

# Transportation Information Update\*

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## AIR TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Porter Airlines inaugurates flights between Montreal and Fort Myers

Porter is launching a new seasonal route between Montréal-Trudeau International Airport and Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers on November 29, 2024. The airline is the only operator to offer non-stop service between the two airports, providing travellers with a seamless connection to Southwest Florida.

### 2. Air Canada Rolls Out Comprehensive Transborder Schedule from YVR for Summer 2025

Air Canada announced on December 2, 2024 that its most comprehensive transborder schedule from its Vancouver (YVR) hub. Three new transborder routes to Tampa, Raleigh and Nashville, plus more capacity to Austin, Denver and Miami have been added, offering even more exciting options for travellers on both sides of the border. Together with its partner United Airlines, Air Canada will offer up to 7,700 seats on 58 daily non-stop flights to 21 US destinations next summer, representing a 11% increase in seat capacity from summer 2024. All flights are now available for sale at [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com), through Air Canada Contact Centres and via travel agents.

### 3. Moosehead Breweries gets on board with Porter Airlines

Moosehead Breweries is now the beer partner of Porter Airlines. The Canadian-owned and operated brewery will have products available on all Porter flights, beginning this week. Passengers will be able to enjoy Moosehead Breweries' flagship beers; Moosehead Canadian Lager, and their premium ultra-light lager, Cracked Canoe, free of charge as part of the airline's signature service.

### 4. Air Cargo Demand up 9.8% in October 2024 - 15th Month of Consecutive Growth

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for October 2024 global air cargo markets showing continuing strong annual growth in demand. 1. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), rose by 9.8% compared to October 2023 levels (10.3% for international operations) for a 15th consecutive month of growth. 2. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 5.9% compared to October 2023 (7.2% for international operations). This was largely driven by a 8.5% increase in international belly capacity. Dedicated freighter capacity increased by 5.6%, the seventh consecutive month of growth with volumes nearing 2021 peak levels.

### 5. Air Canada to Adjust its Basic and Comfort Fares Beginning January 3, 2025

Air Canada on December 4, 2024 said it is revising some of the terms of its Basic and Comfort economy fare tickets. These changes align the airline's fare structure with similar fare offerings by other Canadian carriers and better distinguish its fare brands. For its lowest-priced, Basic fare for North America and Sun routes, customers selecting this fare class and travelling on tickets purchased on or after January 3, 2025, will still be able to bring on

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5. Air Canada to Adjust its Basic and Comfort Fares Beginning January 3, 2025, December 4, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
6. Solid Growth in Passenger Demand Continued in October, December 4, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
7. Minister Anand speaks on importance of accessible air travel at International Civil Aviation Organization, December 2, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
8. Kumusta! Air Canada to Launch New, Non-Stop Service between Vancouver and Manila, December 5, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
9. Porter takes off to Florida with first flights from Halifax, December 5, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)
10. DOT Launches Rulemaking to Protect Passengers Stranded by Airline Disruptions, December 5, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
11. U.S. Airlines' October 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon down 1.7% from September 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 2.3% from Pre-Pandemic October 2019, December 5, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
12. International Community Aligns on Air Travel Accessibility Priorities, December 9, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)
13. Porter is landing in San Diego and Palm Springs for the first time, December 9, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)
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15. WestJet Cargo enhances relationship with Canadian Blood Services through blood donation campaign, December 11, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
16. Porter Airlines lands in Thunder Bay with first Embraer E195-E2 connecting Toronto-Pearson, Dec. 10, 2024, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)
17. IATA Launches Air Cargo Device Assessment Program, December 11, 2024, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

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

board one small personal item, such as a purse or computer bag. But larger items, such as roller-board or duffel bags, or large backpacks, will have to be checked pre-security and standard fees of \$35 for a first bag and \$50 for a second bag will apply. Customers arriving at the boarding gate with ineligible carry-on items will be required to check this baggage for a \$65 fee for each item. Mobility aids, medical devices, and child strollers are exempt from carry-on charges for all customers. As well, Status members, Star Alliance Gold, and Aeroplan premium credit cardholders will continue to be entitled to one carry-on bag, and their other benefits will also continue to apply.

#### **6. Solid Growth in Passenger Demand Continued in October**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for October 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: **Total demand**, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 7.1% compared to October 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 6.1% year-on-year. The October load factor was 83.9% (+0.8ppt compared to October 2023). **International demand** rose 9.5% compared to October 2023. Capacity was up 8.6% year-on-year and the load factor rose to 83.5% (+0.6ppt compared to October 2023). **Domestic demand** rose 3.5% compared to October 2023. Capacity was up 2.0% year-on-year and the load factor was 84.5% (+1.2ppt compared to October 2023). Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General said "Continued strong and stable demand is good news, but just as important is the steady improvement in load factors. It shows what a great job the industry is doing in flying people more efficiently. Average seat factors have risen from around 67% in the 1990's to over 83% today. Politicians thinking of trying to tax passengers off planes to reduce emissions would do well to note this. Even if fewer people fly because taxes make it too expensive, it doesn't automatically mean reduced emissions because the planes will still fly, just with fewer passengers. That would reverse decades hard won progress. We need to see the planes full to generate the economic and social benefits of travel with the most minimal emissions possible."

#### **7. Minister Anand speaks on importance of accessible air travel at International Civil Aviation Organization**

The President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, spoke on December 2, 2024 at the Symposium on Accessibility in International Civil Aviation. This event, hosted jointly by the International Civil Aviation Organization, Airports Council International and the International Air Transport Association, aims to address the challenges and efforts of Member States, industry and other stakeholders and to enhance international collaboration to make air travel more accessible. Minister Anand outlined some of the barriers to accessibility that affect the dignity and safety of travellers with disabilities and reduced mobility, insisting that the aviation industry must continue current efforts to pursue a seamless, global approach to ensure accessibility at every stage of the travel experience.

#### **8. Kumusta! Air Canada to Launch New, Non-Stop Service between Vancouver and Manila**

Air Canada on December 5, 2024 announced the strategic expansion of its international network with the addition of non-stop flights between its Pacific hub at Vancouver International Airport and Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport in the Philippines. The announcement was made during the Government of Canada's Team Canada Trade Mission currently in the Philippines, celebrating 75 years of Canada-Philippines diplomatic relations. This new service to Manila is Air Canada's third South-East Asia destination launched in the last two years.

#### **9. Porter takes off to Florida with first flights from Halifax**

18. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$20 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports, December 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
19. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 9,949 Jobs in October 2024, December 10, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
20. Air Travel Consumer Report: September 2024 Numbers and 3rd Quarter Numbers, December 11, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
21. September 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 1.6% from the Same Month Last Year, December 12, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
22. Minister Anand hosts roundtable with Canadian air industry stakeholders to discuss holiday and winter travel readiness, December 13, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
23. Air Canada announces long-term plan at its 2024 Investor Day, setting 2028 targets of \$30 billion operating revenues, at least 17% adjusted EBITDA margin and approximately 5% free cash flow margin by 2028, December 17, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
24. Secretary Buttigieg Announces Sweeping Protections for Airline Passengers with Disabilities, December 16, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
25. Travel With Ease This Holiday Season with Air Canada's Top Tips for Travellers, December 17, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
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29. EU brings in Flight Emissions Label to inform passengers of flight emissions, December 18, 2024, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)
30. Air Canada Ready for Busy Holiday Season, Adding Product Features that Deliver More Comfort and Joy to Travel, December 20, 2024, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
31. Proposed amendments to the *Air Passenger Protection Regulations*, December 21, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
32. Notification to air carriers of upward revision of the limits of liability governed by the Montreal Convention, December 22, 2024, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)
33. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, October 2024, December 23, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
34. Air Transat takes off to Tulum from Montreal and Quebec City, December 23, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

Porter Airlines is inaugurating two new, nonstop routes between Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ) and Florida in the first week of December 2024, marking the first time the carrier has operated U.S. flights from the Nova Scotia capital.

#### **10. DOT Launches Rulemaking to Protect Passengers Stranded by Airline Disruptions**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on December 5, 2024 launched a rulemaking to protect passengers stranded by airlines canceling or significantly changing their flights. The Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) seeks public comment on requiring airlines to pay passengers cash compensation, rebook them for free on the next available flight, and cover meals, overnight lodging, and related transportation expenses when a disruption is airline-caused, such as a mechanical issue or an IT airline system breakdown.

#### **11. U.S. Airlines' October 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon down 1.7% from September 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 2.3% from Pre-Pandemic October 2019**

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on December 5, 2024 released U.S. airlines' October 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.577 billion gallons of fuel, 2.9% more fuel than in September 2024 (1.532 billion gallons) and 2.3% more than in pre-pandemic October 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in October 2024 (\$2.29) was down 4 cents (1.7%) from September 2024 (\$2.33) and up \$0.32 (16.1%) from October 2019. Total October 2024 fuel expenditure (\$3.61B) was up 1.2% from September 2024 (\$3.56B) and up 18.8% from pre-pandemic October 2019.

#### **12. International Community Aligns on Air Travel Accessibility Priorities**

Aviation stakeholders and disability advocates established key priorities for improving global air travel accessibility at a landmark joint symposium held by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Airports Council International (ACI), and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The two-day event, which drew 237 participants from governments, industry, and civil society organizations, provided critical input for ICAO's upcoming comprehensive strategy and work programme on aviation accessibility. ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano set the scene for constructive discussions in his opening remarks, noting that "the diversity of voices gathered here today – from decision-makers and technical experts to advocacy groups and international organizations - creates opportunities for meaningful change. Your collective expertise will help us to identify barriers and build effective solutions." The event concluded, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal.

#### **13. Porter is landing in San Diego and Palm Springs for the first time**

Porter Airlines is celebrating the launch of its non-stop service to San Diego International Airport and Palm Springs International Airport this week. These new routes, departing from Toronto Pearson International Airport, offer passengers a seamless and elevated economy experience to Southern California.

#### **14. Disappointingly Slow Growth in SAF Production**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released new estimates for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production showing that: 1. In 2024, SAF production volumes reached 1 million tonnes (1.3 billion liters), double the 0.5 million tonnes (600 million liters) produced in 2023. SAF accounted for 0.3% of global jet fuel production and 11% of global renewable fuel. This is significantly below previous estimates that projected SAF production in 2024 at 1.5 million tonnes (1.9 billion liters), as key SAF production facilities in the US have pushed back their production ramp up to the first half of 2025. 2. In 2025, SAF production is expected to reach 2.1 million tonnes (2.7 billion liters) or 0.7% of total jet fuel production and 13% of global renewable fuel capacity. Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General said "SAF volumes are increasing, but disappointingly slowly. Governments are sending mixed signals to oil companies which continue to receive subsidies for their exploration and production of fossil oil and gas. ..."

#### **15. WestJet Cargo enhances relationship with Canadian Blood Services through blood donation campaign**

For over five years, WestJet Cargo has proudly supported Canadian Blood Services (CBS) by transporting life-saving blood and plasma products to hospitals and patients in need. With its extensive network, including its primary hub in Calgary, WestJet Cargo reaches approximately 65% of Canadians within four hours. This unique capability, supported by its specialized Priority service, has inspired the carrier to deepen its collaboration with CBS by encouraging donations and further promoting awareness of the crucial need for blood and plasma donors. WestJet Cargo is strengthening its relationship with CBS through the launch of a national campaign to raise awareness about the life-saving importance of blood donations. This initiative underscores WestJet Cargo's commitment to community health while demonstrating its operational agility and expertise in the safe and efficient transport of urgent medical supplies across Canada.

#### **16. Porter Airlines lands in Thunder Bay with first Embraer E195-E2 connecting Toronto-Pearson**

Porter Airlines is celebrating its first flights between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Thunder Bay International Airport (YQT) with its Embraer E195-E2 aircraft. Flights will operate with three roundtrips per week, increasing overall passenger capacity by more than 10%.

### **17. IATA Launches Air Cargo Device Assessment Program**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched the IATA Air Cargo Device Assessment Program to validate air cargo tracking devices, data loggers and sensor-equipped devices for compliance with rigorous industry safety standards. “The fastest-growing segments of air cargo are pharmaceuticals, perishables, electronics, and high-value goods. Shippers rely on various battery-powered electronic devices to monitor these sensitive shipments to ensure their integrity. The IATA Air Cargo Device Assessment will confirm that these devices comply with strict industry safety standards,” said Brendan Sullivan, IATA’s Global Head of Cargo.

### **18. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$20 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports**

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$20.5 million for 25 grants across 14 states and Puerto Rico to modernize airports under President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [Airport Infrastructure Grants \(AIG\) program](#), part of the \$25 billion total included in the law over a period of five years for airport and air traffic control infrastructure improvements.

### **19. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 9,949 Jobs in October 2024**

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 1,021,761 workers in October 2024, 9,949 (0.98%) more workers than in September 2024 (1,011,812). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 544,705 workers in October 2024, or 54% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines gained 1,600 employees in October 2024. American Airlines Inc. led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 1,006 employees; United Air Lines Inc. added 291, and Southwest Airlines Co. added 164. U.S. cargo airlines employed 472,827 workers in October 2024, or 46% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers gained 8,382 employees in October. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 8,307 jobs.

### **20. Air Travel Consumer Report: September 2024 Numbers and 3rd Quarter Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on December 11, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of September 2024 and third quarter of 2024 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. For September 2024, 0.6% of flights were cancelled, lower than the 1.2% cancellation rate for September 2023. For the first nine months of 2024, 1.6% of flights have been cancelled, equal to the rate posted during same period in 2023 and lower than the 2.2% cancellation rate posted for the first nine months of pre-pandemic 2019. In September 2024, reporting marketing carriers cancelled 0.6% of their scheduled domestic flights, lower than the rate of 2.0% in August 2024 and lower than the rate of 1.2% in September 2023. The year-to-date cancellation rate for 2024 is 1.6%. In September 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 37.5 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.42%, lower than both the rate of 0.64% in August 2024 and the rate of 0.53% in September 2023. Check the website for further information on mishandled wheelchairs, bumping, etc.

### **21. September 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 1.6% from the Same Month Last Year**

U.S. airlines carried 77.5 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in September 2024, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, September enplanements are down 0.4% from August and down 1.7% from the all-time high reached in June 2024. BTS reported 68 million domestic passengers and 9.5 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in September, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 and complete data since 2000.

### **22. Minister Anand hosts roundtable with Canadian air industry stakeholders to discuss holiday and winter travel readiness**

The President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, on December 13, 2024 issued the following statement: “With the holiday travel season about to begin, it was my pleasure to host the first quarterly roundtable with key air sector service providers. ... During the roundtable, we discussed how all entities in the air travel ecosystem are working together to prepare for the surge in air passengers during the busiest time of the year. We looked for opportunities to optimize information and communication among partners, to help manage pressures during peak periods. We talked about the importance of contingency planning and sufficient staffing to minimize the impact of unforeseen events on passengers, and agreed to stay in close contact throughout the season.”

### **23. Air Canada announces long-term plan at its 2024 Investor Day, setting 2028 targets of \$30 billion operating revenues, at least 17% adjusted EBITDA margin and approximately 5% free cash flow margin by 2028**

Air Canada on December 17, 2024 reaffirmed its 2024 full year guidance: 1. Accelerated commercial growth strategy grounded on strong foundation built over the last decade and leveraging many opportunities ahead; 2. Focus on margin expansion, consistent cash generation to invest in the business and create long-term value for shareholders; 3. Capital allocation objectives with disciplined balance sheet management and responsible risk profile; 4 Air Canada reaffirms

full year 2024 guidance and shares expectations for certain financial measures for the full year; and 5. 2025 full year guidance, financial targets for 2028, and long-term aspiration shared

#### **24. Secretary Buttigieg Announces Sweeping Protections for Airline Passengers with Disabilities**

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on December 16, 2024 announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued new protections for people with disabilities in commercial air travel that will ensure that they can fly safely and with dignity. The new final rule requires that airlines meet more rigorous standards for accommodating passengers with disabilities, especially for passengers who use wheelchairs. The rule sets new standards for assistance, mandates hands-on training for airline employees and contractors who physically assist passengers with disabilities and handle passengers' wheelchairs, and specifies actions that airlines must take to protect passengers when a wheelchair is damaged or delayed during transport. Earlier this year, DOT issued a record-breaking penalty against American Airlines for unsafe and undignified treatment of passengers with disabilities.

#### **25. Travel With Ease This Holiday Season with Air Canada's Top Tips for Travellers**

Air Canada on December 17, 2024 released its top travel tips to help customers travel with ease during the peak holiday period, which runs from mid-December until January 6, 2025. December 19 to 23, 2024 are expected to be the busiest travel days. 1. Download the Air Canada mobile app and check-in within 24 hours of departure; 2. Ensure travel documents are in order and your contact information is accurately updated; and 3. Air Canada supports Apple's Share Item Location feature for AirTag and other Find My network accessories to enhance baggage recovery

#### **26. Porter Airlines landing in Kelowna with new Toronto Pearson flights**

Porter Airlines is expanding its presence in British Columbia with flights between Toronto Pearson International Airport and Kelowna International Airport. Service begins on May 14, 2025, with five weekly roundtrip flights, increasing to daily roundtrip flights on June 23.

#### **27. Slot Regulation Should Push Airports to Squeeze More Capacity from Existing Infrastructure**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) warned that the airport capacity crunch is threatening the freedom for people to travel, and constraining economies. With little prospect for airport infrastructure to fully keep pace with growing demand, IATA released a White Paper including proposals for how slot regulations must incentivize airports to generate more capacity from existing infrastructure. The number of airports unable to fully meet the demand for air connectivity and requiring slot coordination using the IATA Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines has already grown to nearly 400 worldwide. If current trends prevail, this number could grow by 25% over the next decade.

#### **28. US Airlines gained \$2.1 billion in third quarter 2024, an increase over third quarter 2023**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a third-quarter 2024 after-tax net gain of \$2.1 billion and a pre-tax operating profit of \$3.1 billion. One year earlier, in the third quarter of 2023, the airlines reported an after-tax net gain of \$1.6 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$3.3 billion.

#### **29. EU brings in Flight Emissions Label to inform passengers of flight emissions**

A new EU-approved Flight Emissions Label will be available to passengers from next summer, offering them a trustworthy methodology for calculating flight emissions. The label will protect passengers from misleading greenwashing claims made by airline operators.

#### **30. Air Canada Ready for Busy Holiday Season, Adding Product Features that Deliver More Comfort and Joy to Travel**

Heading into the peak holiday travel season, Air Canada teams are mobilizing to welcome the high volume of travellers embarking on journeys across North America and around the world. The airline is providing extra in-person support from agents, and through the Air Canada mobile app, making every step of the journey easier and more enjoyable for the more than 2.2 million customers that will travel with Air Canada this holiday season. Recognizing that the holidays are one of the few times many travellers visit the airport, Air Canada has increased the number of customer service agents that will be on hand to greet customers and help them navigate terminals with ease. The airline will continue to prioritize those with accessibility needs and minors flying unaccompanied. It will also offer Complimentary beer and wine now a permanent offering on all domestic and U.S. flights

#### **31. Proposed amendments to the *Air Passenger Protection Regulations***

On December 21, 2024, the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Anita Anand, issued the following statement: "I am pleased that the Canadian Transportation Agency's proposed amendments to the *Air Passenger Protection Regulations* were published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* on December 21, 2024, for a 75-day public comment period. "The proposed amendments seek to protect passengers when air travel does not go as planned by clarifying, simplifying and strengthening Canada's *Air Passenger Protection Regulations*. The goal of these proposed amendments is to make the regulations clearer for both travellers and air carriers. The proposed amendments eliminate grey zones and ambiguity about when passengers are owed compensation, which will ensure quicker resolutions for passengers."

#### **32. Notification to air carriers of upward revision of the limits of liability governed by the Montreal Convention**



Effective December 28, 2024, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will increase the liability limits under the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Montreal Convention) in respect to passenger death and injury, passenger delay and lost, damaged or delayed baggage and cargo shipments. Air carriers must apply the new limits as of December 28, 2024. On July 15, 2019, the Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR) provisions relating to baggage came into effect. These provisions apply the same rules and liability limits for lost and damaged baggage for domestic services as those set out in the Montreal Convention for international air travel. All air carriers offering domestic services must update their domestic tariffs to reflect these new liability limits. For delayed baggage, the Montreal Convention does not apply. Air carriers must set out their liability limits and related conditions in their domestic tariffs as the ATR requires.

### **33. Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, October 2024**

In October 2024, Canada's major and select small airports recorded a total of 517,205 aircraft movements, up 8.7% from October 2023. Itinerant movements increased 5.5% year over year to 346,798 in October 2024, while local movements rose 15.9% to 170,407. At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 7.0 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in October, with a passenger load factor of 83.1%.

### **34. Air Transat takes off to Tulum from Montreal and Quebec City**

Air Transat, voted 2024 World's Best Leisure Airline by Skytrax, inaugurates its seasonal flights to Tulum, with three weekly departures from Montreal and one from Quebec City, from December to April. With an already established presence in Acapulco, Cancun, Cozumel, and Puerto Vallarta, the airline is expanding its offerings to southern Mexico, a popular region for travel enthusiasts.

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. DP World expands Port Saint John capacity**

DP World and Port Saint John have welcomed two of the largest cranes ever deployed at the port, marking a major step in enhancing container handling capacity and operational efficiency. The new additions aim to bolster the port's role in global trade and strengthen Saint John's position as a key Atlantic gateway. The cranes, each with an outreach of 65 metres and capable of spanning 24 containers wide, can service vessels exceeding 10,000 TEUs. Their arrival increases the port's total to six quay cranes, the highest capacity in its history.

### **2. Georgia Ports targets community improvements with \$120M in grants for electrical and rail infrastructure**

At the Georgia Ports Authority meeting on December 2, 2024, President and CEO Griff Lynch outlined plans to improve operational sustainability for neighboring communities in Savannah and Brunswick as the driver of three federal grants totaling more than \$120 million. "We are constantly looking for ways to be a good steward for our local communities near our ports in Savannah and Brunswick. These federal grants will help us reduce the community impact of our ship, rail and truck traffic operations and emissions. We'd like to thank our federal partners for their role in supporting our plans to reduce our carbon footprint and strengthen our business resiliency," Lynch said. Georgia Ports has targeted community improvements as the driver of three federal grants to reduce the impact of port operations and emissions on local communities.

### **3. St. Lawrence Seaway to undergo \$350M infrastructure overhaul**

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) plans to invest more than \$350 million over the next three years to modernize its infrastructure, boost reliability and strengthen supply chain links across Canada. The funding, set to be allocated from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2027, will target key areas of the Seaway. More than \$170 million is earmarked for the Montreal-to-Lake Ontario (MLO) region, while \$180 million will be directed toward the Welland Canal. The upgrades aim to extend the lifespan of critical assets through work such as maintaining and

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10. November container flows a torrent at Port of LA, December 17, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)
11. 2025 CMA CGM Transatlantic North Europe network, December 17, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
12. Port of Long Beach achieves busiest November, December 18, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
13. U.S. ports 2024: Behind the volume surge, December 19, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
14. Yang Ming to order slate of new container ships in move to upgrade fleet, December 20, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

improving locks and bridges, upgrading energy infrastructure, and enhancing mechanical and structural systems.

#### **4. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$5 Million in Grants to Improve Movement of Goods Along United States Marine Highways**

On December 3, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded \$4.85 million in grants to five marine highway projects across the nation via the United States Marine Highway Program (USMHP). The funding will enhance the movement of goods along our navigable waterways while expanding existing waterborne freight services in Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Washington, and West Virginia.

#### **5. Union, employers resume war of words in East Coast port contract dispute**

The war of words resumed this week between port employers represented by the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), and the International Longshoremen's Association union and their 45,000 workers at East and Gulf Coast ports. The sides had agreed to a media blackout when contract negotiations resumed following a three-day strike by the union that shut down container handling in early October. But that ceasefire was apparently abrogated after the ILA broke off talks Nov. 13, 2024 accusing employers of trying to force automation technology language into a new master contract. The union on December 2, 2024 renewed its efforts to sway public opinion by reposting on its Facebook account an image of an ILA flag with the message, "If it's a fight they want, it's a WAR they're going to get." The image was seen frequently online and on picket lines during the strike.

#### **6. Moving goods around the world and into our lives**

Behind the 140 million tonnes of goods imported and exported every year through the Port of Vancouver is an entire community working to make it happen. Ranging from household goods such as your shoes to the Canadian grain shipped around the world, terminals and supply chain partners move a wide range of imported and exported goods to and from Canada. This movement of goods through the port ensures items such as food, pharmaceuticals, clothing and essential products get to communities across the country. It also means Canadian products such as apples, wheat, and materials for manufacturing are accessible to those around the world. The port connects Canadians and local businesses with up to 170 countries and is home to 29 major terminals that move cargo across four sectors— containerized, bulk, break bulk and auto trade—and passengers through the Canada Place cruise terminal. Every year, port activities enable the trade of approximately \$300 billion in goods and sustains 132,400 jobs across the country. It's all made possible through the dedicated efforts by member of the port community who collaborate to keep Canada's trade moving – including marine carriers and pilots, longshore workers, terminal operators, railway workers, trucking companies and drivers.

#### **7. JAXPORT to strengthen global connections with new partnerships in 2025**

With the upcoming dissolution of the 2M Alliance in early 2025, JAXPORT is maintaining and growing its global container services through strategic partnerships with the world's top ocean carriers. New and modified service routes through JAXPORT will provide expanded global connectivity and access to new and emerging markets. Three primary changes are taking place beginning in February 2025 with regard to their services or relationships. 1. The Gemini Cooperation. 2. Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and Zim Line. 3. The Premier Alliance.

#### **8. Promoting boating safety within Canada's busiest port: overview of 2024 efforts**

2024 was a busy year for recreational marine activities and boating safety awareness efforts within the shared waterways of the Port of Vancouver. Our harbour patrol team developed and delivered—in collaboration with partner agencies—an extensive safe boating awareness program. We organized, participated in, or rolled out dozens of boating safety events and communications, and engaged with boaters and paddlers onboard more than 1,100 vessels to educate, conduct safety checks, and provide safety directions or instructions.

#### **9. Houston's volumes surge to best month of year**

Port Houston is on track to close 2024 as one of its most successful years to date, handling 3,799,573 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) through November—a 9% increase over the same period last year. November volumes alone reached 369,361 TEUs, a notable 24% increase year-over-year. This marks the biggest month of the year for Port Houston in terms of containerized cargo volume. Loaded imports rose by 19% in November, driven by consumer goods and machinery, and loaded exports were up 16% the same month, reinforced by robust resin shipments. Resins

15. Why the Panama Canal is so Important to Trump, Dec 23, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

16. Red Sea to dominate Asia-Europe ocean trade again in 2025, December 23, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

17. Port strike threat helps boost trans-Pacific container rates, December 23, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

18. Trump threatens to retake control of Panama Canal unless deal reached, December 24, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

19. US Gulf Coast ports expanding to handle continued volume growth, December 26, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

20. Hapag-Lloyd US port strike surcharges to go into effect same day as Trump inauguration, December 26, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

21. Port of Oakland container volume on track to finish year strong, December 26, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

22. Tariffs, ILA tension, early Lunar New Year boost Q1 trans-Pacific forecast, December 27, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

23. Suez toll revenue drops 60%; canal tests two-way traffic, December 27, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)

account for 45% of the Port's export volumes, underscoring Houston's role as the nation's top gateway for this essential commodity. At Port Houston's multi-purpose facilities, general cargo volumes dipped 3% year-to-date though steel imports increased 34% in November. Total tonnage across all of Port Houston's public facilities is up 5% so far this year, totaling 48,466,585 tons.

#### **10. November container flows a torrent at Port of LA**

In a year full of container volume records, the hits just keep on coming for the Port of Los Angeles. The busiest U.S. container hub saw total volume of 884,315 twenty-foot equivalent units in November 2024 — usually a lull period following the peak shipping season — an increase of 16% from November 2023. It was also 15% above the port's five-year running average for the month of November. Year to date, the port has processed 9,375,735 TEUs, ahead 19% from the previous year and 5% above the five-year average. "We are well on pace to exceed 10 million container units for only the second time in our 117-year history," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka, in a media briefing.

#### **11. 2025 CMA CGM Transatlantic North Europe network**

CMA CGM is opening a new historic cooperation on Transatlantic along with its partners COSCO Shipping Lines, Oriental Overseas Container Line, Evergreen Line and Ocean Network Express. To provide our customers with the best products on the market, CMA CGM is reshuffling its Transatlantic setup as from February 1st, 2025. As a result, they expect clients to benefit.

#### **12. Port of Long Beach achieves busiest November**

Buoyed by six straight months of historic volumes, the Port of Long Beach is on course to reach 9.6 million cargo containers by the end of 2024 without congestion or other disruption and exceeding the previous record set during the pandemic in 2021. The Port of Long Beach also achieved its busiest November, when dockworkers and terminal operators moved 884,154 twenty-foot equivalent units, up 20.9% from the same month last year and surpassing the previous record set in November 2020 by 12.8%. Imports grew 21.8% to 432,823 TEUs and exports rose 9.5% to 119,083 TEUs. Empty containers moved through the Port increased 24.5% to 332,250 TEUs. November also marked the Port's sixth consecutive monthly year-over-year cargo increase.

#### **13. U.S. ports 2024: Behind the volume surge**

U.S. port operations have seen record-breaking volumes while demonstrating remarkable resilience — despite serious structural challenges that could reshape maritime trade patterns in 2025. The Port of Los Angeles is heading for its best December on record, potentially exceeding 900,000 TEUs, while Long Beach is on track for an all-time annual record of 9.6 million TEUs, according to Bloomberg. But this surge isn't driven by organic demand. As noted by the Journal of Commerce, we're seeing a "disconnect between torrid import growth and tepid domestic demand," as Larry Gross puts it. Instead, this volume spike stems from a perfect storm of three factors: anticipated tariffs under the incoming Trump administration, the looming ILA strike threat for January 15, 2025 and an early Lunar New Year.

#### **14. Yang Ming to order slate of new container ships in move to upgrade fleet**

Taiwan's Yang Ming Marine Transport will order up to 13 container ships as part of fleet optimization plans approved by the carrier's directors on December 20, 2024 to replace aging vessels and expand the fleet of owned ships. The new ships will vary in size between 8,000 TEUs and 15,000 TEUs and are likely meant for deployment on longer-haul intra-Asia and mainline east-west services. The newbuilds are part of Yang Ming's efforts to "optimize [our] service network and enhance fleet competitiveness," the carrier said in a statement

#### **15. Why the Panama Canal is so Important to Trump**

The Panama Canal, a marvel of engineering and a critical artery of global trade has once again become the center of geopolitical tension. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to demand the canal's return to U.S. control, citing concerns over its management and strategic importance to America. Trump's comments on his Truth Social platform underscore a growing unease about the canal's operation and its significance for U.S. national security. "The Panama Canal is considered a VITAL National Asset for the United States, due to its critical role in America's Economy and National Security," Trump stated. The Panama Canal is massively important for supply chains, with 6% of global maritime trade passing through its locks. Approximately 40% of U.S. container traffic utilizes the canal annually, while the U.S. is also the largest user of the Panama Canal. In 2021, more than 73% of all ships passing through the canal were heading to or coming from U.S. ports.

#### **16. Red Sea to dominate Asia-Europe ocean trade again in 2025**

The Red Sea crisis will continue to impact service levels, rates and shipper-carrier relationships on the Asia-Europe trade for the foreseeable future. While the diversion of vessels away from the Suez Canal starting in late 2023 came as an unpleasant surprise for shippers — and a welcome relief for heavily oversupplied carriers — the industry enters 2025 with the longer voyages firmly established in ocean schedules.

#### **17. Port strike threat helps boost trans-Pacific container rates**



A late-year freight surge has kept ocean container rates elevated on trans-Pacific routes to the United States. Routes from Asia to the U.S. West and East coasts showed narrow increases for the week ending Dec. 20, 2024 according to shipping data analyst *Freightos*, and are about 15% higher than at the start of December, on midmonth general rate increases by carriers. Asia-U.S. West Coast prices increased 4% to \$4,452 per forty-foot equivalent unit for the week. Asia-U.S. East Coast prices were up 2% to \$5,932 per FEU. "Rate increases and reports of full vessels this far ahead of Lunar New Year [in China] probably reflect shippers continuing to pull forward volumes ahead of President-elect Trump's promises of tariff increases next year," *Freightos* research chief Judah Levine wrote in a weekly update, "with Trump this week proposing the U.S. should reclaim the Panama Canal in response to growing Chinese influence there."

#### **18. Trump threatens to retake control of Panama Canal unless deal reached**

President-elect Donald Trump threatened to reassert U.S. control over the Panama Canal, accusing Panama of charging excessive rates to use the Central American passage, which allows ships to cross between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Speaking to a crowd of supporters in Arizona on Sunday, December 22, 2024, Trump also said he would not let the canal fall into the "wrong hands," warning of potential Chinese influence on the passage. China does not control or administer the canal, but a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison Holdings has long managed two ports located on the Caribbean and Pacific entrances to the canal. Trump's comments came hours after he leveled a similar threat against Panama in a post on Truth Social on Saturday night. "Has anyone ever heard of the Panama Canal?" Trump said on Sunday at AmericaFest, an annual event organized by Turning Point, an allied conservative group. "Because we're being ripped off at the Panama Canal like we're being ripped off everywhere else." Trump's comments were an exceedingly rare example of a U.S. leader saying he could push a sovereign country to hand over territory. It also underlines an expected shift in U.S. diplomacy under Trump, who has not historically shied away from threatening allies and using bellicose rhetoric when dealing with counterparts. "The fees being charged by Panama are ridiculous, highly unfair," Trump said.

#### **19. US Gulf Coast ports expanding to handle continued volume growth**

US Gulf Coast ports have seen higher-than-expected container volumes as consumer spending remained resilient during 2024 and shippers brought in cargo ahead of the deadline for a longshore labor strike. With volumes likely to increase again in 2025, new port infrastructure across the region should help maintain fluidity throughout the coming year. The Port of Houston continues to be the region's preferred gateway, with containerized imports rising 9.3% in the first 11 months of 2024, according to PIERS, a sister product of the *Journal of Commerce* within S&P Global.

#### **20. Hapag-Lloyd US port strike surcharges to go into effect same day as Trump inauguration**

Ocean container carrier Hapag-Lloyd announced two surcharges ahead of a potential strike by unionized longshore workers at U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports in January 2025. The Work Disruption Surcharge (WDS) and Work Interruption Destination Surcharge (WID) are effective Jan. 20, 2025, in the event of a strike, the German company said in an announcement on its website. "This surcharge covers additional costs from labor disruptions, strikes, slowdowns, unrest, congestion, and other unforeseen events that may delay operations and incur extra handling, storage, and feeder service costs," the announcement stated. The surcharges take effect on Jan. 20, the same day President-elect Donald Trump will be inaugurated and just after the current longshore contract extension expires Jan. 15, 2025.

#### **21. Port of Oakland container volume on track to finish year strong**

The Port of Oakland's container business continues to grow. Total cargo volume shot up 10% year-to-date, January through November 2024, compared to the same period in 2023. "We are optimistic that strong container volume will continue through the end of the year," said Port of Oakland Manager of Business Development and International Marketing Carolyn Almqvist. "We expect to be on track to return to our pre-pandemic baseline cargo numbers. Our total inbound and outbound volume is up, and agricultural exports are boosting our outbound cargo business." Full imports increased 13.1% in November 2024, over November 2023 volume. The Port handled 80,580 TEUs (twenty-foot containers), compared to 71,258 TEUs in 2023. November marks the 13th straight month of continued loaded container growth at the Oakland Seaport. Full exports jumped 8.5% with 66,619 TEUs transiting Port facilities in November 2024, versus 61,390 TEUs in November last year. Empty imports dropped 14.8%, with 12,028 TEUs moving through the Port in November 2024, compared to 14,118 TEUs in November 2023. Empty exports rose 14.7% in November 2024. The Port handled 22,495 TEUs this November, in contrast to 19,613 TEUs in the same month last year.

#### **22. Tariffs, ILA tension, early Lunar New Year boost Q1 trans-Pacific forecast**

The eastbound trans-Pacific rebounded in a big way last year, and although growth is expected to moderate in 2025, frontloading of spring merchandise ahead of tariffs threatened by US President-elect Donald Trump and an early Lunar New Year should keep cargo volumes and spot rates elevated into the first quarter. Carrier on-time performance in the busiest US trade lane continued to languish throughout 2024, with no noticeable improvements foreseen as geopolitical turmoil continues to disrupt global shipping patterns. An early and extended peak season pushed trans-Pacific imports up 17.7% through November, putting pressure on Southern California ports.

#### **23. Suez toll revenue drops 60%; canal tests two-way traffic**

Suez Canal revenue has plunged 60% this year, a loss of \$7 billion for Egypt, amid attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and ongoing regional tensions. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in a statement blamed rising geopolitical challenges for the decline but offered no other details, according to published reports. Egypt collects tolls on vessels that transit the canal, a key route for maritime commerce. That amounted to \$9.4 billion in 2023, or 15% of the foreign currency entering the country. At the same time, a dredging project to test two-way vessel transit was termed a success, the Suez Canal Authority said in a statement on December 28, 2024. Currently only some sections of the canal accommodate two-way transits via a parallel waterway opened in 2015. Two-way traffic could eventually increase the waterway's vessel capacity, and avoid catastrophic shutdowns such as the 2021 grounding of the container ship Ever Given which blocked canal traffic for six days.

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, November 2024

The Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) for November 2024 is 126.7 compared to 126.3 for October 2024 and 131.7 in November 2023.

### 2. Ontario Investing \$758 Million for TTC's Line 2 Subway Cars

The Ontario government is investing \$758 million to help the TTC purchase 55 new trains for Toronto's Line 2 subway. This investment is a result of the New Deal for Toronto, which was reached one year ago, and was conditional on the federal government meeting its financial commitment to support this critical public transit project, which was announced on November 29, 2024.

### 3. RAC Announces 2024 Safety Award Winners

The Railway Association of Canada (RAC) on Nov. 27, 2024 announced the winners of the 2024 Safety Awards, recognizing the contributions of Canadian railroaders in advancing safety on the country's rail network.

### 4. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Down in Week 48

For this week ending November 30, 2024, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 439,362 carloads and intermodal units, down 13.8 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending November 30 were 189,746 carloads, down 19.9 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 249,616 containers and trailers, down 8.5 percent compared to 2023. One of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. It was miscellaneous carloads, up 236 carloads, to 7,833. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 16,218 carloads, to 52,126; nonmetallic minerals, down 8,469 carloads, to 20,496; and metallic ores and metals, down 5,821 carloads, to 15,991. Canadian railroads reported 88,468 carloads for the week, down 9.5 percent, and 69,976 intermodal units, down 1.4 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 48 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 7,607,064 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.9 percent.

### 5. Mexico sourcing competitive even with US tariff threat: CPKC, UP

Executives from two Class I railroads told investors this week that tariffs against Mexico and Canada threatened by President-elect Donald Trump would not significantly diminish the sourcing of products ranging from automobiles to white goods from the US's neighbours to the north and south. The skilled-yet-cost-competitive Mexican labor force and accessibility to North American trade partners will continue to drive cross-border intermodal traffic growth from Mexico to United States and Canada, Keith Creel, CEO of Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), said during a UBS Global Industrials and Transportation Conference in Florida.

### 6. Ontario Awards Contract for Return of Northlander Passenger Rail Service

The Ontario government has awarded a contract to begin platform reconstruction and installation of pre-manufactured shelters at train stops along the future Northlander corridor, marking another milestone in the province's plan to bring

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### Canada

1. Freight Rail Services Price Index, November 2024, November 29, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
2. Ontario Investing \$758 Million for TTC's Line 2 Subway Cars, November 29, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
3. RAC Announces 2024 Safety Award Winners, December 2, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
4. AAR: Carloads, Intermodal Down in Week 48, December 4, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com); and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending November 23, 2024, December 4, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
5. Mexico sourcing competitive even with US tariff threat: CPKC, UP, December 5, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
6. Ontario Awards Contract for Return of Northlander Passenger Rail Service, December 6, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
7. CPKC Puts Hydrogen to the Test, December 6, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)
8. CN Reaches New Tentative Collective Agreement with Unifor, December 9, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
9. New trains from coast to coast, December 9, 2024, [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca)
10. CPKC, Americold exploring co-development opportunities in Mexico, December 12, 2024, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca)
11. CN Recognizes Customers, Suppliers and Supply Chain Partners for their Leadership in Sustainability, December 12, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
12. Railway carloadings, October 2024, December 16, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
13. CPKC completes construction of second span of international rail bridge linking Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, December 17, 2024, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca)
14. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending December 14, 2024, December 18, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
15. FRA issues final rule to strengthen freight car safety standards to help protect America's rail network and the public, December 19, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
16. Unifor members ratify new agreement with Canadian National Railway, December 22, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
17. Unifor Ratifies New CN Collective Agreements, December 23, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)

back safe and reliable passenger rail service between Timmins and Toronto. 7. CPKC Puts Hydrogen to the Test. After successfully deploying a prototype in Alberta, CPKC is testing its newest hydrogen-powered locomotive on heavy line haul coal trains in the mountains of British Columbia.

#### **8. CN Reaches New Tentative Collective Agreement with Unifor**

CN announced on December 9, 2024 that a new tentative four-year collective agreement has been reached with Unifor. The union represents approximately 3,300 employees at CN in Canada, working in different mechanical, clerical, and intermodal functions. No details of the tentative agreement will be released publicly until the agreement is ratified. The current collective agreement with Unifor expires on December 31, 2024.

#### **9. New trains from coast to coast**

VIA Rail Canada (VIA Rail) is pleased to announce the launch of the Requests for Qualification (RFQ) for locomotives and cars to replace its Long-Distance, Regional and Remote (LDRR) fleet. These RFQs mark the first phase of this transformative project as VIA Rail seeks a supplier for this new fleet that will deliver a modern, comfortable, accessible, and sustainable travel experience, and contribute to building a more connected Canada. This means that in a decade, all VIA Rail trains will be replaced across the country.

#### **10. CPKC, Americold exploring co-development opportunities in Mexico**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) and Americold Realty Trust, Inc. (NYSE: COLD) on December 12, 2024 announced plans to formally explore co-development opportunities in Mexico as part of their continued strategic collaboration focused on optimizing temperature-sensitive commodity flows between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

#### **11. CN Recognizes Customers, Suppliers and Supply Chain Partners for their Leadership in Sustainability**

CN on December 12, 2024 announced the recognition of 73 of its customers, suppliers and supply chain partners, for their leadership and commitment to sustainability. Through CN's EcoConnexions Partnership Program, the Company is celebrating businesses dedicated to building a more sustainable future by supporting climate action, reducing their environmental impact, promoting biodiversity and implementing more sustainable and ethical business practices.

#### **12. Railway carloadings, October 2024**

In October 2024, the volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways reached 33.1 million tonnes, up slightly (+0.4%) from October 2023. It was the highest level for the month of October in five years. Canadian grain shipments were the largest contributor to the year-over-year increase in October 2024. Carloading of iron ores and concentrates fell 2.7% and intermodal traffic rebounded 3.2% in October 2024.

#### **13. CPKC completes construction of second span of international rail bridge linking Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) said on December 17, 2024 that it has completed construction of the new international railway bridge span over the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas, to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. "Completion of this internationally important project more than doubles our capacity to move freight through the border at the largest international trade port of entry in North America," said Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer. "This is an important milestone that keeps Laredo-Nuevo Laredo at the center of North American trade, allowing the secure and efficient movement of more imports and exports across the U.S.-Mexico border.

#### **14. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending December 14, 2024**

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on December 18, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending December 14, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 526,166 carloads and intermodal units, up 4.8 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending December 14 were 228,400 carloads, down 2.4 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 297,766 containers and trailers, up 11.1 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included farm products excl. grain, and food, up 599 carloads, to 17,143; nonmetallic minerals, up 596 carloads, to 29,740; and chemicals, up 374 carloads, to 32,862. Canadian railroads reported 91,690 carloads for the week, down 5.9 percent, and 67,922 intermodal units, down 6.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 50 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 7,927,769 carloads, containers and trailers, down 1.0 percent.

#### **15. FRA issues final rule to strengthen freight car safety standards to help protect America's rail network and the public**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on December 19, 2024 announced a final rule to further enhance the safety of the U.S. freight rail industry by introducing tougher standards for newly-built freight cars placed into service within the U.S. The new regulation establishes and ensures compliance with stringent limitations on the use of sensitive

18. Maximum Grain Revenue Entitlements for Crop Year 2023–2024, December 24, 2024, <a href="http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca">www.cta-otc.gc.ca</a>
19. Freight Rail Services Price Index, December 2024, December 24, 2024, <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca">www.statcan.gc.ca</a>
20. AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 51, December 27, 2024, <a href="http://www.railwavage.com">www.railwavage.com</a>

technology and components originating from countries of concern or state-owned enterprises, ensuring that America's rail network remains protected from risks of exploitation or compromise. Under the new regulation, freight cars must meet strict manufacturing requirements. They must be manufactured, assembled, and substantially transformed in a qualified facility by a qualified manufacturer and components from countries of concerns and state-owned enterprises are restricted. Additionally, sensitive technology and any essential components of that technology may not originate from a country of concern or state-owned enterprise. Freight car manufacturers must certify that their cars comply with these standards before being placed into service on the U.S. general railroad system. Manufacturers must also maintain detailed records to support their certification, which will be available for FRA review upon request. Enforcement of the rule includes civil penalties for noncompliance. Violations can result in manufacturers being prohibited from supplying freight cars to the U.S. rail system.

#### **16. Unifor members ratify new agreement with Canadian National Railway**

Unifor said on December 22, 2024 that its members at Canadian National Railway have ratified a new four-year collective agreement, averting a potential strike action. Unifor, which represents more than 3,000 members at the railroad's Council 4000 and Local 100 committees, said the agreement includes improvements to wages and benefits as well as job protections for members working in CN terminals and headquarters across Canada. The railroad earlier this month had reached a new tentative four-year collective agreement with the union. "This agreement secures important gains that reflect the critical contributions of Unifor members to CN's operations," Unifor National President Lana Payne said in a statement. The ratification comes after Unifor members last month authorized a strike action if the parties failed to reach an agreement by Jan. 1, 2025. The union had initiated negotiations with CN Rail in September 2024, with bargaining priorities that included higher wages, addressing concerns about the pension plan and job security for its members. Canada, the world's second-largest country by area, relies heavily on trains to transport a wide range of commodities and goods.

#### **17. Unifor Ratifies New CN Collective Agreements**

CN announced on December 23, 2024 that its new four-year tentative collective agreements with Unifor were formally ratified by employees on Sunday, December 22, 2024. The union represents approximately 3,300 employees at CN in Canada, working in different mechanical, clerical, and intermodal functions, all covered by multiple collective agreements. Tracy Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said "We are pleased to have achieved these new collective agreements through collaborative negotiations. By working together with Unifor, we now have new agreements that strengthen our workforce and enhance our ability to serve customers reliably across North America. I want to thank both teams for their constructive approach to these negotiations and their shared commitment to CN's long-term success." These new four-year agreements include 3% wage increases annually. They expire on December 31st, 2028.

#### **18. Maximum Grain Revenue Entitlements for Crop Year 2023–2024**

In a determination issued on December 24, 2024, the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) ruled that revenue of the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) was below and the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway Company (CPKC) was above their respective maximum grain revenue entitlements for the crop year 2023–2024. 1. CN's grain revenue of \$1,213,732,435 was \$34,329,653 below its entitlement of \$1,248,062,088. 2. CPKC's grain revenue of \$871,716,922 was \$1,824,083 above its entitlement of \$869,892,839. CPKC now has 30 days to pay the amount by which it exceeded its 2023–2024 revenue entitlement, in addition to a five percent penalty of \$91,204. Regulations require this payment to go to the Western Grains Research Foundation.

#### **19. Freight Rail Services Price Index, December 2024**

The Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) was 127.6 for December 2024 compared to 127.5 for November 2024 and 130.1 for December 2023. For the last quarter of 2024, the index was 126.9 compared to 126.8 for the third quarter of 2024 and 130.9 for the last quarter of 2023.

#### **20. AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 51**

For the first 51 weeks of 2024, U.S. railroads reported cumulative volume of 11,152,384 carloads, down 3.0 percent from the same point last year; and 13,636,502 intermodal units, up 9.3 percent from last year. Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 338,812 carloads, down 0.6 percent compared with the same week last year, and 375,064 intermodal units, up 10.5 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 713,876 carloads and intermodal units, up 4.9 percent. North American rail volume for the first 51 weeks of 2024 was 34,342,887 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.3 percent compared with 2023. Canadian railroads reported 92,807 carloads for the week, down 1.1 percent, and 69,112 intermodal units, down 1.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 51 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 8,089,688 carloads, containers and trailers, down 1.0 percent.

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, October 2024

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) for October 2024 was 136.2 remaining the same as September 2024 but showing a decrease from 137.6 compared to October 2023.

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

The For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index (2021=100) for the third quarter of 2024 for truck transportation is 121.9 compared to 121.4 for the second quarter of 2024 and remaining the same for the same for the third quarter of 2023 (i.e. 121.9).

### 3. Canada Post submits proposal to union, while CUPW files complaint with CIRB

Canada Post has presented the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) with a framework in an effort to reach an agreement, which it says includes proposals to bring greater flexibility to its delivery model, while also demonstrating movement on other key issues. “It is our hope that these proposals will reignite discussions and, together with the support of mediators, help the parties work toward final agreements,” Canada Post said in a statement Dec. 1. “To facilitate talks, we will not be providing further details outside the negotiations process at this time.” Canada Post said it understands the impact the national strike is having on Canadians and that it remains committed to negotiating new collective agreements that will provide its employees and customers with the certainty they are looking for. Meanwhile, CUPW filed an Unfair Labour Practice complaint on Nov. 29, 2024 with the CIRB against layoffs imposed by Canada Post on workers the union says are exercising their legal right to strike.

### 4. Canada Post strike to cost small businesses \$1 billion as calls for action mount

The Canada Post strike, now in its third week, is set to cost Canada’s small- and medium-sized businesses more than \$1 billion by December 4, 2024, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). The prolonged labour dispute, which began on Nov. 15, has paralyzed operations at the Crown corporation, disrupting supply chains and dealing a significant blow to small businesses during the critical holiday season.

### 5. Mullen Group buys Pacific Northwest Moving, expands reach in the North

Mullen Group has announced its purchase of Pacific Northwest Moving (Yukon), and its parent company Pacific Northwest Investments. A share purchase agreement was signed, and the deal closed on Dec. 1, 2024 Mullen said in a release. Pacific Northwest (PNW) operates from two owned terminals in Whitehorse and Edmonton. It provides LTL services, including temperature-controlled, dry van, and deck, as well as last-mile deliveries in Whitehorse and Dawson City, Yukon. It also operates a small moving and storage division. Mullen Group chairman and senior executive officer Murray Mullen said the acquisition of the facilities expands its real estate network into Northern Alberta and the Yukon.

### 6. Kamloops, B.C. pauses downtown truck rerouting pilot project

Citing safety concerns, the City of Kamloops, B.C. has paused a truck route pilot program days after it was implemented. In early November 2024, the city authorized the removal of Lansdowne Street and Seymour Street truck route designations from Nov. 15, 2024 to May 15, 2025. According to news reports, council voted 7-1 last week to delay the program. The six-month pilot project was aimed at allowing city staff to gain insight into the impacts of the possible removal of truck route designations in the downtown core. Councilor Bill Sarai, who had recommended the pilot project, noted that the

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

### Canada

1. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, October 2024, November 29, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
2. For-hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, third quarter 2024, November 29, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
3. Canada Post submits proposal to union, while CUPW files complaint with CIRB, December 2, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
4. Canada Post strike to cost small businesses \$1 billion as calls for action mount, December 2, 2024, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)
5. Mullen Group buys Pacific Northwest Moving, expands reach in the North, December 2, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
6. Kamloops, B.C. pauses downtown truck rerouting pilot project, December 2, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
7. Docked Bikeshare Ridership Increase in 2023 on Most but Not All Systems, December 2, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
8. Truck driver vacancies drop 36% in Q2 2024 as non-driving roles lag behind, December 3, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
9. Tell Government: ‘We Matter Too. Do the Right Thing & Enforce the Law’, December 4, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)
10. Zonar Systems merges with GPS Trackit, December 3, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
11. Most Canadians minimally affected by Canada Post strike, survey finds, December 5, 2025, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
12. Canada Post, CUPW remain at odds as strike enters fifth week, December 8, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
13. Purolator, UPS pause shipments from couriers amid backlog, December 6, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
14. Government of Canada invests in building safer communities, Dec. 9, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
15. Canada Post strike on day 26 as union sends new proposals, December 10, 2024, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)
16. Ontario Achieves 90 Per Cent Preliminary Design of Highway 413, Begins Releasing Land and Highway 413 Preliminary Design 90 Per Cent Complete, December 9, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
17. The Big Deal: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Major Progress in Rebuilding America’s Bridges, December 9, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
18. DHL begins making autonomous freight deliveries with Volvo, December 11, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
19. Canada Post says workers to return Tuesday after labour board ruling, December 15, 2024, [www.cbcnews.ca](http://www.cbcnews.ca)
20. Urban public transit, October 2024, December 13, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
21. OTA Outlines Plan for Province to Secure Trucking Supply Chain, December 13, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)
22. Fleets rapidly improved fuel efficiency since 2022: NACFE, December 16, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)
23. Ontario Advancing Work on Bradford



alternative route for commercial vehicles was dangerous during the winter. “To avoid downtown, trucks come up a large hill, go through some school zones, then down a steep incline and back up again,” he told *TruckNews.com*. “Let’s not do it in wintertime when it’s the most dangerous.”

### **7. Docked Bikeshare Ridership Increase in 2023 on Most but Not All Systems**

Most but not all docked bikeshare systems experienced an increase in ridership in 2023. In 2023, ridership declined 3% on BlueBikes (serving the Boston, MA metro area) and 2% on Bay Wheels (serving the San Francisco, CA area). With the exception of Bay Wheels, growth on BlueBikes in years prior to 2023 more than offset the decline experienced during 2020, when COVID-19 significantly reduced ridership on nearly all systems. Ridership on Bay Wheels, on the other hand, was 1% percentage point below the 2019 level in 2023.

### **8. Truck driver vacancies drop 36% in Q2 2024 as non-driving roles lag behind**

Truck driver vacancies in Canada dropped by 36% in Q2 2024 compared to the same period last year, according to Trucking HR Canada’s (THRC) latest national job vacancy update. This decrease represents a drop of 8,510 open positions for transport truck drivers, reflecting an easing of labor pressures in driving roles. The report highlights that the job vacancy rate for truck drivers dropped to 4.5%, down from 7% in Q2 2023. Across the broader trucking and logistics sector, the vacancy rate declined from 4.5% to 3.5% over the same period. However, non-driving roles have not seen the same level of improvement, indicating ongoing labor challenges in other key positions within the sector.

### **9. Tell Government: ‘We Matter Too. Do the Right Thing & Enforce the Law’**

The underground economy is thriving in Canada’s trucking industry because the federal government refuses to take meaningful action against those in the trucking industry who cheat, defraud the system and exploit their own workers. We need everyone in the industry to tell their MP that their party needs to do something about it. Canadian businesses who pay their fair share and comply with Canadian rules and regulations are saying enough is enough. And every political party needs to stand up for them. To support this initiative, the Canadian Trucking Alliance is launching a new email generating campaign designed to let political leaders know our voices count.

### **10. Zonar Systems merges with GPS Trackit**

Smart transportation mobility solutions provider Zonar Systems announced its merger with GPS Trackit, provider of IoT and GPS fleet tracking and a portfolio company of Inverness Graham. This partnership brings together fleet management technology providers, leveraging GPS Trackit’s industry expertise and infrastructure, according to a news release. Zonar will operate as part of the GPS Trackit portfolio while providing fleet health and safety products. The two companies will form a platform that serves fleets, delivering telematics and cloud-based products for commercial fleet, field services, and passenger vehicle industries.

### **11. Most Canadians minimally affected by Canada Post strike, survey finds**

As the strike by Canada Post workers nears the end of its third week, a [new poll by Angus Reid](#) finds Canadians split in their sympathies between the Crown corporation and its striking employees. However, the same poll also noted that a sizeable majority of the more than 3,000 surveyed said they were minimally affected by the strike, or in some cases not at all.

### **12. Canada Post, CUPW remain at odds as strike enters fifth week**

Negotiations continue between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), with the two parties remaining divided on several issues. In a statement released Dec. 7, 2024 Canada Post said it was “surprised” by public comments made by CUPW about its counter proposal. Canada Post stated its offer made significant moves to close the gap on key issues, such as weekend delivery, pensions and wages. “We are currently operating within a confidential process, which was agreed to by both parties. With the movements we’ve made, we would have preferred to hear from CUPW through that process, rather than cause additional concern for our customers and employees,” Canada Post said. “We have not yet received a formal response from CUPW through the mediators. Given the urgency and the ongoing impact of CUPW’s national strike, we hope to hear back today.”

### **13. Purolator, UPS pause shipments from couriers amid backlog**

Purolator and UPS have paused shipments from some courier companies as they try to work through a deluge of deliveries brought on by the Canada Post strike. Purolator said in an email that severe weather and a surge in package

Bypass, December 17, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)  
24. FES Appears to tackle Wage Theft, Tax Cheating, While Expanding Investment Incentive, December 17, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)  
25. DAT Freight & Analytics acquires Trucker Tools’ operations, December 17, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)  
26. Ontario Taking Over Maintenance of Thousand Islands Parkway, December 18, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)  
27. Limit exposure to vicarious liability, carriers warned, Dec. 18, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)  
28. Canada Cartage agrees on new contract with union, Dec. 20, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)  
29. FedEx to spin off industry-leading FedEx Freight LTL division, December 19, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)  
30. BTS Data Reveals Long-term Trend Emerging in North American Freight Trucking, December 20, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)  
31. Holiday season brings increased speeding, collisions: Motive, December 23, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)  
32. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November 2024, December 23, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)  
33. Layoffs hit more than 900 workers tied to freight industry across US, December 23, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)  
34. The Top 5 Canadian trucking stories of 2024, December 30, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

volumes prompted it to freeze service for some partners, citing the need to “prioritize critical shipments.” Couriers such as eShipper, which act as middlemen between smaller e-commerce businesses and large carriers, are among the companies temporarily barred from shipping with Purolator and UPS. A notice sent from eShipper to clients and obtained by *The Canadian Press* says “no shipments will be processed or moved by these carriers” for 48 hours, starting Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Montreal-based cookie maker Félix & Norton’s chief operating officer Simon Paquin says the cargo halt and broader postal strike fallout could cost the company its “whole holiday season.”

#### **14. Government of Canada invests in building safer communities**

On December 9, 2024, the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, accompanied by Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Honourable Jenna Sudds, announced 35 new projects across Canada that will receive funding through the Enhanced Road Safety Transfer Payment Program. The Program will provide \$14.6 million to fund road safety projects that focus on driver assistance systems, alcohol and drug-impaired driving, distracted driving, winter road conditions, speeding, as well as young drivers and vulnerable road users.

#### **15. Canada Post strike on day 26 as union sends new proposals**

On December 9, 2024, the [Canadian Union of Postal Workers](#) sent over its latest list of proposals, which include wage gains and job protections. But Canada Post said in a statement that the proposals don’t bring the two sides any closer together in a dispute that’s brought millions of deliveries to a halt. Despite calls for the government to intervene, [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau](#) said on December 9, 2024 that the government is putting pressure on the two sides to reach an agreement. One of the key issues in bargaining has been a potential expansion into weekend deliveries, with the two sides at odds over how to staff the expansion.

#### **16. Ontario Achieves 90 Per Cent Preliminary Design of Highway 413, Begins Releasing Land and Highway 413 Preliminary Design 90 Per Cent Complete**

The Ontario government is moving forward with building Highway 413 by completing 90 per cent of the preliminary design work, which gives greater certainty on the preferred alignment of the highway. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has refined its Focused Analysis Area (FAA), a zone around the preferred route to reflect which lands are not likely to be needed to build the highway, which, pending consultation, allows the ministry to begin releasing land back to its owners and bringing them clarity and certainty. This allows municipalities to process development applications for these parcels of land. Although MTO will still review and comment on these applications, Highway 413 is not expected to affect these lands. Reaching this milestone has allowed the province to identify 113 full and 57 partial properties not required for building the highway, with the remaining land being released beginning in 2025.

#### **17. The Big Deal: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Major Progress in Rebuilding America’s Bridges**

On December 9, 2024, during a news conference at the River Raisin Bridge in Monroe, Michigan, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg released a [new report](#) detailing 18 of the most economically significant bridges that are being rebuilt or repaired with funding from the Biden-Harris Administration. In November of 2021, in anticipation of the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, President Biden announced that funding from this historic legislation would fix up to 10 of the most economically significant bridges in the nation to improve safety and efficiency, strengthen supply chains and support America’s economic competitiveness, and restore critical connections that are vital to commuters, emergency responders, truck drivers, and public transit riders. Three years later, the Biden-Harris Administration has surpassed that goal, funding more than 11,400 bridge projects across the country, including 18 of the nation’s most economically significant bridges.

#### **18. DHL begins making autonomous freight deliveries with Volvo**

December 11, 2024 marks an important milestone for Volvo Autonomous Solutions (VAS), the autonomous trucking arm of Volvo Trucks North America, as it begins to autonomously transport real-world freight for real-world customers. It will do so in Texas, for DHL Supply Chain, initially hauling a single load a week autonomously as the companies collect performance data and evaluate operations with a safety driver onboard. “This is a huge milestone for us,” Sasko Cuklev, head of on-road solutions with VAS, said in an interview with *TruckNews.com*. “It marks the main target we had for this year, and that is to start to operate autonomously with a safety driver.” It’s no accident that DHL was selected as the first fleet to integrate the VAS new VNL equipped with the Aurora Driver into its fleet operations. “We have been working tightly together for quite some time,” Cuklev said. “We have been vocal early on that this is not only about the autonomous functionality, but we need to have a broader ecosystem in place to make this work.”

#### **19. Canada Post says workers to return Tuesday after labour board ruling**

Canada Post says operations will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024 after the Canada Industrial Relations Board ordered a return to work. Canada Post says it has agreed with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to implement a five per cent wage increase retroactive to the day after the collective agreements expired. Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon on December 13, 2024 directed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to order the 55,000 picketing employees back to work if a deal wasn’t doable before the end of the year.

## **20. Urban public transit, October 2024**

In October 2024, the number of urban passenger trips in Canada reached a post-COVID-19 pandemic high at 147.2 million, the most trips since February 2020. Ridership in October 2024 was 87.0% of the pre-pandemic volume from the same month in 2019, similar to the 87.1% recovery rate recorded in May 2024. Transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) was up 6.6% from the same month in 2023, reaching \$350.4 million in October 2024. While this was the highest level of total revenue recorded since the pandemic, it remained lower (-\$15.2 million) than the operating revenue earned in October 2019, prior to the pandemic.

## **21. OTA Outlines Plan for Province to Secure Trucking Supply Chain**

The Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) has put together a security action plan that will help address concerns raised by the incoming US administration around border security. OTA has come to the table with an action plan which would alleviate some concerns. “All sectors are going to have to contribute to this security policy effort to protect our access to the United States market,” said OTA Chair Mark Bylsma. “The trucking industry moves Ontario’s trade to the US and we need to work with Premier Ford to make the necessary changes that sends a proactive message to our American partners that we take border security seriously.” For details on the plan check the website.

## **22. Fleets rapidly improved fuel efficiency since 2022: NACFE**

The North American Council for Freight Efficiency’s (NACFE) *Fleet Fuel Study* reveals that fleet-wide fuel efficiency has significantly improved over the last two years, with average miles per gallon (MPG) rising to 7.62 in 2022 and 7.77 in 2023. These results mark year-over-year gains of 4.2% and 2.0%, following a period of little improvement from 2018 to 2021. During a webinar discussing the study, Yunsu Park, NACFE’s director of engineering and the lead author, emphasized the role of technological and operational advancements. “The adoption rate for the Fleet Fuel Study fleets of all technologies is at an all-time high, and so are MPGs,” he explained, noting that broader market trends also contributed to the gains.

## **23. Ontario Advancing Work on Bradford Bypass**

The Ontario government is advancing work on the Bradford Bypass through the award of a contract for tree clearing, which is now underway. Crews are clearing a path along the planned route for the highway’s west section, marking another milestone in the province’s plan to tackle gridlock and give drivers across York Region and Simcoe County more time to spend with their families each day.

## **24. FES Appears to tackle Wage Theft, Tax Cheating, While Expanding Investment Incentive**

Amid political fireworks and uncertainty, the Federal Government did release its 2024 Fall Economic Statement (FES). It’s unclear what, if any, proposals in the FES will get implemented, especially considering the political uncertainty in Ottawa, but it did contain a few notable items for the trucking industry. Firstly, FES 2024 proposes to fully extend the Accelerate Investment Incentive (AII) to 2029, with a four-year phase out after 2029. Extending this incentive was one of [CTA’s main financial requests](#) as the AII was set to be phased out. The FES makes worker protection against wage theft a priority. Relatedly, under the FES, Canada Revenue Agency would receive more funds (\$451.5M over five years, starting in 2025–26), for audits to combat the underground economy, namely, to “conclude audits of emergency business subsidy amounts” and “close major tax compliance gaps.”

## **25. DAT Freight & Analytics acquires Trucker Tools’ operations**

Truckload freight marketplace and freight data analytics service provider DAT Freight & Analytics has acquired the operations of Trucker Tools, a carrier-forward capacity sourcing and load-tracking solution. The acquisition will expand DAT’s ability to provide real-time GPS tracking and load optimization on the DAT One platform, according to a news release. DAT One is a marketplace for spot truckload freight, with more than 668,000 loads posted daily and market rates based on \$1 trillion in freight transactions. “Real-time load tracking and digital freight matching are among the most dynamic technologies in our industry today and part of an important evolution in how truckload freight transactions are conducted,” said Jeff Clementz, chief executive officer (CEO) at DAT.

## **26. Ontario Taking Over Maintenance of Thousand Islands Parkway**

The Ontario government is taking over direct responsibility for annual maintenance and rehabilitation of the Thousand Islands Parkway to protect local communities from the rising costs of upkeep and ensure the 40-kilometre scenic parkway remains in good repair. The transfer of additional maintenance responsibilities and costs from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (SLPC) to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will free up critical resources and funds that allow the SLPC to focus on providing a high-quality experience for the millions of commuters, residents and tourists who use it for boating, camping and other activities every year.

## **27. Limit exposure to vicarious liability, carriers warned**

Canadian carriers hauling freight in the United States should be aware that if their vehicle is involved in a crash, and during litigation a jury finds the trucking company 1% liable, the company is on the hook for the entire judgment. As nuclear verdicts – where jury awards in civil lawsuits have exceeded US\$10 million – become more common, carriers must be vigilant and limit their exposure to vicarious liability, a lawyer and insurance specialist said during a discussion

at the Fleet Safety Council's central and southwestern Ontario chapters event in Cambridge, Ont. Vicarious liability involves placing the liability for one's actions upon another person or entity. While fleet insurance covers liability for actions while operating your commercial vehicle, Roy DeSousa, cargo claims specialist at Old Republic Canada offered a tip for extra protection. "You can take a comprehensive general liability policy to cover negligence caused by an employee."

### **28. Canada Cartage agrees on new contract with union**

Canada Cartage employees represented by Unifor Local 222 in Oshawa have ratified a new collective agreement that includes wage increases of approximately 15 per cent over four years. "Congratulations to the bargaining committee for their outstanding work," said Unifor national president Lana Payne. "This agreement continues the pattern of winning solid gains for our members throughout 2024." Canada Cartage is the exclusive transportation provider for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) in most of the Greater Toronto Area, as well as northern, central and eastern Ontario. The company delivers goods from LCBO's Whitby distribution centre to retail stores, grocery stores and convenience outlets. The new agreement covers about 115 workers employed in roles such as AZ and DZ drivers, shunt drivers, dock workers and maintenance staff.

### **29. FedEx to spin off industry-leading FedEx Freight LTL division**

FedEx on December 19, 2024 said it will spin off its less-than-truckload (LTL) division as an independent company, setting the stage for increased competition in the US LTL sector. The separation of FedEx's parcel and LTL freight divisions, to be completed over the next 18 months, will create a new publicly traded company that will already be the largest LTL provider in North America ranked by revenue. "This is the right time to pursue a separation as we respond to the unique dynamics of the LTL market," Raj Subramaniam, FedEx president and CEO, said in a statement. FedEx Freight had \$9.4 billion in revenue in its fiscal year that ended May 31, and its top line could become even bigger as an independent trucking company.

### **30. BTS Data Reveals Long-term Trend Emerging in North American Freight Trucking**

BTS Border Crossing data reveals that, starting in 2017, the trajectory of incoming trucks from Canada and Mexico began to diverge. Since 2000, the number of trucks from Canada have been decreasing while in contrast the number of trucks from Mexico have increased. From 2000 to 2023, the number of trucks from Canada decreased 21.6% from 7,048,128 to 5,526,056 while trucks from Mexico increased 62.6% from 4,525,579 to 7,356,659. Collectively, the data indicate a shift in North American cross-border trucking. The data shows Mexican freight flows are growing faster than Canada. This trend reflects changes in manufacturing, trade patterns, and supply chains in the North American freight market.

### **31. Holiday season brings increased speeding, collisions: Motive**

The holiday season poses heightened risks for commercial drivers, with a 10% rise in speeding events and a 32% spike in collisions on Christmas Day alone, according to *Motive's Holiday Outlook Report*. "Roads are more dangerous during the holidays. There was a 10% increase in speeding events from Dec. 17-24, 2023, and a 32% increase in collisions on Christmas Day vs. the rest of December 2023," said Hamish Woodrow, head of strategic analytics at Motive, in a statement. "There's a lot of pressure, so speeding goes up. There are more than 30 million speeding events every month in our network. It's pressure and increased traffic on the road and weather conditions. The end-of-year period overall is a very dangerous time for drivers on the road."

### **32. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November 2024**

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) for November 2024 is 136.5 compared to 126 in October 2024 and 136.7 in November 2023.

### **33. Layoffs hit more than 900 workers tied to freight industry across US**

More layoffs have hit freight-related companies across the U.S., with 948 job cuts recently announced by companies in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida and New York. It is the fourth wave of layoffs across the nation's supply chain industry since early October 2024, according to firms filing Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act notices. Over the past eight weeks, companies announcing job cuts or facility closures include Amazon, GXO, UPS, DHL, Kuehne+Nagel, Advance Auto Parts, Great Dane, Ryder, True Value Co., CJ Logistics America, PepsiCo, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling LLC, Hunt & Sons LLC, Americold Logistics, Green Thumb Produce Inc., 3E Logistics NJ Inc., Genuine Parts Co. and Trademango Solutions.

### **34. The Top 5 Canadian trucking stories of 2024**

It's been a year. A year ago, there was hope 2024 would be defined by the end of a persistent trucking recession and the return to more prosperous times for the industry. There was hope capacity would come back into balance with freight demand, and rates would improve. There was hope inflation would be tamed and trucking costs would level off, if not decrease. There was hope the government would get serious about enforcing issues around driver misclassification and restore fairness to the marketplace. The top five stories of 2025 were: 1. Trucking recession continues. 2. Falling of



Pride Group of Companies. 3. Clamping down of immigration. 4. Misclassifying of drivers continues. 5. Trucking gets cleaner but challenges arise.

## GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Record high trust in the EU, finds survey

A new survey has found that 51% of Europeans tend to trust the EU, the highest result since 2007. It also shows that 74% of Europeans support the euro currency, and that many Europeans would like to see a stronger and more independent EU, especially in the face of the current global challenges.

### 2. Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators, first and second quarter 2024/2025

Transport Canada's Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators are now available for the first and second quarters of the 2024/2025 fiscal year (i.e., April to June and July to September 2024). It includes statistics on various measures (written warnings, monetary penalties, prosecutions, etc.) taken for each sector or transportation. The data can be found on Statistics Canada website.

### 3. Message from the Chair for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities - 2024

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is marked every year on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the Canadian Transportation Agency, we are committed to making travel accessible to all and to fostering an inclusive environment where every individual is valued and empowered. We recognize that accessibility and inclusivity are not just goals but ongoing commitments that require our continuous effort and dedication. To really advance accessibility, partnerships are needed both domestically and internationally, as well as between industry, persons with disabilities and international organizations alike. Engagement with persons with disabilities is, and always will be, at the heart of improving accessibility. We believe strongly in the principle “Nothing about us without us”.

### 4. North American transportation to balance forward momentum with policy shifts in 2025

North American airports, toll roads and ports have settled into a new normal heading into 2025, though *Fitch Ratings* says in its 2025 transportation infrastructure outlook that the coming year will not be without some potential disruptions, particularly for ports. Fitch's sector outlook for all three major subsets of transportation remains neutral. Airports have reached full pre-pandemic recovery with mildly positive increases for 2025 as the sector moves more in line toward its historical correlation with GDP. “While consumer spending for travel still remains largely healthy, general economic pressures may diminish the demand while political decisions brought on by the incoming administration could create obstacles to perform in-line with expectations,” said Senior Director Seth Lehman. The same steady growth trajectory appears set for toll road traffic in the coming year. Telecommuting has shifted traffic patterns with more dispersion across commuting hours and observable declines in remote work, if continued, would be positive for the sector. Conversely, toll hikes tied to inflation or to offset capital investments may soften the upside in volume growth

### 5. Canada Needs an Action Plan to Secure Border and Brace for Tariffs

The Canadian Trucking Alliance is calling on the Prime Minister and provincial premiers to develop a joint action plan that improves border security by addressing red flags before they ever reach the border. CTA president Stephen Laskowski said “All provinces, independent of federal regulations, have the power to send a strong message to Washington that you are securing your trucking transportation supply chain before these vehicles enter the United

## General Transportation

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2. Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators, first and second quarter 2024/2025, December 2, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
3. Message from the Chair for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 2024, December 3, 2024, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)
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5. Canada Needs an Action Plan to Secure Border and Brace for Tariffs, December 5, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)
6. Canadian international trade in services, October 2024, November 5, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
7. Report forecasts major shifts in procurement and supply chains by 2025, December 6, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)
8. November 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.8%) Rises Above the November 2023 Level (4.5%) And the Pre-Pandemic November 2019 Level (3.3%), December 6, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
9. Trade by exporter and importer characteristics: Services, 2022, Dec. 9, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
10. Transportation Services Contributed 6.5% to U.S. GDP in 2023; a Decrease from 6.6% in 2022 but Still Above the Pre-Pandemic 2019 6.3%, December 9, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, November 2024, December 10, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
12. CTA Lauds Alberta Plan to Tackle Cross-Border Security, December 12, 2024, [www.cantruck.ca](http://www.cantruck.ca)
13. October 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.2% from the Previous Month and Up 0.7% from the Same Month Last Year, December 11, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)
14. Traffic Flow Dashboard, December 16, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
15. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$130 million in Funding to Scale Technology Solutions that Address Pressing Transportation Challenges in 23 States, December 16, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
16. Canada to impose more tariffs on Chinese imports in new year, December 17, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)
17. Feds Announces Plan to Strengthen Border Security and Canada's Immigration System, December 18, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)
18. DOT Issues Final Rule Establishing Accessibility Standards for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, December 18, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
19. Strike against Amazon reveals complicated interrelationship among warring parties, Dec 19, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)



States. The trucking industry has provincial on-road inspection and audit enforcement systems that need to be more aligned in detecting and prosecuting immigration, labour, and illegal cargo shipment offenses.”

#### **6. Canadian international trade in services, October 2024**

Canada's monthly international trade in services balance went from a surplus of \$0.2 billion in September 2024 to a small deficit of \$0.1 billion in October 2024. Overall, imports of services increased 2.0% to \$18.4 billion, and exports of services were up 0.7% to \$18.3 billion. Imports of travel services were up 5.1% to \$5.1 billion in October 2024, mainly because of higher spending by Canadian travellers overseas. Imports of transportation services also increased, up 2.7% to \$3.2 billion. Exports of transportation services rose 6.4% to \$2.0 billion in October 2024, largely due to higher receipts of passenger fares. Offsetting movements in exports of travel services (+0.3%) and commercial services (-0.2%) were observed during the month.

#### **7. Report forecasts major shifts in procurement and supply chains by 2025**

A new report from GEP outlines six key trends poised to reshape supply chains and procurement strategies by 2025, including AI-driven decision-making, tariffs and trade barriers. The report highlights six critical forces set to influence procurement and supply chains in 2025. The key predictions and guidance are: 1. AI-driven decision-making; 2. New value metrics; 3. Regulatory scrutiny; 4. Trade restrictions; 5. Energy volatility and sustainability; and 6. Price pressures.

#### **8. November 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.8%) Rises Above the November 2023 Level (4.5%) And the Pre-Pandemic November 2019 Level (3.3%)**

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.8% (not seasonally adjusted) in November 2024 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data have been updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) [Unemployment in Transportation](#) dashboard. In November 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points from 4.5% in November 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic November 2019 level of 3.3%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector was higher than overall unemployment. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in November 2024 was 4.0% or 0.8 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in November 2024 was 4.2%.

#### **9. Trade by exporter and importer characteristics: Services, 2022**

In 2022, firms operating in the professional services industry and the information services industry led the increase in exports of commercial services. Gains were concentrated in large firms (those with 500 or more employees) in Canada. Overall, exports of commercial services rose 3.5% to \$120.3 billion in 2022. Commercial services exports from Canadian multinational enterprises (MNEs) increased 8.8% to \$38.4 billion in 2022, outpacing growth in exports from foreign MNEs operating in Canada. The value of services exports that were digitally delivered to foreign markets grew 17.3% in 2022.

#### **10. Transportation Services Contributed 6.5% to U.S. GDP in 2023; a Decrease from 6.6% in 2022 but Still Above the Pre-Pandemic 2019 6.3%**

Transportation services (for-hire, in-house, and household) contributed \$1.8 trillion (6.5%) to an enhanced U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) of \$28.2 trillion in 2023—as measured by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Transportation Satellite Accounts (TSAs). The TSAs measure the full contribution of transportation to the economy from three types of transportation activities: 1. \$935.5 billion or 3.3% of 2023 enhanced GDP from for-hire transportation, 2. \$392.6 billion or 1.4% of 2023 enhanced GDP from transportation activities carried out by non-transportation industries for their own purposes (known as in-house transportation), and 3. \$498.3 billion or 1.8% of 2023 enhanced GDP from transportation activities carried out by households using personal motor vehicles.

#### **11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, November 2024**

In November 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile reached 4.8 million, up 8.4% from November 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 521,800 in November 2024, up 3.5% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad by air reached 1.5 million, a 6.0% increase from November 2023. By automobile, US residents took 951,000 trips to Canada

20. Dollarama plans to development new logistics hub in Western Canada, December 19, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

21. Proposed amendments to the APPR have been published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, for consultation, Dec. 21, 2024, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)

22. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$125 Million in Grants to Improve Safety on America's Roadways by Preventing Deadly Wildlife-Vehicle Crashes, December 20, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

23. Travel between Canada and other countries, October 2024, December 23, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

24. Modernizing NEPA Challenge Rewards Improved and Expedited Project Delivery, December 23, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

25. How was 2024 for Europe?, December 26, 2024, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

26. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Balance, even signs of growth, return to for-hire market, December 26, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

27. ITS Logistics November Supply Chain Report: Inflationary pressure and monetary policy uncertainty among list of concerns that could impact supply chain in 2025, December 27, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

in November 2024, up 21.4% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States by automobile also rose, up 6.0% year over year to reach 1.8 million trips in November 2024.

#### **12. CTA Lauds Alberta Plan to Tackle Cross-Border Security**

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith introduced plans to bolster security at the province's border points with the U.S., including \$29 million to create an Interdiction Patrol Team (IPT), which will be made up of 51 uniformed officers, 10 support staff including dispatchers and analysts, four drug patrol dogs, and 10 surveillance drones, [news media](#) reports.

#### **13. October 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.2% from the Previous Month and Up 0.7% from the Same Month Last Year**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, rose 0.2% in October 2024 from September 2024, rising after a one-month decline, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From October 2023 to October 2024 the index rose 0.7%.

#### **14. 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.

#### **15. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$130 million in Funding to Scale Technology Solutions that Address Pressing Transportation Challenges in 23 States**

On December 16, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced over \$130 million in grant awards for 42 technology demonstration projects through the *Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program*. The competitive grant program, established by President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides \$500 million over five years for State, local, and Tribal governments to leverage technology to create safer, more efficient, and more innovative transportation systems. With these latest two rounds of funding, the SMART Grants Program has awarded nearly \$280 million across 45 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington D.C.

#### **16. Canada to impose more tariffs on Chinese imports in new year**

Canada plans to impose tariffs on a slew of Chinese products from as early as next year, the government's fiscal update showed, as part of its wider investigation into imports from the country. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has already slapped a 100% tariff on all Chinese electric vehicles and a 25% tariff on imports of Chinese steel and aluminum products, with the finance ministry previously saying it was also exploring options to widen the duties. The mid-year fiscal update presented on December 16, 2024 showed that Ottawa has decided to apply tariffs to imports of certain solar products and critical minerals from China early in the new year, with levies on semiconductors, permanent magnets, and natural graphite following in 2026.

#### **17. Feds Announces Plan to Strengthen Border Security and Canada's Immigration System**

The Government of Canada announced a \$1.3 billion plan to enhance our nation's security and the immigration system. Details released last night outline a multipronged approach to disrupt the movement of illicit drugs and provide new tools for law enforcement officials. It also contains proposed measures to protect the integrity of Canada's visa system, among other significant items. The intent to release the plan was highlighted in the [Fall Economic Statement](#), which also looks to address wage theft, and tax cheating.

#### **18. DOT Issues Final Rule Establishing Accessibility Standards for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way**

On December 18, 2024, as part of continuous efforts to support transportation accessibility, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) published a final rule that will increase accessibility for transit users by providing local governments and other owner-operators of the public right-of-way clear, uniform, and technically defined standards of accessibility to guide their design decisions for new construction and alterations of transit stops in the public right-of-way.

#### **19. Strike against Amazon reveals complicated interrelationship among warring parties**

The Teamsters union has launched a multilocation strike against Amazon, but as with so many things involving the giant e-commerce retailer and logistics company, describing the labor action is no simple task. The union said overnight in a prepared statement that workers would be setting up picket lines at seven Amazon locations, which are identified by a four-letter and numerical code: DBK4 in New York, DGT8 in Atlanta, DFX4, DAX5 and DAX8 in Southern California, CDK6 in San Francisco, and DIL7 in Skokie, Illinois, in suburban Chicago. But while those are Amazon distribution facilities, the workers who drive the vehicles that service the last-mile business of Amazon are not Amazon employees.

#### **20. Dollarama plans to development new logistics hub in Western Canada**

Dollarama has entered into an agreement to acquire land in the Calgary region for \$46.7 million, subject to customary closing purchase price adjustments, for the development of a new logistics hub. The company plans to build a warehouse and second distribution centre to service stores in Western Canada after the closing of the transaction, which is anticipated in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025 and subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions. The new facility is expected to be operational by the end of calendar 2027. Dollarama said having a two-node logistics model will enable the company to optimize its warehousing and distribution operations and support its growth plans while generating cost savings.

#### **21. Proposed amendments to the APPR have been published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, for consultation**

Proposed amendments to the *Air Passenger Protection Regulations* (APPR) have been published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, for consultation. The *Budget Implementation Act, 2023*, which was passed on June 22, 2023, modified the *Canada Transportation Act* (Act), requiring updates to the APPR. As per the Act, the proposed amendments were drafted after consultation with the Minister of Transport. Interested parties will have 75 days, until March 6, 2025, to provide their comments. The relevant documents can be found on the Canada Gazette website. You can comment on the proposed amendments to the regulations in the [open consultations](#) section. Once the consultation period has ended, all submissions will be available in the [closed consultations with published comments](#) section.

#### **22. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$125 Million in Grants to Improve Safety on America's Roadways by Preventing Deadly Wildlife-Vehicle Crashes**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on December 20, 2024 announced \$125 million in grants for 16 wildlife crossing projects in 16 states, including one Native American Tribe. The funding is available through the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, a new grant program in its second round of awards that was created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **23. Travel between Canada and other countries, October 2024**

In October 2024, US residents took 1.8 million trips to Canada, and residents of overseas countries took 491,300 trips. The number of non-resident arrivals (US-resident and overseas-resident arrivals combined) in Canada represented 93.0% of the number observed in October 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2024, Canadian residents returned from 4.1 million trips abroad, which represented 95.1% of the level recorded in October 2019. Using seasonally adjusted data, on a month-to-month basis, non-resident arrivals in Canada increased by 0.8% in October 2024. Meanwhile, returning Canadian-resident arrivals decreased by 0.6% compared with September 2024.

#### **24. Modernizing NEPA Challenge Rewards Improved and Expedited Project Delivery**

On December 23, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced the winners of the Modernizing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) challenge, which rewarded the use of accessible and interactive innovations to make the NEPA review process easier to navigate. Winning projects are aimed at incentivizing collaborative, real-time reviews to save time and improve the quality of NEPA documents. There were nine recipients of \$50,000 each.

#### **25. How was 2024 for Europe?**

From climate change to digital disruption, and global conflicts to humanitarian crises, 2024 was a year of significant events. Elections took place across the world, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the biggest EU enlargement, and more.

#### **26. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Balance, even signs of growth, return to for-hire market**

The latest data shows stability, even signs of growth, returning to the for-hire trucking segment. Canada's spot market was flat in November 2024, but the truck-to-load ratio improved for carriers. ACT Research sees growth returning to the for-hire segment, but private fleet insourcing continues to be a headwind. And shippers' conditions deteriorated in October 2024 as fuel prices firmed up and trucking capacity tightened. The Canadian spot market was steady through November 2024, according to the latest data from Loadlink Technologies. There were no significant changes, suggesting that stability is returning to the market after last year's volatility.

#### **27. ITS Logistics November Supply Chain Report: Inflationary pressure and monetary policy uncertainty among list of concerns that could impact supply chain in 2025**

ITS Logistics released the November ITS Supply Chain Report. Last month, the U.S. economy displayed resilience amidst a transitioning monetary policy and external disruptions but faced ongoing challenges in housing affordability, labor market cooling, and inflationary stickiness. Growth prospects also remain modestly positive, with fiscal and monetary adjustments likely to play key roles in 2025. Despite having a positive outcome for November, the U.S. economic outlook is influenced by several key risks that could impact growth and stability in the near term. These key concerns include inflationary pressure, monetary policy uncertainty, global economic uncertainty, and consumer confidence. "Recent data indicates that inflation remains a concern, with the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index expected to rise by 2.5% in November, up from 2.3% in October," said ITS Logistics CFO Stan Kolev. "This upward trend suggests that inflation is becoming more persistent, which may compel the Federal Reserve to maintain higher interest rates for an extended period, potentially dampening economic growth."