

# Transportation Information Update\*

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Associate Editor:

## AIR TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Passenger Demand Grows 4% in July

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2025 global passenger demand with the following highlights: 1. **Total demand**, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 4.0% compared to July 2024. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 4.4% year-on-year. The July load factor was 85.5% (-0.4 ppt compared to July 2024). 2. **International demand** rose 5.3% compared to July 2024. Capacity was up 5.8% year-on-year, and the load factor was 85.6% (-0.4 ppt compared to July 2024). 3. **Domestic demand** increased 1.9% compared to July 2024. Capacity was up 2.4% year-on-year. The load factor was 85.2% (-0.4 ppt compared to July 2024). Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General said "It's been a good northern summer season for airlines. Momentum has grown over the peak season with July demand reaching 4% growth. That trend appears across all regions and is particularly evident for international travel, which strengthened from 3.9% growth in June to 5.3% in July. Moreover, with flight volumes showing a 2% year-on-year increase for September after five months of decelerating growth, airlines are positioned to take advantage of this market momentum into the coming months."

### 2. Delivery drones to disrupt the U.S. logistics industry by 2028

Tech.co's latest survey data has revealed that delivery drones are expected to make a disruptive impact on the U.S. logistics industry by 2028. The survey findings show that 17% of U.S. logistics businesses say delivery drones will have the most disruptive impact in the next 2-3 years. According to Tech.co's survey, workforce shortages are the single biggest pain point for nearly a quarter (24%) of logistics businesses. A variety of tech solutions have been proposed to ease the strain of trucker shortages, from route optimization software to self-driving trucks. Delivery drones could play a valuable role in alleviating the stress of driver shortages on the U.S. supply chain. According to the Federal Registrar, the Trump administration has proposed new rules around drone use in America. The proposal would allow unmanned aircraft systems to be piloted beyond visual line of sight. This aims to make it easier to get approval for a wide range of drone purposes, including package delivery. Anyone who currently wants to fly a drone beyond the visual line of sight needs to go through the FAA to be granted a waiver, but the new proposal would do away with that waiver program. This would mean businesses could ramp up their drone delivery programs in a way that could make a big impact on the supply chain in the long run. Some of the companies already using delivery drones are: Amazon Prime Air; Google Wing; Walmart; DoorDash; and Zipline. But drone delivery isn't available everywhere yet. Some companies have been testing in specific states, with limited functionality country-wide. For example, Walmart is currently only using delivery drones in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Texas.

### 3. Air Canada Provides Update on its Flight Attendant Tentative Agreement

## AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Passenger Demand Grows 4% in July, August 29, 2025, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
2. Delivery drones to disrupt the U.S. logistics industry by 2028, August 29, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
3. Air Canada Provides Update on its Flight Attendant Tentative Agreement, August 29, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
4. WestJet appoints Ebrahim as head of cargo operations, September 2, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
5. Northern summer season a boost for travel numbers, September 1, 2025, [www.airlinesiata.com](http://www.airlinesiata.com)
6. WestJet places order for 67 Boeing planes in fleet renewal plan, September 3, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
7. WSOC 2025 to Lay Foundations for an Even Safer Future, September 4, 2025, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
8. U.S. Airlines' July 2025 Aviation Fuel Consumption up 4.3%, and Fuel Cost per Gallon up 5.5% from June 2025, September 4, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
9. Air Canada and CUPE Head to Mediation Over Outstanding Issue, September 6, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
10. Flair Airlines' pilots set to open contract negotiations, September 3, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)
11. X(LR)-cellent News: Air Canada Unveils Palma de Mallorca as its First New Route for Airbus A321XLR Starting Summer 2026, September 9, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
12. Global Horizons: Air Canada Further Strengthens Toronto Hub with Expanded International Network, September 10, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
13. WestJet and CAE sign contract to bring world-class aviation professional training facility to Calgary, September 10, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
14. Going Global - New Destinations Take Flight as Air Canada Expands Network for Summer 2026, September 10, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
15. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 722 Jobs in July 2025, September 10, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
16. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award for Sixth Consecutive Year at the APEX 2026 Awards, September 12, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

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

With the assistance of a mediator, on August 19, 2025, Air Canada and the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Air Canada component (CUPE), representing our more than 10,000 flight attendants at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge, reached a tentative agreement. The agreement was achieved without concessions from the union and included improvements to wages, pension and benefits, while also addressing work performed on the ground. On August 27, 2025, CUPE began a ratification vote on this tentative agreement. The vote will close on September 6, 2025, with results expected shortly thereafter. While we remain hopeful the agreement will be ratified, there is a possibility that it will not be accepted by members. During mediation, Air Canada and CUPE mutually agreed in advance that if the agreement was not ratified, the wage portion would be referred to mediation and then, if no agreement was reached at that stage, to arbitration. This ensures that any outstanding wage matters are resolved fairly, without disruption to our operations. Air Canada is fully committed to the mediation and arbitration process, if the tentative agreement is not ratified.

#### **4. WestJet appoints Ebrahim as head of cargo operations**

On June 1, 2025, Sabir Ebrahim was promoted to the role of Head of Cargo Operations. In his first 100 days, Sabir has led the successful collaboration with colleagues and customers, with a solid focus on efficiency gains and operational excellence. Collaborative, driven and people-focused are the three top adjectives describing WestJet Cargo's new Head of Cargo Operations, Sabir Ebrahim. His responsibilities include ensuring smooth, effective cargo operations while always maintaining safety and security compliance. Through close collaboration with colleagues and service partners, Sabir and his team will identify areas for improvement in day-to-day operations, leading to even greater operational performance. "It's not just about efficiency; it's about translating commercial needs into operational excellence while upholding the highest standards of safety and security, and ensuring continued successful partnerships with our service providers," Sabir explained.

#### **5. Northern summer season a boost for travel numbers**

IATA has released data for July 2025 global passenger demand. "It's been a good northern summer season for airlines—momentum has grown over the peak season with July demand reaching 4% growth," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "That trend appears across all regions and is particularly evident for international travel, which strengthened from 3.9% growth in June to 5.3% in July. Moreover, with flight volumes showing a 2% year-on-year increase for September after five months of decelerating growth, airlines are positioned to take advantage of this market momentum into the coming months."

#### **6. WestJet places order for 67 Boeing planes in fleet renewal plan**

Low-cost Canadian carrier WestJet said on August 3, 2025 that it ordered 67 Boeing aircraft as part of a fleet renewal, including seven 787-9 Dreamliners, and 60 737-10 MAX narrowbodies as part of a fleet renewal plan. The Calgary-based carrier said it also secured options for an additional 25 737-10 MAX and four Dreamliners, with deliveries running through 2034. WestJet currently operates 193 passenger aircraft and has an order book of 123 jets and 40 options. The average age of its fleet is 10 years. "With the addition of these aircraft, WestJet has the largest order book of any airline in Canada and will double our fleet of Dreamliners," Chief Exec. Alexis von Hoensbroesh said.

He said the Boeing planes are expected to significantly improve fuel efficiency. Boeing says the 737 MAX family reduces fuel use and emissions by 20% and cuts airframe maintenance costs by 14%.

#### **7. WSOC 2025 to Lay Foundations for an Even Safer Future**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the 2025 World Safety and Operations Conference (WSOC) will take place from 14–16 October 2025 in Xiamen, China, hosted by Xiamen Airlines. Willie Walsh,

17. Porter Airlines rated in top 3 regional airlines globally by APEX, September 12, 2025, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)

18. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Unveils New Plan to Fast-Track Advanced Air Mobility Vehicles, September 12, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

19. June 2025 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Down 1.2% from the Same Month Last Year, September 12, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

20. Timely Accident Reports Strengthen Aviation Safety, September 15, 2025, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

21. CUPE Requests Cancellation of Mediation, September 16, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

22. Air Canada Unveils 2025 Best New Restaurants Finalists, Celebrating Canada's Trailblazing Culinary Hotspots, September 16, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

23. Canada's Airports Advance Safety Initiatives During Annual Canadian Airports Safety Week, September 15, 2025, [www.cacairport.ca](http://www.cacairport.ca)

24. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Enforces America First Agenda in Our Skies, Orders Delta & Aeromexico to Dissolve Joint Venture, September 16, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

25. US Airlines net gain was \$4 billion in second quarter 2025, an increase in net gain over second quarter 2024, September 16, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

26. Air Canada Elevates the Regional Flying Experience with Reimagined Q-400 Amenities Offering New Standards of Comfort, September 17, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

27. Air Canada Announces Changes to its Regional Network, September 19, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

28. Air Canada Adds Select Transborder Routes, September 22, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

29. London Calling! Air Canada Keeps Ottawa Connected Year-Round, September 23, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

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31. Air Canada Provides Third Quarter 2025 Estimated Results and Updated Full Year 2025 Guidance, September 24, 2025, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

32. Minister of Transport welcomes the world to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), September 24, 2025, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

33. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, July 2025, September 25, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

34. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, August 2025, September 26, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

IATA's Director General said "This year's WSOC will have a future focus. Our efforts to date have made aviation operations safer. Evolving technologies, including AI, will enable us to do even better as the landscape of risks changes. WSOC is the opportunity to look at technology and risk as we examine topics including safely managing the proliferation of lithium batteries carried by travelers, GNSS interference near conflict zones, improving accident reporting, managing supply chain challenges, and maintaining spectrum integrity in the face of growing telecom needs. By addressing these and other issues today we'll be better prepared to take on the challenges of the future."

#### **8. U.S. Airlines' July 2025 Aviation Fuel Consumption up 4.3%, and Fuel Cost per Gallon up 5.5% from June 2025**

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on September 4, 2025 released U.S. airlines' July 2025 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.760 billion gallons of fuel, 4.3% more fuel than in June 2025 (1.688 billion gallons) and 1.6% more fuel than July 2024 (1,734 billion gallons). The cost per gallon of fuel in July 2025 (\$2.34) was up 12 cents (5.5%) from June 2025 (\$2.22) and down 24 cents (9.4%) from July 2024. Total July 2025 fuel expenditure (\$4.12B) was up 10.0% from June 2025 (\$3.74B) and down 8.0% from July 2024 (\$4.47B).

#### **9. Air Canada and CUPE Head to Mediation over Outstanding Issue**

Air Canada's 10,000 flight attendants, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Air Canada component (CUPE), voted on the tentative agreement reached on August 19, 2025. This agreement was achieved without concessions from the union and included improvements to wages, pensions and benefits, while also including a mutually agreed-to modernization of compensation for work performed on the ground. CUPE has announced that the tentative agreement was not ratified by union members. Air Canada and CUPE contemplated this potential outcome and mutually agreed that if the tentative agreement was not ratified, the wage portion would be referred to mediation and, if no agreement was reached at that stage, to arbitration. The parties also agreed that no labour disruption could be initiated, and therefore there will be no strike or lock-out, and flights will continue to operate. Air Canada is fully committed to the mediation and arbitration process.

#### **10. Flair Airlines' pilots set to open contract negotiations**

Pilots for Flair Airlines are the latest group of workers looking to negotiate their contract with a Canadian airline. Flair pilots, represented by Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), informed the discount carrier on Sept. 2, 2025 of its intention to formally open contract negotiations on the group's new collective agreement.

#### **11. X(LR)-cellent News: Air Canada Unveils Palma de Mallorca as its First New Route for Airbus A321XLR Starting Summer 2026**

Air Canada announced on September 9, 2025 a Montréal to Palma de Mallorca as its first brand new route to be operated by its Airbus A321 extra-long range (XLR) aircraft. Delivery of the XLR fleet begins in the first quarter of 2026, and in June 2026, Air Canada will inaugurate service from Montréal to the Spanish island in the western Mediterranean onboard this new aircraft. Seats are available for sale now at [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com) and through Travel Agents.

#### **12. Global Horizons: Air Canada Further Strengthens Toronto Hub with Expanded International Network**

With new, exciting routes already set to begin operating to South America and Mexico this winter from Air Canada's global hub at Toronto Pearson, the airline on September 10, 2025 announced further expansion at its largest hub. Beginning Summer 2026, Air Canada will be returning non-stop to Shanghai and to Budapest, and will also be adding flights to Prague. These new services further strengthen Toronto Pearson as Air Canada's largest hub linking to over 150 destinations across Canada and around the world.

#### **13. WestJet and CAE sign contract to bring world-class aviation professional training facility to Calgary**

WestJet and CAE announced the signing of a 15-year training agreement under which CAE will establish the Alberta Training Centre of Excellence (the Centre) for Aviation and Aerospace—a cutting-edge aviation training facility in Calgary, subject to customary contingencies. Slated to open in 2028, the 126,000 square foot facility will house eight full-flight simulators, with capacity for expansion, alongside cabin trainers and state of the art digital learning tools. WestJet will be the Centre's primary commercial airline customer and be the first to schedule initial and recurrent training for pilots and cabin crew on Boeing 737MAX, 737NG, 787 Dreamliner, and De Havilland Dash 8-400 (Q400) aircraft. In partnership with Mount Royal University (MRU), the facility will be the first of its kind in Canada to combine state-of-the-art training equipment with collaborative research and development initiatives.

#### **14. Going Global - New Destinations Take Flight as Air Canada Expands Network for Summer 2026**

Air Canada on September 10, 2025 announced its international network for Summer 2026 with new destinations taking flight in Europe and Asia. Beginning next year, the airline will launch new routes from Montréal to Catania in Sicily, Italy and, as unveiled yesterday, to Palma de Mallorca, Spain. From Toronto, Air Canada re-establishes non-stop flights to Shanghai and Budapest, and increases flights to Prague. Air Canada's popular seasonal Vancouver-Bangkok route will now become year-round, strengthening the airline's position as the only North American carrier offering direct, non-stop service to the Thai capital.

### **15. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 722 Jobs in July 2025**

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 1,022,215 workers in July 2025, 722 (0.07%) more workers than in June 2025 (1,021,493). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 551,243 workers in July 2025, or 54% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines lost 44 employees in July 2025. United Air Lines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 206 employees; Spirit Air Lines added 172, and SkyWest Airlines added 163. U.S. cargo airlines employed 466,683 workers in July 2025, or 46% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers gained 753 employees in July. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 922 jobs.

### **16. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award for Sixth Consecutive Year at the APEX 2026 Awards**

Air Canada is proud to have received, for the sixth consecutive year, a Five Star Global Airline Award at the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) 2026 Awards, which were presented on September 11, 2025. Air Canada's onboard Wi-Fi sponsored by Bell, which is complimentary for Aeroplan Members, was ranked as the Best Inflight Connectivity. The awards are based on votes from over 1 million customers.

### **17. Porter Airlines rated in top 3 regional airlines globally by APEX**

Porter Airlines has been rated a 2026 Four Star Regional Airline by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX). Porter is one of APEX's top three regional airlines in the world. The APEX Five Star and Four Star Airlines Awards are the only global awards based entirely on neutral, third-party passenger feedback. They are a result of passenger ratings of almost one million flights across nearly 600 airlines around the world, certified by APEX in partnership with TripIt® from Concur®. A regional airline is defined by APEX as, "primarily operating flights within a set geography or single continent, with service focused on short- or medium-haul routes."

### **18. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Unveils New Plan to Fast-Track Advanced Air Mobility Vehicles**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 12, 2025 announced a new pilot program within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to accelerate the deployment of advanced air mobility (AAM) vehicles. These new technologies have the potential to transform aviation, including expanding connectivity to rural American communities, reducing road congestion in urban areas, and enhancing emergency services or medical transport. The action follows [President Trump's executive order](#) to unleash American drone dominance. The pilot program, known as the Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), will form public-private partnerships with State and local government entities and private sector companies to develop new frameworks and regulations for enabling safe operations.

### **19. June 2025 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Down 1.2% from the Same Month Last Year**

U.S. airlines carried 88.6 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in June 2025, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, June enplanements are up 1.2% from May and down 2.2% from the all-time high reached in June 2024. BTS reported 76.3 million domestic passengers and 12.4 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in June 2025, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS.

### **20. Timely Accident Reports Strengthen Aviation Safety**

The release of the preliminary report last month on the investigation into the cause of the tragic crash of Air India 171 was awaited by many. This report marks an important milestone on the path to a final investigation outcome, and further updates will be closely watched. Recent updates to investigations into the fatal Jeju Air accident in South Korea last December and the midair collision near Washington in January illustrate why timely reporting is so important. For the many parties who have a stake in understanding the cause of an aviation accident these reports provide valuable information on what has been ruled out and where the investigation's focus is. They also reinforce confidence that progress is being made and that aviation safety is being prioritized. That's a critically important input in an age where media—social and traditional—is inundated by speculation, much of which would struggle to be categorized as "expert". When we contrast this speculation against the value of informed accident investigations, [IATA feels compelled to directly raise the issue of timely reporting with states globally](#) at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly later this month.

### **21. CUPE Requests Cancellation of Mediation**

Air Canada and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) reached a four-year tentative agreement for its flight attendants in August 2025. This agreement, which was not ratified by the flight attendants, was achieved without concessions from the union and included improvements to wages, pensions and benefits, while also including a mutually agreed-to modernization of compensation for work performed on the ground. Details about the agreement can be [found here](#). In contemplating the potential outcome of not ratifying the tentative agreement, the parties mutually agreed that the wage portion would be referred to mediation and, if no agreement was reached at that stage, it would continue to the arbitration process previously ordered by the Canada Industrial Relations Board. The parties also agreed

that no labour disruption could be initiated, and therefore flights will continue to operate as normal. On Friday, September 12, 2025, CUPE asked to dispense with the mediation process and have the wage component proceed directly to arbitration. While remaining committed to the entirety of the process, Air Canada, in a spirit of cooperation, has agreed to CUPE's request. This will provide cabin crew with wage increases and their retro pay, dating back to April 2025, as soon as possible.

## **22. Air Canada Unveils 2025 Best New Restaurants Finalists, Celebrating Canada's Trailblazing Culinary Hotspots**

Air Canada has revealed the finalists for the 2025 Best New Restaurants list, spotlighting 31 trailblazing establishments shaping Canada's dining culture in 2025. From St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, BC, [the finalists](#) reflect the talent, diversity, and creativity fuelling the country's culinary scene. The top ten will be revealed in Toronto on November 17, 2025.

## **23. Canada's Airports Advance Safety Initiatives During Annual Canadian Airports Safety Week**

Canadian Airports Safety Week is set to return from Sep. 15–19, 2025 continuing its mission to promote a strong safety culture across the aviation industry. As passenger volumes grow and operations become increasingly complex, Canada's airports remain steadfast in their commitment to safety as a top priority. The week's programming will feature targeted activities and discussions around key safety themes: 1. Worker Safety; 2. Security Safety; 3. Hazard Reporting; 4. Environmental Safety; 5. Psychological Safety; 6. Construction Safety; and 7. Foreign Object Debris Free Day.

## **24. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Enforces America First Agenda in Our Skies, Orders Delta & Aeromexico to Dissolve Joint Venture**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 16, 2025 announced USDOT terminated approval of Delta and Aeromexico's joint venture agreement and withdrew antitrust immunity. Since Secretary Duffy moved in [July](#) to protect consumers, Mexico has not taken meaningful action to remedy their noncompliance with the 2015 U.S.-Mexico Air Transport Agreement. Mexico's non-compliance intervenes in the market to provide an unfair advantage to Delta and Aeromexico, who operated a price- and capacity-setting joint venture with conditional approval by USDOT.

## **25. US Airlines net gain was \$4 billion in second quarter 2025, an increase in net gain over second quarter 2024**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a second-quarter 2025 after-tax net income of \$4.0 billion and a pre-tax operating profit of \$5.0 billion. One year earlier, in the second quarter of 2024, the airlines reported an after-tax net income of \$3.8 billion and a pre-tax operating profit of \$6.3 billion.

## **26. Air Canada Elevates the Regional Flying Experience with Reimagined Q-400 Amenities Offering New Standards of Comfort**

Air Canada announced on September 17, 2025 the beginning of a major upgrade program for its regional fleet, providing customers a heightened level of comfort and convenience. Under the initiative, 25 De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft operated for Air Canada Express by Jazz Aviation LP (Jazz) will undergo a full cabin redesign to install new seating, new interiors and, on select aircraft initially, flying from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, onboard Fast, Free Wi-Fi in an industry first for this aircraft type. "Air Canada Express is at the heart of how we serve Canadian communities. It brings people together, whether connecting families across the country, or linking businesses to the world through our global network. This innovative project is an industry-first, and it reflects the pride we take in serving customers with care and class. By bringing many of the design details and comforts of our largest jets to the Canadian-made Dash 8-400, even our shortest flights can feel special," said Mark Nasr, Executive Vice President & Chief Operations Officer at Air Canada.

## **27. Air Canada Announces Changes to its Regional Network**

Air Canada on September 19, 2025 announced changes to its regional network that include new flights connecting Ottawa to both Fredericton and Moncton beginning Dec. 15, 2025, and non-stop flights from Vancouver to Fort McMurray starting Dec. 2, 2025. The airline is also increasing flights from Toronto to Sudbury as of Feb. 1, 2026. All flights will be operated with Air Canada Express Q400 aircraft. Flights are now available for purchase at [aircanada.com](#), through Air Canada Contact Centres, and via travel agents.

## **28. Air Canada Adds Select Transborder Routes**

Air Canada announced on September 22, 2025 that it is adding new transborder flights and boosting capacity in select transborder markets for Summer 2026. Flights are now available for purchase at [aircanada.com](#), through Air Canada Contact Centres, and via travel agents. "Air Canada is launching services to San Antonio and linking Columbus and Cleveland to Montreal to support travel between these destinations and points across our global network. We are also boosting capacity on other markets to provide additional travel options for customers on both sides of the Atlantic," said Mark Galardo, Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer, and President, Air Canada Cargo.

## **29. London Calling! Air Canada Keeps Ottawa Connected Year-Round**

Air Canada announced on September 23, 2025 that its Ottawa to London Heathrow non-stop flights will continue for Winter 2025-26, ensuring year-round connectivity between Canada's capital city and the United Kingdom's largest

airport and a premier international gateway. Flights are available for booking now at [aircanada.com](https://aircanada.com), through Air Canada Contact Centres, and via travel agents. It is the only Canadian airline linking Canada's capital non-stop to Europe from where a wide array of connections at Heathrow across Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa.

### **30. IATA Study Confirms that SAF Technology Rollout is Main Bottleneck to Net Zero, not Feedstock Availability**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), in partnership with Worley Consulting, has [published a study](#) demonstrating that sufficient sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) feedstock exists to enable the airline industry to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. All feedstocks considered meet stringent sustainability criteria and do not lead to changes in land use. The study also identified significant barriers in using that feedstock for SAF production, namely: 1. The slow pace of technology rollout that would enable SAF to be produced from varied sources. Currently the only commercially scaled SAF production facilities use HEFA technology, for example converting used cooking oil into SAF. 2. The competition with other potential users of the same feedstock. Policies allocating biomass feedstock to hard-to-abate sectors such as aviation must be prioritized. Airlines will need 500 million tonnes (Mt) of SAF to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as outlined in the [IATA Net Zero Roadmaps](#).

### **31. Air Canada Provides Third Quarter 2025 Estimated Results and Updated Full Year 2025 Guidance**

Air Canada on September 24, 2025 provided certain estimated results for the third quarter of 2025 and updated full year 2025 guidance, which was suspended in August 2025. Air Canada also provided an estimate of the financial impact of the labour disruption in August by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the union representing cabin crew. Air Canada anticipates, the following results for the quarter ending September 30, 2025: 1. Operated capacity to decline by approximately 2% from the same period in 2024 as a result of the cancellation of more than 3,200 flights; and 2. Operating income between \$250 million and \$300 million, which includes approximately \$175 million from one-time non-cash pension plan amendments and other labour related charges and adjusted EBITDA between \$950 million and \$1 billion. Air Canada's operating income totalled \$1.040 billion and adjusted EBITDA \$1.523 billion for the third quarter of 2024. The financial impact of the labour disruption, which included an unlawful strike, is estimated to be \$375 million in operating income and adjusted EBITDA. This amount is derived from the combination of three components. First, the revenue impact is estimated to be \$430 million, mainly due to refunds issued to customers, customer compensation and lower than expected travel bookings in August and early September. Second, \$145 million in costs are estimated to have been avoided due to less flying activity, largely attributable to lower fuel expenses. Third, the cost avoidance was partially offset by an estimated \$90 million of incremental costs associated with reimbursements to customers for out-of-pocket expenses and labour-related operating costs.

### **32. Minister of Transport welcomes the world to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

On September 23, 2025, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, addressed international delegates at the opening ceremony of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Assembly of ICAO, which runs from September 23 to October 3, 2025 in Montréal. Minister MacKinnon underscored aviation's role as one of the most powerful engines of economic growth. He highlighted the need for continued cooperation and innovation, including developing and adopting new, more efficient technologies, to help seize the opportunities of the rapidly evolving field of aviation, while ensuring that No Country is Left Behind. The Minister also stressed the importance of making international aviation more accessible to persons with disabilities and continuing to make aviation more sustainable. While in Montréal, Minister MacKinnon also met with his counterparts and key international allies from the European Union, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Ukraine and the United States to discuss ways to enhance international cooperation in transportation.

### **33. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, July 2025**

Major Canadian airlines flew 8.3 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in July 2025, edging down 0.3% from July 2024. The number of passenger-kilometres increased 1.6% year over year to 23.9 billion in July 2025, while capacity was up 3.3% to 27.6 billion available seat-kilometres. As a result, the passenger load factor (the ratio of passenger-kilometres to available seat-kilometres) declined from 88.0% in July 2024 to 86.6% in July 2025. At the same time, aircraft movements at Canada's major and select small airports totalled 614,251 in July 2025, up 3.6% from the same month the previous year. Local movements rose 6.6% yoy, while itinerant movements increased 2.3%.

### **34. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, August 2025**

In August 2025, 5.8 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, edging down slightly (-0.3%) from August 2024 albeit 5.8% above the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level from August 2019. Historically, the summer months of June, July and August represent the busiest months of the year for the air transportation industry. The summer of 2025 was no exception, with a total of 16.8 million passengers screened at the eight largest airports during this period. This was 2.2% higher than the total for the summer

of 2024 and 6.5% higher than the number screened in the same months of 2019, before the pandemic. In August 2025, transborder traffic continued to weaken.

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Minister of Transport and Internal Trade to host a *Made in Canada: Ferries and Rail Summit***

To ensure these sectors remain strong and resilient, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, will host the *Made in Canada: Ferries and Rail Summit* on September 2, 2025, in Hamilton, Ontario. This Summit will bring together key industry leaders, suppliers, and governments to discuss how, by working together, Canada's rail and ferry industries will use Canadian steel and aluminum to build. Discussions will address future needs for ferry and rail projects, capacity constraints and barriers to building in Canada, as well as actions governments could take to support industry.

### **2. DP World aims to run Carney-backed Montreal terminal**

DP World is seeking to operate a long-planned, nearly C\$6 billion container terminal in Montreal that the new Canadian government is backing amid its shift away from US trade dependence. The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) is expected later this fall to announce the winning bid to run the Contrecoeur terminal, which with an annual capacity of 1.15 million TEUs would increase Canada's second largest container port by capacity by 150%. DP World, which operates at Vancouver and Prince Rupert the first and third-largest ports in Canada respectively, confirmed to Bloomberg that it was involved in project negotiations. The project, which is located 43 miles downriver from legacy Montreal terminals along the St. Lawrence River, requires extensive dredging and shoring up portions of the waterway.

### **3. Minister of Transport and Internal Trade amends regulations to give communities more authority over our waterways**

To better protect communities and ensure safer navigation on Canadian waterways, the Government of Canada is amending the *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations* (VORR). On August 2, 2025, Member of Parliament of Compton-Stanstead, Marianne Dandurand, on behalf of the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, announced changes to the VORR that will provide local authorities with a faster and more efficient process to manage issues like excessive speed, shoreline erosion, and safety concerns in their communities. By modernizing the process, local authorities will be better equipped to respond quickly to safety and environmental issues on their waterways. The updated regulations address longstanding concerns from municipalities about the lengthy process and respond to the government's broader commitment to cutting red tape. These changes also reflect Transport Canada's goals to empower local governments and Indigenous communities with a greater role in waterway management. It will also bring simplicity in the regulatory process.

### **4. Ocean market in trans-Pacific arrives at spot pricing tipping point**

The next few weeks on the trans-Pacific trade will be telling as time is running out for container lines to adjust capacity to falling demand or risk losing contracted cargo to the spot market. A slight bump last week in container spot rates, as measured by the Platts and Shanghai Shipping Exchange indexes, could be a sign of blank sailings ending the sharp dive in rates that began in late May 2025, or merely a blip. The run-up to Golden Week that starts Oct. 1, 2025 a period of slowing China production due to the holiday observance.

### **5. European buyers eye offtake deals for Canadian LNG — but on the**

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada**

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2. DP World aims to run Carney-backed Montreal terminal, September 1, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
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4. Ocean market in trans-Pacific arrives at spot pricing tipping point, September 2, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
5. European buyers eye offtake deals for Canadian LNG — but on the West Coast Offtake agreements lock buyers into 5. long-term contracts for fixed amounts of LNG, August 28, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)
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19. US tariffs to keep Panama Canal transits below capacity in 2026: ACP, September 16, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
20. LA port sees 10% import drop through

## **West Coast Offtake agreements lock buyers into long-term contracts for fixed amounts of LNG**

Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson says there is demand in Europe for Canadian liquefied natural gas (LNG), but that it may be met through offtake agreements and cargo swaps — LNG volumes bought on Canada’s West Coast and swapped through trading desks — rather than direct shipments to Europe. “Many of the buyers are prepared to buy LNG off the West Coast of Canada and trade those products in the international market,” he told reporters on August 26, 2025 during a virtual press conference at the close of a two-day trade trip to Berlin.

## **6. Statement by Minister Freeland on convening the *Made in Canada: Ferries and Rail Summit***

The Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, on September 2, 2025 issued the following statement to close the Made in Canada Ferries and Rail Summit: "Canada’s ferry services, railways, and steel and aluminum industries are engines of a resilient, growing economy. They connect communities, create well-paying jobs, and form the foundation of the critical infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. “Today’s summit brought together leaders from across our rail, marine, steel, and aluminum sectors, alongside provincial, territorial, and federal partners. By working together, we will build more of what Canada needs, right here at home. “We had frank and focused discussions about how to use more Canadian steel and aluminum in ferry and rail construction, how to overcome barriers to building in Canada, and what targeted actions governments can take to support industry and build a reliable domestic market. “This kind of collaboration helps foster a more self-sufficient and stronger industrial base, building on the momentum of the *One Canadian Economy Act*, which dismantled interprovincial trade barriers and is already fast-tracking the infrastructure we need. “We are building a future where Canadian trains and ferries are built with Canadian steel and aluminum, by Canadian workers, and where Canada has the strongest economy in the G7.”

## **7. Drewry World Container Index - 04 Sep**

Drewry’s World Container Index remained stable, dropping just 1% to \$2,104 per 40ft container this week. The detailed assessment for Thursday, September 4, 2025 is: 1. After 11 weeks of decline, Drewry’s World Container Index (WCI) stabilised this week. This stability is the result of opposing trends in different trade lanes. While a significant increase in Transpacific rates pushed the index up, a major drop in Asia–Europe rates counterbalanced this surge, resulting in a steady index overall. 2. After 11 consecutive weeks of decline, transpacific spot rates are on the rise on the back of GRI’s announcements by several carriers. Spot rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles increased 8% to \$2,522 per feu, while those from Shanghai to New York jumped 12% to \$3,677 per feu. Despite the upcoming Golden Week holiday in China, it is unlikely that these rates will be sustainable without further cuts to shipping capacity. Hence, Drewry expects rates to remain stable in the upcoming weeks. 3. Asia–Europe spot rates fell this week, as rates on Shanghai–Rotterdam reduced 10% (\$2,385/feu) and on Shanghai–Genoa slid 7% (\$2,653/feu). Despite healthy demand and port delays in Europe, a growing surplus of vessel capacity has been pushing down spot rates on this trade lane. Therefore, Drewry predicts a further decline in spot rates in the coming weeks. 4. Drewry’s Container Forecaster expects the supply-demand balance to weaken again in 2H25, which will cause spot rates to contract. The volatility and timing of rate changes will depend on Trump’s future tariffs and on capacity changes related to the introduction of US penalties on Chinese ships, which are uncertain.

## **8. Premier Alliance service halt latest sign of trans-Pacific demand downturn**

The Premier Alliance said on September 5, 2025 it is suspending its express Pacific South 5 service between eastern China and the US West Coast after only four months amid a drop in demand on the eastbound trans-Pacific. The move is the latest sign that bookings before an annual holiday slowdown in Chinese production are weaker than usual, presenting a challenge to carriers trying to stem a container spot rate bleed. Alliance members Ocean Network Express (ONE), HMM and Yang Ming gave no reason for the change in separate customer advisories, but it is possible the fall in trans-Pacific volumes amid US tariff were the reason

## **9. Big fish getting better bite at trans-Pacific container spot rates**

As September 2025 unfolds, ocean container rate storylines are diverging on the benchmark trans-Pacific trade, particularly to the United States. Smaller shippers are paying more on the spot market, said consultant Xeneta, as bigger importers press carriers for lower prices. The market average spot rate as of Sept. 4 from the Far East to the U.S.

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28. Port of Vancouver enables record trade in first half of 2025, September 26, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

West Coast was \$2,010 per forty foot equivalent unit, and \$2,976 to the U.S. East Coast. After consistently falling since June 2025, the average spot rates for containers moving from the Far East to the U.S. West Coast and U.S. East Coast reversed that trend in September 2025. A deeper dive revealed that market mid-high – Xeneta’s category for spot rates paid by shippers in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market – for Far East to U.S. West Coast was \$2,414 per FEU, up 29.2% from the previous week. Far East to U.S. East Coast was \$3,398 per FEU, an increase of 15.2%.

#### **10. Port of Long Beach named best West Coast port, green port**

The Port of Long Beach has been named the best West Coast seaport in North America for a seventh consecutive year in addition to being named the best green seaport by readers of the shipping trade publication *Asia Cargo News*. The honors were announced during the Asian Freight, Logistics and Supply Chain Awards held Sept. 3, 2025 in Hong Kong. Asia Cargo News hosts and organizes the awards ceremony yearly to recognize top seaports, shipping lines and other logistics industry leaders. More than 15,000 readers and e-newsletter subscribers of Asia Cargo News nominated leading companies for each category, then determined the winner from a list of four finalists in each category. Find the full list of winners here. “We are honored to be recognized by our customers for delivering the highest standard of service in addition to the environmental achievements gained through our landmark Green Port Policy adopted 20 years ago,” said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. “We could not have achieved this without the marine terminal operators, workers and supply chain partners who make the Port of Long Beach the most efficient and greenest gateway for trans-Pacific trade.”

#### **11. DP World to build big-ship container terminal in Montreal**

DP World plans to develop and operate a C\$1.6 billion container terminal outside of Montreal, after the port authority took the first step in securing a development permit for the facility capable of handling post-Panamax vessels. The global terminal operator on September 8, 2025 said it had signed an agreement with the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) to design Contrecoeur’s surface work, which would be finalized in the coming weeks before developing a plan for long-term operations. DP World operates the Centerm facility at the Port of Vancouver, as well as the container terminals at the ports of Prince Rupert and Saint John.

#### **12. Earnings growth outlook ‘bleak’ as ocean shipping profits plunge 56% in Q2**

The container shipping industry faced a challenging second quarter in 2025, recording its third consecutive quarterly decline in earnings. The industry’s net income fell to \$4.4 billion, a 56% drop from the first quarter’s \$9.9 billion and a 63.7% decrease from the \$12 billion earned in the second quarter of 2024. This decline is attributed largely to the ongoing impacts of tariffs and shifting trade policies, particularly involving the United States, said analyst John McCown in a report. The imposition of tariffs by the Trump administration has significantly disrupted trade flows, leading to a pronounced downtrend in inbound U.S. container volumes. This disruption is forecasted to continue, with the National Retail Federation estimating a 5.6% decrease in U.S. inbound volume for the entire year of 2025 compared to 2024. As a result, the second quarter set in motion a ripple effect across the global container shipping network, particularly affecting trade lanes that connect the Asia-Pacific region with North America. Despite adverse U.S. volume trends, McCown said some mitigating factors have been observed in other regions. Increased shipping volumes to North America, excluding the U.S., and Africa helped offset some of the volume declines. However, these increases fell short of significantly impacting the broader trends. The overall global container volume rose by 4.1% in the second quarter, representing a deceleration from higher growth rates seen in previous quarters.

#### **13. Ex-FMC chief warns: U.S. maritime push needs deeper look**

As the immediate former chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission-turned-lobbyist, Louis Sola has a unique perspective on the Trump administration’s initiative to revitalize the U.S. maritime sector. The former Army intelligence officer and megayacht entrepreneur backs the plan to build up a domestic commercial fleet and reverse the decline of American shipyards. But he also sees the necessity of addressing the support structure of such far-reaching proposals — and possible unintended consequences. “I definitely want to see more U.S.-flag ships, but I think there’s nothing better than having U.S.-built ships,” he said in an interview over lunch at a Washington hamburger bistro. “But it’s very restrictive on being built in the United States, being crewed by the United States and being owned by U.S. operators. And I think, eventually, that ends up hurting our exports, since our export industry is much larger than the shipbuilding industry. “With the personnel that we put into [shipping], it’s a long-term aspect that we need to definitely invest into our maritime sector like we’ve never done before, we need better maritime academy grads coming out, and we need to promote that, too.”

#### **14. Port of Long Beach accelerates green future**

The Port of Long Beach is picking up the pace of progress toward cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gases by investing \$102 million to purchase and sustain zero-emissions cargo-handling equipment, fund cleaner marine engines and plan for a zero-carbon future at terminals. The equipment funding is part of the System-Wide Investment in Freight Transport (SWIFT), a pioneering initiative funded by the California State Transportation Agency’s Port and Freight Infrastructure Program. SWIFT is a Port initiative designed to support goods movement efficiency and reduce

environmental impacts on neighboring communities. The bulk of the funding blitz, \$93.4 million, will allow tenants to acquire 65 fully zero-emissions cargo-handling equipment units along with associated charging infrastructure, as well as for harbor craft operators to replace 37 marine engines with cleaner engines or zero-emission options. Additionally, the Port will invest \$8.3 million in total to design zero-emissions infrastructure at SSA Terminals at Pier A and Pacific Container Terminal at Pier J.

#### **15. Montreal port expansion included among first five nation-building projects**

The Contrecoeur terminal container project in Contrecoeur, Que., was among the first five “nation-building” projects to be green-light by Prime Minister Mark Carney, as other ports were left out. “This project will expand the Port of Montreal’s capacity by approximately 60%, to give Eastern Canada the trading infrastructure it needs to keep goods moving, meet growing demand, and diversify trade routes,” the feds said in an announcement this week. “It will strengthen supply chains, create thousands of jobs, and generate approximately \$140 million annually in local and national economic benefits across Quebec and Canada.” Other initiatives among the first five to be announced include mining, green energy and liquefied natural gas projects. Expansion of the Port of Churchill didn’t yet make the cut, and the Grain Growers of Canada complained that the Port of Vancouver’s chokepoints were also not addressed.

#### **16. Drewry: World Container Index - Sept 11, 2025**

For many years, World Container Index has been the go-to, independent, global reference for index-linked contracts. If your organisation is considering index-linked contracts or requires regional visibility/coverage beyond the eight trade lanes provided below, contact our ocean freight cost benchmarking team. Drewry’s World Container Index decreased 3% to \$2,044 per 40ft container this week. Our detailed assessment for Thursday, 11 Sep 2025 is as follows: 1. The Drewry World Container Index (WCI) fell 3% to \$2,044 per 40ft container, marking the 13th consecutive week of decline. For the second week in a row. 2. Transpacific spot rates are on the rise due to GRI announcements by several carriers.. 3. Asia–Europe spot rates fell this week, as rates declined on Shanghai–Rotterdam by 10% (\$2,143/feu) and on Shanghai–Genoa by 12% (\$2,342/feu). 4. Drewry’s Container Forecaster expects the supply-demand balance to weaken again in 2H25, which will cause spot rates to contract. The volatility and timing of rate changes will depend on Trump’s future tariffs and on capacity changes related to the introduction of US penalties on Chinese ships, which are uncertain.

#### **17. Canada’s MPO Set to Review New Projects**

The government of Canada on Sept. 11, 2025 reported that the Contrecoeur Container Terminal project in Montréal, Quebec, is part of the first series of projects being referred to the new Major Projects Office (MPO) for consideration, and that several strategies, including for the Port of Churchill and Alto High-Speed Rail projects, could be truly transformative.

#### **18. Port of Long Beach has second-busiest August on record and Tariff ceasefire powers Long Beach container surge**

Peak shipping season boosted the Port of Long Beach to its second-busiest August on record and the sixth-busiest month in its 114-year history as retailers continued to see the arrival of goods purchased during a recent pause in tariffs. Dockworkers and terminal operators processed 901,846 twenty-foot equivalent units in August 2025, a relatively flat decline of 1.3% from the record set in August 2024. Imports were down 3.6% to 440,318 TEUs and exports decreased 8.3% to 95,960 TEUs. Empty containers moving through the Port rose 3.7% to 365,567 TEUs. “Shifting trade policies continue to create uncertainty for businesses and consumers,” said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. “Our Supply Chain Information Highway digital tracker is projecting our peak shipping season to be on pace with last year as retailers start to stock their warehouses in preparation for the winter holidays.” “I commend our dockworkers for their continued hard work to keep goods moving through the Port during the peak shipping season,” said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Frank Colonna. “Our reputation as a primary gateway for trans-Pacific trade relies on our ability to safely ensure the secure and speedy shipment of goods.” The Port has moved 6,592,708 TEUs through the first eight months of 2025, up 8.3% from the same period last year. “Shifting trade policies continue to create uncertainty for businesses and consumers,” said Port of Long Beach Chief Executive Mario Cordero, in the release.

#### **19. US tariffs to keep Panama Canal transits below capacity in 2026: ACP**

Daily transits of commercial vessels through the Panama Canal will remain below its capacity next year due to the tariff-linked frontloading of US imports this year and the softer demand the duties will cause on the East and Gulf coasts, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) said on September 16, 2025. The waterway has the capacity to handle 36 daily transits, but ACP Administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales told a media briefing the daily average is projected to land at only 33 in 2026, still below levels seen before Panama’s 2023–24 drought.

#### **20. LA port sees 10% import drop through year-end**

The July 2026 momentum fuelled by a pause in the Trump administration’s trade war on China carried over into August 2025, as the hub handled 958,355 twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs), just off the record traffic from a year ago. “The Port of LA moved nearly 2 million containers in July and August combined,” Port of Los Angeles Executive Director

Gene Seroka said in a media briefing. “That’s the best two-month stretch for any port in the Western Hemisphere. Retailers and manufacturers have continued to bring goods in early, both to get ahead of holiday demand and to hedge against any shifts in trade policy. The August surge mirrored similarly positive results at the Port of Long Beach, LA’s neighbor in the San Pedro port complex, top-ranked among American maritime cargo centers. But that’s where the growth ends, Seroka said, as a confluence of factors weighs on container traffic through the remainder of this year.”

#### **21. Port Houston maintains steady growth in the third quarter**

Port Houston recorded sustained growth in August 2025 following a standout July. Total tonnage across Port Houston’s public terminals is up 5% year-to-date through August, reflecting steady growth across multiple cargo sectors. After a record-setting July 2025, the Port’s container terminals saw 370,430 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in August, up 1% from the same month last year. Year-to-date container volumes reached just shy of 3 million TEUs, specifically 2,932,936 TEUs, which puts Port Houston’s container volumes up 5% over 2024. Port Houston remains vigilant as Houston’s volumes held steady and even increased across many cargo types. In August 2025, loaded import containers at Port Houston increased 4% year-over-year, while loaded export containers rose 5%, led by resins that continue to anchor Port Houston’s export market. While a small portion of overall business, grain and bagged goods saw massive increases in August. Grain was up 173% year-over-year, reaching 212,168 short tons and imported bagged goods were up 901% compared to August 2024, totalling 68,358 tons. Steel imports, one of Port Houston’s linchpin cargo types, dipped 4% in August but remain 7% ahead year-to-date compared to 2024. General cargo volumes increased 10% year-to-date through August 2025.

#### **22. Port of Los Angeles August cargo remains strong as high volume continues**

After reaching new cargo heights in July 2025, Port of Los Angeles volume remained strong in August 2025. The Port efficiently processed 958,355 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), nearly the same as last year’s robust performance. “The Port of Los Angeles moved nearly 2 million containers in July and August combined,” Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka said at a media briefing. “That’s the best two-month stretch for any port in the Western Hemisphere. Retailers and manufacturers have continued to bring goods in early, both to get ahead of holiday demand and to hedge against any shifts in trade policy. “Looking forward,” Seroka added, “I expect container volumes to ease through the rest of 2025—especially against last year’s unusually high benchmarks. That’s because much of the year-end holiday cargo has already arrived. And economic signals like slowing job growth and lingering inflation are making both importers and consumers a bit more cautious.”

#### **23. LA-LB likely to work with regulator on emissions-cutting plan for ports**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) should work with the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach on developing a joint plan to reduce emissions at the ports rather than unilaterally imposing its own solution, a committee within Southern California’s clean air regulator has recommended. AQMD’s so-called “mobile source committee” informed the ports of its position during a call on September 19, 2025, a move seemingly made in response to years-long pushback from the ports and its users to having the regulator attempt to implement its own emissions plan known as the Indirect Source Rule (ISR).

#### **24. Port of Oakland August container volumes hold steady**

The Port of Oakland reported steady cargo flows in August 2025, handling 192,313 twenty-foot containers (TEUs), nearly even with August 2024 volumes (-0.3%). In a year-over-year comparison, imports decreased slightly and totalled 82,245 TEUs (-1.2%), while exports rose to 62,477 TEUs (+5.2%), underscoring sustained demand from overseas markets. August’s results followed a strong July surge and reflected continued adjustments by shippers responding to tariff-related trade policy shifts. Importers moved goods earlier in the season to avoid potential disruptions, while exporters benefited from consistent overseas demand. Empty container movements tracked with seasonal norms. Through the first 8 months of 2025, the Port has processed 1.54 million TEUs, a 1.7% increase compared to the same period last year, keeping Oakland on track for a solid year-end performance as a vital U.S. gateway for global trade.

#### **25. Transport Canada announces funding to address underwater vessel noise impacts on marine mammals**

On September 25, 2025, the Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, announced \$2.8 million in funding, through the Quiet Vessel Initiative, for seven Indigenous communities along the Trans Mountain Expansion Project marine shipping route. This important initiative is supporting underwater noise measurement in local territories with the goal of lessening acoustic disturbances to endangered marine mammals. Building our understanding of Canada’s environment and ecosystems, allows us to strengthen our economy, while also safeguarding endangered marine mammals.

#### **26. Montreal port faces bigger problem than \$2.3 billion expansion can solve, says maritime expert**

The St. Lawrence River channel from Quebec City to Montreal is too shallow for the standard Neo-PanamaMontreal’s Contrecoeur Terminal expansion as part of Prime Minister Mark Carney’s nation-building projects may ease [traffic at the port](#), but it won’t solve the port’s bigger problem: getting deep-draft modern container ships in and out. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, a professor of maritime business administration at Texas A&M University, said the St. Lawrence River

channel from Quebec City to Montreal isn't deep enough to handle increasingly large container ships. It's designed to handle vessels carrying up to 5,000 standard containers, which is much less than the standard Neo-Panamax container ships that can carry as many as 14,000 containers. To add to this, Eastern Canada is losing shipping market share to American seaboard

### **27. Trans-Pacific capacity cuts on the rise as carriers look to stem rate slide**

Trans-Pacific container lines will accelerate blank sailings over the next four weeks in an effort to stabilize spot rates that are continuing to fall amid an unusually soft pre-Golden Week market. The reduction in planned capacity for October 2025 has increased from 3.8% to 13.6% on the Asia-North America West Coast trade and from 4.8% to 14.4% on the Asia to East Coast lane, Alan Murphy, CEO of Sea-Intelligence Maritime Analysis, said in this week's Sunday Spotlight newsletter. That comes as spot rates to the West Coast have fallen 30% over the past three weeks.

### **28. Port of Vancouver enables record trade in first half of 2025**

The Port of Vancouver moved record volumes of Canadian trade in the first six months of 2025, delivering vast quantities of made-in-Canada grain, energy and fertilizer exports to diverse world markets against a challenging geopolitical backdrop. The port's mid-year cargo statistics show a 13% increase in cargo moved between January and June 2025, compared to the same six-month period last year—with a record of more than 85 million metric tons (MMT) of cargo handled. Port of Vancouver terminals handled nearly 20% more international trade than a year ago, as surging exports of Canadian crude, canola oil, grain, potash and coal to markets worldwide. Containerized trade over the first half of 2025 remained steady, while cruise and auto volumes eased following record performances in 2024. "Canadians and their businesses depend on the Port of Vancouver to buy and sell the products they manufacture, farm, mine and stock their shelves with," said Peter Xotta, President and CEO of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

## **RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2025**

Data for August 2025 for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on Statistics Canada website. The index in August 2025 was 128.3 compared to 126.8 in July 2025 and 127.1 in August 2024.

### **2. UP, NS Notify STB of Intent to File Merger Application**

Union Pacific Corporation (UPC) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and Norfolk Southern Corporation (NSC) and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) have notified the Surface Transportation Board (STB) of their intent to file an application seeking authority for the acquisition of control by UPC, through its wholly owned subsidiary Ruby Merger Sub 1 Corporation, of NSC, and for the resulting common control by UPC of UP and NS. According to the STB's receipt of the two Class I's pre-filing notification, UP and NS have indicated that 2023 will be the base year for their impact analysis and that they anticipate filing their application on or before Jan. 29, 2026.

### **3. Knight-Swift says it backs Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern deal**

Knight-Swift Transportation said on September 2, 2025 that it believes US regulators should approve Union Pacific Railroad's (UP's) acquisition of Norfolk Southern Railway (NS), becoming the fourth major intermodal provider to publicly back the \$85 billion deal. Swift Intermodal, Knight-Swift's intermodal division, already partners with both UP and NS, making the acquisition a natural fit for its existing intermodal network. A combined transcontinental railroad would require little to no adjustment for Swift, and it could reap the rewards of eliminating time-consuming interchanges in cities such as Chicago, Memphis and New Orleans.

### **4. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Major Leap Forward in Railroad Bridge Safety Oversight**

In another move to improve transportation safety under the leadership of Secretary Duffy, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, announced on September 2, 2025 that the number of safety inspectors who monitor railroad bridges will dramatically increase from less than 10 to more than 160.

## **RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Canada**

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, August 2025, August 29, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
2. UP, NS Notify STB of Intent to File Merger Application, August 29, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
3. Knight-Swift says it backs Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern deal, September 2, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
4. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Major Leap Forward in Railroad Bridge Safety Oversight, September 2, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
5. Bad weather, early peak demand slowed BNSF trains last month, September 3, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
6. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Remains Flat in Week 35, September 3, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
7. A Future With Autonomous Trains?, September 5, 2025, [www.raileavage.com](http://www.raileavage.com)
8. CN Expands Firefighting Fleet with New Assets and Upgrades to Existing Trains, September 8, 2025, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
9. CN-CSX joint service to connect west Canada and Nashville, September 9, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
10. MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Uniformed CN Police Officers Available for Media Interviews During See Tracks? Think Train® Week 2025, September 10, 2025, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
11. Class I Briefs: CN, Port of Montreal, NS, September 9, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
12. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Dips in Week 36, September 10, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
13. American Chemistry Council opposes Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern merger, September 10, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
14. CN and CSX collaborate to launch new intermodal rail service into Nashville, September 11, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

## 5. Bad weather, early peak demand slowed BNSF trains last month

BNSF Railway's intermodal train speeds in August 2025 were its slowest of 2025 and among its lowest in more than eight years, with the railroad blaming the slowdown on an early peak season that clashed with construction projects, flash flooding in parts of its network and extreme heat in the California desert. The disruptions didn't impact BNSF's terminal operations — the loading and unloading of trains and cargo handoffs to trucks — but rather trains in transit. Weather-related slowdowns were compounded by track work that typically wraps up in August but overlapped this year with an earlier-than-usual surge in international traffic.

## 6. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Remains Flat in Week 35

Total U.S. weekly rail traffic for the week ending Aug. 30, 2025 (Week 35) came in at 521,502 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.9%—virtually flat from the same week in 2024, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported Sept. 3, 2025. Total carloads for the week ending August 30 were 234,740 carloads, up 0.6 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 286,762 containers and trailers, up 1.2 percent compared to 2024. Five of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They included chemicals, up 1,618 carloads, to 34,960; metallic ores and metals, up 762 carloads, to 22,362; and nonmetallic minerals, up 446 carloads, to 32,602. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included petroleum and petroleum products, down 878 carloads, to 10,559; grain, down 741 carloads, to 19,766; and forest products, down 288 carloads, to 8,236. Canadian railroads reported 90,367 carloads for the week, down 3.9 percent, and 71,949 intermodal units, up 23.1 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first 35 weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,661,886 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.3 percent.

## 7. A Future With Autonomous Trains?

Autonomous rail already exists in many places around the world, such as airport people-movers or driverless rapid transit like Honolulu's Skyline system. But taking rail to the next level and incorporating autonomous technology into the freight rail space, like that used in Rio Tinto's Australian operations, requires the ability to handle complex situations. Unlike airport people-movers and rapid transit, which operate in a captive, self-contained environment, autonomous freight rail must have systems that can anticipate, analyze and respond to various situations occurring along an open right-of-way, in real time. "You need to have what's called a perception system," Moslener said. He and his team research new technologies, such as those incorporating AI (artificial intelligence), and see how they can be leveraged in rail operations to support market share growth and reduce carbon emissions. "It could be cameras, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), heat sensors, acoustic sensors, you name it. That's one of the fundamental building blocks of any autonomous system—rail, truck, cars, whatever."

## 8. CN Expands Firefighting Fleet with New Assets and Upgrades to Existing Trains

CN announced that it has expanded its firefighting capabilities with new assets and upgrades to its specialized fire suppression fleet. Building on its 2024 wildfire response, CN has strengthened its ability to protect its network infrastructure and support local firefighters during another severe wildfire season. In 2025, CN introduced two independent firefighting railcars, Oceanus and Amphitrite. Each carry 25,000 gallons of water and is equipped with cannons, pumps, and hose support. The units can be deployed rapidly and operate either independently or with larger trains. Mark Grubbs, Vice-President, Safety and Environment said "At CN, our priority is to safeguard the critical rail infrastructure and supply chains that communities and businesses rely on every day. These new assets strengthen our ability to defend our network, protecting supply chain corridors from the threat of wildfires while also supporting

15. Launch of Rail Safety Week 2025 in Canada, September 15, 2025, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
16. CPKC joins forces to promote rail safety across North America, September 15, 2025, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca); and CN Police Launch Rail Safety Week 2025, September 15, 2025, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
17. Ontario Completes Construction of New Track for Northlander Passenger Rail Service, September 15, 2025, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
18. UP-NS joint intermodal service to link West Coast with Louisville in Midwest, September 15, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
19. CSX CEO: Obsession with profit margins stunting railroads' growth, September 16, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
20. AAR Week 37: Rail Traffic Dips Slightly Overall, September 17, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
21. Important step towards completing the Lac-Mégantic rail bypass project with the submission of the application to the Canadian Transportation Agency, September 20, 2025, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)
22. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Progress in Revitalizing Washington Union Station as Part of President Trump's Agenda to Make D.C. Safe and Beautiful, September 19, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
23. The Trump Dividend: Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Over \$5 Billion to get America Building Safer, More Reliable Railroads, September 22, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
24. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Over \$42 Million in Critical Funding for Rail Safety Improvements in Florida, September 22, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
25. Railroad Industry Continues Making Progress Converting Tank Cars to Safer Standards, September 22, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
26. Largest US rail union endorses UP, NS merger after job deal, September 22, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
27. UP-NS merger could extend West Coast market share reach, September 23, 2025, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
28. Rail merger: Lifetime job is great "until you are stuck in it", September 24, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
29. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Down in Week 38, September 24, 2025, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
30. Railway carloadings, July 2025, September 24, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
31. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces \$35.9 Million Loan to Expand Freight Capacity for Washington State's Port of Longview, September 25, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

emergency responders. Together, we are ensuring resilience where it matters most."

#### **9. CN-CSX joint service to connect west Canada and Nashville**

Canadian National Railway and CSX Transportation are planning a new international intermodal service from Canada's West Coast into Nashville, expanding shipper options outside of the US Southeast. The signing of a memorandum by the two Class I railroads paves the way for a more direct, and thus, faster service and another option beyond routing in and out of the port of Savannah. The move is the latest integration between railroads amid the planned transcontinental merger of Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern, which would create the largest North American railroad.

#### **10. MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Uniformed CN Police Officers Available for Media Interviews During See Tracks? Think Train® Week 2025**

CN Police officers were available to members of the media during *See Tracks? Think Train® Week* from September 15-19, 2025. This annual public awareness campaign highlights the importance of safe behaviours near rail crossings and the danger of trespassing on railway property. Uniformed CN Police officers were available for interviews across CN's network in the United States and took part in community events throughout the week. Media outlets could contact CN's media relations team to schedule phone, virtual or in-person (where possible) interviews. CN's media relations team also provided visuals to support broadcast, print, and online coverage.

#### **11. Class I Briefs: CN, Port of Montreal, NS**

CN expands firefighting fleet with new assets and upgrades to existing trains. Also, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) and DP World in Canada signed a joint development agreement for the design of the land-based works of the future container terminal; and Norfolk Southern (NS) is accepting applications for its Trades on Track scholarship until Sept. 30, 2025.

#### **12. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Dips in Week 36**

The Association of American Railroads in reporting freight rail traffic for the week ending Sept. 6, 2025 (Week 36) noted that total U.S. rail traffic was 467,880 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.4% from the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending September 6, 2025 were 214,383 carloads, down 3.5 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 253,497 containers and trailers, down 1.4 percent compared to 2024. Three of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They were miscellaneous carloads, up 1,132 carloads, to 8,512; motor vehicles and parts, up 973 carloads, to 14,633; and forest products, up 286 carloads, to 7,801. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included chemicals, down 2,875 carloads, to 29,802; coal, down 2,824 carloads, to 60,927; and grain, down 1,570 carloads, to 18,067. Canadian railroads reported 85,891 carloads for the week, down 1.4 percent, and 66,397 intermodal units, up 0.8 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first 36 weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,814,174 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.2 percent.

#### **13. American Chemistry Council (ACC) opposes Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern merger**

Reacting to Union Pacific's merger plans with Norfolk Southern, the ACC argues the consolidation would diminish rail competition and raise shipping costs for manufacturers, farmers, and energy producers. The ACC is calling on regulators to reject the merger unless it demonstrably enhances competition and service reliability.

#### **14. CN and CSX collaborate to launch new intermodal rail service into Nashville**

This service will provide customers with a seamless, all-rail alternative for international containers moving from Canada's West Coast gateways through Memphis directly into Nashville. By replacing the current trucking leg with a steel-wheel interchange, CN and CSX will be able to deliver faster, more reliable, and more sustainable supply chain solutions for customers. Janet Drysdale, Interim Chief Commercial Officer, CN, says, "This agreement allows us to expand our reach, enabling our customers to efficiently access more markets. Collaboration like this benefits everyone; railroads, customers, and communities, by driving growth, reliability, optionality, and sustainability."

#### **15. Launch of Rail Safety Week 2025 in Canada**

The Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, on September 15, 2025 issued the following statement to recognize Rail Safety Week 2025 in Canada: "Canada's railways have helped to connect communities and families for generations. Railways are part of our history, and part of our present-day lives. Many Canadians live near a railway track. "Every year, Operation Lifesaver Canada leads important awareness efforts around Rail Safety Week, to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries that continue to happen far too often along Canada's rail system. ... "Through initiatives like the Rail Safety Improvement Program, the Government of Canada helps communities and railways bolster safety features at crossings and along rail corridors. As a regulator of safety and security for the rail sector, Transport Canada's inspectors work across the country every day, monitoring and enforcing safety standards. ..."

#### **16. CPKC joins forces to promote rail safety across North America and CN Police Launch Rail Safety Week 2025**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) joins Operation Lifesaver Canada (OL), and Operations Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) in the U.S. this week to raise rail safety awareness in communities across Canada and the U.S. “Rail safety is a priority at CPKC. We remain focused on public education across our network on how to stay safe around tracks and trains,” said Dale Ruzycki, CPKC Chief of Police Canada. “Our goal is that everyone has the knowledge to make safe choices and get home safely each day.” CN on September 15, 2025 launched its annual Rail Safety Week campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unsafe behaviour around railway tracks and property. From September 15–19, CN Police Services and CN employees will partner with cities, towns, and Indigenous communities across North America to highlight the dangers of trespassing and ignoring signals at crossings—actions that can have devastating consequences.

#### **17. Ontario Completes Construction of New Track for Northlander Passenger Rail Service**

The Ontario government has completed the North Bay Rail Bypass, marking a major milestone in the province’s plan to bring back Northlander passenger rail service to northern Ontario. The 982-metre track will improve travel times by 15 minutes to North Bay Station, giving passengers more time with their families and friends while supporting tourism, jobs and economic growth in northern Ontario.

#### **18. UP-NS joint intermodal service to link West Coast with Louisville in Midwest**

Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS) said on September 15, 2025 that they will launch a new domestic intermodal rail service linking Louisville, Kentucky — a major Midwest intermodal rail and parcel hub — with ports in Southern California, the Pacific Northwest and Gulf Coast. The joint service comes as railroads redraw intermodal maps in response to UP’s proposed \$85 billion acquisition of NS, which would create the first transcontinental US railroad. The combined railroads would have about 50,000 miles of track and access to 100 ports.

#### **19. CSX CEO: Obsession with profit margins stunting railroads’ growth**

U.S. railroad traffic levels have been stagnant over the past 15 years because the Class I railroads were obsessed with profit margins while neglecting growth opportunities, CSX CEO Joe Hinrichs says. Hinrichs, speaking at an investor conference last week, was asked why railroads have struggled to grow, even setting aside the long-term decline of coal traffic. “Maybe it’s a little easier for me to opine on it because I wasn’t here for most of that time period,” Hinrichs says. The former Ford and GM executive came to the rail industry when he was named CSX’s CEO in September 2022. “Let’s be honest. The last 10, 15 years, the main focus of the industry has been restructuring the business to get a lot more efficient and to create better margins, which in itself isn’t a bad thing,” Hinrichs says. The average Class I railroad operating ratio fell from 70.8% in 2012 to a record low 59.9% in 2021. “But that was the No. 1 focus, and you can see all that activist activity and all of the things that went on to drive that obsession with O.R. improvement, which again, unto itself is not bad,” Hinrichs says. “But there wasn’t, at the same time, the same drive to grow volume.” The only incentive for railroad management teams over the past decade-plus, Hinrichs says, has been to reduce the operating ratio. It is good to increase efficiency but one also has to increase volume and grow. Carriers can be efficient and compete with trucks, Hinrichs said.

#### **20. AAR Week 37: Rail Traffic Dips Slightly Overall**

For 2025’s 37th week, North American freight rail traffic declined marginally, with carloads falling 0.5% and intermodal down 1.3%, compared to 2024, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported Sept. 17, 2025. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 514,167 carloads and intermodal units, down 1.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending September 13, 2025 were 231,237 carloads, down 0.5 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 282,930 containers and trailers, down 2.6 percent compared to 2024. Five of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They included chemicals, up 2,446 carloads, to 34,891; motor vehicles and parts, up 765 carloads, to 17,608; and nonmetallic minerals, up 732 carloads, to 32,754. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included coal, down 2,321 carloads, to 60,817; miscellaneous carloads, down 1,947 carloads, to 8,776; and farm products excl. grain, and food, down 834 carloads, to 16,382. Canadian railroads reported 92,231 carloads for the week, up 1.2 percent, and 71,932 intermodal units, up 1.1 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first 37 weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 5,978,337 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.2 percent.

#### **21. Important step towards completing the Lac-Mégantic rail bypass project with the submission of the application to the Canadian Transportation Agency**

On September 20, 2025, the Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Steven MacKinnon, announced an important step forward in the Lac-Mégantic rail bypass project. The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has received the railway operator’s official application, allowing the project to move into the assessment phase. Following extensive environmental consultations, Transport Canada and the rail operator reached a key milestone with the submission of the application to the CTA. The application includes environmental studies, consultation reports, as well as a well monitoring plan. These documents will be made available online as part of the

public consultation process, which will be launched shortly. Construction of the bypass will begin once all regulatory approvals have been obtained, including from the CTA.

#### **22. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Progress in Revitalizing Washington Union Station as Part of President Trump's Agenda to Make D.C. Safe and Beautiful**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 19, 2025 announced another key milestone in the rehabilitation and modernization of Washington Union Station. As announced in August 2025, the Department of Transportation (USDOT) is taking the lead role in revitalizing Washington Union Station as a safe and beautiful gateway to the nation's capital. This week, both Amtrak and the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) Boards of Directors unanimously agreed to approve the terms of a renegotiated cooperative agreement restoring strong federal control of the facility. The new agreement among USRC, Amtrak, and USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will fast track restoration efforts, improve security, and attract new economic development.

#### **23. The Trump Dividend: Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Over \$5 Billion to get America Building Safer, More Reliable Railroads**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 22, 2025 announced that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the National Railroad Partnership Program. The new NOFO allocates more than \$5 billion in funding for projects that enhance safety on intercity passenger rail networks. This includes improvements to grade crossings, which result in more than 2,000 incidents and 200 fatalities each year. The NOFO includes approximately \$2.4 billion the FRA de-obligated from the California High-Speed Rail boondoggle, which will now be reinvested into successful projects, critical infrastructure upgrades, and rail safety. This is the first of many Trump Infrastructure Dividends whereby re-competed federal dollars will be redirected from wasteful boondoggles to real infrastructure projects that benefit the American people.

#### **24. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Over \$42 Million in Critical Funding for Rail Safety Improvements in Florida**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced on September 22, 2025 that the Department has obligated four grants totalling over \$42 million to fund critical rail safety projects along Brightline Florida's rail corridor. The grants, the oldest of which was issued three years ago, are a part of the Biden-Buttigieg grant backlog. These four rail safety grants support installing safety fencing, grade crossing upgrades, and a trespassing alert system. The Biden-Buttigieg Administration pledged to address safety in the Sunshine state years ago but never moved these essential infrastructure dollars out the door.

#### **25. Railroad Industry Continues Making Progress Converting Tank Cars to Safer Standards**

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) announced that over 70% of rail tank cars carrying Class 3 flammable liquids meet DOT-117 specifications. The key points of its announcement were: 1. The number of DOT-117 and DOT-117R tank cars as part of the fleet transporting Class 3 flammable liquids continued to increase in 2024, from 67 percent (68,013 tank cars) in 2023 to 73 percent (73,757 tank cars) in 2024. 2. Almost all crude and ethanol were carried by DOT-117 or DOT-117R tank cars. This included 9,983 DOT-117/DOT-117R tank cars carrying crude and 36,958 carrying ethanol. Only 130 jacketed (a layer of thermal insulation) CPC-1232 tank cars carried crude, and 18 jacketed CPC-1232 tank cars carried ethanol. 3. Other flammable liquids remain the largest group of Class 3 flammable liquids not required to be transported in DOT-117 tank cars. This includes 85 non-DOT-117 tank cars for other flammable liquids packing group 1 (phaseout date: May 1, 2025), and 17,352 non-DOT-117 tank cars for other flammable liquids packing group 2 and 3 (phaseout date: May 1, 2029).

#### **26. Largest US rail union endorses UP, NS merger after job deal**

The United States' largest railroad union, SMART, said on September 22, 2025 it would back Union Pacific's proposed \$85 billion merger with Norfolk Southern after securing job protection guarantees for its members. The sector's largest-ever buyout, aimed at creating the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S., has won White House backing as Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern prepare to file a formal merger application with the Surface Transportation Board. The transportation division of SMART, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, had previously said it intends to oppose the transcontinental merger citing concerns about how it will affect U.S. workers and infrastructure. "SMART-TD members working in train and yardmaster service will have job protection for the length of their careers following the transaction," the union said. "Union Pacific has committed that these employees will not face involuntary furloughs as a result of the merger." Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific had previously said they intend to preserve union jobs and aim to be the safest railroad in the country. SMART represents 230,000 members across several sectors including transportation, construction, and manufacturing.

#### **27. UP-NS merger could extend West Coast market share reach**

The planned transcontinental merger of two major US railroads may incentivize more US West Coast routings and increase competition with the Port of Vancouver for Midwest markets. That would come after West Coast ports over the past decade have lost share to East and Gulf coast gateways and to ports in Western Canada. The efficiencies gained by

merging Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) would make cross-country shipments from the West Coast to markets east of Chicago more cost feasible. The merger, if approved by federal rail regulators, would also allow the combined entity to directly serve eastern US.

**28. Rail merger: Lifetime job is great “until you are stuck in it”**

The largest western railroad said that every member of the SMART-TD (Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers—Transportation Division), union holding a job at the time of the merger will have career-long positions if and when the blockbuster rail deal is approved by federal authorities. The tie-up would create a transcontinental freight rail colossus with more than 50,000 employees operating 52,000 miles of track in 43 states. About 80% of those workers are unionized. The current networks are far-flung, unmerged: You could work for Norfolk Southern and live in Des Moines, Iowa, more than 900 miles from company headquarters in Atlanta. Some observers said the union employment agreement might not be all it seems. Absent the details, “[T]he headlines have read like the Burlington Northern agreements signed before 1970 to get labor’s support for the Great Northern/Northern Pacific/Chicago, Burlington & Quincy/Spokane, Portland & Seattle merger into BN,” wrote consultant Kal Silverberg, in a LinkedIn post. “The problem was that merger-related traffic shifts, along with normal traffic fluctuation, led to differing labor demand for different segments — some higher, some lower. And thus, labor costs did not reach the prospective [merger] savings,” said Silverberg, who worked almost three decades at BN and then BNSF.

**29. AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Down in Week 38**

The Association of American Railroads in reporting freight rail traffic for the week ending Sept. 20, 2025 (Week 38) noted that total U.S. rail traffic was 510,677 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.2% from the prior-year period. Total carloads for the week came in at 228,609, dipping 1.8% from the same week in 2024, and intermodal volume was 282,068 containers and trailers, dipping 2.5% from last year. Two of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They were: grain up 2,170 carloads, to 23,147; and metallic ores and metals, up 380 carloads, to 20,358. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included coal, down 3,112 carloads, to 60,029; miscellaneous carloads, down 1,644 carloads, to 8,634; and nonmetallic minerals, down 736 carloads, to 31,402. Canadian railroads reported 89,916 carloads for the week, down 2.8 percent, and 72,704 intermodal units, up 4.2 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first 38 weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,140,957 carloads, containers and trailers, up 2.1 percent.

**30. Railway carloadings, July 2025**

The volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways reached 30.7 million tonnes in July 2025, down 0.4% from one year earlier. Despite this decline, the overall freight volume in July 2025 was slightly above the five-year historical average of 29.8 million tonnes for the month of July. Lower volumes of freight traffic from connections with American railways drove the overall traffic decrease in July 2025, as non-intermodal domestic loadings (mainly commodities) and intermodal domestic loadings (mainly containers) both reported gains.

**31. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces \$35.9 Million Loan to Expand Freight Capacity for Washington State’s Port of Longview**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 25, 2025 announced a loan of up to \$35.9 million from the Build America Bureau to the Port of Longview in Cowlitz County, Washington, for Phase 1 of the Port’s Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion project. The project will leverage Secretary Duffy’s recently announced improvements to the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which expanded borrowers’ ability to finance up to 49 percent of eligible project costs through low-interest, flexible, long-term loans. These loans help accelerate project delivery, save taxpayer dollars, and facilitate private investment.

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Teamsters ratify new deal with UPS Canada

UPS workers represented by Teamsters Canada ratified a new deal Aug. 29, 2025. “Our bargaining team worked tirelessly over the past few months to represent and advocate for our members’ best interests. Their dedication and commitment have been exemplary, and we are grateful for their hard work on behalf of all our Canadian members employed at UPS,” said Teamsters Canada president François Laporte. The new collective agreement is effective Aug. 1, 2025 and includes pay, pension, health and wellness increases over the five-year term, Teamsters said in a release.

### 2. Insurers consider implications of U.S. speed limiter proposal termination

A proposal [to enforce speed limiters on heavy trucks](#) operating within the U.S. has been dropped, creating some truck fleet insurance implications for cross-border operators. The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has twice proposed to restrict truck speeds to between 60-68 mph (96-109 km/h), once in 2016 and again in 2022. Posted speed limits [reach 70 mph in several U.S. states](#) and are higher in some areas. “Among other factors, speed is considered part of the risk calculus for insurers, and assessing various drivers’ abstracts for speeding infractions informs how the risk is underwritten/insurance risk,” says Eddie Staines, vice-president, Transportation & Specialty Auto, Canada, Intact Insurance. “We know that higher speeds lead to reduced reaction times. This is a risk, as these larger and heavier vehicles require longer stopping distances.

### 3. Canada Post and union contract divide widens

Canada Post and the union representing some 50,000 mail carriers returned to the bargaining table last week and immediately failed to make any progress, accusing each other of unrealistic expectations as the postal system bleeds parcel volumes and red ink. The impasse is raising the risk for businesses that depend on reliable parcel delivery during the busy holiday shipping peak season. Contract talks resumed on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers for the first time since late May 2025, when the company made its “final” offer. Since then, CUPW has enforced a ban on overtime work, opposed binding federal arbitration, and union members overwhelmingly rejected Canada Post’s proposal on Aug. 1, 2025 after the [government stepped in to force a vote](#). “It’s very concerning they still have not reached an agreement with another peak season around the corner,” Alison Layfield, director of product development at cross-border package consolidator ePost Global. Canada Post said the union’s counter offer doesn’t address the structural challenges and operational fixes, including the hiring of part-time workers, required to address a secular decline in letter mail and competition from private parcel carriers.

### 4. CCT Auto Trans buys Thorsons

CCT Auto Trans has announced its purchase of Thorsons Enclosed Vehicle Transportation (EVT), a leading Canadian provider of enclosed vehicle transportation services. Thorsons was founded in 1992 and offers enclosed vehicle transport throughout North America. It serves corporate and private customers, including auto manufacturers, dealerships, snowbirds and collectors. “We are excited about the acquisition of Thorsons and look forward to building on this well-established business throughout Canada and the United States”, said CCT Auto Trans president and CEO Chad Doiron. “Thorsons has a very solid customer base, dedicated, long-term staff and drivers, and an outstanding safety and service record. This acquisition complements our existing vehicle transportation service offering, expands our auto manufacturer and secondary market base, and

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

### 1. Teamsters ratify new deal with UPS

Canada, August 30, [www.todaystrucksing.com](#)

### 2. Insurers consider implications of U.S. speed limiter proposal termination, September 1, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

3. Canada Post and union contract divide widens, September 2, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](#)

4. CCT Auto Trans buys Thorsons, September 3, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

5. Motor Fuel Prices – August 2025, September 3, 2025, [www.bts.gov](#)

6. Fleetworthy launches new roadside inspection reporting capabilities to help fleets reduce compliance risk, September 4, 2025, [www.ajot.com](#)

7. PM Announcement Warns that Rapid Change is Needed, but Will the Trucking Industry Get Change it Needs?, September 5, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)

8. Electric truck maker ZM Trucks celebrates North American launch, opens factory, September 5, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

9. Ontario Enhancing Road Safety and Creating Jobs in Rideau Lakes, September 8, 2025, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](#)

10. CTA urges caution as federal relief risks rewarding rule-breakers, September 8, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

11. Docked Bikeshare Trips – August 2025, September 9, 2025, [www.bts.gov](#)

12. Drivers’ Licence Suspensions a Positive Step in Tackling Truck Safety Crisis in Ontario: OTA, September 10, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)

13. LTL, truckload pricing rising despite soft demand, September 11, 2025, [www.joc.com](#)

14. Canada Post letter carriers refuse to deliver direct marketing mail, September 12, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](#)

15. Who will pay the tariffs? Much of the cost will be borne by equipment buyers, September 14, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

16. Trump’s Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Launches New Initiatives to Improve Trucker’s Quality of Life on the Road, September 15, 2025, [www.dot.gov](#)

17. Executives urge fleets to invest in people, not just digital tools, September 17, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

18. Urban public transit, July 2025, September 18, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)

19. MTO Rolls out Mobile Commercial X-Ray Units for Enhanced Cargo Inspections, September 18, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)

20. Women push for systemic change in trucking, September 18, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)

21. Borderlands Mexico: Uber Freight bets on cross-border growth as trade surges 21%, September 21, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](#)

22. Manitoba tightens safety compliance rules for U.S. motor carriers, September 19, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

23. Teamsters grows influence in Amazon’s food network via UNFI success, September 22, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](#)

24. International Transport Forum to support development of National Road Safety Strategy for Ukraine, September 22, 2025, [www.itf-](#)

provides exciting opportunities for growth in the coming years.”

### **5. Motor Fuel Prices – August 2025**

On September 3, 2025, the [Bureau of Transportation Statistics \(BTS\)](#) released [monthly motor fuels prices](#) for August 2025. In August 2025, the average price for regular motor gasoline was \$3.13 per gallon; up 0.3% from July 2025 and down 7.6% from August 2024. By region, the average price (\$) for regular motor gasoline per gallon in August 2025 and year-over-year change are indicated hereafter: 1. West Coast: 4.05 (down 0.3%); 2. Rocky Mountain: 3.15 (down 7.8%); 3. Central Atlantic: 3.13 (down 9.4%); 4. New England: 3.05 (down 9.6%); 5. Midwest: 3.03 (down 9.3%); 6. Lower Atlantic: 2.91 (down 9.4%); 7. Gulf Coast: 2.71 (down 8.8%). The average price for diesel no. 2 rose to \$3.74 in August 2025, down 0.9% from July 2025, and up 1.2% from August 2024.

### **6. Fleetworthy launches new roadside inspection reporting capabilities to help fleets reduce compliance risk**

Fleetworthy, the only complete technology suite combining fleet safety, compliance, toll management, and weigh station bypass, on September 4, 2025 announced the release of 10 new SmartTiles in CPSuite, the company’s comprehensive cloud-based driver and asset compliance management platform. With more than 100 SmartTiles now available, Fleetworthy offers the industry’s most extensive library of fleet compliance reporting tools. The new SmartTiles offer fleets new insights into roadside inspections, providing views tailored to both drivers and assets. All SmartTiles, including the new roadside inspection set, are included with CPSuite at no additional cost. In addition, for customers using Bestpass by Fleetworthy for toll management, CPSuite delivers tolling SmartTiles that integrate tolling data – giving customers unified visibility into both compliance and tolling data within the same platform. SmartTiles are dynamic reporting features that enable fleets to view specific datasets and easily surface critical compliance insights. Customers can customize dashboards with the SmartTiles most relevant to their operations, enabling faster, data-driven decision-making.

### **7. PM Announcement Warns that Rapid Change is Needed, but Will the Trucking Industry Get Change it Needs?**

The Prime Minister of Canada on September 5, 2025 informed Canadians we must be ready for a rapidly changing future – one that will disrupt our businesses and has already significantly curbed investment. In response to these economic storm clouds, the Prime Minister announced new measures he says will protect our nation while building and transforming strategic industries within Canada. CTA President & CEO Stephen Laskowski said “Many of our members are facing the worst economic conditions our industry has seen in three decades. Beyond the programs announced today, the biggest message to Canadians and businesses was the free trade economy we have known for over four decades is on life support, and, perhaps, may never come back as we have known it. Although this message is difficult to hear, it also means governments will also be required to make some tough choices and make policy decisions based on what’s best for the economy and not for political positioning.”

### **8. Electric truck maker ZM Trucks celebrates North American launch, opens factory**

A new electric truck maker has landed in the U.S., and recently celebrated the opening of a 210,000 sq.-ft. factory outside Los Angeles, Calif. ZM Trucks produces an electric terminal tractor and medium-duty trucks. It has established a regional headquarters in Fontana, Calif. “Despite policy uncertainty, we’re charging ahead,” said Joost de Vries, global chief executive officer of ZM Trucks. “Our investment in Fontana demonstrates that commercial EVs are not just viable, they’re a superior solution for urban truck operators, delivering lower costs, higher performance, and a smarter path toward total cost of ownership.” The company acknowledges its U.S. expansion comes against a backdrop of policy change and market headwinds, including the phasing out of federal EV tax credits, the slowing rollout of charging infrastructure, and confusing messaging around tariffs. However, the company still sees a strong opportunity in North America where transportation accounts for 6.7% of U.S. GDP and nearly 28% of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **9. Ontario Enhancing Road Safety and Creating Jobs in Rideau Lakes**

The Ontario government is building a new roundabout in the Township of Rideau Lakes at the intersection of Highway 15 and County Road 42. The roundabout will improve road safety and create good-paying construction jobs, protecting Ontario’s economy in the face of U.S. tariffs. “Our government is investing \$30 billion to build the highway infrastructure we need to get drivers where they need to go on time and safely,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “The new roundabout at Highway 15 and County Road 42 will improve road safety as we continue our work to expand highway infrastructure across the province.”

### **10. CTA urges caution as federal relief risks rewarding rule-breakers**

[oecd.org](#)

25. Loblaw to deploy 50 Gatik autonomous trucks, September 23, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

26. Ontario extends detailed MELT lesson plans deadline to July 1, 2026, September 24, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)

27. Canadian government to end home delivery in Canada Post reform, September 25, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](#)

28. Ottawa Must Hold Public Hearings on Canada Post Expansion into Parcel Market: CTA, September 25, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)

29. Trump’s Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Takes Emergency Action to Protect America’s Roads, Restrict Non-Domiciled CDLs, September 26, 2025, [www.dot.gov](#)

30. Transborder Trends: the Weight of Freight, September 26, 2025, [www.bts.gov](#)

31. Trump slaps 25% tariff on complete trucks, September 26, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)

The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) says the industry is experiencing its toughest economic climate in three decades, warning that new federal measures may help some carriers while hurting others. “Many of our members are facing the worst economic conditions our industry has seen in three decades,” CTA president and CEO Stephen Laskowski said in a news release. “Beyond the programs announced today, the biggest message to Canadians and businesses was the free trade economy we have known for over four decades is on life support, and, perhaps, may never come back as we have known it.” Prime Minister Mark Carney earlier told Canadians the country must be ready for a rapidly changing future — one that has already disrupted businesses and curbed investment. He unveiled new measures aimed at protecting the economy while transforming strategic industries. The CTA cautioned that while some measures could provide relief for employees and fleet owners, others risk rewarding carriers engaged in misclassification and tax evasion schemes. The alliance stressed that additional employment insurance (EI) weeks for long-tenured workers should not be extended to drivers operating under the personal service business model. CTA maintains this misclassification scheme numbers in the thousands and should not be rewarded.

#### **11. Docked Bikeshare Trips – August 2025**

On September 9, 2025, the [Bureau of Transportation Statistics \(BTS\)](#) released [docked bikeshare trips](#) for August 2025. From August 2024 to August 2025, docked bikeshare trips starting and ending at a docking station on six of the largest systems grew 11.4%. By area served and system, the number of docked bikeshare trips in August 2025 and the percentage change from August 2024 on six of the largest systems with data are: 1. New York, NY (CitiBike): 5,096,200 (up 11.4%); 2. Boston Metro, MA (Blue Bikes): 544,868 (up 2.0%); 3. Chicago, IL (Divvy): 506,761 (down 4.9%); 4. Washington, DC Metro (Capital Bikeshare): 489,687 (up 11.8%); 5. San Francisco, CA (Bay Wheels): 391,503 (up 31.1%); and 6. Jersey City, NJ (CitiBike): 107,700 (up 1.8%).

#### **12. Drivers’ Licence Suspensions a Positive Step in Tackling Truck Safety Crisis in Ontario: OTA**

As the Province of Ontario continues to address significant challenges and irregularities within its commercial truck driver training and licensing regime, the Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) continues to urge the government to accelerate the process to end lawlessness in the trucking industry. OTA understands the Ministry of Transportation continues to issue letters to Class A license holders, notifying them of a 90-day suspension of their license. The letter reportedly states the suspension is due to “*their dishonesty during the Class A test and or/training process*” and “*further communication related to this matter will be forthcoming.*” “It’s time to begin mandatory audits for all driving schools and the trucking industry in this province to [end the lawlessness.](#)” says Laskowski. “The restaurant industry undergoes this easily and effectively to protect consumer safety. We need at least the same level of oversight to protect Ontarians from the lawlessness and recklessness we’re witnessing on the highways every day. And this process needs to begin immediately.”

#### **13. LTL, truckload pricing rising despite soft demand**

US truck pricing rose in August 2025 despite what carriers referred to as a continuing soft freight market, a sign that shippers are balancing current capacity needs and future demand. The total cost of both truckload and less-than-truckload (LTL) services to shippers increased in August 2025 from July 2025, according to the producer price indexes (PPIs) released on September 10, 2025 by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Truckload pricing, as measured by the long-distance PPI, jumped 1.8% in August from the previous month, its biggest sequential leap since December 2024, but was still 0.2% lower than in the same month a year ago.

#### **14. Canada Post letter carriers refuse to deliver direct marketing mail**

Canada Post mail carriers will stop delivering direct mail flyers on September 15, 2025, escalating a work stoppage that is currently limited to overtime hours. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers announced the partial strike action on September 12, 2025 in an effort to pressure the company to make concessions in stalemated labor talks that have lasted 18 months. It said it will replace the ban on overtime work with a refusal to carry marketing mail. Federally mediated bargaining talks resumed in late August 2025 for the first time in three months after CUPW members overwhelmingly voted against Canada Post’s “final” offer in an election imposed by the government to test whether the union leadership’s hardline position was shared by workers.

#### **15. Who will pay the tariffs? Much of the cost will be borne by equipment buyers.**

Trucks and trailers carrying a tariff surcharge are being treated like hot potatoes – no one wants to buy them or own them for fear the tariffs will be suddenly removed or changed. Fleets are hesitant to buy for fear of overpaying and dealers don’t want to carry tariffed inventories in case the tariffs are removed and they have to sell that equipment at a loss. Even equipment finance companies are refusing to finance the tariff portion of the equipment. “Tariff surcharges are being imposed and we’re being pushed to stock some of these trucks that have these surcharges,” Kyle Treadway, dealer principal with Kenworth Sales, said during a dealer panel at FTR’s 2025 Transportation Conference. “We have already paid for it and when the tariff goes away, we immediately have a problem.” Mark Hall, general manager – trailers, with Stoops Freightliner and Quality Trailer, agreed. “If we order that inventory, we have to figure out how to move it.”

## **16. Trump’s Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Launches New Initiatives to Improve Trucker’s Quality of Life on the Road**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 15, 2025, announced the launch of two bold new pilot programs aimed at improving the working conditions and quality of life for America’s truck drivers. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will study increased flexibility in the current hours-of-service (HOS) regulations, which will help determine if providing drivers with greater control over their own schedule will reduce fatigue and improve safety. The two programs are: 1. *Split Duty Period pilot program* (pause after their 14-hour “driving window”). 2. *Flexible Sleeper Berth pilot program* (additional sleeper berth split option possibility).

## **17. Executives urge fleets to invest in people, not just digital tools**

Trucking executives say fleets must balance digital innovation with people-first strategies if they want to thrive in a fast-changing industry. They emphasized during Bridging the Barriers in Mississauga, Ont., that while artificial intelligence and automation are streamlining operations, culture, training, and generational shifts cannot be ignored. Innocon president David Kelly said his company quickly discovered the limits of going all-digital. The ready-mix supplier rolled out an online ordering platform, but more than 30% of customers still preferred phone calls. “Some just don’t want to use digital tools,” he said, noting that forcing technology on them risked losing business. The system has proven effective for many, but “you have to look after the entire customer base,” he added at the Women’s Trucking Federation of Canada event on Sept. 16, 2025.

## **18. Urban public transit, July 2025**

In July 2025, the number of urban transit passenger trips in Canada totalled 125.2 million, essentially unchanged from July 2024. In July 2025, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) increased 7.8% over the same month in 2024, reaching \$330.3 million.

## **19. MTO Rolls out Mobile Commercial X-Ray Units for Enhanced Cargo Inspections**

Following the Transportation Minister’s announcement on September 17, 2025, MTO officials issued a memo to stakeholders on September 18, 2025 signalling the roll-out of new X-Ray technology to further support commercial motor vehicle inspections across the province. The memo states the units will assist MTO officers by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of cargo inspections, with a focus on detecting non-compliance. The trucking industry is facing significant compliance challenges and requires governments rethink how to regulate and enforce truck safety rules. In 2025, no other jurisdiction in Canada has shown more recognition that oversight needs to be increased than the Province of Ontario.

## **20. Women push for systemic change in trucking**

“Don’t let the assholes win,” was Kelly Cooper’s advice to women in the trucking industry. The human resources business partner at Loblaw Companies recounted how a safety supervisor’s husband doubted women could be truck drivers. Instead of backing down, she went and got an A/Z licence, she told the audience during Women’s Trucking Federation of Canada’s Bridging The Barriers conference in Mississauga, Ont. Cooper said that people succeed when they are supported to pursue what drives them. The trucking industry, she argued, must create the conditions for that support, especially for women and underrepresented groups still facing systemic barriers.

## **21. Borderlands Mexico: Uber Freight bets on cross-border growth as trade surges 21%**

Uber Freight is deepening its imprint in Mexico, integrating customs, brokerage, and transportation services to help shippers navigate a fast-changing trade environment, according to Jesús Ojeda, the company’s head of Mexico operations. “One of the advantages that we have is we digitalize everything, and we have visibility at the border, which has traditionally been the black hole,” Ojeda said in an interview at Uber Freight’s Deliver 2025 conference on Tuesday. “Customers can see every document, every check, every step in the same system.” Key developments in the third week of September were: Uber Freight bets on cross-border growth as trade surges 21%; GE Aerospace to Invest \$29M in Mexico Expansion; and Binary Container Logistics expands with major Texas lease.

## **22. Manitoba tightens safety compliance rules for U.S. motor carriers**

U.S. motor carriers operating in Manitoba face safety compliance rules that require them to hold a provincial safety fitness certificate. Effective Sept. 1, 2025 carriers without an equivalent operating authority from another Canadian jurisdiction need to apply for a Manitoba Safety Fitness Certificate (SFC), according to the Manitoba government website. The move brings U.S. operators in line with local carriers, under Section 312.2 of the *Manitoba Highway Traffic Act*. The requirement applies to all regulated vehicles, which include trucks and tractors with a registered gross vehicle weight of 4,500kg (10,000lbs) or more, as well as passenger vehicles and buses with 11 or more seats including the driver. To qualify, carriers must meet the same standards as Manitoba-based operators. That includes showing proof of insurance, ensuring vehicles pass inspection requirements, completing educational components, and adhering to safety protocols. Once granted, certificates must be renewed annually, with operators submitting documents that prove they continue to meet or exceed provincial requirements. In addition, carriers will be required to display their

company name or logo and their newly assigned National Safety Code number, or Canadian equivalent, on vehicles so they can be easily identified by other road users and enforcement officers.

### **23. Teamsters grows influence in Amazon's food network via UNFI success**

The Teamsters has been battling Amazon on several fronts for several years with mixed success, and its laser-like focus on that target can lead it to invoke the online retailer's name whenever it can, even if it's a few degrees of separation. An ongoing Teamsters organizing effort at UNFI—an acronym drawn from the company's first formal name, United Natural Foods—found recent success in Richburg, South Carolina, where workers there voted 27-15 to join the Teamsters.

### **24. International Transport Forum to support development of National Road Safety Strategy for Ukraine**

The International Transport Forum (ITF) is launching a project to develop a 10-year National Road Safety Strategy for Ukraine. The initiative was requested by Ukraine's Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories. This will be the first of several projects implemented in cooperation between the Ministry and the ITF. More than 3300 people died in road crashes in Ukraine in 2024, according to the National Police of Ukraine. The number of all crashes involving licensed transport (buses and trucks), according to the State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety, increased by almost 25% in 2024 in a year-on year comparison with 2023.

### **25. Loblaw to deploy 50 Gatik autonomous trucks**

Loblaw is rolling out an additional 50 autonomous trucks built by Gatik to serve regional distribution networks in the Toronto area. The multi-year deal begins with the deployment of 20 autonomous trucks equipped with Gatik's next-generation sensor suite, which will be on the road by the end of this year. Another 30 trucks will be deployed by the end of 2026, Gatik said in a release. The Canadian autonomous truck maker says this represents the largest planned rollout of autonomous trucks in North America. Initially, the trucks will operate with safety drivers on board, before transitioning to freight-only (driverless) operations serving more than 300 stores. "This is a transformational moment, not just for Gatik and Loblaw, but for the autonomous trucking sector globally," said Gautam Narang, CEO and co-founder of Gatik.

### **26. Ontario extends detailed MELT lesson plans deadline to July 1, 2026**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has once again extended the deadline for truck driver training schools to incorporate detailed lesson plans in their mandatory entry-level training (MELT) programs. The timeline has been pushed back another nine months to July 1, 2026. In a bulletin issued Sept. 23, the MTO announced the new deadline to resubmit an updated curriculum. This is the second extension provided to driving schools in the province. The earlier deadline had been on Oct. 1, 2025.

### **27. Canadian government to end home delivery in Canada Post reform**

The Canadian government said on September 25, 2025 that Canada Post will end most door-to-door delivery and reduce delivery frequency as part of a turnaround plan for the "insolvent" institution, which is suffering from an outdated business model and protracted labor dispute with mail carriers. Canada Post has lost US\$3.6 billion since 2018 and is on track to lose US\$1.1 billion this year, according to government figures. Mail and parcel volumes have steadily declined this century as people turn to digital communications and private couriers have successfully taken away parcel business. Critics say Canada Post failed to innovate and adjust its network to address the competitive forces, focusing on questionable capital investments and not operations. In January, the government provided a US\$720 million emergency loan to prop up the national mail carrier. "Canada Post is now facing an existential crisis.... Today, the corporation is losing approximately [\$7.2] million every day," said Joël Lightbound, minister of government transformation, public works and procurement," [in a statement](#).

### **28. Ottawa Must Hold Public Hearings on Canada Post Expansion into Parcel Market: CTA**

The Canadian Trucking Alliance is asking for clarification and transparency on federal Transformation, Public Works and Procurement Minister Lightbound's [announcement](#) to introduce measures designed to stabilize Canada Post's finances and enable its modernization. The announcement follows a report earlier this year by the Industrial Inquiry Commission, which highlighted the state of the service and its solvency issues. In the report, both the union and management [emphasized their interest](#) for greater expansion into the parcel delivery market, including cross-border shipments. While today's announcement by Minister Lightbound does not specifically endorse this move, it does raise the issue of parcel delivery as a source of growth and highlighted Canada Post's declining market share versus the private sector in this area and the service's failure to pay attention to this gap.

### **29. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Takes Emergency Action to Protect America's Roads, Restrict Non-Domiciled CDLs**

On September 26, 2025, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced an emergency action to drastically restrict who is eligible for a non-domiciled commercial learner's permits (CLPs) and commercial driver's licenses (CDLs). The rule, effective immediately, comes in response to an ongoing nationwide audit by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and a recent series of horrific, fatal crashes caused by non-domiciled drivers.

The audit has uncovered both a catastrophic pattern of states issuing licenses illegally to foreign drivers, as well as the fact that even if the current regulatory framework is followed, it can fail. The confluence of these two factors has created an imminent hazard on America's roadways that must be fixed.

### **30. Transborder Trends: the Weight of Freight**

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics TransBorder freight data program measures the value of freight flows by mode of transportation with Canada and Mexico by month and year. A recent analysis of this data indicates a notable deviation in the dollar value of imports and exports carried by truck across US borders as well as the weight of imports carried by truck. Specifically, HS chapter 84 includes machinery and mechanical equipment used in the automotive industry such as parts for engines and transmissions. Chapter 85 covers computer components and electrical parts such as the onboard computer, infotainment system, and navigation. This data spotlight highlights an accelerating discrepancy in the dollar value and weight of U.S. truck freight with Canada and Mexico, specifically for goods classified under HS chapters 84 - 85. Since 2008, and particularly since 2021, the proportional relationship between the dollar value and weight of these shipments has changed.

### **31. Trump slaps 25% tariff on complete trucks**

U.S. President Donald Trump took to social media last night to announce 25% tariffs on heavy trucks not built in the U.S. "In order to protect our Great Heavy Truck Manufacturers from unfair outside competition, I will be imposing, as of October 1st, 2025, a 25% Tariff on all "Heavy (Big!) Trucks" made in other parts of the World," he posted on his Truth Social platform. "Therefore, our Great Large Truck Company Manufacturers, such as Peterbilt, Kenworth, Freightliner, Mack Trucks, and others, will be protected from the onslaught of outside interruptions. We need our Truckers to be financially healthy and strong, for many reasons, but above all else, for National Security purposes!" He appeared to use national security as a reason to bypass USMCA requirements. Both Mack Trucks and Volvo have recently said publicly they feel disadvantaged by the current tariff policy, which requires them to pay tariffs on components produced outside the U.S. while complete trucks built in Mexico are free from tariffs under the US-Mexico-Canada trade deal. Volvo president Peter Voorhoeve explained the situation in an exclusive interview with trucknews.com earlier this week. Paccar, parent to Peterbilt and Kenworth, also builds most of its trucks in the U.S. Its shares were up 6% pre-market on the news.

## **GENERAL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Canada**

#### **1. Most of Trump's global tariffs are not legal, US court says**

In a setback for President Donald Trump's trade policy, a U.S. appeals court ruled Friday, August 28, 2025 that most of the tariffs his administration imposed were unlawful. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in a 7-4 decision, found that the emergency law Trump cited to impose his broad import tariffs did not actually give him the authority to levy them. The ruling could affect Trump's wide-ranging reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, 2025 as well as tariffs imposed on China, Canada, and Mexico aimed at pressuring those countries to curb shipments of fentanyl into the United States. The court allowed the tariffs to remain in place through Oct. 14 to give the administration time to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Trump administration had relied on the *International Emergency Economic Powers Act* to argue that the president could impose country-specific tariffs at any level if deemed necessary to address a national emergency.

#### **2. EU proposes tariff reductions to implement EU-US deal**

On August 27, 2025, the European Commission is putting forward two proposals paving the way for the implementation of the EU-US Joint Statement of 21 August 2025. These proposals are the first steps in said implementation and ensure tariff relief by the US for the vital EU automotive sector starting retroactively from 1st of August. These steps contribute to restoring stability and predictability in EU-US trade and investment relations, to the benefit of business, workers and citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. The first act concerns a proposal to eliminate tariffs on US industrial goods and provide preferential market access for a range of US seafood and non-sensitive agricultural goods. The second

## **GENERAL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Canada**

1. Most of Trump's global tariffs are not legal, US court says, August 28, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
2. EU proposes tariff reductions to implement EU-US deal, August 27, 2025, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)
3. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2025, September 4, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
4. Canadian international trade in services, July 2025, September 4, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
5. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces \$86 Million in Grants to Support State Pipeline Safety Programs, September 4, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
6. August 2025 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.9%) Rises Above the August 2024 Level (4.8%), September 4, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
7. From promise to progress: what the European Commission has delivered in its first year of office, September 5, 2025, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)
8. Canadian Transportation Agency publishes its Red Tape Review Report, September 8, 2025, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)
9. New EU-funded railway line brings Ukraine even closer to EU, September 5, 2025, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)
10. National Retail Federation: Imports declining following summer surge ahead of tariffs, September 9, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2025, September 10, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
12. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Calls Out 'Soft on Crime' Leaders in Charlotte,

one proposes to prolong the tariff-free treatment of lobster, now including processed lobster. The Commission will continue to engage with the US to lower tariffs, including in the context of negotiations on a future EU-US Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair, and Balanced Trade.

### **3. Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2025**

In July 2025, Canada's merchandise exports rose 0.9%, while imports were down 0.7%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world narrowed from \$6.0 billion in June 2025 to \$4.9 billion in July 2025. Some of the highlights were: 1. Exports of energy products and motor vehicles increase; 2. Imports down in July 2025 after a one-time high-value import in June 2025; 3. Exports to the United States rise for a third straight month, while imports from the United States fall; and 4. Exports to countries other than the United States decrease.

### **4. Canadian international trade in services, July 2025**

Canada's monthly international trade in services balance went from a deficit of \$0.2 billion in June 2025 to a surplus of \$0.5 billion in July 2025. Overall, exports of services were up 2.6% to \$18.7 billion, and imports of services declined 1.3% to \$18.2 billion. In July 2025, exports of travel services increased 4.0% to \$5.5 billion, driven by increased spending by United States-resident travellers in Canada. Exports of commercial services rose 1.8% to \$11.2 billion, led by an increase in non-financial services exports. Exports of transportation services were up 2.9% to \$1.9 billion. Imports of commercial services decreased 2.2% to \$10.4 billion in July 2025, as imports of financial services declined following a large increase in June 2025. Imports of transportation services were down 1.9% to \$3.2 billion in July 2025, while imports of travel services increased 1.2% to \$4.5 billion.

### **5. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces \$86 Million in Grants to Support State Pipeline Safety Programs**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 4, 2025 announced \$86 million in grants to enhance states' pipeline safety programs. The funds, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), will help state partners inspect more than 85 percent of the nation's 3.3-million-mile pipeline network.

### **6. August 2025 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.9%) Rises Above the August 2024 Level (4.8%)**

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 5.9% (not seasonally adjusted) in August 2025 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 2025, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 1.1 percentage points from 4.8% in August 2024. 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 2025 was 4.5% or 1.4 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in August 2025 was 4.3%.

### **7. From promise to progress: what the European Commission has delivered in its first year of office**

Last year, **almost 200 million Europeans** cast their ballots to elect their representatives in the European Parliament. It was the moment of **Europe's choice**. **Turnout was the highest it had been in 20 years**. This is proof that Europeans care about our Union and expect it to deliver on the challenges ahead. And this is the mission that the new Commission has taken on – to deliver on our citizens' expectations and aspirations. The world around us is more conflictual and competitive than it has been in the last decades. The events since the beginning of the year underscore a new geopolitical reality: the age of great-power competition is back. The security architecture that Europe was able to rely on since the end of the Cold War can no longer be taken for granted. Economic competition has grown harsher and is increasingly tied to security. The energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine illustrates this, as do today's power struggles over supply chains and trade. This directly affects European companies, which call for protection from unfair practices and a supportive business environment. Europe is working to strengthen its competitiveness in traditional industries while becoming a leading hub for clean tech and artificial intelligence (AI). People across our Union want action to address **inflation**, the **cost of living**, **energy prices**, the **housing crisis** and the growing impact of **extreme weather events**. These are the main challenges that the new von der Leyen Commission has been tackling

Launches Investigation of North Carolina CATS' Security Spending & Safety Plans, September 10, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

13. The July 2025 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 0.8% from the Previous Month and Fell 0.1% from the Same Month Last Year, September 10, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

14. Retailers see import decline through end of 2025, September 11, 2025, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

15. Transportation Consumer Price Index – August 2025, September 11, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

16. Traffic Flow Dashboard, September 15, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

17. Canada OKs West Coast LNG export project in first major approval for Carney government, September 17, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

18. 'A new era': Canada, Mexico sign strategic partnership deal to deepen economic, security ties, September 18, 2025, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)

19. US Supreme Court to hear Trump's tariffs case on November 5, September 18, 2025, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

20. OECD hikes growth outlook for Canada and the world, but warns full effect of tariffs yet to be felt, September 23, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

21. Canada must make urgent structural reforms to ensure long-term economic prosperity: Macklem, September 23, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)

22. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2025, September 23, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

23. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Delivers Largest Emergency Relief Funding Ever for North Carolina's Hurricane Recovery, September 23, 2025, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

24. North American Transborder Freight decreased 1.1% in July 2025 from July 2024, September 24, 2025, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)

25. National tourism indicators, second quarter 2025, September 26, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

since the start of the mandate on 1 December 2024. We have worked for a strong and competitive Europe, in line with President [von der Leyen's political guidelines for 2024–2029](#).

#### **8. Canadian Transportation Agency publishes its Red Tape Review Report**

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has issued its Red Tape Review Progress Report 2025. The Report identifies three initiatives to ease the administrative burden for organizations within the transportation system and support the commitment by the Government to lower costs for Canadians and to build a stronger economy. This report illustrates the CTA's commitment to help ensure that the national transportation system runs efficiently and smoothly in the interests of all Canadians. The Government launched a Red Tape Review across departments and agencies with regulatory responsibilities in July 2025. The CTA initiatives are: 1. Reducing reporting requirements for air carriers related to tariffs; 2. Improving internal processes for railway construction applications; and, 3. Removing unnecessary and outdated air carrier requirements.

#### **9. New EU-funded railway line brings Ukraine even closer to EU**

Ukraine On September 5, 2025 opened its first railway line based on the European Union standard for track width, marking a significant step in deepening the country's transport integration with the EU. The 22-kilometre line, funded by an EU grant from the Connecting Europe Facility and an EIB loan backed by the Ukraine Facility, connects the Ukrainian cities of Uzhhorod (on the border with Slovakia) and Chop (near Ukraine's border with Hungary). As a result, rail travel between Uzhhorod and Chop and onward to EU cities such as Košice in Slovakia, Budapest in Hungary, and Vienna in Austria will be smoother. The new railway line will prevent delays caused by the previous need to change trains at the borders due to the different rail gauges.

#### **10. National Retail Federation: Imports declining following summer surge ahead of tariffs**

Following a near-record peak this summer, import cargo volume at the nation's major container ports is expected to steadily decline for the remainder of the year amid rising tariffs, according to the *Global Port Tracker* report released today by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates. "We have seen the implementation of reciprocal tariffs across the globe, with a number of key trading partners being subjected to tariffs higher than the earlier 10% tariffs," NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy Jonathan Gold said. "We also continue to see more and more sectoral tariffs impacting a wider scope of products. Retailers have stocked up as much as they can ahead of tariff increases, but the uncertainty of U.S. trade policy is making it impossible to make the long-term plans that are critical to future business success. These tariffs and disruptions to the supply chain are adding costs that will ultimately lead to higher prices for American consumers."

#### **11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, August 2025**

In August 2025, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada (returning Canadian residents and non-residents combined) by air and automobile was 6.6 million, down 14.9% from August 2024. This was the seventh consecutive month of year-over-year declines. Most notably, in August 2025, the number of Canadian-resident return trips by automobile from the United States totalled 1.9 million, a steep decline (-33.9%) from the same month in 2024. August 2025 marked the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year declines.

#### **12. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Calls Out 'Soft on Crime' Leaders in Charlotte, Launches Investigation of North Carolina CATS' Security Spending & Safety Plans**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 10, 2025 called out the 'soft on crime' polices that allowed a deranged criminal to murder Iryna Zarutskya in cold blood. The Secretary also announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is launching an investigation of North Carolina's Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS). The investigation will review the transit agency's security spending, safety plans, and ongoing risks to operators and customers being assaulted on the system.

#### **13. The July 2025 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 0.8% from the Previous Month and Fell 0.1% from the Same Month Last Year**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), rose 0.8% in July 2025 from June 2025, rising after two months of decline, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From July 2024 to July 2025 the index fell 0.1%. The freight TSI measures the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry.

#### **14. Retailers see import decline through end of 2025**

Amid rising tariffs, import cargo volume at U.S. container ports is anticipated to decline steadily through the end of this year following a near-record summer peak, according to the nation's biggest retailers. Major U.S. container ports handled 2.36 million twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) in July 2025, according to the National Retail Federation's Global Port Tracker. That was a gain of 20.1% from June 2025 as retailers brought in merchandise ahead of tariffs set to take effect in August 2025. It was also 1.8% higher year-over-year, and the second-busiest month since 2.4 million TEUs in May 2022. Several factors have been cited for this – federal court decision on Trump's tariff, delays to tariff on Chinese imports, uncertainty, etc.

### **15. Transportation Consumer Price Index[CPI] – August 2025**

The [CPI for all transportation goods and services](#) rose 0.9% from August 2024 to August 2025. Transportation contributed 5.8% to the 2.9% increase in the price of all goods and services, per the CPI. Used cars and trucks contributed the most to inflation, rising 6.0% year-over-year and contributing 4.7% to the annual change in the price of all goods and services. By item, the top three contributors to inflation in August 2025 were: 1. Used cars and trucks: +4.7%; 2. Motor vehicle insurance: +4.6%; and 3. Motor vehicle maintenance and repair: +3.1%. The top three items dampening transportation's contribution to inflation in August 2025 were: 1. Gasoline (all types): -8.1%; 2. Leased cars and trucks: -0.3%; 3. Other intercity (ship, bus, and train) fares: -0.2%; and 4. Car and truck rental (tied for 3rd): -0.2%

### **16. 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.

### **17. Canada OKs West Coast LNG export project in first major approval for Carney government**

Canada cleared a \$10 billion floating facility to export [liquefied natural gas](#) off its northwest coast as soon as 2028. Ksi Lisims LNG — backed by Blackstone Inc.-funded Western LNG, as well as Rockies LNG Partners and the Nisga'a Nation, an Indigenous group that owns the development land — is the first such major project to be approved under Prime Minister [Mark Carney](#). The former central banker has taken a less strict environmental stance than predecessor Justin Trudeau, as he pushes to boost Canada's economy and reduce its trading reliance on the US.

### **18. 'A new era': Canada, Mexico sign strategic partnership deal to deepen economic, security ties**

Canada and Mexico have signed a pact to deepen economic and security ties ahead of what is expected to be a challenging round of negotiations with the United States on a trilateral trade deal. The agreement — billed as a comprehensive strategic partnership — was signed by Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum in Mexico City on September 18, 2025. 'We are elevating our partnerships in trade, investment, energy and security to create more opportunity for Canadian workers,' Mark Carney said of the pact.

### **19. US Supreme Court to hear Trump's tariffs case on November 5**

The U.S. Supreme Court on September 18, 2025 set the date for the oral arguments it will hear concerning the legality of Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs for November 5 in a major test of one of the Republican president's boldest assertions of executive power that has been central to his economic and trade agenda. The justices announced earlier this month that they would hear the case after a lower court ruled that Trump overstepped his authority in imposing most of his tariffs under a federal law meant for emergencies. The court, which begins its next nine-month term on October 6, 2025 also agreed to hear at the same time a separate challenge to Trump's tariffs brought by a family-owned toy company, Learning Resources.

### **20. OECD hikes growth outlook for Canada and the world, but warns full effect of tariffs yet to be felt**

The [Canadian economy](#) is expected to grow by 1.1 per cent in 2025 and 1.2 per cent next year, according to a report released by the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD) on September 23, 2025. The OECD has revised up the Canadian growth outlook by a modest 0.1 per cent for both 2025 and 2026, compared to its previous interim economic outlook earlier this year. The OECD also upgraded global growth for this year to 3.2 per cent compared to the 2.9 per cent previously forecasted, as economies showed more resilience during the first half of 2025.

### **21. Canada must make urgent structural reforms to ensure long-term economic prosperity: Macklem**

Canada must make urgent structural reforms to ensure its long-term economic prosperity in the wake of the U.S. trade war, the full impact of which has yet to hit the [world's economy](#), Bank of Canada governor [Tiff Macklem](#) said on September 23, 2025. "The global economic fallout from the U.S. trade war has so far been milder than first predicted — both because the U.S. tariffs are not as high as initially feared and because [retaliatory tariffs](#) were limited," Macklem said during a speech to the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. "But the full impact has yet to be seen."

### **22. Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2025**

In July 2025, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States was down 32.4% year over year, while the number of trips to Canada by US residents decreased 3.0%. This marked the second time since June 2006 (excluding August and September 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic) when more US residents made trips to Canada than Canadian residents travelled to the United States. Meanwhile, in July 2025, the number of trips to Canada by overseas residents was up 10.3% from July 2024, while the number of Canadian-resident return trips from overseas increased 8.3%.

### **23. Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Delivers Largest Emergency Relief Funding Ever for North Carolina's Hurricane Recovery**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy on September 23, 2025 announced that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will receive \$1.15 billion in additional Emergency Relief funding for Hurricane Helene repairs. This is the largest single allocation under the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief (ER) Program for a state in the Department's history. With today's announcement, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has provided a total of nearly \$2 billion in ER funding for North Carolina Hurricane Helene repairs.

**24. North American Transborder Freight decreased 1.1% in July 2025 from July 2024**

The highlights of total transborder freight in July 2025, compared to July 2024 between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico were: 1. Total transborder freight: \$132.6 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, a decrease of 1.1% compared to July 2024; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$58.3 billion, down 8.2% from July 2024; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$74.4 billion, up 5.2% from July 2024; 4. Trucks moved \$87.3 billion of freight, up 0.6% compared to July 2024; 5. Railways moved \$14.4 billion of freight, down 10.1% compared to July 2024; 6. Pipelines moved \$9.0 billion of freight, down 12.1% compared to July 2024; 7. Vessels moved \$8.8 billion of freight, down 15.6% compared to July 2024; and 8. Air moved \$6.1 billion of freight, up 22.9% compared to July 2024. US-Canada trade by mode in both directions were as follows: Truck \$32.5b, Vessel \$3.2b; Rail \$6.5b; Pipeline \$8.2b and Air \$3.2b.

**25. National tourism indicators, second quarter 2025**

Tourism gross domestic product (GDP), in real terms, grew 1.3% in the second quarter of 2025, compared with a 0.3% increase in the first quarter as Canadians are travelling to the United States less and spending their tourism dollars in Canada. In the second quarter, tourism GDP accounted for 1.77% of nominal GDP, compared with 1.75% in the previous quarter and jobs attributable to tourism increased 0.6%.