new tripartite alliance will offer strong, reliable and highly dependable end-to-end direct port container services to its customers on both the Transpacific and Asia-Europe trades." Kim, Kyung Bae, CEO of HMM, stated: "Throughout the new cooperation with MSC in Asia-Europe trade, HMM's global network leap one step further and we can provide our customers a seamless service coverage around the globe. HMM will keep making every effort to maintain the best qualities in the market".

11. Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd's Gemini Corp. to set sail

The Federal Maritime Commission has approved a submission from Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd to create the Gemini Cooperation allowing the two companies to share vessels in the trades between the U.S. and Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The agreement was originally filed at the Commission on May 31, 2024. The Commission issued a Request for Additional Information (RAI) on July 12, 2024 which required the filing parties to provide the data necessary for completing an economic analysis of the competitive effects of the agreement. The agreement was reviewed by the agency under statutory timeframes pursuant to applicable sections of the law, to assess its likely competitive impacts and its compliance with other statutory requirements and prohibitions.

12. ILWU has pledged to support ILA in contract fight

Could a work stoppage by East Coast longshoremen spread to West Coast ports? That's the nontrivial question facing shipping lines, terminal operators and the country at large as U.S. East and Gulf Coast port employers nervously wait out an Oct. 1 strike deadline set by the International Longshoremen's Association. The current six-year ILA master contract covering dockworkers and other port employees from Maine to Houston expires Sept. 30, 2024. No contract

July, Sept. 20, 2024, www.insidelogistics.com

26. Iron and steel shipments up 35 per cent on St. Lawrence Seaway, September 18, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

27. Port of New York-New Jersey details strike operations plan, September 24, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

28. Ocean carrier alliance shakeup offers varied service choices for shippers, September 25, 2024, www.joc.com

29. Port of Oakland container volume continues to grow, September 25, 2024, www.ajot.com

30. Montreal dockworkers approve strike mandate, September 26, 2024, www.financialpost.ca

31. Weeklong ILA strike would tie up about 2% of global shipping capacity: HSBC, September 26, www.joc.com

talks have been scheduled. The primary issues are wages, benefits and automation. Employers represented by the United States Maritime Exchange (USMX) have publicly said without disclosing details that they have made good-faith offers to the union, which represents 45,000 workers at three dozen ports. The union in refusing to consider any offer has framed it as a fight for fair wages against “greedy” foreign companies raking in billions in profits on the backs of American workers. Now, the International Longshore & Warehouse Union has thrown its considerable weight behind the ILA. The ILWU represents tens of thousands of dockworkers at West Coast ports, including the Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach complex, the busiest containerized gateway in the U.S.

13. MSC’s global scale enables standalone network coverage

Mediterranean Shipping Co.’s ability to roll out a standalone east-west ocean network able to compete with the reshaped alliances, and to offer both Red Sea and Suez Canal service options, indicates the immense scale the carrier has built over the last few years. The world’s largest container carrier will exit its 2M Alliance with Maersk that expires in January 2025, and in preparation for its new direction unveiled this week a comprehensive network coverage plan, coupled with two slot-swap agreements, that MSC described as “independent, competitive and complete.” It is able to do so because it has a fleet capacity of 6 million TEUs at its disposal.

14. Port of Long Beach hits 113-year historic high in cargo influx for month of August

The Port of Long Beach once again saw record-breaking cargo numbers in August 2024, port officials said Thursday, Sept. 12. “Shippers are turning to us and returning as their business increases,” port CEO Mario Cordero said in a virtual news briefing. “Peak season boosted the port’s strongest month in its 113-year history.” July was also an all-time record-breaking month for the port, Cordero said. “Cargo diversions and concerns about upcoming tariffs are creating a busy peak season for us,” Cordero said. Also in play for shippers, Cordero said, are ongoing disruptions because of East and Gulf coast labor negotiations, as well as impacts from ongoing world events in the Red Sea and climate issues impacting the Panama Canal. August 2024 numbers came in at 913,873 twenty-foot equivalent units (or TEUs, the industry’s standard for measuring cargo containers) — a 33.9% increase over the same month a year ago. August’s numbers beat the port’s previous all-time single-month record, set in May 2021, by 6,657 TEUs.

15. Container rates take steep decline due to looming port strike

Drewry’s World Container Index (WCI) decreased 13 per cent to US\$4,168 per 40-ft container for the week of Sept. 9-13, spurred by a 21 per cent drop along the U.S. East Coast. The latest Drewry WCI composite index of US\$4,168 per 40-ft container is 60 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 193 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,128 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,310 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,818, which was inflated by the 2020-22 COVID-19 period.

16. Port of Long Beach’s Cordero says port processed 913,873 TEUs in August up 33.9%

The Port of Long Beach had its busiest month ever in August of 2024 processing 913,873 TEUs of container cargo “our dockworkers, marine terminal operators achieved a 33.9% increase over the same month last year (2023),” according to Mario Cordero, Executive Director, Port of Long Beach. Speaking at a media briefing on September 12, 2024, Cordero and Noel Hacedaba, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Long Beach said the remainder of 2024 looks promising for the Port. Cordero cited data from the Marine Exchange of Southern California indicating that high volumes of containers from Asia will continue to arrive in the immediate future: “If you look at the reporting data from the Marine Exchange, there’s ... quite several vessels heading towards the San Pedro Bay complex (i.e. toward the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles). So, I think again we’re very optimistic that not only can we handle that, we have very good capacity at our terminals.” Cordero said the record numbers were fuelled largely “by the surge in imports, which increased here at the Port of Long Beach, on a year-to-year basis, to 456,868 TEUS, a 40.4% increase over August 2023.” 1. Exports were up 12% over August 2023 at 104,646 TEUs; and 2. Empty containers were up 33.7% from August 2023 at 352,360 TEUs

17. Seaway Traffic Results (as of August 31, 2024)

For 2024 (year to date) total cargo has declined by 3.48%. Iron ore, coal and dry bulk were the major contributors for this decline with double digit declines. Major contributors to its growth were liquid bulk and general cargo showing double digits growth.

18. Potential U.S. port strike would increase traffic through Canadian ports

The International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) voted to support a call for a strike at East Coast ports in the U.S. Nearly 300 ILA wage scale delegates ended their two-day meetings in New Jersey by unanimously supporting international president Harold J. Daggett’s call for a coastwide strike at ports from Maine to Texas, which would begin on Oct. 1, 2024 if a new agreement with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) is not reached by that time. Frank Kenney, director of industry solutions at Cleo, an end-to-end supply chain integration software company, said a port strike along the U.S. East Coast would significantly increase traffic through the Port of Halifax and Port of Montreal due to their proximity to rail carriers.

19. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$300 Million in Grants to Modernize America's Ferry Systems

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on September 16, 2024 announced grants totalling nearly \$300 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand and modernize the nation's ferry systems. Each year, 56 million trips are made on ferries in communities across the country, supporting the movement of people and goods, boosting local economies and helping to lower costs for families, and providing connections for Americans who, in some cases, have no other alternative travel options.

20. US shippers again ask White House to intervene in longshore contract talks

US shippers on September 17, 2024 renewed their call for the Biden administration to directly intervene in stalled contract negotiations between maritime employers and the longshore union representing dockworkers along the East and Gulf coasts, saying the country is on the verge of another supply chain shock should a strike occur on Oct. 1, 2024. Talks on a new six-year master contract for dockworkers along the East and Gulf coasts have been stalled since early June 2024. The shippers were joined this time by a group of House Republicans, who in a separate letter warned of the "dire impacts" to the US economy from a possible port strike. A group of 177 national and state trade associations signed the letter to President Joe Biden, urging intervention.

21. Report: Biden won't block dock strike

President Joe Biden won't intervene to prevent a strike at East and Gulf Coast ports by union longshore workers, according to a published report. The federal *Taft-Hartley Act* grants presidents powers to intervene in labor disputes that threaten national security or safety by imposing an 80-day cooling-off period, and forcing employees back to work while negotiations continue. "We've never invoked Taft-Hartley to break a strike and are not considering doing so now," a Biden administration official told Reuters. "We encourage all parties to remain at the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith."

22. LA-LB port stakeholders urge mayors to act against proposed emissions rules

Shippers, transportation interests and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) are urging the mayors of Los Angeles and Long Beach to lead the effort against the implementation of new regional air emissions rules they say will cap cargo growth at the largest US port complex. In a letter dated Sept. 17 and sent to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson, some 200 port stakeholders said the ambitious plan by the regional South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to adopt a so-called Port Independent Source Rule (ISR) would fail to achieve its goal of proposed reduction. The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association says sufficient electric and hydrogen fueling infrastructure is needed to achieve the emissions reductions required by the proposed rule focusing on Southern California ports.

23. Maersk: Q4 container demand to remain strong

The world's second-largest ocean freight carrier expects global demand for container shipping to remain strong into the fourth quarter on robust imports to North America and Latin America, as well as ongoing strong exports from the Far East. Maersk in a quarterly review and outlook on Wednesday projected a more balanced supply and demand across the global shipping market despite disruptions in the Red Sea and from a potential U.S. East Coast port strike.

24. Southern California supply chain fluid despite surging import volumes

Industry stakeholders are pointing to minimal supply chain disruption at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach this peak season despite record import volumes, thanks to warehouses throughout Southern California being able to keep churning freight through their facilities. During the height of COVID-related supply chain chaos in 2021-22, warehouses were unable to gear up for import surges and became a major bottleneck in the regional supply chain. That triggered chassis shortages, congested marine terminals and vessel bunching outside the ports. Terminal operators in Los Angeles and Long Beach are benefiting from fluidity at warehouses, access to near-dock surge yards and greater chassis availability. This has helped a steady flow of imports this spring and summer has helped warehouse operators to maintain staffing.

25. Container rates have dropped since mid-July

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) decreased five per cent to US\$3,970 per 40-ft container for the week of Sept. 16-20, 2024. The latest WCI composite index is 62 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 180 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,124 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,302 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,821, which was inflated by the 2020-22 COVID-19 period. Freight rates from Shanghai to Rotterdam plunged nine per cent to US\$4,682 per 40-ft container, while rates from Shanghai to Genoa contracted six per cent. Likewise, rates from Shanghai to New York declined four per cent to US\$6,364 per 40-ft box. Also, spot rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles dropped one per cent to US\$5,580 per 40-ft container.

26. Iron and steel shipments up 35 per cent on St. Lawrence Seaway

As of the end of August, 19.5 million metric tons of cargo have been shipped on the St. Lawrence Seaway so far this

season, making it a key binational system in the North American supply chain. “The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System continues to provide shippers a reliable route for a diverse range of commodities flowing in and out of the U.S. heartland,” said Adam Tindall-Schlicht, administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS). “Cargo numbers continue to improve thanks to the dedicated workers at U.S. and Canadian ports and on the vessels who are keeping vital products like grain and steel moving efficiently through the Great Lakes maritime supply chain.” Cargos which showed significant increases compared to the same period in 2023 are: 1. Grain: 5.2 million metric tons of Canadian and U.S. grain, up by 277,000 mt or 5.6 per cent; 2. Potash: 849 thousand metric tons of Potash, a product mined in the Prairies and used in agricultural fertilizers, up by 145,000 mt or 21 per cent; 3. Petroleum: 1.8 million metric tons of petroleum products, up by 385,000 mt or 27 per cent; and 4. Iron and steel: 1.3 million metric tons of iron and steel, up by 347,000 mt or 35 per cent

27. Port of New York-New Jersey details strike operations plan

The second-busiest U.S. ocean container port urged shippers to wind down cargo business less than a week before a strike deadline set by union dockworkers. Strike preparations are underway at the Port of New York-New Jersey, Port Director Bethann Rooney said in a letter to customers, offering details on operational plans during the stoppage. Union work stoppage would shut down the East Coast gateway and dozens of other ports. The International Longshoremen’s Association representing 25,000 members in container and roll-on/roll-off services covered under the current master contract will walk off the job when the contract with port employers represented by the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) expires at midnight Oct. 1, 2024. The pact covers workers at three dozen ports from Maine to Texas handling some \$92 billion worth of freight each year. No contract negotiations are scheduled. The major issues are wages, benefits and port automation.

28. Ocean carrier alliance shakeup offers varied service choices for shippers

MSC will operate as a standalone carrier, although it will have some slot swaps on Asia-Europe with Premier Alliance and with Zim on the Pacific trade to the US East Coast. Two new alliances — Gemini Cooperation and Premier Alliance — will see the light of day in 2025, and both have now published their new networks. Additionally, Mediterranean Shipping Co. has clearly stated it will operate as a standalone carrier, although it does have some slot swaps on Asia-Europe with Premier Alliance and with Zim on the Pacific trade to the US East Coast.

29. Port of Oakland container volume continues to grow

The Port of Oakland’s loaded container volume continues to grow month-over-month. August 2024 loaded container volume has risen 5.4% compared to August 2023. Loaded containers are cargo containers that carry a full load of goods. Loaded imports jumped 14.9%, recording 83,272 TEUs (twenty-foot containers) in August 2024, versus 72,481 TEUs in August 2023. U.S. manufacturers continue to order more products from Asian suppliers than in 2023. Loaded exports declined 5.5%. The Port handled 59,362 TEUs in August 2024, in contrast to 62,785 TEUs in August 2023. The dip in export volume can be attributed to a more traditional summer season out of Northern California. A strong push for exports is anticipated as harvested crops make their way into the market. It’s noteworthy that this is the first year export volume has grown since 2019. Overall 2024 export volume is up year-over-year. “We are preparing for a strong fourth quarter,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “All indicators point to strong import volumes fueled by consumer spending during the upcoming holiday season.” Empty imports dropped 11.3%, with 11,823 TEUs transiting Port facilities in August 2024, versus 13,329 TEUs in August 2023. Empty exports rose 25.9%, with 38,507 TEUs departing Port facilities in August 2024, in contrast to 30,579 TEUs in August 2023

30. Montreal dockworkers approve strike mandate

Dockworkers at the Port of Montreal have approved a strike mandate after more than a year of contract negotiations. Longshore workers voted 97.9 per cent in favour of granting their union executive the authority to call a strike if it chooses. The union local, affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, would need to issue a 72-hour notice before its nearly 1,200 members could walk off the job. As far back as May, a handful of transport companies began to reroute cargo away from the country’s second-biggest port over fears of potential job action. Montreal dockworkers last hit the picket lines starting in April 2021 in a five-day strike, which came after a 12-day strike the previous year.

31. Weeklong ILA strike would tie up about 2% of global shipping capacity: HSBC

West Coast ports are likely able to absorb only 17% to 18% of cargo volumes diverted from the East and Gulf coasts in the event of an ILA strike. Photo credit: The increasing likelihood of a dockworker strike next week at container terminals along the US East and Gulf coasts will tie up approximately 1.7% of global shipping capacity if it lasts a week, tightening the supply of equipment and vessels as the Red Sea diversions have, but on smaller scale, HSBC said in a report on September 26, 2024. The global bank said a weeklong strike will negate about 500,000 TEUs of overall capacity — approximately 1.7% of the global fleet — due to ships anchored during a potential stoppage.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2024

Data for August 2024 for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available. The freight index for August 2024 was 127.1 compared to 126.7 in July 2024 and 121.5 in August 2023.

2. Canadian Teamsters file 4 separate legal challenges to Appeals Board

Teamsters say Federal Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon abused his power by establishing a system where he alone can unilaterally end job action in the federally regulated private sector. Canadian Teamsters have filed four separate challenges on August 29, 2024 in the Canadian Federal Court of Appeal challenging the Labor Minister's order for binding arbitration and the Canada Industrial Relations Board decision to stop the lockout and work stoppage. There are two challenges for each railroad. This latest legal maneuver comes after the labor union vowed to challenge the ruling. The CIRB originally ordered the railroads and labor to appear on August 29, 2024 for a scheduled meeting on the arbitration process but due to a scheduling issue with one of the attorneys, the CIRB agreed to reschedule the first meeting. CIRB tells *American Shipper*, "No date has been determined yet. We are awaiting confirmation of the parties' availability." Union officials say they are confident the law is on their side

3. Norfolk Southern reaches tentative agreements with five more labor unions

Norfolk Southern has reached tentative, five-year labor agreements with five unions, the U.S. railroad operator said on August 30, 2024, at a time when thousands of employees in the industry are negotiating for better pay and working conditions. Of its 13 unions, the company has reached tentative agreements with nine, which cover about 55% of its unionized workforce, over the past two weeks. The agreements, which still need to be ratified by the unions, provide a 3.5% average annual wage hike over the next five years and offer more time off for workers and better healthcare benefits.

4. Rehabilitation project to improve rail capacity at Port of Montreal

Structural work on the Port of Montreal's Pie-IX rail bridge has begun, with the rehabilitation project scheduled for completion in December 2025. The project aims to ensure the long-term viability of the rail link, improve supply chain fluidity, increase rail capacity and optimize the flow of goods on the Port's rail network. Spanning Pie-IX Blvd. north of the Port Road, the Pie-IX railway bridge is a key infrastructure at the core of the Port of Montreal's rail network. Currently comprising three rail tracks, the structure is under heavy strain to accommodate growing rail transport needs, and requires major work on its foundations and decks. With a budget of \$42.41 million, the project involves restoring the aging infrastructure, adding a fourth track to the structure to create a rail link that is 200 metres long and building three rail storage tracks for the Lantic sugar refinery.

5. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 35

Weekly rail traffic volumes are up again over the prior-year period, according to the latest Association of American Railroads (AAR) report. For this week ending August 31, 2024, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 516,632 carloads and intermodal units, up 8.4 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending August 31 were 233,278 carloads, up 1.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 283,354 containers and trailers, up 15.3 percent compared to 2023. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. These included grain, up 5,492 carloads, to 20,494; petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,365 carloads, to 11,412; and motor vehicles and parts, up

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2024, August 30, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
2. Canadian Teamsters file 4 separate legal challenges to Appeals Board, August 30, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
3. Norfolk Southern reaches tentative agreements with five more labor unions, August 30, 2024, www.ajot.com
4. Rehabilitation project to improve rail capacity at Port of Montreal, September 5, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
5. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 35 and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending August 31, 2024, September 4, 2024, www.railwavage.com and www.ajot.com
6. CN Operations have Recovered, Company Updates Outlook Following Labor Disruption, September 10, 2024, www.cn.ca
7. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 36, September 11, 2024, www.railwavage.com; and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending September 07, 2024, September 11, 2024, www.ajot.com
8. CN adjusts financial outlook after supply chain uncertainty, September 13, 2024, www.cn.ca
9. CN Announces US\$750 Million Debt Offering, September 16, 2024, www.cn.ca
10. LDS and CSX Transportation forge multi-year technology alliance to drive industry innovation, September 16, 2024, www.ajot.com
11. Freight trains are safe at any length, September 17, 2024, www.ajot.com
12. AAR: North American Rail Volume Uptick Continues Through Week 37, September 18, 2024, www.railwavage.com; and AAR Reports Rail Traffic for the Week Ending September 18, 2024, September 18, 2024, www.ajot.com
13. Railway carloadings, July 2024, September 20, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
14. CN Police Services Mobilizing for See Tracks? Think Train@ Week 2024, September 23, 2024, www.cn.ca
15. VIA rail's President and CEO is in Halifax to offer insights into the corporation's transformation, September 23, 2024, www.viarail.ca
16. Union opens negotiations with CN Rail, September 24, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
17. VIA rail's President and CEO is in Vancouver to offer insights into the corporation's transformation, September 26, 2024, www.viarail.ca
18. Biden-Harris Administration Calls on Class I Freight Railroads to Guarantee Paid Sick Leave and Get to 100% Worker Coverage, September 25, 2024, www.dot.gov
19. Progress Towards Safer Rail Tank Cars Transporting Flammable Liquids: 2024 Report, September 24, 2024, www.bts.gov
20. The Number of Safer Rail Tank Cars Continued to Increase in 2023, September 24, 2024, www.bts.gov
21. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending September 21, 2024 September 25, 2024, www.ajot.com; and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up in Week 38, September 25, 2024, www.railwavage.com

1,144 carloads, to 17,221. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 5,495 carloads, to 62,624; metallic ores and metals, down 1,487 carloads, to 21,616; and nonmetallic minerals, down 166 carloads, to 32,156. Canadian railroads reported 94,106 carloads for the week, up 4.7 percent, and 58,491 intermodal units, down 18.8 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 35 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,538,464 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.3 percent.

6. CN Operations have Recovered, Company Updates Outlook Following Labor Disruption

CN announced on September 10, 2024 that its operations have recovered following several months of labor uncertainty as well as a complete shutdown of its Canadian network, and that it is adjusting its 2024 guidance and long-term financial outlook. CN remains focused on the disciplined execution of its scheduled operating plan, growing volumes more than the economy as its company specific growth opportunities come online, pricing above rail inflation, and improving efficiency. Operations have recovered but demand weakness persists in key sectors

7. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Up for Week 36

Weekly rail traffic volumes are up again over the prior-year period, according to the latest Association of American Railroads (AAR) report, but Week 36 (ending Sept 7, 2024) was the fourth in a row. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 479,179 carloads and intermodal units, up 7.3 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending September 7 were 222,201 carloads, up 2.2 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 256,978 containers and trailers, up 12.1 percent compared to 2023. Five of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. These included grain, up 4,920 carloads, to 19,552; chemicals, up 3,269 carloads, to 32,669; and petroleum and petroleum products, up 1,033 carloads, to 10,778. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 4,024 carloads, to 63,754; motor vehicles and parts, down 1,248 carloads, to 13,663; and forest products, down 338 carloads, to 7,511. Canadian railroads reported 87,045 carloads for the week, down 2.9 percent, and 65,938 intermodal units, up 1.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 36 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,691,447 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.3 percent.

8. CN adjusts financial outlook after supply chain uncertainty

CN says its operations have recovered following several months of labour uncertainty as well as a complete shutdown of its Canadian network during the nationwide rail lockout in August 2024. As a result, CN has adjusted its 2024 guidance and long-term financial outlook. CN now expects to deliver adjusted diluted EPS (earnings per share) growth in the low single-digit range, compared to its July 23 expectation of mid to high single-digit growth. The company continues to expect to invest approximately \$3.5 billion in its capital program, net of amounts reimbursed by customers. As a result of the reduction to earnings, CN now expects adjusted return on invested capital (ROIC) to be in the 13-15 per cent range, compared to its July 23 expectation of approximately 15 per cent.

9. CN Announces US\$750 Million Debt Offering

CN on September 16, 2024 announced a public debt offering of US\$750 million aggregate principal amount of 4.375% Notes due 2034. CN expects to close the offering on September 18, 2024, subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions. CN plans to use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, which may include the redemption and refinancing of outstanding indebtedness, share repurchases, acquisitions and other business opportunities. The debt offering is being made in the United States under an effective shelf registration statement dated April 2, 2024.

10. LDS and CSX Transportation forge multi-year technology alliance to drive industry innovation

Logistical Data Services (LDS), a leader in providing advanced data analytics and inspection services in the automotive sector, is pleased to announce the formation of a multi-year Technology and Services Alliance Agreement with CSX Transportation, one of the nation's largest rail networks. This strategic partnership underscores CSX's recognition of LDS's proven capabilities in delivering cutting-edge data services and technology solutions. The collaboration aims to spearhead industry innovation, with a strong focus on reducing and eliminating vehicle damage. LDS's cutting-edge systems will empower CSX and its Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) partners to enhance coordination on initiatives that target damage reduction and supply chain efficiency improvements. LDS's software streamlines the entire claims management process, and in turn, significantly boosts the efficiency of CSX's freight claims.

11. Freight trains are safe at any length

On September 17, 2024, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) released its study on operating freight trains longer than 7,500 feet. Over the past 80 years, railroads have safely managed trains of this length and beyond. At the same time, the industry's safety record has dramatically improved, with the latest data showing the Class I mainline accident rate down 42% since 2000. "Safety is at the center of every decision on the railroad, and train length is no different," said AAR President and CEO Ian Jefferies. "As operations continue to evolve, railroads are pulling on three key levers – technology, training and infrastructure – to further enhance safety and reliability. Railroads' goal will always be delivering for our employees, communities and the economy – and to do it safely every day." The report says that the

FRA should strengthen the requirements so that railroads must identify, analyze, and address the risks that arise from all major operational changes, including from the use of longer manifest trains. Railroads should also be required to regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these risk reduction measures and improve them as necessary. Despite the extensive review, the TRB study has several shortcomings. First, it arbitrarily focuses on trains exceeding 7,500 feet, despite acknowledging a lack of consensus on the appropriate definition of a “long” train. The study followed a Congressionally defined threshold without uniform agreement on its appropriateness. Additionally, the report notes the committee was unable to draw conclusions about potential community impacts of emission reductions or from occupied crossings by longer trains.

12. AAR: North American Rail Volume Uptick Continues Through Week 37

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on Sept. 18, 2024 reported that total North American carload and intermodal traffic rose 2.6% through the first 37 weeks of 2024 compared with the prior-year period. The United States, Canada and Mexico all experienced gains through the week ending Sept. 14, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 522,557 carloads and intermodal units, up 6.8 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending September 14, 2024 were 232,154 carloads, down 0.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 290,403 containers and trailers, up 13.0 percent compared to 2023. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. These included grain, up 3,048 carloads, to 19,372; miscellaneous carloads, up 1,837 carloads, to 10,781; and farm products excl. grain, and food, up 820 carloads, to 17,227. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 5,797 carloads, to 63,017; nonmetallic minerals, down 1,853 carloads, to 32,020; and chemicals, down 310 carloads, to 32,444. Canadian railroads reported 91,036 carloads for the week, down 1.3 percent, and 71,170 intermodal units, down 0.3 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 37 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,853,653 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.2 percent.

13. Railway carloadings, July 2024

In July 2024, Canadian railways transported 29.9 million tonnes of freight, up 1.6% from July 2023, marking the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year increases. The overall freight volume was just under the five-year average of 30.3 million tonnes for the month of July. Higher shipments of containers, potash as well as some other commodities more than offset large declines in several commodities, in particular iron ores. To further explore the latest data and historical trends in an interactive format, please visit the "Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard." The overall increase in total freight carried in July was driven by higher volumes of intermodal traffic (mainly containers) and, to a lesser extent, freight traffic from connections with American railways, offsetting a small decline in non-intermodal loadings (mainly commodities).

14. CN Police Services Mobilizing for See Tracks? Think Train® Week 2024

CN has launched its annual *See Tracks? Think Train® Week* campaign to raise awareness about the vital importance of rail safety. The Company joins communities across North America to raise awareness of the danger of dangerous behaviors around railway tracks and property. From September 23-29, CN Police Services, along with many other CN employees, will actively share important rail safety messages in communities across CN’s network to help prevent rail related accidents and injuries. - Stephen Covey, Chief of Police and Chief Security Officer at CN said “Safety is a shared responsibility. CN encourages communities to get involved and spread the safety message, raising awareness on the dangers of unsafe behavior on or near railway property. Railways have been part of communities for over a century, powering the North American economy and connecting it to the rest of the world. I urge you to support *See Tracks? Think Train® Week* initiatives and speak to your loved ones, neighbors, and communities about the critical importance of being safe around rail property; you could help save a life.”

15. VIA rail’s President and CEO is in Halifax to offer insights into the corporation’s transformation

VIA Rail Canada’s (VIA Rail) President and Chief Executive Officer, Mario Pélouquin, was in Halifax on September 23, 2024 to address the Halifax Chamber of Commerce and meet with key stakeholders and media. During this event, M. Pélouquin highlighted the important journey VIA Rail is undertaking as part of its new strategic plan which includes the replacement of all its trains from coast to coast over the coming years. This new fleet, for which the procurement process is slated to begin very soon, will offer Canadians and tourists modern trains meeting the highest standards of accessibility to discover Canada. It will also allow VIA Rail to continue to provide essential connections for many remote and Indigenous communities.

16. Union opens negotiations with CN Rail

Unifor Local 100 and Council 4000 announced it has opened negotiations with CN Rail, saying it will focus on higher wages, pensions, benefits and work ownership protection for rail workers. “Our members at CN Rail go above and beyond to make sure the trains operate and cargo moves across the country,” said Unifor national president Lana Payne. “Unifor and our members know how to fight and we expect to win important improvements for rail workers in this round of bargaining.” Unifor says some employer wages, pensions and benefits have gone unchanged for over 20

years. The union said its bargaining priorities will include addressing long-standing concerns with the pension plan, while also protecting members' job security. The current collective agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2024.

17. VIA rail's President and CEO is in Vancouver to offer insights into the corporation's transformation

VIA Rail Canada's (VIA Rail) President and Chief Executive Officer, Mario Pélouquin, was in Vancouver on September 25, 2024 to address the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and meet with key stakeholders and media. During this event, M. Pélouquin highlighted the important journey VIA Rail is undertaking as part of its new strategic plan which includes the replacement of all its trains from coast to coast over the coming years. This new fleet, for which the procurement process is slated to begin very soon, will offer Canadians and tourists modern trains meeting the highest standards of accessibility to discover Canada. It will also allow VIA Rail to continue to provide essential connections for many remote and Indigenous communities.

18. Biden-Harris Administration Calls on Class I Freight Railroads to Guarantee Paid Sick Leave and Get to 100% Worker Coverage

On September 25, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Department of Labor Acting Secretary Julie Su sent letters to the CEOs of three Class I freight railroads – CPKC, CN, and CSX – calling on them to guarantee paid sick leave to all of their employees. In their letter, Secretary Buttigieg and Acting Secretary Su highlighted the tremendous progress that rail labor and the rail industry have made in expanding access to paid sick leave with three Class I freight railroads now guaranteeing it for all their employees. Since the end of 2022, the number of Class I freight railroad employees who have access to paid sick days increased from 5% to 90%. However, they also noted that the remaining 10 percent of workers who do not have paid sick time – workers employed by the three recipients of the letter – are no more immune to illness than those with coverage.

19. Progress Towards Safer Rail Tank Cars Transporting Flammable Liquids: 2024 Report

The 2024 report (*Progress Towards Safer Rail Tank Cars Transporting Flammable Liquids: 2024 Report*) summarizes progress made in upgrading North American rail tank cars transporting Class 3 flammable liquids to the DOT-117 standards. The new DOT-117 standards, finalized in 2015, specify the design characteristics of DOT-117 and DOT-117R (retrofitted) tank cars. These characteristics include a thicker, insulated/thermally protected tank; 1 a full height head shield; and top and bottom valve fitting protections. There is a rolling phase-out schedule of tank cars based on both tank car type and flammable liquid or liquids carried for example, as of May 1, 2023, all DOT-111 tank cars were prohibited from carrying ethanol. As of July 1, 2023, all non-jacketed CPC-1232 tank cars were prohibited from carrying ethanol. All tank cars in service in 2023 that were subject to FAST Act rules regarding the transport of Class 3 flammable liquids were compliant with the scheduled phase-out deadlines. Sixty-seven percent of all rail tank cars carrying Class 3 flammable liquids were built to the new DOT-117 specification or modified to meet the DOT-117R (retrofit) specification.

20. The Number of Safer Rail Tank Cars Continued to Increase in 2023

Ethanol and crude oil fleets near 100% adoption of DOT-117 tank cars in 2023. The key points are: 1. All jacketed (a layer of thermal insulation) and non-jacketed DOT-111 and non-jacketed CPC1232 tank cars that carried ethanol met the May 1 and July 1, 2023, phaseout deadlines. 2. Nearly all cars that carried either crude oil or ethanol met DOT-117 specifications. Jacketed CPC-1232 cars can still carry crude oil or ethanol until May 1, 2025. 3. All tank cars carrying other Class 3 flammable liquids will need to meet DOT-117 or equivalent specifications by May 1, 2025 (Packing Group I), or May 1, 2029 (Packing Groups II/III). The Number of Tank Cars meeting the DOT-117 Specification and Phaseout dates for all Other Tank Cars are shown in the figure above.

21. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending September 21, 2024

For the week ending September 21, 2024, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 522,112 carloads and intermodal units, up 6.0 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending September 21 were 232,818 carloads, down 0.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 289,294 containers and trailers, up 12.0 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. These included grain, up 2,812 carloads, to 20,897; chemicals, up 2,071 carloads, to 33,139; and miscellaneous carloads, up 1,799 carloads, to 10,313. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 4,987 carloads, to 63,164; metallic ores and metals, down 2,699 carloads, to 19,979; and nonmetallic minerals, down 2,382 carloads, to 32,096. Canadian railroads reported 92,505 carloads for the week, down 4.1 percent, and 69,836 intermodal units, down 4.1 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 38 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,015,994 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.1 percent.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, July 2024

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for July 2024 from Statistics Canada. The courier and messengers index was 136.5 for July 2024 compared to 126.1 in June 2024 and 127.3 in July 2023.

2. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, second quarter 2024

The For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index (2021=100) is now available for the second quarter from Statistics Canada. The truck index for June 2024 was 121.0 compared to 119.5 in June 2023. For the second quarter of 2024 the index was 121.5 compared to 120.8 in the first quarter of 2024 and 120.1 in the second quarter in 2023.

3. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Private fleets continue to add capacity, insource

Frustrated by the length of the current for-hire freight market downturn? Blame private fleets! They continue to add capacity and pull more freight within their own networks, according to ACT Research. The good news is a “decent peak season” is shaping up, with near-record imports seen at U.S. ports. Spot market rates plunged to 2020 levels in the week ended Aug. 23, 2024. But shippers are losing their edge over carriers, with FTR’s Shipper Conditions Index falling to near-neutral levels. In its latest Freight Forecast: U.S. Rate and Volume Outlook report, ACT Research said aggressive insourcing by private fleets is partially to blame for the extended downturn in the for-hire freight sector.

4. Crash investigation results in NTSB safety recommendations

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) wants tighter controls on Hours-of-Service compliance, after investigating a crash between a semi-truck and party bus that caused three deaths and numerous injuries. The crash occurred Dec. 16, 2022 in Williamsburg, Va. The semi piled into the rear of a slower-moving bus on I-64. The bus was traveling 20-25 mph in the right lane while the truck was traveling 65-70 mph with cruise engaged. The truck driver didn’t brake or take evasive action as it approached the bus. The NTSB says its investigation concluded the truck driver was fatigued and that its carrier, Triton Logistics (not related to Canada-based Triton Transport), created false logs using its electronic logging device (ELD). As a result, the NTSB issued six new recommendations and reiterated three previous ones. New recommendations include: 1. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration should strengthen ELD requirements to prevent opportunities for the creation of fake driver accounts. 2. The Commonwealth of Virginia should offer management safety guidance to new intrastate motor carrier licensees covering licence class, drug and alcohol testing, fatigue management, vehicle maintenance, and safe commercial vehicle operation. 3. Triton Logistics should implement a process to regularly verify the accuracy of drivers’ records of duty, implement a robust fatigue management program, and proactively use onboard inward- and forward-facing video event recording to improve driver training. 4. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance should use this crash to educate its members on the importance of safeguarding the electronic logging device system to prevent falsification of information.

5. Highway Motor Freight expands operations at CentrePort Canada Rail Park

Highway Motor Freight has expanded its operations at CentrePort Canada Rail Park with a \$16 million investment in a new 32,000 square-foot facility, which it says will create 150 new jobs. The expansion includes the

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, July 2024, August 30, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
2. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, second quarter 2024, August 30, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Private fleets continue to add capacity, insource, August 30, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
4. Crash investigation results in NTSB safety recommendations, August 30, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
5. Highway Motor Freight expands operations at CentrePort Canada Rail Park, September 3, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
6. Borderlands Mexico: Carrier says transition to zero emissions critical to better air quality, September 1, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
7. Volvo to release long-range electric truck in 2025, Sept. 4, 2024, www.insidelogistics.com
8. MDOT Lifting Restrictions for Hauling Class 3 and 8 Dangerous Goods at Ambassador Bridge, September 3, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
9. Statement by Transport Minister Rodriguez on National Trucking Week 2024, September 3, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
10. Province Breaks Ground on Three Ontario Line Stations, September 4, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
11. USDOT Tackles Distracted Driving, Gains New Safety Allies, September 4, 2024, www.dot.gov
12. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$1 Billion in Grants for 350+ Communities to Make Local Roads Safer, September 5, 2024, www.dot.gov
13. On the road to more accessible and functional transit services in Hamilton, September 5, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
14. ESDC introduces new resources on Driver Inc. misclassification, September 5, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
15. CTA to Fed Parties: It’s Time to Cut Red Tape & Tax, Restore Fairness for Truckers, September 6, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
16. Truck driver detention costs industry \$15 billion in 2023: ATRI, September 10, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
17. Uber Freight announces new tech offerings, reaches \$20B in managed freight, September 10, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
18. ESDC Announces Data Agreement with CRA to Facilitate Driver Inc. Enforcement, September 11, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
19. Ambassador Bridge Outlines New Process for Movement of Class 3 and 8 TDG Starting Oct 29, September 12, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
20. Quebec launches road freight observatory to tackle data gaps, September 13, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
21. Urban public transit, July 2024, September 16, 2024, www.gc.ca
22. Freight fraud costs companies \$400K on average: TIA report, September 17, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
23. CICE funds B.C. companies contributing to decarbonization of trucking, September 18, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

acquisition of 20 acres of land to construct a state-of-the-art 32,000 sq-ft transportation terminal, located at CentrePort Canada Rail Park in the Rural Municipality of Rosser (R.M. of Rosser). As the next tenant to commence construction in the 665-acre CentrePort Canada Rail Park project, developed by Focus Equities Inc., the new facility is expected to create more than 150 new jobs once fully operational.

6. Borderlands Mexico: Carrier says transition to zero emissions critical to better air quality

Juan Baez, director of San Diego-based trucking company Bali Express Services said “Providing better air quality to the border communities is the most important thing right now.” Transitioning freight transport vehicles to green technology is currently expensive, but worth the effort. That was the message from Juan Baez, at the North American Development Bank’s 2024 summit in San Antonio. Bali Express is a carrier with 357 diesel trucks, 32 natural gas trucks and three electric trucks. “Each electric truck costs almost half a million, so the investment is huge,” Baez said. “Right now, the most challenging part of the electric trucks is the mile range, the amount of range is minimum. It could go from 120 miles up to 220 miles for a truck that costs half a million, which is very, very expensive, even though providing better air quality to the border communities is the most important thing right. We have to act. We have to start thinking, thinking about our future. We need to start thinking about the younger generations.”

7. Volvo to release long-range electric truck in 2025

Volvo announced it will launch a new long-range version of its FH Electric that will be able to reach up to 600 km on one charge. Expected to be released in the second half of 2025, Volvo said the new Volvo FH Electric will allow transport companies to operate electric trucks on interregional and long-distance routes and to drive a full working day without having to recharge.

8. MDOT Lifting Restrictions for Hauling Class 3 and 8 Dangerous Goods at Ambassador Bridge

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has announced restrictions for hauling of Class 3 and 8 dangerous goods at the Ambassador Bridge Windsor/Detroit, will be removed effective October 29, 2024. Under the new rules, the restricted materials will only be allowed to be transported across the bridge during off-peak hours and under the supervision of vehicle escorts. The decision comes after multiple requests by the Ambassador Bridge to remove these longstanding restrictions, the completion of a technical study by MDOT, and months of consultations with various stakeholders, including the OTA, which supported the removal of all restrictions on Class 3 and 8 dangerous goods, with the goal of aligning the policy with all major ports of entry at the Canada-U.S. border.

9. Statement by Transport Minister Rodriguez on National Trucking Week 2024

The Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, on September 3, 2024 issued the following statement: "Each September, we mark National Trucking Week in Canada. It's a time to thank our truckers and acknowledge the important work they do to keep our economy moving. "We have recently witnessed, in real time, how every element of our supply chains is essential to move goods across our big country every day. This National Trucking Week, I'm inviting all Canadians to celebrate the truckers in this country – they literally keep Canada moving. "Canadian trucking businesses move billions of dollars of goods and trade, including across the U.S. border. The truckers that work these long hours away from their families to move these goods are vital to keep grocery shelves stocked, get fresh produce to market, connect small businesses, and grow our economy. "Just like the trucking industry is here for Canadians, the Government of Canada will invest in our workers, support trucking, and help foster innovation in this industry."

10. Province Breaks Ground on Three Ontario Line Stations

The Ontario government has officially broken ground on King-Bathurst, Queen-Spadina and Moss Park Stations, marking another milestone in the province’s plan to build the Ontario Line and create a reliable and continuous transit line that connects communities throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). “Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is one step closer to delivering a world-class transit system for the GTA,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “The stations we’re breaking ground on today will help tackle gridlock, reduce commute times and connect tens of thousands of commuters to homes and good-paying jobs each and every day.”

11. USDOT Tackles Distracted Driving, Gains New Safety Allies

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), including the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHTSA), convened stakeholders to provide input to a research roadmap to address new distracted driving challenges.

24. Rail strike boosts Canadian spot market, trailer orders disappoint, September 20, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

25. FedEx results hurt by weak demand, fewer premium customers, September 19, 2024 www.freightwaves.com

26. Ontario Improving Highway 401 Near Kingston, September 20, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca

27. Cargo thefts in Peel Region soar as tractors, trailers worth \$16.73M stolen this year, September 20, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

28. Biden-Harris Administration Awards Millions to Improve State Commercial Driver’s License Programs, September 20, 2024, www.dot.gov

29. North American Transborder Freight rose 5.6% in July 2024 from July 2023, September 18, 2024, www.bts.gov

30. Canadian Roadcheck blitz puts one in three vehicles out of service, September 24, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

31. Toronto freight transportation company launches cross-border shipping solution, September 26, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

32. OTA: 401 Traffic Tunnel Plan a Bold Vision to Secure Ontario’s Economic Future, September 25, 2024, www.ontruck.ca

Distraction is a known contributing factor to the national roadway safety crisis, and the Distraction Action Forum hosted by NHTSA is part of the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS), the Department’s comprehensive initiative to bring the number of roadway deaths to the only acceptable number: zero. At this forum, the Department reaffirmed its commitment to addressing roadway fatalities resulting from distraction, discussed how the traffic safety community can reduce distracted driving, and gained insight from experts on NHTSA research, policy, education, and communications activities focused on distraction. These activities advanced new actions captured in the 2024 NRSS Progress Report to develop a distraction research roadmap.

12. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$1 Billion in Grants for 350+ Communities to Make Local Roads Safer

On September 5, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced more than \$1 billion in grants through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The funding will go directly to 354 local, regional, and tribal communities to improve roadway safety and prevent deaths and serious injuries on America’s rural and urban roads, including some of the most dangerous in the country.

13. On the road to more accessible and functional transit services in Hamilton

The federal, provincial, and municipal governments are making a combined investment of more than \$6 million to improve transit services in Hamilton. Investing in public transit helps Canadians get where they need to be, creates new manufacturing and construction jobs, reduces pollution and makes life more affordable.

14. ESDC introduces new resources on Driver Inc. misclassification

As National Trucking Week unfolds, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is highlighting the trucking industry’s contributions while focusing on the issue of employee misclassification in the sector. ESDC released new resources designed to help both employers and employees understand their rights and obligations under the Code. These include the ‘awareness kit’ and a video titled “Misclassification: know your rights.” The resources provide information on what employee misclassification is, how it impacts truck drivers, and how to identify and report it. They also explain the consequences for employers who misclassify workers and clarify the differences between employees in federally regulated industries and independent contractors. This follows legislative changes that came into force on June 20, 2024 aimed at strengthening the prohibition against misclassification by presuming employee status for workers in the road transportation industry, including gig workers. These changes ensure that all workers in the sector can access the full range of protections and rights under the Canada Labor Code, covering industrial relations, occupational health and safety, and labor standards, ESDC reports.

15. CTA to Fed Parties: It’s Time to Cut Red Tape & Tax, Restore Fairness for Truckers

As National Trucking Week wraps up this week, the Canadian Trucking Alliance is reminding decision makers in Ottawa that women and men who deliver Canada’s freight and keep our economy running deserve our respect and gratitude all year-round. With parliamentary business set to resume for the fall session on September 16, 2024 CTA is sending a message to all federal political party staff that hard-working truck drivers and small fleet operators are deserving of much-needed relief from ineffective taxation, burdensome red tape and need safeguarding of their labour rights.

16. Truck driver detention costs industry \$15 billion in 2023: ATRI

Truck driver detention at customer facilities cost the U.S. for-hire trucking industry \$11.5 billion (all numbers US\$) in lost productivity and another \$3.6 billion in direct expenses in 2023, according to a new report by the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI). The report—which surveyed 587 truck drivers and 245 motor carriers—highlights the operational and economic impacts of truck drivers being held at customer facilities for extended periods. Among the fleets surveyed, 30% were truckload fleets, 24% were refrigerated carriers, and 42% were specialized fleets. In 2023, drivers reported being detained in 39.3% of all stops, with detention rates significantly higher for specific groups. Women drivers experienced detention in 49.1% of their stops, while refrigerated trailers had the highest detention rates at 56.2% of stops. Drivers operating in the spot market also faced higher-than-average detention, with 42.5% of their stops being delayed. “Detention is so common that many industry professionals have accepted it as inevitable without realizing the true extent of its costs,” said Chad England, C.R. England’s chief executive officer, in a related press release.

17. Uber Freight announces new tech offerings, reaches \$20B in managed freight

Managed transportation provider Uber Freight announced on September 10, 2024 at its annual Deliver conference in Frisco, Texas, a number of new features available to customers and said the company’s freight under management has grown to \$20 billion. “The beauty of our network is that as we grow, the more we can drive our algorithms and planning optimization, bringing more savings back to our customers,” said Lior Ron, founder and CEO of Uber Freight. The company has saved over \$1.5 billion in transportation costs for customers this past year, he added.

18. ESDC Announces Data Agreement with CRA to Facilitate Driver Inc. Enforcement

The Labour Program at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on September 11, 2024 announced data-sharing agreements to facilitate and coordinate inspections and enforcement in the federally-regulated road transportation sector. Included in [Budget 2024](#), this initiative supports efforts since 2022 to strengthen compliance in the trucking industry. The exchange of this information will enhance existing compliance activities of the [Labour Program](#) and [the CRA](#) in the trucking sector, including those aimed specifically at curbing the tax avoidance and labour abuse scheme within the underground economy, known as [Driver Inc.](#) Both the Labour Program and the CRA respectively recognize the importance of addressing worker misclassification and non-compliance with tax law.

19. Ambassador Bridge Outlines New Process for Movement of Class 3 and 8 TDG Starting Oct 29

The Ambassador Bridge has published the new escort process which will be required to transport Class 3 and 8 dangerous goods across the bridge, which will begin allowing these shipments on October 29th, 2024. This change comes after the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), recently announced the removal of these restrictions after consultations with industry stakeholders, including the OTA, and technical studies being completed by the department to help resolve this long-standing issue.

20. Quebec launches road freight observatory to tackle data gaps

The trucking industry in Quebec is taking a step forward in an effort to tackle trucking data gaps with the launch of the *Observatoire sur le transport routier des marchandises* (OTRM) – or the road freight transport observatory – which was unveiled at Laval University on Sept. 10, 2024. The event also marked the return of the university’s freight transportation course to its curriculum. “One of the goals of the observatory is to create connections and collaborate with the transportation industry to improve best practices,” said Frank Pons, dean of the faculty of business administration.

21. Urban public transit, July 2024

In July 2024, urban transit ridership in Canada reached 125.1 million passenger trips, an increase of more than 14 million from July 2023. Passenger volumes in July 2024 recovered to nearly 85% of the pre-COVID-19-pandemic ridership in July 2019, a level reached only twice (February and May of 2024) since the onset of the pandemic. Canada’s urban transit networks provided an estimated 125.1 million rides in July 2024, up 13.2% (+14.6 million trips) compared with July 2023. In July 2024, total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) totalled \$301.6 million, up 6.6% from July 2023, albeit \$40.6 million lower than in July 2019, prior to the pandemic.

22. Freight fraud costs companies \$400K on average: TIA report

The freight industry faces an average fraud cost of \$402,344.47 per company, with truckload freight identified as the most vulnerable mode, according to the Transportation Intermediaries Association’s most recent report on the state of the fraud in the U.S. transportation and logistics industry. Out of 200 TIA members surveyed, nearly 98% pointed to truckload freight as the primary target, with unlawful brokerage scams, spoofing, and identity theft among the top threats.

23. CICE funds B.C. companies contributing to decarbonization of trucking

The B.C. Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy (CICE) announced \$1.25 million in funding to three B.C. companies, including a fuel cell stack manufacturer for heavy trucks. *Unilia Fuel Cells* is among the three recipients. It is rolling out a hydrogen fuel-cell-powered heavy-duty truck, CICE said in a release. *Expander* is another recipient. It produces fossil-free, net-zero renewable diesel for the long haul trucking sector. *InnoCast Concrete* – the third funding recipient – is addressing carbon sequestration during hydrogen production. “Hydrogen and low carbon fuel technologies are key to reducing emissions in B.C.’s commercial transportation sector, creating a cleaner, more sustainable environment for everyone” said Josie Osborne, minister of energy, mines and low carbon innovation. “I’m excited to see innovative companies like Unilia, Expander, and InnoCast get the support they need to implement their new clean ideas, benefiting people throughout the province and propelling our clean economy forward.”

24. Rail strike boosts Canadian spot market, trailer orders disappoint

Loadlink reported strong load posting growth in August 2024, buoyed in part by the short-lived rail strike and fears over supply chain disruptions. Spot market rates in the U.S. remained weak in the most recent week, as did trailer orders. With trailer makers expected to soon open 2024 order books, analysts are watching closely to see if buyers will come back or instead direct limited cap-ex budgets to power units ahead of EPA27 emissions standards. Trailer orders in August 2024 came in at 6,661 units according to FTR, which was down 30% year over year, but a 17% improvement from July numbers. FTR indicated it was the fifth weakest order month in the past four years, while cancellations remained above 30% as a percentage of total gross orders for the fourth straight month. FTR blames stagnant freight fundamentals for the lack of new orders and notes manufacturers have trimmed production to levels 30%, lower than the average August build rate.

25. FedEx results hurt by weak demand, fewer premium customers

FedEx is in the midst of a transformation it hopes will improve profitability by unlocking efficiencies, improving

density and creating a more flexible network. FedEx Corp. reported first-quarter earnings after September 19, 2024 market close that were significantly lower than expected as customers traded down to economy delivery services and demand lagged, disappointing investors and triggering a 11% drop in the share price in late trading. The express logistics provider lowered its guidance for the fiscal year, saying it now expects low-single-digit percentage revenue growth compared to the prior forecast of a low-to-mid-digit increase. It also narrowed the adjusted earnings-per-share range to \$20 to \$21 from the prior range of \$20 to \$22. Growing preference for deferred service weighs on revenue. FedEx is undergoing a significant transformation under CEO Raj Subramaniam, aiming to cut costs and combine two distinct delivery networks to improve efficiency and customer service. But the quarterly results suggest the process will be bumpy.

26. Ontario Improving Highway 401 Near Kingston

The Ontario government is investing \$6 million to support the movement of people and goods in the Kingston area. Work is underway to resurface sections of the eastbound and westbound lanes on Highway 401 from Westbrook Road to Highway 15, along with all four ramps at the Sir John A. Macdonald interchange.

27. Cargo thefts in Peel Region soar as tractors, trailers worth \$16.73M stolen this year

Cargo theft in the Greater Toronto Area's Peel Region has taken a disturbing turn, placing it third in North America for high cargo theft activity, as organized crime groups use increasingly sophisticated methods to target high-value loads. Mark Haywood, a detective with Peel Regional Police who runs the cargo side of its Commercial Auto Crime Bureau, describes these developments as an escalation in theft methods, particularly with the rise of transit pilferage—a tactic that's now spreading in Canada after gaining traction in Europe and parts of the U.S. As of Sept. 9, 2024, Peel Region has seen 232 stolen tractors and trailers since the beginning of the year, valued at \$16.73 million. On average, 26 vehicles are stolen monthly, but the highest number of thefts – 56 incidents – occurred in August 2024. The recovery rate for these stolen vehicles stands at 65.52%, higher than the national and North American averages. However, recovering stolen cargo proves more challenging, with only 39% of the 72 stolen loads recovered last year.

28. Biden-Harris Administration Awards Millions to Improve State Commercial Driver's License Programs

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced on September 20, 2024 more than \$140 million in grants to States and educational institutions through the agency's High Priority (HP) and Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI) grants. Funding through these grant programs will help advance States' technological capabilities and improve the national commercial driver's license (CDL) program. "Two of our Department's top priorities are improving safety on our roadways and strengthening supply chains, and today's awards will help with both," said *U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg*. "The Biden-Harris administration is proud to deliver these funds to get well-qualified truck drivers on our roads and to ensure commercial vehicle safety programs are administered with less bureaucracy."

29. North American Transborder Freight rose 5.6% in July 2024 from July 2023

Transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico in July 2024 were as follows: 1. Total transborder freight: \$134.2 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 5.6% compared to July 2023; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$63.5 billion, up 2.8% from July 2023; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$70.7 billion, up 8.2% from July 2023 - Mexico continued to lead Canada in freight dollar value for the last 17 months; 4. Trucks moved \$86.8 billion of freight, up 8.4% compared to July 2023; 5. Railways moved \$16.0 billion of freight, down 6.8% compared to July 2023; 6. Vessels moved \$10.5 billion of freight, down 8.1% compared to July 2023 - Vessels moved 13.2% less mineral fuels; 7. Pipelines moved \$10.2 billion of freight, up 25.1% compared to July 2023 - Pipelines carried 25.1% more mineral fuels (87.2% imports); and 8. Air moved \$5.0 billion of freight, up 12.3% compared to July 2023. Transborder freight between US-Canada were as follows: Truck: \$35.4b; Pipeline \$9.6b; Rail \$8.0b; Vessel \$3.8b; and Air \$3.2b.

30. Canadian Roadcheck blitz puts one in three vehicles out of service

Canadian enforcement teams placed 33.2% of inspected vehicles out of service during the international Roadcheck blitz that was conducted on May 14-16, compared to a 23.2% out-of-service rate in the U.S. Teams completed 5,411 Level I, II and III inspections on this side of the border, placing 1,798 vehicles and 102 drivers out of service, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance reports. In the U.S., there were 42,332 inspections, with 7,930 vehicles and 2,151 drivers placed out of service. Level I inspections involve 37 steps and include vehicles and drivers. The vehicle emphasis area this year was on tractor protection systems, including the tractor protection valve, trailer supply valve and anti-bleed-back valve. Defective service brakes topped the out-of-service violations across North America at 25%. The other Top 5 issues were tires at 20.8%, other brake violations at 18.3%, lights at 11.6%, and cargo securement at 9.6%. Hours of Service clearly dominated driver-related violations, at 32.1% of the total. Trailing behind that were no commercial driver's licence (25.4%), no medical card (11.2%), false logs (10.9%), and suspended driver's licence/commercial driver's licence (5.1%).

31. Toronto freight transportation company launches cross-border shipping solution

RoadLINX, Toronto-based trucking and freight transportation company, is now offering a cross-border shipping solution from Canada to the U.S. With the aim of revolutionizing shipping practices by recognizing the role of packaging in ensuring the safe and timely delivery of goods, RoadLINX now offers a suite of packaging solutions to help improve how goods are handled and transported. The company strives to make shipping from Canada to the U.S. stress-free, with planning and the use of a qualified freight broker, RoadLINX sends its clients shipments and ensures that the shipping cost from Canada to the U.S. is minimized. RoadLINX deals with packing, unpacking and loading services, as well.

32. OTA: 401 Traffic Tunnel Plan a Bold Vision to Secure Ontario's Economic Future

The Government of Ontario laid out a vision on September 25, 2024 that would allow Ontario's supply chain to thrive for decades to come rather than being hampered by crippling traffic congestion, says the Ontario Trucking Association. Today's announcement the Government of Ontario has launched a technical evaluation for the construction of a new driver and transit tunnel expressway under Highway 401 is the type of bold act Ontarians need to remain an economic force and productivity hub and in North America. "Ontario's economy moves by truck," said OTA President & CEO, Stephen Laskowski. "Trucks sitting idle in traffic are lowering the productivity of our supply chain and deterring future investment to our province. With a large segment of the Ontario supply chain relying on just-in-time delivery, Ontario must ensure the trucking industry can fulfill these time-sensitive demands. Addressing current and future congestion issues will continue to attract investment and resources into the manufacturing plants and countless other businesses that rely on our members' truck transport services."

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. DHL report says AI and sustainable solutions top emerging trends

DHL's 7th edition of the DHL Logistics Trend Radar says AI and sustainability are top priorities in the logistics and supply chain sector. DHL's Logistics Trend Radar is a biennial report that highlights the foremost social, business and technological trends impacting the industry. Since its inception in 2012, the report provides an in-depth analysis of logistics trends, their impact, progression and associated challenges and opportunities. For each of the 40 trends – 17 social and business and 23 technological – the radar outlines the predicted time to adoption and their impact on logistics. While trend clusters like robotics, the Internet of Things and digital backbone continue to significantly affect logistics, it is evident that the emerging field of AI is making an increasingly substantial contribution, and that sustainability remains a top priority.

2. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2024

In July 2024, Canada's merchandise imports decreased 1.7%, while exports fell 0.4%. Consequently, Canada's merchandise trade balance with the world moved from a revised deficit of \$179 million in June to a surplus of \$684 million in July 2024. Statistics Canada has released a new table featuring Canadian international merchandise trade data by industry for all countries for the period from January 2002 to July 2024.

3. Canadian international trade in services, July 2024

Canada's monthly international trade in services deficit widened from \$1.5 billion in June 2024 to \$1.6 billion in July 2024. Overall, imports of services were up 0.6% to \$18.4 billion, while exports of services were essentially unchanged, at \$16.8 billion.

4. China launches investigation with World Trade Organization over Canadian tariffs

China has initiated an anti-discrimination investigation in response to the tariff hikes the Canadian government will place on electric vehicles (EVs), as well as steel and aluminum products imported from China.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. DHL report says AI and sustainable solutions top emerging trends, September 4, 2024, www.insidelogistics.com
2. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2024 and Canadian international merchandise trade by industry for all countries, July 2024 September 4, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. Canadian international trade in services, July 2024, September 4, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. China launches investigation with World Trade Organization over Canadian tariffs, September 9, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
5. August 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.8%) Falls Below the August 2023 Level (4.9%) And Hits Same Level as the Pre-Pandemic August 2019 Level (4.8%), September 6, 2024, www.bts.gov
6. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2024, September 10, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
7. Ontario aims to boost cross-border trade with New Jersey, September 11, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
8. Canada falling behind on zero-emission commercial vehicle transition: report, September 11, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
9. July 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.2% from the Previous Month and Down 0.5% from the Same Month Last Year, September 12, 2024, www.bts.gov
10. Traffic Flow Dashboard, September 16, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
11. Walmart workers in Mississauga vote to unionize, says Unifor, September 17, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
12. Transportation costs slow inflation for first month since July 2023, September 17, 2024, www.ajot.com
13. RXO finalizes acquisition of Coyote Logistics, enhancing its North American footprint, September 18, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
14. Canada may reach 2030 emissions goal without

The Government of Canada announced a series of measures to, what it said, “level the playing field” for Canadian workers and allow Canada’s EV industry and steel and aluminum producers to compete in domestic, North American and global markets. The tariffs include implementing a 100 per cent surtax on all Chinese-made EVs, which will be effective Oct. 1, 2024 and includes electric and certain hybrid passenger automobiles, trucks, buses and delivery vans. The surtax will apply in addition to the Most-Favoured Nation import tariff of 6.1 per cent that currently applies to EVs produced in China and imported into Canada.

5. August 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.8%) Falls Below the August 2023 Level (4.9%) And Hits Same Level as the Pre-Pandemic August 2019 Level (4.8%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.8% (not seasonally adjusted) in August 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 August 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points from 4.9% in August 2023 and was the same as the pre-pandemic August 2019 level of 4.8%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector was higher than overall unemployment. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in August 2024 was 4.4% or 0.4 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in August 2024 was 4.2%.

6. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2024

In August 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 9.0% from August 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 1.2 million in August 2024, up 11.9% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad by air reached 1.7 million, a 10.0% increase from August 2023. By automobile, US residents took 1.9 million trips to Canada in August 2024, up 12.9% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States by automobile also rose, up 5.1% year over year to reach 2.9 million trips in August 2024. All statistics in this release are based on the primary data sources for air and automobile arrivals.

7. Ontario aims to boost cross-border trade with New Jersey

Ontario and New Jersey have finalized a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at boosting cross-border trade and investment, promoting greater economic collaboration and creating employment on both sides of the border. “Ontario and New Jersey have both benefited from a long-standing trade relationship, and this agreement will further strengthen our collaboration, driving economic growth for both jurisdictions,” said Premier Doug Ford. “At a time of global instability, it has never been more important for Ontario and our U.S. partners to work together to create more jobs and prosperity, promote our shared values and protect our shared national security interests. Now is the time to bet big on the U.S.-Canada relationship.”

8. Canada falling behind on zero-emission commercial vehicle transition: report

A recent report from Clean Energy Canada says ‘Canada is falling behind its global peers in the shift to zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles’. While countries like the U.S. and those in the European Union accelerate their transitions, only 2% of new trucks and buses sold in Canada in 2023 were zero-emission, compared to 9% globally. California leads with 17% of new commercial vehicle sales coming from zero-emission models, while the EU has set ambitious emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles. [The report](#) suggests that Canada’s focus has been primarily on electric passenger cars, overlooking the commercial vehicle sector, which has a disproportionate impact on emissions. Although these vehicles account for just 17% of Canada’s total vehicle stock, they are responsible for 37% of the country’s transport emissions.

9. July 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.2% from the Previous Month and Down 0.5% from the Same Month Last Year

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, fell 0.2% in July 2024 from June 2024, falling for the second consecutive month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From July 2023 to July 2024 the index fell 0.5%.

carbon tax, September 20, 2024, www.ajot.com

15. Research predicts sizeable growth for autonomous mobile robot market, September 20, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

16. National tourism indicators, second quarter 2024, September 23, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

17. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2024, September 23, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

18. Grain farmers urge intervention as Metro Vancouver terminal workers prep strike, September 23, 2024, www.financialpost.ca

19. U.S. Department of Transportation Provides \$6 Million in Emergency Relief Funding to Vermont to Help Repair Damage from Catastrophic Flooding Caused by Two Hurricanes, September 23, 2024, www.dot.gov

20. U.S. DOT Awards \$5 Million Research Initiative for Novel Cement Development, September 25, 2024, www.dot.gov

21. Grain Growers of Canada warns 'devastating' work action will cost about \$35M daily in lost exports, September 24, 2024, www.cbc.ca

22. Internal Trade Ministers to Pilot Mechanisms to Eliminate Trade Barriers in Trucking, September 26, 2024, www.ontruck.ca

23. INVESTING IN AMERICA: In Recognition of Climate Week, U.S. Department of Transportation Highlights Work to Combat Climate Crisis and Build More Resilient, Sustainable Transportation Systems, September 26, 2024, www.dot.gov

10. Traffic Flow Dashboard

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

11. Walmart workers in Mississauga vote to unionize, says Unifor

Workers at Walmart's Mississauga warehouse have voted to join Unifor, Canada's largest private sector union, the union said in a release. It is Walmart's first warehouse to unionize in Canada. "This victory is the result of uniting around a belief in workplace democracy and better working conditions," said Unifor national president Lana Payne. "Walmart workers in Mississauga stood up for their rights, and we are excited to get to work on their first collective agreement." More than 40 per cent of the workers at the facility signed a union card this summer and the Ontario Labour Board awarded the workers a vote, which was held Sept. 10–12, 2024.

12. Transportation costs slow inflation for first month since July 2023

In August 2024, transportation dampened inflation by 8.1%, for the first time since July 2023, due to year-over-year declines in the price for most transportation goods and services. Motor vehicle insurance, however, continued to positively contribute to inflation, at 17.6% in August 2024 – the greatest contribution since July 2016 (with records beginning in 2012). Excluding motor vehicle insurance, transportation would have dampened inflation by 25.7% in August 2024. Motor vehicle maintenance and repair and motor vehicle fees also positively contributed to inflation in August 2024 but to a lesser extent at 2.0% and 0.6%, respectively.

13. RXO finalizes acquisition of Coyote Logistics, enhancing its North American footprint

RXO, a provider of asset-light transportation solutions, has completed its acquisition of Coyote Logistics from UPS for a purchase price of US\$1.025 billion, making it the third-largest provider of brokered transportation in North America. This acquisition enhances RXO's market position, diversifies and expands its customer base and broadens its carrier network. For customers, RXO now offers increased network density and additional power lanes. For carriers, RXO offers access to more customers with opportunities to reduce deadhead miles.

14. Canada may reach 2030 emissions goal without carbon tax

Canada could meet its 2030 emissions target without a carbon tax on consumers, some analysts say, as the Liberal government faces mounting political pressure to remove it. The tax has long been criticized by the opposition Conservative Party, which has vowed to "axe the tax" if it wins power, but support has recently eroded even among the policy's former backers. The carbon tax is intended to help Canada cut emissions of climate-warming carbon dioxide by 40%-45% below 2005 levels by 2030. Even if Ottawa scraps its carbon tax that consumers pay on gasoline and other fuels, Canada could reach the 2030 goal by leaning on other policies, said Mark Zacharias, executive director at think-tank Clean Energy Canada. The portion of carbon tax that applies to industrial sites such as oil sands mines and cement plants is less contentious than the consumer tax. The industrial tax will play a larger role in cutting emissions, along with a proposed oil-and-gas emissions cap and regulations to reduce methane pollution, Zacharias said. The tax on consumers will deliver only 8%-9%, or 19 million to 22 million metric tons, of the emissions cuts Canada plans to achieve by 2030, according to the Canadian Climate Institute. The Conservatives blame the carbon tax for contributing to inflation, even though it is designed to be revenue-neutral and around 80% of Canadians receive more in rebates than they pay in tax.

15. Research predicts sizeable growth for autonomous mobile robot market

The global autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) market is poised for significant growth, driven by increasing demand for automation across various sectors, including logistics, manufacturing and health care, according to the latest market research by LogisticsIQ. In its 5th edition, LogisticsIQ states that the AMR market will cross \$10 billion by 2030, up approximately 30 per cent between 2024 and 2030. LogisticsIQ expects the installed base of AMRs to reach two million units in 2030. North America leads the AMR market, accounting for the largest share due to the early adoption of automation technologies. Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region, especially China is expected to witness the fastest growth, fuelled by rapid industrialization and increasing investments in smart factories. The U.S. and China are going to contribute around 40 per cent of this market by 2030.

16. National tourism indicators, second quarter 2024

Tourism spending in Canada grew 0.7% in the 2024 second quarter, following a 1.4% increase in the first quarter as both international and domestic tourism spending increased. Tourism gross domestic product (+0.8%) and jobs attributable to tourism (+0.3%) also rose in the second quarter. Increased tourism spending on passenger air transport (+1.0%) and accommodation services (+1.2%) contributed the most to the rise in the second quarter. Overall, tourism spending is still 6.4% below its level in the fourth quarter of 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism GDP rose 0.8% in the second quarter, with the largest contributors to growth being transportation (+1.8%) and accommodation (+0.8%) services. By comparison, economy-wide real GDP by industry rose 0.5% in the second quarter. On a nominal

basis, tourism's share of GDP increased to 1.60%. Tourism jobs increased 0.3% in the second quarter after rising 0.9% in the first quarter.

17. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2024

In July 2024, US residents took 3.4 million trips to Canada, and residents of overseas countries took 906,700 trips. The number of non-resident arrivals (US-resident and overseas-resident arrivals combined) in Canada represented 90.4% of the number observed in July 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2024, Canadian residents returned from 4.8 million trips abroad, which represented 92.0% of the level recorded in July 2019. Using seasonally adjusted data, on a month-to-month basis, there was little change in the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada in July 2024. However, returning Canadian-resident arrivals (+0.7%) posted a slight increase in July compared with the previous month.

18. Grain farmers urge intervention as Metro Vancouver terminal workers prep strike

The union representing grain workers at terminals in Metro Vancouver says it has served the employer with a 72-hour strike notice. Canada's grain farmers say a strike at Metro Vancouver terminals would cripple crop exports if it were allowed to take place. The Grain Growers of Canada say in a statement that it is "deeply concerned" about a potential strike of grain workers in Metro Vancouver, since about 52 per cent of all Canadian-grown grain went to those terminals last year. Grain farmers say a strike would "halt nearly 100,000 metric tonnes" of commodities arriving each day, potentially costing \$35 million daily in lost exports. The response comes after the union representing grain workers at terminals in Metro Vancouver said it has served their employer with a 72-hour strike notice. The Grain Workers Union Local 333 says in a statement posted to Facebook that its strike will start at 7 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, 2024. The Vancouver Terminal Elevators Association says affected operations include Viterra's Cascadia and Pacific Terminals, Richardson International Terminal, Cargill Limited Terminal, G3 Terminal Vancouver and Alliance Grain Terminal, all located in Vancouver and North Vancouver.

19. U.S. Department of Transportation Provides \$6 Million in Emergency Relief Funding to Vermont to Help Repair Damage from Catastrophic Flooding Caused by Two Hurricanes

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on September 2023 announced the immediate availability of \$6 million in Emergency Relief (ER) funds through a "quick release" process to help the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) offset the cost of repairs for severe flooding in communities and washouts of roads and bridges caused by catastrophic flooding and prolonged heavy rainfall from the remnants of hurricanes Beryl and Debby this summer.

20. U.S. DOT Awards \$5 Million Research Initiative for Novel Cement Development

On September 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced \$5 million in research funding to Rutgers University Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT). This partnership between U.S. DOT and Rutgers University will result in development of innovative approaches to decarbonize, promote sustainability, and strengthen the resilience of the Nation's transportation infrastructure. "Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, we're developing the next generation of construction materials that can reduce carbon emissions and make transportation part of the solution to address climate change," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "With this funding and our partnership with Rutgers University, we will make sure our transportation infrastructure is more resilient, more sustainable, and made in America."

21. Metro Vancouver grain terminal workers begin strike

Workers at several Metro Vancouver grain terminals walked off the job Tuesday morning. Members of the Grain Workers Union Local 333 headed to picket lines at 7 a.m. PT, three days after serving strike notice, in what one industry group says could be "devastating" job action. Both the union and the employer, the Vancouver Terminal Elevators Association (VTEA), say they could not come to an agreement on a new contract. The affected facilities are in Vancouver and North Vancouver, and include Viterra's Cascadia and Pacific Terminals, Richardson International Terminal, Cargill Limited Terminal, G3 Terminal Vancouver and Alliance Grain Terminal, according to the VTEA.

22. Internal Trade Ministers to Pilot Mechanisms to Eliminate Trade Barriers in Trucking

Canada is a leading trading nation that faces many internal jurisdictional regulatory and administrative barriers that limit our nation's opportunities for growth. The Committee for Internal Trade Ministers, which met on September 26, 2024 in Charlottetown, recognizes the importance of domestic trade and the role trucking plays in the economy. It will begin working with the trucking industry on a series of pilot projects aimed at expediting the elimination of trade barriers and setting the country up for future success. This is the first step that will eventually see an expansion to other parts of the trucking industry and additional sectors of the economy. The topics identified by the CTA addressed in the pilot include: 1. Long Combination Vehicle (LCV) Harmonization in Western Canada; and 2. Over Dimensional Loads.

23. INVESTING IN AMERICA: In Recognition of Climate Week, U.S. Department of Transportation Highlights Work to Combat Climate Crisis and Build More Resilient, Sustainable Transportation Systems

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's recognition of Climate Week, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is highlighting the administration's work – and the impact of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – in

building more resilient, sustainable, and accessible transportation systems across the country. To date, more than 60,000 transportation projects are moving forward across all parts of the country thanks to funding from the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act*. These include projects to build a convenient, accessible, reliable national EV charging network; invest in safer bike and pedestrian networks, historic investments to expand public transit and passenger rail services, including the first high-speed rail systems to be operational on American soil; rebuild deteriorating bridges and make them more resilient to the effects of climate change; upgrade ports to improve air quality in neighboring communities; develop sustainable aviation fuel; and modernize airport terminals, and more.