

Transportation Information Update*

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AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. October 2016 U.S. Airline Traffic Data

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on December 30, 2024 reported that U.S. airlines' systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service load factor – a measure of the use of airline capacity – rose to 83.8 percent in October, seasonally adjusted, rising for the second consecutive month.

2. Take-off of French cargo airship startup flying whales neither smooth nor simple but investors keep Faith

The company has twice been refused planning permission for its preferred production site at Laruscade, in the Bordeaux region, on environmental grounds and as a result, has pushed back its maiden commercial flight by several years to the end of the decade. The airship manufacturing plant would require two 250 metre-long hangars, each almost 70 metres high. In a judgment issued as recently as 24 October 2024, the State Environmental Agency (EA) said the site was particularly rich ecologically' and constituted 'a large, natural wetland' and is the habitat of several protected species. Meanwhile, on the design side, a number of experts have cast doubts on the technical feasibility of the hybrid-electric VTOL, code-named LCA60T which will be tailored to transporting exceptionally heavy or oversized loads of up to 60 tonnes to and from remote and inaccessible areas. The choice of helium as a fuel has also been questioned. And yet, in the face of such turbulence the company has maintained its course, having little trouble garnering funding for the project from both public and private sectors. It is currently preparing its fourth funding round having already raised a total of €230 million since the project was launched. The most recent investment call was completed in June 2022 which raised €122 million. It saw the participation of the French State and the Principality of Monaco, who joined the Canadian State of Quebec, already a 25% shareholder.

3. USDOT Fines Lufthansa and Swiss for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace

On December 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) fined Deutsche Lufthansa AG (Lufthansa) \$220,000 and Swiss International Air Lines AG (Swiss) \$200,000 for operating flights carrying United Airlines' designator code in regions in which a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight prohibition was in effect for U.S. operators. The airlines were ordered to cease and desist from future similar violations.

4. Passengers describe travel nightmare after WestJet flight from Costa Rica cancelled

It was a travel nightmare that left more than 100 passengers, including Ottawa residents, stranded in Costa Rica in the final week of December 2024. A WestJet flight that was supposed to take off from Liberia, Costa Rica to Toronto on December 28, 2024 instead sat on the tarmac at the airport for five hours before being cancelled altogether. The incident left dozens without overnight accommodations or food, some people with babies and wheelchairs.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

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2. Take-off of French cargo airship startup flying whales neither smooth nor simple but investors keep Faith, December 27, 2024, www.ajot.com
3. USDOT Fines Lufthansa and Swiss for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace, December 30, 2024, www.dot.gov
4. Passengers describe travel nightmare after WestJet flight from Costa Rica cancelled, December 29, 2024, www.ctv.news.ca
5. US hits JetBlue with \$2 million penalty over chronic flight delays, January 3, 2025, www.ajot.com
6. GOAL Aircraft Leasing and Porter Airlines complete Sale and Leaseback Agreement for Two new Embraer E195-E2 Aircraft, January 7, 2025, www.flyporter.com
7. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$332 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports in 32 States, January 8, 2025, www.dot.gov
8. Designation of large and small airlines for 2025 – CTA Update, January 8, 2025, www.cta-otc.gc.ca
9. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, November 2024, January 9, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca
10. Passenger Demand Up 8.1% in November, January 9, 2025, www.iata.org
11. Air Cargo Demand up 8.2% in November 2024 - 16th Month of Consecutive Growth, January 9, 2025, www.iata.org
12. October 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 0.2% from the Same Month Last Year, January 10, 2025, www.bts.gov
13. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 1) – 2025, January 10, 2025, www.ajot.com
14. Porter secures sale and leaseback with Avolon for four Pratt & Whitney PW1921G engines, January 13, 2025, www.flyporter.com
15. U.S. Airlines' November 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon up 0.9% from October 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 3.3% from Pre-Pandemic November 2019, January 13, 2025, www.bts.gov
16. Jet set to Mexico City: WestJet's new non-stop Calgary route set to take off in summer 2025, January 14, 2025, www.ajot.com
17. Third Quarter 2024 Average Air Fare

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

For one Ottawa family, it was a travel nightmare after a much-needed getaway during the holidays. WestJet is apologizing for the disruptions and says the initial delay was due to customs issues. "We sincerely apologize to guests travelling on WS2171 for the inconvenience they experienced on their recent travel journey from Liberia to Toronto. We can confirm that WS2171 was initially delayed on Saturday, December 28 by customs," the airline said in a statement to CTV News Ottawa.

5. US hits JetBlue with \$2 million penalty over chronic flight delays

The U.S. Transportation Department has imposed a \$2 million penalty on JetBlue Airways for operating four chronically delayed flights on domestic routes - the first time it has imposed such a fine on an airline for the prohibited scheduling practice. USDOT said on December 3, 2025 that as part of a consent agreement with the airline, JetBlue will pay a \$1 million fine and the remainder will go to compensate customers affected by its chronic delays or any future disruptions within the next year. As part of the settlement, JetBlue has agreed to provide vouchers worth a minimum of \$75 for passengers for future flight cancellations or delays of three hours or more caused by the airline within the next year. JetBlue, which did not immediately comment, told USDOT it did not admit liability but agreed to settle to avoid the expense and uncertainty of litigation.

6. GOAL Aircraft Leasing and Porter Airlines complete Sale and Leaseback Agreement for Two new Embraer E195-E2 Aircraft

GOAL Aircraft Leasing (GOAL), a leading aircraft leasing and asset management company, has completed a successful sale and leaseback agreement with Porter Airlines for two (2) Embraer E195-E2 aircraft. The aircraft will be operated by Porter Airlines under long-term lease agreements. This transaction underscores GOAL's expertise in structuring customized leasing solutions that align with the operational and financial strategies of leading airlines. The sale and leaseback arrangement enables Porter Airlines to leverage the operational efficiencies of the next-generation Embraer E195-E2 aircraft while optimizing their capital allocation.

7. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$332 Million in Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Airports in 32 States

On January 8, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced more than \$332 million for 171 grants across 32 states to modernize airports through the Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program. In total, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$25 billion over five years for airport and air traffic control infrastructure improvements. The AIG funds can be used for airport planning, development, sustainability, terminal expansions, baggage system upgrades, runway safety enhancements, and noise compatibility projects.

8. Designation of large and small airlines for 2025 – CTA Update

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has updated the list of large and small airlines for 2025. According to the *Air Passenger Protection Regulations*, large airlines are those that have carried more than two million passengers in each of the two preceding years. All other airlines are considered small. This designation has an impact on the requirements that apply to airlines. Specifically for small airlines, these requirements will be different with regards to: 1. Compensation; 2. Rebooking; and 3. Refunds. Further details are provided on the CTA website.

9. Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports, November 2024

In November 2024, 4.4 million passengers passed through pre-board security screening at checkpoints operated at Canada's eight largest airports, 6.5% higher than in November 2023 and 7.3% above the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level in November 2019. In November 2024, *domestic* screened passenger traffic was 9.0% higher than in November 2023, with all airports posting increases. In November 2024, *all of Canada's eight largest* airports experienced higher year-over-year total screened passenger volumes.

10. Passenger Demand Up 8.1% in November

Decreases 4.6% from Second Quarter 2024, January 14, 2025, www.bts.gov

18. DOT Sues Southwest Airlines for Chronically Delayed Flights, January 15, 2025, www.dot.gov

19. Air Travel Consumer Report: October 2024 Numbers, January 16, 2025, www.dot.gov

20. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 14,163 Jobs in November 2024, January 15, 2025, www.bts.gov

21. Annual civil aviation statistics, 2023, January 17, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca

22. WestJet penalized for violations of the APPR and ATPDR, January 17, 2025, www.westjet.ca

23. Air Canada Named One of Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2025 for the Second Consecutive Year, January 21, 2025, www.aircanada.ca

24. IATA World Legal Symposium: Beyond the Chicago Convention, January 23, 2025, www.iata.org

25. Porter Airlines boosts New York presence with new LaGuardia service, January 27, 2025, www.flypoter.com

26. Minister of Transport announces the Pickering Lands will not be used for a future airport site, January 27, 2025, www.tc.gc.ca

27. Porter expands in Ottawa with new Victoria service, January 28, 2025, www.flyporter.com

28. Porter Airlines, BMO and Mastercard Accelerate Canadians' Travel Rewards Journey with New Credit Card Program, January 29, 2025, www.flyporter.com

29. Global Air Cargo Demand Achieves Record Growth in 2024, January 29, 2025, www.iata.org

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for November 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: 1. *Total demand*, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 8.1% compared to November 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 5.7% year-on-year. The November load factor was 83.4% (+1.9 ppt compared to November 2023), an all-time high for November. 2. *International demand* rose 11.6% compared to November 2023. Capacity was up 8.6% year-on-year, and the load factor was 83.4% (+2.3 ppt compared to November 2023). Strong performance by carriers in Europe and Asia-Pacific drove this double-digit expansion in demand. 3. *Domestic demand* rose 3.1% compared to November 2023. Capacity was up 1.5% year-on-year and the load factor was 83.5% (+1.2 ppt compared to November 2023).

11. Air Cargo Demand up 8.2% in November 2024 - 16th Month of Consecutive Growth

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for November 2024 global air cargo markets showing: 1. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTK), rose by 8.2% compared to November 2023 levels (9.5% for international operations) for a 16th consecutive month of growth. 2. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTK), increased by 4.6% compared to November 2023 (6.5% for international operations). "It was a good November for air cargo with 8.2% demand growth nearly doubling the 4.6% growth in cargo capacity. Fuel costs tracked at 22% below previous-year levels and tight market conditions supported yield growth at 7.8%.

12. October 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 0.2% from the Same Month Last Year

U.S. airlines carried 82.8 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in October 2024, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, October enplanements are down 0.6% from September and down 2.5% from the all-time high reached in June 2024. BTS reported 73.1 million domestic passengers and 9.8 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in October 2024, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS.

13. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 1) - 2025

Worldwide air cargo finished the year at its lowest year-on-year full-month growth, with global tonnages in December around +6% higher than in the final month of 2023, although they were already at relatively high levels back then. Average full-market rates in December were around +7% higher, year on year (YoY), which is half of the growth reported in September, according to the latest figures and analysis by WorldACD Market Data. This means tonnage growth for both November (+8%) and December (+6%) had softened to single-digit figures, possibly indicating the beginning of a new more moderate growth trend. This does not come as a surprise, because Q4 was the first quarter of 2023 showing strong growth, so we are now comparing with a higher base. Total worldwide air cargo tonnages at the start of 2025 recorded only +2% YoY growth in week 1 (30 December to 5 January), although a comparison with the previous year is less straightforward due to the seasonal drop this time of the year, as well as the impact of some severe weather conditions, mainly in the US.

14. Porter secures sale and leaseback with Avolon for four Pratt & Whitney PW1921G engines

Porter Aviation Holdings Inc.'s (Porter) wholly-owned subsidiary, Porter Aircraft Leasing Corp., has entered into sale and leaseback financing agreements for four Pratt & Whitney PW1921G engines with Avolon, the international aircraft leasing company. Porter is expected to receive the engines in 2025 and 2026, as part of its ongoing Embraer E195-E2 aircraft deliveries.

15. U.S. Airlines' November 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon up 0.9% from October 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 3.3% from Pre-Pandemic November 2019

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on January 13, 2025 released U.S. airlines' November 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.492 billion gallons of fuel, 5.4% less fuel than in October 2024 (1.577 billion gallons) and 3.3% more than in pre-pandemic November 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in November 2024 (\$2.31) was up 2 cents (0.9%) from October 2024 (\$2.29) and up \$0.32 (16.1%) from November 2019. Total November 2024 fuel expenditure (\$3.44B) was down 4.5% from October 2024 (\$3.61B) and up 20.0% from pre-pandemic November 2019.

16. Jet set to Mexico City: WestJet's new non-stop Calgary route set to take off in summer 2025

WestJet on January 14, 2025 announced non-stop service between Calgary and Mexico City International Airport (MEX). Beginning May 14, 2025, WestJet will operate five weekly flights, reaffirming its leadership as the top carrier connecting Canada and Mexico, while reinforcing Calgary's position as a key hub for the airline's global network. Daniel Fajardo, WestJet, Vice-President of Network and Schedule Planning. "WestJet's continued investment in popular sun destinations had made us the gateway between Canada and Mexico, bolstering both countries vital commercial and tourism economies. Service between Calgary and Mexico City opens the door for more Western Canadians to explore Mexico's vibrant culture and history, while boosting trade and tourism across North America."

17. Third Quarter 2024 Average Air Fare Decreases 4.6% from Second Quarter 2024

The average U.S. domestic air fare decreased in the third quarter of 2024 to \$366, down 4.6% from the second quarter 2024 inflation-adjusted fare of \$383.

18. DOT Sues Southwest Airlines for Chronically Delayed Flights

On January 15, 2025, the United States and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a lawsuit against Southwest Airlines for illegally operating multiple chronically delayed flights and disrupting passengers' travel. Operating chronically delayed flights is an unrealistic scheduling practice and can harm both passengers and fair competition across the airline industry. DOT's lawsuit against Southwest seeks maximum civil penalties. DOT's lawsuit alleges that Southwest's chronic flight delays were an illegal unrealistic scheduling practice.

19. Air Travel Consumer Report: October 2024 Numbers

Air Travel consumer report for October 2024 was released on January 2025. *Flight Operations:* The 649,969 flights operated in October 2024 were 102.62% of the 633,349 flights operated in October 2023. Operated flights in October 2024 were up 2.62% year-over-year from the 633,349 flights operated in October 2023 and up 5.18% month-over-month from 617,979 flights operated in September 2024. *On-Time Arrival:* In October 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an on-time arrival rate of 86.0%, up from 84.0% in September 2024 and up from 84.1% in October 2023. The year-to-date on-time arrival rate for 2024 is 77.4%. *Flight Cancellations:* In October 2024, reporting marketing carriers cancelled 1.0% of their scheduled domestic flights, higher than the rate of 0.6% in September 2024 and higher than the rate of 0.3% in October 2023. The year-to-date cancellation rate for 2024 is 1.5%. *Mishandled Baggage:* In October 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 40.4 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.38%, lower than both the rate of 0.42% in September 2024 and the rate of 0.44% in October 2023. *Mishandled Wheelchairs and Scooters:* In October 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 81,367 wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling 954 for a rate of 1.17% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, higher than the rate of 1.11% mishandled in September 2024 and lower than the rate of 1.33% mishandled in October 2023.

20. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Gained 14,163 Jobs in November 2024

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 1,035,476 workers in November 2024, 14,163 (1.39%) more workers than in October 2024 (1,021,313). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 543,877 workers in November 2024, or 53% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines lost 828 employees in November 2024. United Air Lines Inc. led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 248 employees; Republic Airline added 125, and Allegiant Air added 109. U.S. cargo airlines employed 487,667 workers in November 2024, or 47% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers gained 15,288 employees in November. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 15,185 jobs.

21. Annual civil aviation statistics, 2023

In 2023, Canadian air carriers transported 89.8 million passengers, representing 95.4% of the passengers flown in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Operating revenue earned by Canadian air carriers totalled \$36.0 billion in 2023, a 32.3% increase from 2022. In 2023, Canadian airlines recorded profits for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Net operating income stood at \$3.2 billion, nearly one-and-a-half times the \$2.2 billion in profits earned in 2019. Total operating revenue generated by Level I to III Canadian air carriers in 2023 (\$36.0 billion) was 22.1% higher than that in 2019. In 2023, passenger revenue reached \$31.1 billion, up 39.4% from 2022, representing 86.2% of total operating revenue. Cargo revenue fell 11.1% from 2022 to \$2.3 billion in 2023 and accounted for 6.4% of total operating revenue, which is within the 5% to 7% range of operating revenue observed prior to the pandemic. In 2023, operating expenses reached \$32.9 billion, up by nearly one-fifth (+19.8%) from 2022.

22. WestJet penalized for violations of the APPR and ATPDR

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) on January 17, 2025 issued administrative monetary penalties totaling \$146,300 against WestJet for violations of the Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR). On March 2, 2024, a WestJet flight destined for Palm Springs was diverted to Los Angeles. WestJet failed to provide the required alternate travel arrangements and communicate the required information to passengers who were affected by the cancellation. The airline was also penalized in the amount of \$50,000 for a violation of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR). Specifically, on February 22, 2024, WestJet failed to accept a service dog for transportation and permit the animal to accompany the person on board, on the request of a person with a disability. These contraventions relate to subsections 13(5), and 18(1) of the APPR, and subsection 51(1) of the ATPDR.

23. Air Canada Named One of Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2025 for the Second Consecutive Year

Air Canada has been recognized for the second consecutive year as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2025 by Mediacorp. This respected award reflects the company's commitment to creating opportunities for young people to flourish and establish themselves as the leaders of tomorrow. Air Canada offers paid internship programs in a variety of disciplines with numerous professional development opportunities, including access to a range of online learning videos. "We are thrilled to be recognized as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People again this year..." said Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer and Public Affairs at Air Canada.

24. IATA World Legal Symposium: Beyond the Chicago Convention

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the 2025 edition of the World Legal Symposium (WLS) will examine the legal implications of evolving forces shaping aviation, many of which were not envisioned in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) signed in 1944. These include the use of artificial intelligence (AI), alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods, cybersecurity, and the proliferation of privacy and consumer protection regulations. “Having just marked the 80th anniversary of aviation’s foundational document, the Chicago Convention, it’s appropriate for the aviation legal community to review how it has withstood the test of time. Over that time, aviation has evolved into a safe, global mass transportation system on which over five billion passengers will rely in 2025. That speaks volumes about the importance of effective global standards which underpinned this growth and transformation.

25. Porter Airlines boosts New York presence with new LaGuardia service

Porter Airlines is expanding its footprint in New York with the launch of new year-round service to LaGuardia Airport (LGA). Starting May 1, 2025, up to three daily roundtrip flights will operate between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and LaGuardia.

26. Minister of Transport announces the Pickering Lands will not be used for a future airport site

On January 27, 2025, the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Anita Anand, announced that the Pickering Lands will not be used for a future airport site. The Government of Canada intends to transfer the high conservation value lands to Parks Canada. In 1972, the Government of Canada acquired 75 km² (18,600 acres) of land, 56 kilometers northeast of downtown Toronto, known as the Pickering Lands, to develop a new airport. In 1975, this plan was put on hold in favour of expanding existing airports. Properties on the Pickering Lands have been leased by the government to residential, farm and commercial tenants since then. A formal consultation process, including with existing tenants, Indigenous communities, and the public, will be launched in the coming weeks on future uses of the lands. These consultations will be critical to determining the path forward.

27. Porter expands in Ottawa with new Victoria service

Porter Airlines’ Ottawa network continues to grow with the addition of a new nonstop route to Western Canada. Starting May 15, 2025, service between Ottawa International Airport (YOW) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ) will operate for the summer season with up to four weekly roundtrip flights.

28. Porter Airlines, BMO and Mastercard Accelerate Canadians’ Travel Rewards Journey with New Credit Card Program

Porter Airlines, BMO and Mastercard are partnering to accelerate Canadians’ travel rewards journey. A new BMO VIPorter Mastercard suite will be available to Canadians in spring 2025. Driven by a shared commitment to exceed customer expectations around service and customer loyalty, this collaboration will provide enhanced travel benefits for cardholders, enabling them to enjoy additional rewards at every step of their journey.

29. Global Air Cargo Demand Achieves Record Growth in 2024

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for full year 2024 and December 2024 global air cargo market performance showing: 1. Full-year demand for 2024, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTK), increased 11.3% (12.2% for international operations) compared to 2023. Full-year 2024 demand exceeded the record volumes set in 2021. 2. Full-year capacity in 2024, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTK), increased by 7.4% compared to 2023 (9.6% for international operations). 3. Full-year yields averaged 1.6% lower than 2023 but 39% higher than in 2019. 4. December 2024 brought the year to a close with continued strong performance. Global demand was 6.1% above December 2023 levels (7.0% for international operations). Global capacity was 3.7% above December 2023 levels (5.2% for international operations). Cargo yields were 6.6% higher than December 2023 (and 53.4% higher than in December 2019).

WATER TRANSPORTATION

.1. Second attempt to free ship stranded in St. Lawrence River set for Sunday

The bulk carrier MV Maccoa ran aground near Vercheres, Que., in the early hours of Dec. 24, 2024 following a power failure. A tugboat tried to release the MV Maccoa after it ran aground in the St. Lawrence River in Vercheres, Que., Friday, Dec. 27, 2024. A second attempt to free a ship stuck in the St. Lawrence River northeast of Montreal won’t take place until December 29, 2024. The Canadian Coast Guard says the owner of the MV Maccoa plans to unload more than 3,000 metric tons of corn to lighten the weight of the vessel.

WATER TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Second attempt to free ship stranded in St. Lawrence River set for Sunday, December 31, 2024, www.financialpost.ca
2. US LNG gas demand hits record high on last day of the year, December 31, 2024, www.ajot.com
3. CMA CGM delays US East Coast container surcharge, Jan 2, 2025, www.freightwaves.com
4. US East Coast dockworkers, employer group to restart talks next week, January 2,

The coast guard had said the operation could begin on Jan. 1, after a first attempt ended in failure last week, but the new plan is to start unloading the cargo on January 2, 2025 and then to try to re-float the ship.

2. US LNG gas demand hits record high on last day of the year

U.S. natural gas demand from LNG plants hit a record on December 31, 2024, the last day of the year, climbing to 15.2 billion cubic feet (bcf) in a sign of a strong year ahead from the startup of two new gas-processing plants, preliminary data from financial firm LSEG showed. U.S. natural gas demand for LNG plants is forecast to rise to 17.8 bcf next year with the commissioning of Venture Global LNG's 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) Plaquemines plant in Louisiana and Cheniere Energy's Corpus Christi Stage 3 expansion in Texas. Demand for natural gas by LNG export plants could spur higher production in the U.S. and increase prices at the country's main gas exchange in Louisiana, called Henry Hub, according to analysts. Gas prices were up 48 cents in midday trading on Tuesday, at \$3.94 per million cubic feet (mcf), according to LSEG data.

3. CMA CGM delays US East Coast container surcharge

Ocean container carrier CMA CGM is delaying a key U.S. surcharge, instead pairing implementation of two related surcharges later this month. On January 2, 2024, the French liner operator postponed from Jan. 1 to Jan. 15 a peak-season surcharge of \$1,500 per unit on cargo moving from the Indian subcontinent, Middle East Gulf region, Red Sea and Egypt to the U.S. East and Gulf coasts. While peak season surcharges aren't unusual, the postponement follows a report by FreightWaves that negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) on a new pact are expected to resume shortly. While neither side has officially confirmed a resumption of bargaining, sources said the parties have been talking informally since the ILA pulled out of negotiations in November 2024.

4. US East Coast dockworkers, employer group to restart talks next week

The International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) are set to resume contract talks on Jan. 7, 2025 according to a person familiar with the matter. Talks between the ILA, which represents more than 45,000 dockworkers across the U.S. East and Gulf coast ports, and the employer group are at an impasse over issues related to automation at port terminals. Both parties signed a tentative deal in October 2024, which gave workers a 62% wage hike over six years, to end a three-day strike but left issues related to automation unresolved. Another coast-wide strike at U.S. East and Gulf coast ports looms large if an agreement is not reached before Jan. 15, 2025 which will not only halt billions in trade but also raise inflationary pressures and threaten existing supply chains.

5. US port labor talks resume with spotlight on automation

Contract talks covering 45,000 dockworkers on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts are set to restart on January 7, 2025 in a labor dispute that will help set the pace of automation at ports stretching from Maine to Texas. The International Longshoremen's Association wants to eliminate past labor contract concessions on automation - notably the use of semi-automated cranes that stack containers on docks - arguing they pose a threat to jobs. The United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) employer group, meanwhile, argues those rail-mounted gantry cranes are key to remaining competitive as ports, most notably in China, lead the way on automation. If the two sides do not reach a deal by Jan. 15, 2025 workers at container ports that handle more than half of U.S. ocean imports could start a strike just days before President-elect Donald Trump's Jan. 20, 2025 inauguration. A three-day strike by the ILA last October triggered a spike in shipping prices and cargo backlogs at the 36 affected ports. The union and employers, which have issued dueling

2024, www.ajot.com

5. US port labor talks resume with spotlight on automation, January 6, 2025, www.ajot.com

6. Cargo ship stuck in St. Lawrence Seaway since Christmas successfully refloated, January 7, 2025, www.financialpost.ca

7. DP World partners with Gemini Cooperation to strengthen Canadian cargo operations, January 7, 2025, www.ajot.com

8. New Port of Vancouver navigation aids to enhance marine traffic safety and fluidity in eastern Burrard Inlet, January 8, 2025, www.portmetrovanancouver.com

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13. US ports urge Trump, Congress to keep funds in place but tariffs at bay, January 15, 2025, www.joc.com

14. China's 'predatory' maritime policies threaten global trade: White House, January 16, 2025, www.joc.com

15. Port of Montreal Activities 'Back to Normal', Jan. 20, 2025, www.railwayage.com

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18. Port of Long Beach's Cordero hails 'Green Port' achievements, January 20, 2025, www.ajot.com

19. Container sector bullish after stellar 2024, but downside risks could prompt 2025 slowdown, January 21, 2025, www.ajot.com

20. Southern California ports ready to defend green initiatives from Trump White House, January 22, 2025, www.joc.com

21. US says China pressed unfair advantages to dominate shipping, shipbuilding, January 23, 2025, www.freightwaves.com

22. Port of Los Angeles processed 10.3 million TEUs in 2024, January 24, 2025, www.ajot.com

23. Shipping Nations must switch to cleaner fuels to cut black carbon pollution, January 24, 2025, www.ajot.com

24. Canada welcomes the arrival of the *MV Northumberland*, Jan. 27, 2025, www.tc.gc.ca

25. Port Houston record-breaking volume in 2024, January 27, 2025, www.ajot.com

26. Port of Corpus Christi customers close 2024 with record numbers, January 27, 2025, www.ajot.com

27. FMC chair questions 'level playing field' in Panama Canal operations, January 28, 2025,

statements in recent weeks, did not comment separately for this article.

6. Cargo ship stuck in St. Lawrence Seaway since Christmas successfully refloated

A ship that had been stuck in the St. Lawrence River northeast of Montreal since Christmas Eve was successfully refloated on January 7, 2025. The

The Canadian Coast Guard says the MV Maccoa has been escorted by tugboats to a dock at Sorel-Tracy, Que. The coast guard announced earlier in the day that a second attempt to refloat the ship was slated to begin at 8 a.m. A global marine traffic website on January 7, 2025 morning showed three tugboats surrounding the Cyprus-flagged 185-metre bulk carrier, which ran aground in the early hours of Dec. 24 near Vercheres, Que., after a power failure.

7. DP World partners with Gemini Cooperation to strengthen Canadian cargo operations

DP World, a global leader in logistics and supply chain solutions, announces a new partnership with the Gemini Cooperation to enhance cargo operations throughout Canada. Beginning in February 2025, DP World will introduce several new container services at its terminals at the Port of Vancouver, Port of Prince Rupert and Port Saint John. The agreement with the new Gemini Cooperation between Maersk A/S and Hapag-Lloyd AG will allow DP World to present additional options for cargo loading and discharge in Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Saint John. By leveraging its network of terminals across Canada, DP World can provide enhanced resilience in the event of disruption. This collaboration will strengthen trade connections between Asia, Europe, and North America. Vancouver and Prince Rupert will handle key shipping services to and from Asia, while Saint John will manage services connecting to Northern Europe.

8. New Port of Vancouver navigation aids to enhance marine traffic safety and fluidity in eastern Burrard Inlet

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has commissioned the installation of new navigation aids in eastern Burrard Inlet that will enable safer and more efficient ship movements through the busy Second Narrows waterway. This work includes installing two solar-powered range lights and a sector light off Berry Point, and illuminating the pillars of the Second Narrows Rail Bridge. Installation will start mid-January and is scheduled to be completed in the spring, with the navigation aids expected to be turned on and trialed by the Pacific Pilotage Authority and BC Coast Pilots starting late-April. “The new navigation aids will enhance marine safety and offer ship operators moving through the Second Narrows and terminals located in eastern Burrard Inlet more flexibility in their scheduling—in line with our role as a Canada Port Authority to oversee the safe and efficient movement of goods and vessels on port waters,” said Sean Baxter, the port authority’s Acting Director of Marine Operations and Harbour Master. “They will also boost efficiency and fluidity by allowing nighttime eastbound transits for larger ships—increasing the transit windows available for cargo vessels to move through the Second Narrows traffic control zone by up to 38%.”

9. ILA, USMX reach tentative deal that avoids another port strike

The International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) on late Wednesday, January 8, 2025 said they have reached a tentative agreement on a new master contract that covers ports from Maine to Texas. While the deal needs approval from ILA locals and USMX members, it avoids another port strike and ensures shippers of labor peace along the US East and Gulf coasts for the next six years. The ILA and the USMX said in separate statements the agreement includes language that covers the contentious issue of port automation and new technologies. The deal was reached a week before a Jan. 15, 2025 strike deadline that was set in October 2024 at the end of the three-day ILA strike that was settled with an agreement on wages.

10. Vancouver braces for congestion, high rail dwells through January

Port of Vancouver stakeholders expect they will have to navigate at least three more weeks of congestion as Canada’s largest port works to clear a backlog of rail containers that built up in December 2024. A confluence of factors — including vessel bunching at Asian load ports, a pre-Lunar New Year cargo surge, a strike by dockworker foremen in November 2024 and shorter trains due to winter operating conditions — combined to cause congestion at the port and reduce Vancouver’s railcar availability last month. As a result, the average rail container dwell time at the port’s four container terminals spiked to 6.9 days in December 2024, the highest since, last March 2024.

11. Cosco forecasts 95% jump in 2024 net profit on robust volumes, freight rates

Cosco Shipping Holdings, the parent of Cosco Shipping and OOCL, on January 10, 2025 said it expects \$7.5 billion in net profit for 2024, a 95% year-over-year jump that the carrier attributed to an increase in volumes and higher freight rates. While Cosco did not provide the volume or revenue figures in its estimated annual results, the China state-owned carrier noted in an announcement to the Hong Kong Exchange that the Red Sea diversions had caused a shortage in capacity and kept rates at “a relatively high level.”

12. Ocean Alliance network to grow trans-Pacific, Asia-Europe coverage

The Ocean Alliance of COSCO Shipping, OOCL, Evergreen Line and CMA CGM has unveiled its new shipping network, expanding direct coverage of both the Asia-Europe and trans-Pacific trades from April. “They [Ocean Alliance] are clearly increasing capacity,” Stefan Verberckmoes, senior analyst at Alphaliner, told the *Journal of*

www.joc.com

28. Port Houston record-breaking volume in 2024, January 28, 2025, www.ajot.com

29. Americold adding Port Saint John warehouse as part of CPKC alliance, January 29, 2025, www.joc.com

Commerce on January 13, 2025. Ocean Alliance's so-called "Day 9" product was announced by member carrier OOCL on the same day and will comprise 41 service loops and 390 vessels. Three new services will be introduced: the trans-Pacific PSX from Xiamen and Yantian to Long Beach and back via Kaohsiung; the PNW5 from Ningbo and Shanghai to Tacoma and...

13. US ports urge Trump, Congress to keep funds in place but tariffs at bay

US ports on January 15, 2025 laid out legislative priorities for the incoming Trump administration and new Congress that include continued federal spending for maritime transportation and navigation. While many of the priorities of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) align with the president-elect's campaign pledges, issues such as tariffs and clean energy funding at ports may face more challenges. AAPA said it met with Trump's transition team and US Department of Transportation nominee Sean Duffy to discuss its policy agenda for 2025. Among the group's asks are permitting reform, easing restrictions on liquefied natural gas (LNG) development and reducing restrictions. Ports have used the Biden administration's clean energy funding for switching out diesel-powered infrastructure for electric charging infrastructure.

14. China's 'predatory' maritime policies threaten global trade: White House

China's manipulation of market policies and practices gives the country an unfair advantage in global trade, including control of 95% of the world's shipping containers, according to a new White House report. "China's so-called 'socialist market economy' has evolved and turned decidedly predatory in nature," said the report, released by the Biden administration on January 15, 2025. Maritime trade is particularly impacted by China's business practices, which have resulted in a boom for the country's shipbuilding market, said the report. While Chinese shipbuilders contributed only 5% of global merchant tonnage produced in 1999, that figure leapt to over 50% in 2023.

15. Port of Montreal Activities 'Back to Normal'

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) on Jan. 16, 2025 reported that all Port of Montreal activities are "back to normal" after fully resuming two months ago as directed by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB). Canadian Minister of Labor Steven MacKinnon on Nov. 12, 2024, moved to intervene in port labor disputes in Montreal, Vancouver, and Quebec City by asking the CIRB to order an end to work stoppages and impose binding arbitration.

16. Port of Prince Rupert Moved 23.1 Million Tonnes of Cargo in 2024 Amid Historic Expansion Phase

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) announced on January 20, 2025 that 23.1 million tonnes of cargo moved through the Port of Prince Rupert in 2024, reflecting a one percent decline compared to 2023. Intermodal volumes at DP World Prince Rupert's Fairview Container Terminal rose five percent year-over-year. Performance was impacted by the realignment of carriers' transpacific trade routes, two labour disruptions, and the brief suspension of rail service due to wildfire that paused terminal operations. Strong demand for western Canadian energy products saw AltaGas' Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal ship 2.3 million tonnes of liquified petroleum gas (LPG), representing a 15 percent increase year-over-year. Pembina's Watson Island LPG Bulk Terminal handled 502,800 tonnes. Drax's Westview Wood Pellet Terminal shipped 1.2 million tonnes of biofuel to markets in Europe and Asia. Following a strong crop year, Prince Rupert Grain Terminal saw a 26 percent increase in exports, handling over 4.5 million tonnes of western Canadian agricultural products. Total coal export volumes fell 23 percent at Trigon Pacific Terminals, with metallurgical and thermal coal exports down 29 and 22 percent. Cruise passenger volumes decreased 27 percent compared to 2023, with over 59,400 cruise passengers transiting through Prince Rupert in 2024.

17. Ocean rates could fall as Houthis say they will end Red Sea attacks

Yemen's Houthi rebels said they will cease attacks on Israel and on merchant shipping in the Red Sea as a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on January 19, 2025. "If Israel stops the aggression in Gaza, and if the U.S., UK and Israel stop the aggression against Yemen, the Houthis will stop their operations, including attacks against navies and commercial ships," Houthi spokesperson Mohammed al-Bukhaiti told Arab news service Al Jazeera on January 18, 2025. The ceasefire began over the weekend with an exchange of Israeli hostages from Gaza and Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. Later phases will include the withdrawal of Israel from Gaza. If this happens ocean rates are expected to fall.

18. Port of Long Beach's Cordero hails 'Green Port' achievements

Port of Long Beach Executive Director Mario Cordero heralded the twentieth anniversary of the Port's Green Port program which has resulted in major reductions in truck, cargo-handling equipment, and ship emissions that were achieved at the same time as record container volume growth. Speaking to an audience of over 900 people at the Long Beach Convention Center, Cordero said: "Our state of our Port is getting greener serving as a model for the maritime industry. This is the true narrative for the stakeholders to have collaborated with us in the San Peter Bay Complex. Our policies and our programs are transforming this great love of maritime trade environmentally and operationally. Our operations are more efficient and more sustainable even while our terminal operators and our dock workers are handling record cargo volumes."

19. Container sector bullish after stellar 2024, but downside risks could prompt 2025 slowdown

The time charter (TC) rates for Post Panamax container vessels rose by 111% year-on-year (y-o-y) in 2024, hitting 73,330 USD/Day, and has led to a huge uptick in newbuild orders and a slowdown in demolitions according to Veson Nautical's '2024 End- Of-Year-Report'. The report states that the bullish market conditions for the container sector are reflected in the TC rates as well as the 76% y-o-y increase in new ship orders which witnessed 321 deals including options, compared to 182 orders in 2023. "The container market experienced remarkable growth over the past year, driven by increased demand, rising earnings, and a robust asset value resurgence across all sectors," says Rebecca Galanopoulos, Senior Valuations & Analytics Analyst at Veson Nautical.

20. Southern California ports ready to defend green initiatives from Trump White House

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach will continue to implement their green port initiatives — some in place for two decades — should the Trump administration attempt to dilute or eliminate environmental programs at the federal or state levels, officials at both ports say. President Donald Trump wasted no time showing his distaste for green programs, signing an executive order just hours after taking office on January 20, 2025 that begins the process of removing the US from the Paris Agreement. Trump also pulled the US from the climate accord during his first term. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach say they have achieved significant cuts in emissions while handling record container volumes.

21. US says China pressed unfair advantages to dominate shipping, shipbuilding

China is leveraging unfair trade practices to dominate the global ocean shipping and shipbuilding markets, a U.S. investigation has found. The investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of unfair practices determined that China for decades has taken aim at specific industries by undercutting competition in order to command dominant market share. The results of the probe initiated in April 2024 were summarized in a report by the office of the United States trade representative.

22. Port of Los Angeles processed 10.3 million TEUs in 2024

At the Port of Los Angeles "State of the Port" Eugene Seroka, Executive Director, announced that "in 2024, the Port of Los Angeles moved 10.3 million TEUs. That is our second-best year in the 117-year history of the Port of Los Angeles ... and nearly a 20% increase in volume over 2023. In fact, we moved 1.7 million more TEUs than last year, which is the largest incremental gain we've ever seen." Seroka added that the Port "moved all that cargo efficiently and without a single ship backed up at sea." The "State of the Port" is produced by the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) and took place on January 23rd at the Port of Los Angeles with nearly 1,000 people in attendance. Seroka cited "Significant investments by our two great Western railroads, Union Pacific and BNSF, to efficiently accommodate increased cargo in and out of the San Pedro Bay."

23. Shipping Nations must switch to cleaner fuels to cut black carbon pollution

As a meeting of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Pollution Prevention and Response sub-committee gets underway next week in London, the Clean Arctic Alliance called for the international shipping body to reduce the impact on the Arctic from shipping's black carbon emissions, by urgently agreeing to regulation which will identify cleaner fuels more suitable for use in the region, and to immediately stop the release of scrubber discharge wastes in coastal, protected and sensitive areas.

24. Canada welcomes the arrival of the *MV Northumberland*

On January 27, 2025, the *MV Northumberland* (formerly the *MV Fanafjord*) arrived in Canada. This vessel will serve the Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island to Caribou, Nova Scotia route. The *MV Northumberland* was acquired by the Government of Canada as an interim solution to replace the former *MV Holiday Island*. The vessel will now undergo final refit work to prepare for service. This vessel allows for a safe and reliable two-vessel service between Woods Islands, Prince Edward Island, and Caribou, Nova Scotia. The *MV Northumberland* is expected to be ready for service for the beginning of the 2025 operating season.

25. Port Houston record-breaking volume in 2024

Port Houston is celebrating a landmark year, achieving a record-breaking 53,066,219 million tons of cargo in 2024, up 6% over 2023 at the public terminals. Container volume rose 8%. This milestone demonstrates Port Houston's critical role in moving cargo and driving economic prosperity for Houston, the region, and the nation. The overall port, which includes 200 private and eight public marine terminals, is the nation's largest in tonnage and deep-water transits. Container volumes at Port Houston surged 8% in 2024 as compared to 2023, reaching a remarkable 4,139,991 TEUs—also a record for the Port. December capped off this success with a 4% year-over-year increase in total container volumes, totalling 340,418 TEUs.

26. Port of Corpus Christi customers close 2024 with record numbers

The Port of Corpus Christi and its customers moved 206.5 million tons through the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in 2024, a new high mark driven by increases in crude oil and dry bulk commodities, including agricultural products. Port customers also ended 2024 with record quarterly tonnage (54 million tons) in Q4 2024 – a 4.3 percent increase over the

same period last year and a 1.9 percent increase from the previous quarterly record (Q3 2024). Leading commodities in Q4 2024 included crude oil, refined products and liquefied natural gas. For the year, crude oil shipments increased 3.5 percent over 2023 to 130.5 million tons, while dry bulk and agricultural goods increased 8.1 percent and 38.7 percent, respectively. The new annual tonnage record is 1.7 percent higher than the previous record set in 2023, marking the seventh consecutive record year set by Port of Corpus Christi customers.

27. FMC chair questions ‘level playing field’ in Panama Canal operations

The Panamanian government, in response to Donald Trump’s recent ire about China’s presence at the canal, launched an audit of Hutchison Port Holdings’ offices there last week. The new head of the US Federal Maritime Commission on January 28, 2025 told a Senate hearing he questions whether a Hong Kong-based terminal operator that runs ports on both ends of the Panama Canal was contributing revenue to the Panamanian government like other terminal operators do. The comments by FMC Chairman Louis Sola come amid rising US scrutiny of Chinese influence over the canal.

28. Port Houston record-breaking volume in 2024

Port Houston is celebrating a landmark year, achieving a record-breaking 53,066,219 million tons of cargo in 2024, up 6% over 2023 at the public terminals. Container volume rose 8%. This milestone demonstrates Port Houston’s critical role in moving cargo and driving economic prosperity for Houston, the region, and the nation. The overall port, which includes 200 private and eight public marine terminals, is the nation’s largest in tonnage and deep-water transits. Container volumes at Port Houston surged 8% in 2024 as compared to 2023, reaching a remarkable 4,139,991 TEUs—also a record for the Port. December capped off this success with a 4% year-over-year increase in total container volumes, totaling 340,418 TEUs. Loaded exports surged 12% in December to 135,446 TEUs, driven by robust shipments of resin, chemicals, rubber, and textiles and were up 8% for the year. Loaded imports were down 1% in December but up 6% for the year overall, supported by strong demand for consumer goods in what is considered one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Notably, refrigerated cargo imports at Port Houston were up 15% this year.

29. Americold adding Port Saint John warehouse as part of CPKC alliance

Americold Realty Trust plans to build a cold-storage warehouse near Port Saint John in New Brunswick, Canada, its first import-export hub under its ongoing partnership with Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) to expand intermodal reefer throughout North America. Americold said on January 29, 2025 that it plans to spend between US\$75 million and \$80 million on a warehouse that can handle up to 22,000 pallets, approximating 300,000 square feet of space. The company said the warehouse will handle refrigerated cargoes between the DP World container terminal at Port St. John and CPKC.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. International intermodal market enters “constrained” 2025: analyst

The US intermodal system has handled the extended peak season surge reasonably well, without experiencing the service disruptions that were widespread during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year proved to be a strong but turbulent year for North American intermodal. The sector was the recipient of a potent stew of exterior events, some entirely foreseeable and others truly of the “black swan” variety. Overall activity was up significantly, with North American intermodal originations growing 7.5% year over year through the first week of December 2024, according to data from the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The horsepower behind the gain came from the international side of the market. In the first 10 months of 2024, North American revenue movements of ISO containers jumped 15% above the year before.

2. Reasons to Load Up on Canadian National Railway Stock

Canadian National Railway is a powerful player in the Canadian stock market and an exceptional opportunity for investors looking to build long-term wealth. Because of the recent pullback in the stock, now may be the perfect time to buy this [blue-chip stock](#). Here’s why you shouldn’t hesitate to invest in CN Rail today. Three major reasons for the optimism are; 1. Reliable long-term returns; 2. Resilient earnings and strong growth potential; and 3. A health dividend that grows over time.

3. AAR: U.S. Rail Volume Up for 2024

For the 52-week period ending Dec. 28, 2024, total U.S. rail traffic of 25,178,586 carloads and intermodal units was up 3.4% from same point in

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. intermodal market enters “constrained” 2025: analyst, December 27, 2024, www.joc.com
2. Reasons to Load Up on Canadian National Railway Stock, January 2, 2024, www.finance.yahoo.com
3. AAR: U.S. Rail Volume Up for 2024, January 5, 2025, www.railwayage.com
4. CN to Report Fourth-Quarter and Full-Year 2024 Financial and Operating Results on January 30, 2025, January 6, 2025, www.cn.ca
5. BNSF: Intermodal Metrics ‘Showing Signs of Recovery’, Jan. 6, 2025, www.railwayage.com
6. CPKC Automotive Closed-Loop, January 7, 2025, www.railwayage.com
7. CPKC to report fourth-quarter and full-year 2024 results on Jan. 29, 2025, January 8, 2025, www.cpkc.ca
8. AAR: Carloads Down, Intermodal Up in First Week of 2025, January 8, 2025, www.railwayage.com; and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending January 04, 2025, January 8, 2025, www.ajot.com
9. At TRB: How high-tech mapping can grow intermodal, and a data reality check, January 9, 2025, www.freightwaves.com
10. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$1.1 Billion in New Rail Grants to Reduce Train-Vehicle Collisions and Blocked Railroad Crossings,

2023, according to the Association of American Railroads (AAR). This is based on intermodal gains (up 9.3% to 13,842,174 units) compensating for carload losses (down 2.9% to 11,336,412 units). Total carloads for the week ending December 28 were 184,028 carloads, up 1.1 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 205,672 containers and trailers, up 9.0 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included miscellaneous carloads, up 2,130 carloads, to 7,448; grain, up 1,727 carloads, to 19,478; and nonmetallic minerals, up 1,102 carloads, to 19,822. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included metallic ores and metals, down 1,732 carloads, to 16,265; coal, down 1,265 carloads, to 50,787; and forest products, down 485 carloads, to 7,214. North American rail volume for the week ending December 28, 2024, on 9 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 275,294 carloads, up 1.3 percent compared with the same week last year, and 266,932 intermodal units, up 4.1 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 542,226 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.6 percent. North American rail volume for the first 52 weeks of 2024 was 34,885,113 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.3 percent compared with 2023.

4. CN to Report Fourth-Quarter and Full-Year 2024 Financial and Operating Results on January 30, 2025

CN will issue its fourth-quarter and full-year 2024 financial and operating results after the market close on January 30, 2025. CN's senior officers will review the results and the railway's outlook in a conference call starting at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on January 30, 2025. Tracy Robinson, CN President and Chief Executive Officer, will lead the call. Parties wishing to participate via telephone may dial 1-800-715-9871 (Canada/U.S.), or 1-647-932-3411 (International), using 1405609 as the passcode. Participants are advised to dial in 10 minutes prior to the call.

5. BNSF: Intermodal Metrics 'Showing Signs of Recovery'

BNSF intermodal operating metrics for the week ending Dec. 31, 2025 declined, but the railroad said they "are showing signs of recovery, returning to pre-holiday levels with significant improvements in velocity.

6. CPKC Automotive Closed-Loop

How a concept became an innovative new service, thanks to synergies created by CPKC's transnational network. Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) predicted at its 2023 Investor Day that the then-newly formed single-line transnational railroad would by 2028 generate \$250 million of synergy revenue growth from its automotive business. "We'll hit that number in 2025, three years early," says Jonathan Wahba, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing. That quarter-billion dollars is a sizable chunk of the overall nearly \$800 million in merger synergies CPKC expected to achieve by fourth-quarter 2024.

7. CPKC to report fourth-quarter and full-year 2024 results on Jan. 29, 2025

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) will release its fourth-quarter and full-year 2024 financial and operating results after the market close on Jan. 29, 2025. CPKC will discuss its results with the financial community in a conference call beginning at 4:30 p.m. ET (2:30 p.m. MT) on Jan. 29, 2025.

8. AAR: Carloads Down, Intermodal Up in First Week of 2025

Total U.S. rail traffic for the week ending Jan. 4, 2024 (Week 1) was up 1.0% from the prior-year period, with intermodal gains offsetting carload losses, according to the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) latest report.

Total carloads were 198,500 carloads, down 4.6 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 222,910 containers and trailers, up 6.6 percent compared to 2024. Four of the 10 carload

January 10, 2025, www.dot.gov

11. AAR sees 'uncertainty' for US railroads in 2025, January 13, 2025, www.freightwaves.com

12. CN's Acquisition of Iowa Northern Approved by STB, January 14, 2025, www.cn.ca; and STB Green-Lights CN IANR Acquisition, January 14, 2025, www.railwayage.com

13. Made-in-Ontario rail cars supporting manufacturing jobs and economic prosperity in Thunder Bay, January 15, 2025, www.mto.gov.on.ca

14. CPKC workers vote to begin strike on Jan. 29, January 15, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com

15. For North American Rail Traffic, a Positive Start to 2025, January 15, 2025, www.railwayage.com

16. CN Launches New Medium Horsepower Hybrid Locomotive Pilot Project, January 16, 2025, www.cn.ca

17. INVESTING IN AMERICA: U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Celebrates Groundbreaking to Restore Passenger Rail to the Gulf Coast, January 23, 2025, www.dot.gov

18. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending January 18, January 22, 2025, www.ajot.com; and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 3, January 22, 2025, www.railwayage.com

19. Railway carloadings, November 2024, January 23, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca

20. U.S., Canadian Passenger Rail Stakeholders Partner on Preparedness, January 23, 2025, www.railwayage.com

21. CSX profit falls in Q4, January 25, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

22. Union Pacific profit up 7% in Q4, forecasts similar growth in 2025, January 25, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

23. CN braces for rail strike, January 26, 2025, www.freightwaves.com

24. CPKC reaches tentative collective agreement with Unifor, January 27, 2025, www.cpkc.ca

25. CPKC reaches tentative collective agreement with TCRC-MWED, January 28, 2025, www.cpkc.ca

26. Freight Rail Services Price Index, January 2025, January 28, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca

27. CN reaches tentative agreement with signals and communication workers, averts strike, Jan. 28, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com; and CN Reaches New Tentative Collective Agreement with IBEW, January 28, 2025, www.cn.ca

28. CPKC delivers strong fourth-quarter results; positioned to accelerate growth in 2025; and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declares dividend, January 29, 2025, www.cpkc.ca

29. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending January 25, 2025, January 29, 2025, www.ajot.com; and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 4, January 29, 2025, www.railwayage.com

30. Norfolk Southern beats profit estimates helped by cost cuts, insurance recovery, January 29, 2025, www.ajot.com

commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They included chemicals, up 2,664 carloads, to 31,747; petroleum and petroleum products, up 919 carloads, to 10,852; and forest products, up 156 carloads, to 8,006. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included coal, down 5,075 carloads, to 56,471; motor vehicles and parts, down 2,987 carloads, to 6,448; and metallic ores and metals, down 2,455 carloads, to 17,631. Canadian railroads reported 80,417 carloads for the week, down 6.1 percent, and 61,767 intermodal units, up 3.8 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first week of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 142,184 carloads, containers and trailers, down 2.0 percent.

9. At TRB: How high-tech mapping can grow intermodal, and a data reality check

Here's what supply chain stakeholders know for certain about intermodal transportation: It involves freight moving between air, land and sea. Beyond that, well, there are more questions than answers. The 104th annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board provided a fertile setting for more than 13,000 educators, regulators and private businesses to consider diversified research into how to get from here to there, and the elusive goal of making it all more efficient.

10. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$1.1 Billion in New Rail Grants to Reduce Train-Vehicle Collisions and Blocked Railroad Crossings

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on January 10, 2025 announced that it has awarded more than \$1.1 billion in Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program funding to 123 rail projects, improving or studying more than 1,000 highway-rail crossings nationwide. This announcement is the largest single investment in grade crossing safety in FRA's history. Combined with previous rail investments announced under the Biden-Harris Administration, FRA has now invested a historic \$48.5 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding in more than 445 rail projects across the country and Amtrak.

11. AAR sees 'uncertainty' for US railroads in 2025

The first word in the Association of American Railroad's annual Rail Industry Outlook is "uncertainty," as a slew of economic and policy issues weigh on the business in 2025. To further temper optimism, the report says that uncertainty is more pronounced amid cyclical factors and expectations for policy changes in the year ahead. "Potential shifts in fiscal policy, trade, immigration, taxation and regulatory frameworks — alongside evolving monetary policy from the Federal Reserve — are contributing to heightened economic uncertainty as we enter 2025," wrote Rand Ghayad, AAR chief economist and senior vice president of policy and economics, in the report. "The interplay between these policies will be critical in determining whether the labor market remains resilient enough to sustain consumer spending and support continued rail intermodal growth, as seen in 2024.

12. CN's Acquisition of Iowa Northern Approved by STB

CN is pleased to announce that the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) has approved CN's acquisition of Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR). The decision allows CN to combine IANR's 175 route miles with CN's nearly 20,000-mile rail network as early as February 13, 2025. A combined CN-IANR will offer single-line service to better connect grain, fertilizer, renewable fuels, and industrial markets to CN's North American network. Customers and local businesses along the IANR network will benefit from new optionality to respond to the needs of their existing markets and accelerate growth in new markets. Tracy Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said "We recognize and thank the STB for its commitment to a rigorous process that has yielded the right outcome. We look forward to welcoming the team at Iowa Northern Railway into our CN family of railroaders, and we are carefully preparing for a successful integration. We are excited to grow our network, offering customers, farmers and our supply chain partners with single-line access to new markets. This is an important step in our growth plan, reinforcing our commitment to providing customers with exceptional rail service and powering the economy."

13. Made-in-Ontario rail cars supporting manufacturing jobs and economic prosperity in Thunder Bay

The Ontario government is investing nearly \$500 million to refurbish 181 GO Transit bi-level rail coaches at the Alstom plant in Thunder Bay. This investment is part of the ongoing service expansion across the GO rail network and will support hundreds of manufacturing jobs and economic prosperity in northwestern Ontario.

14. CPKC workers vote to begin strike on Jan. 29

Unifor members at Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railway have voted 99% in favor of a strike mandate, authorizing potential strike action if a new contract is not reached by 12:01 a.m. EST on Jan. 29, 2025. Unifor national president Lana Payne says members are demanding job security, work ownership, fair wages, and improved working conditions. The union's Local 101R represents over 1,200 workers employed in CPKC's mechanical shops, where they inspect and maintain locomotives and freight cars.

15. For North American Rail Traffic, a Positive Start to 2025

For the two-week period ending Jan. 11, 2025, North American rail volume on nine reporting U.S., Canadian, and Mexican railroads came in at 1,236,879 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers. Cumulative volume in the U.S. was 886,800 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.4% from the same point in 2024; in Canada, 304,983 carloads and

intermodal units, up 3.1%; and in Mexico, 45,096 carloads and intermodal units, down 6.4%. For the week ending Jan. 11, 2025, four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week last year. They included grain, up 2,386 carloads, to 21,124; farm products excluding grain, and food, up 1,424 carloads, to 17,442; and forest products, up 401 carloads, to 8,588. Commodity groups that posted declines included coal, down 6,241 carloads, to 52,232; motor vehicles and parts, down 3,886 carloads, to 9,788; and nonmetallic minerals, down 3,211 carloads, to 22,229. Canadian railroads reported 91,438 carloads for the week ending Jan. 11, 2025, up 5.8%, and 71,361 intermodal units, up 11.2% from the year-ago period.

16. CN Launches New Medium Horsepower Hybrid Locomotive Pilot Project

CN is proud to announce the launch of its new medium horsepower hybrid electric locomotive developed in collaboration with Knoxville Locomotive Works (KLW). This innovative hybrid locomotive will undergo testing in various operational conditions across CN's network as a pilot project, to evaluate its potential to enhance operational efficiency and fuel savings, marking another step towards more modern and sustainable rail operations. The 3,200 medium horsepower hybrid unit is built on the traditional CN low horsepower locomotive operating in yards and branch lines.

17. INVESTING IN AMERICA: U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Celebrates Groundbreaking to Restore Passenger Rail to the Gulf Coast

On January 22, 2025, Secretary Pete Buttigieg joined Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose and representatives from Amtrak, the Southern Rail Commission, and other local leaders for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Gulf Coast Corridor Improvement project, which will restore passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast. Once the layover track and platform are completed, Amtrak will resume passenger service between Mobile and New Orleans for the first time since Hurricane Katrina devastated the region in 2005. The Biden-Harris Administration awarded the project \$178 million through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

18. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending January 18, 2025

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on January 22, 2025 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending January 18, 2025. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 500,160 carloads and intermodal units, up 25.9 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending January 18 were 216,457 carloads, up 25.1 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 283,703 containers and trailers, up 26.5 percent compared to 2024. All of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. They included coal, up 11,698 carloads, to 59,223; chemicals, up 6,334 carloads, to 34,150; and nonmetallic minerals, up 6,001 carloads, to 24,622. Canadian railroads reported 92,085 carloads for the week, up 22.7 percent, and 73,196 intermodal units, up 34.9 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first three weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 470,264 carloads, containers and trailers, up 10.6 percent.

19. Railway carloadings, November 2024

In November 2024, the volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways reached 30.8 million tonnes, down 5.8% from November 2023, and slightly below the five-year average (31.3 million tonnes) for the month. Large declines in shipments of potash and coal compared to November 2023 were tempered by increased carloadings of grains. For the latest data and historical trends in an interactive format, please visit the "Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard."

20. U.S., Canadian Passenger Rail Stakeholders Partner on Preparedness

An attack on reservations systems, social media threats to passengers and operations, suspicious bags left at a train station, and an active shooter at a station and onboard a train headed to the U.S.—all these scenarios were worked through during a recent training exercise that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Transport Canada conducted with Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada.

21. CSX profit falls in Q4

CSX Corp. on January 23, 2025 reported fourth-quarter 2024 operating income of \$1.11 billion that fell compared to \$1.32 billion in the prior year period. Revenue totaled \$3.54 billion for the quarter, off 4% year over year as declines in fuel surcharge and coal revenue offset higher pricing, merchandise volume and volume growth in intermodal. Net income was \$733 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share, compared to \$882 million, or \$0.45 per diluted share, in the same period a year ago. Fourth-quarter results for Jacksonville-based CSX include a pre-tax, non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$108 million. Total volume of 1.58 million units for the quarter was 1% higher compared to the fourth quarter of 2023.

22. Union Pacific profit up 7% in Q4, forecasts similar growth in 2025

Union Pacific reported 2024 fourth quarter net income of \$1.8 billion, up from \$1.7 billion a year ago, as higher rail freight volumes drove record profits. The largest Class 1 railroad reported net income for full year 2024 of \$6.7 billion, from \$6.4 billion in 2023. "We had a very successful year in 2024, with an operating ratio of better than 58%," said

Chief Executive Jim Vena, in a call with analysts and media. “That shows how our team executed on strategy, safety, and service for overall operational excellence. “It was a fantastic end to 2024.”

23. CN braces for rail strike

Canadian National Railway is bracing for a work stoppage Tuesday, January 28, 2025 after members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Canada issued a 72-hour strike notice. The union represents about 750 signal and communications workers, who are prepared to walk out if a new agreement is not reached by a Jan. 28 deadline. “CN is aware of the notice. The company has a contingency plan in place and is focused on keeping the supply chain fluid and goods moving safely. These activities will continue uninterrupted as long as necessary,” Montreal-based CN said in an email statement to FreightWaves.

24. CPKC reaches tentative collective agreement with Unifor

Canadian Pacific Kansas City on January 27, 2025 said it has reached a tentative four-year collective agreement with Unifor representing approximately 1,200 employees at CPKC in Canada. “We are pleased to have reached a tentative collective agreement at the negotiating table with our mechanical employees in Canada,” said Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer. “By working collaboratively together with Unifor, we have reached an agreement benefiting our employees and their families while continuing to serve the needs of our customers and keeping the Canadian economy moving forward.” Unifor represents mechanics, labourers, diesel service attendants and mechanical support staff. Details of the tentative collective agreement are not being released pending ratification of the new agreement.

25. CPKC reaches tentative collective agreement with TCRC-MWED

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) on January 28, 2025 said that it has reached a tentative four-year collective agreement with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Maintenance of Way Employees Division (TCRC-MWED) representing engineering service employees in Canada.

26. Freight Rail Services Price Index, January 2025

Data for January for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on Statistics Canada website. For January 2025 it was 129.1 compared to 127.6 for the previous month and 127.4 in January 1924.

27. CN reaches tentative agreement with signals and communication workers, averts strike

Canadian National Railway Co. says it has reached a tentative agreement with the union representing about 750 signals and communication employees across Canada. The railway had faced a potential strike on January 28, 2025 by the workers represented by the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers. Details of the tentative four-year agreement, which still must be ratified, were not immediately available. Workers had voted 95% in favor of a strike if a deal could not be reached. The union had said it was pushing for better work-life balance and higher pay. The current collective agreement between the union and the railway expired on Dec. 31, 2024.

28. CPKC delivers strong fourth-quarter results; positioned to accelerate growth in 2025

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) on January 29, 2025 announced its fourth-quarter results, including revenues of \$3.9 billion, diluted earnings per share (EPS) of \$1.28 and core adjusted combined diluted EPS of \$1.29. Fourth-quarter 2024 results are: 1. Revenues increased by three percent to \$3.9 billion from \$3.8 billion in Q4 2023; 2. Reported operating ratio (OR) decreased by 210 basis points to 59.7 percent from 61.8 percent in Q4 2023; 3. Core adjusted combined OR decreased by 160 basis points to 57.1 percent from 58.7 percent in Q4 2023; 4. Reported diluted EPS increased to \$1.28 from \$1.10 in Q4 2023; 5. Core adjusted combined diluted EPS increased nine percent to \$1.29 from \$1.18 in Q4 2023; 6. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-reportable personal injury frequency decreased to 0.84 from 1.13 in Q4 2023; 7. FRA-reportable train accident frequency decreased to 1.03 from 1.08 in Q4 2023. “Our team finished our first full year as a combined company strong, with volume growth, improved safety performance, and solid operational execution that allowed CPKC to deliver industry-leading earnings growth in 2024,” said Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer. Full-year 2024 results are: 1. Reported operating ratio decreased by 60 basis points to 64.4 percent from 65.0 percent in 2023; 2. Core adjusted combined OR decreased by 70 basis points to 61.3 percent from 62.0 percent in 2023; 3. Reported diluted EPS decreased to \$3.98 from \$4.21 in 2023; and 4. Core adjusted combined diluted EPS increased 11 percent to \$4.25 from \$3.84 in 2023. The Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.19 per share on the outstanding Common Shares.

29. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending January 25, 2025

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on January 29, 2025 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending January 25, 2025. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 454,797 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending January 25, 2025 were 189,125 carloads, down 8.8 percent compared with the same week in 2024, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 265,672 containers and trailers, up 2.5 percent compared to 2024. One of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2024. It was farm products excl. grain, and food, up 368 carloads, to 16,180. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2024 included nonmetallic minerals, down

4,112 carloads, to 19,173; coal, down 4,109 carloads, to 52,514; and metallic ores and metals, down 3,304 carloads, to 16,218. For the first four weeks of 2025, U.S. railroads reported cumulative volume of 803,593 carloads, up 0.3 percent from the same point last year; and 1,038,164 intermodal units, up 10.9 percent from last year. Total combined U.S. traffic for the first four weeks of 2025 was 1,841,757 carloads and intermodal units, an increase of 6.0 percent compared to last year. Canadian railroads reported 88,763 carloads for the week, up 1.9 percent, and 67,323 intermodal units, down 0.2 percent compared with the same week in 2024. For the first four weeks of 2025, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 626,350 carloads, containers and trailers, up 8.1 percent.

30. Norfolk Southern beats profit estimates helped by cost cuts, insurance recovery

U.S. railroad operator Norfolk Southern on January 29, 2025, posted a quarterly profit that beat analysts' estimates, helped by cost cuts implemented to improve margins and better-than-expected insurance recoveries related to a costly derailment. Shares of the company were up 4% in early morning trading. Norfolk had taken a hit of about \$1.4 billion in last two years due to a derailment in Eastern Ohio in 2023 that released over 1 million gallons of hazardous materials and pollutants near the state's border. Norfolk implemented voluntary and involuntary job cuts last year that helped offset some of that impact. Insurance recoveries related to the accident exceeded expenses by \$43 million in the fourth quarter, Norfolk added. The company reported operating revenue of \$2.81 billion for the quarter ended Dec. 31, up 2% from a year earlier.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Atlas Canada buys Orbit Brokers

Atlas Canada Van lines has purchased Canadian customs brokerage, Orbit Brokers. The deal closes Jan. 1, 2025 giving Atlas the ability to provide customs clearance for clients in the U.S. and Canada. "Orbit Brokers' proven track record in customs brokerage perfectly complements our service model, ensuring our agents and clients benefit from an integrated, seamless solution for all relocation and logistics needs," said Fred Haladay, president and COO of Atlas Canada.

2. Biden-Harris Administration awards \$1.7 million to Massachusetts to improve safety on America's roadways

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on December 30, 2024 announced a \$1.7 million grant award to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to fund pre-construction activities for a wildlife crossing project along the Appalachian Trail over Interstate 90 in the western part of the state. Massachusetts is one of 16 grant recipients selected to receive funding in the second round of \$125 million grants for 16 wildlife crossing projects nationwide, 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.

3. LTL carriers expanding networks to prepare for long-term growth

US less-than-truckload (LTL) carriers are preparing for the next surge in demand, adding terminals and terminal doors even though freight demand is still tepid. They see demand for industrial freight and retail goods increasing in 2025 and believe there's not enough LTL capacity in the market to meet that demand. LTL rates began rising in 2023 and remain elevated, and that's unlikely to change in 2025, with carriers seeking additional price hikes in the mid- to high-single-digit percentage range. US LTL carriers issued general rate increases ranging from 4.9% to 7.9% in the fourth quarter.

4. Borderlands Mexico: US wins multibillion-dollar corn dispute with Mexico

A five-year battle over Mexico's ban on imports of genetically modified (GM) corn grown in the U.S. ended after a panel ruled the ban violated the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA panel agreed with the U.S. on all seven legal claims, issuing its finding on Dec. 20 that Mexico's GM corn ban is not based on science and prohibits market access

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Atlas Canada buys Orbit Brokers, December 31, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
2. Biden-Harris Administration awards \$1.7 million to Massachusetts to improve safety on America's roadways, December 30, 2024, www.ajot.com
3. LTL carriers expanding networks to prepare for long-term growth, January 2, 2024, www.joc.com
4. Borderlands Mexico: US wins multibillion-dollar corn dispute with Mexico, January 5, 2025, www.freightwaves.com
5. Ontario pushes reset button on MELT for new truck drivers, January 6, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com
6. M&A activity redrawing regional LTL map in US Midwest and beyond, January 6, 2025, www.joc.com
7. New York trucking group says Manhattan tolls burden industry, January 6, 2025, www.freightwaves.com
8. Government of Canada freezes toll rates for 2025 for the Confederation Bridge, December 2024, www.tc.gc.ca
9. Ontario Announces Plan to Enhance Border Security, Partner with Law Enforcement, as U.S. Tariff Threats Continue, January 8, 2025, www.cantruck.ca
10. Goodyear to sell Dunlop brand to Sumitomo Rubber Industries, January 8, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com
11. North American Transborder Freight rose 0.3% in October 2024 from October 2023, January 8, 2025, www.bts.gov
12. Pause of the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles Program, January 10, 2025, www.tc.gc.ca
13. Canada's small fleets lag in EV adoption: Pembina Institute, January 14, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com
14. Industry Offers Guidance to Premiers in

that Mexico agreed to provide as part of the trade agreement. “The panel’s ruling reaffirms the United States’ longstanding concerns about Mexico’s biotechnology policies and their detrimental impact on U.S. agricultural exports,” U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in a [news release](#).

5. Ontario pushes reset button on MELT for new truck drivers

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has hit the reset button on mandatory entry-level training (MELT) for commercial truck driver Class A licences. The MTO has ordered driver certification program organizations and registered career college course providers to clarify how they create and incorporate standardized lesson plan requirements into their curriculum. In a bulletin, the ministry stated that it has developed a new sample lesson plan template as a guide that meets standard requirements which will provide an additional resource to help ensure consistency and quality. The updated curriculum, including lesson plans, must be resubmitted to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) by July 1, 2025. In the province, truck driving schools must be registered as career colleges.

6. M&A activity redrawing regional LTL map in US Midwest and beyond

The US less-than-truckload (LTL) market is entering a new phase of consolidation in early 2025, led by regional LTL trucking companies building greater density and reach. The action is hottest perhaps in the Midwest, where the shutdown of Holland, a regional subsidiary of Yellow, in 2023 left a hole in the LTL market that has not been filled. There is a need for LTL carriers that can provide premium on-time, next-day service at scale across the region stretching from Ohio and the Great Lakes to the Great Plains. Cost pressures and the need to expand and grow are pushing some smaller carriers toward acquisition by larger regional or national carriers. As M&A activity continues, shippers may see regional LTL pricing stabilize or change marginally.

7. New York trucking group says Manhattan tolls burden industry

January 6, 2025 marked the first weekday since the implementation of the first-of-its-kind congestion pricing program in New York City by Gov. Kathy Hochul, a move that is drawing protests from the Trucking Association of New York. The program imposed tolls for entering or exiting Manhattan’s “congestion relief zone” starting January 5, 2025. Under the new program, “small,” one-unit trucks will pay \$14.40 to enter the area, while “large” two-unit trucks will be charged \$21.60. [This zone](#) covers streets and avenues at or below 60th Street, excluding the bordering West Side Highway, FDR Drive and Hugh L. Carey Tunnel main roads. Hochul has said the tolls are designed to unclog street traffic, reduce

pollution and better deliver public transit to millions of New Yorkers. Opponents argue the program penalizes residents and small businesses already struggling with high inflation. The governor put the congestion pricing plan on pause “indefinitely” after it was proposed last May. But it was [revived in November](#) with toll prices reduced by 40%.

8. Government of Canada freezes toll rates for 2025 for the Confederation Bridge

The Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Anita Anand, announced that 2025 tolls will remain frozen for a third year at current rates, for the Confederation Bridge. The bridge operator, Strait Crossing Bridge Limited (SCBL), will receive funding from Transport Canada to prevent a toll increase. As announced in Budget 2024, funding was provided to freeze tolls in 2025 and 2026. The Government of Canada will negotiate the 2026 toll freeze with the bridge operator next year. Freezing tolls for 2025 on the Confederation Bridge will provide relief to bridge users, particularly Prince Edward Island residents and businesses, who have been significantly impacted by high inflation during this critical time of economic recovery and rebuilding.

9. Ontario Announces Plan to Enhance Border Security, Partner with Law Enforcement, as U.S. Tariff Threats Continue

- Dealing with Potential US Tariff Threat, January 15, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)
- 15. Quebec Liberals want Lion founder Marc Bedard to answer to parliamentary commission, January 16, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
- 16. ACT Expo to focus on changing landscape of sustainable transportation, January 16, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
- 17. CTA/OTA: Cutting the Capital Gains Tax Hike Will Help Family-Run Trucking Businesses, January 17, 2025, [www.ontruck.ca](#)
- 18. Trimac acquires flatbed carrier Watt & Stewart, Jan 17, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 19. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Lots to like in latest industry data January 17, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 20. Urban public transit, November 2024, January 20, 2025, [www.statcan.gc.ca](#)
- 21. Seven Canadian carriers win TCA Fleet Safety Awards, February 21, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 22. Cargo theft soared 27% in 2024, February 21, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 23. GLS Canada moves into new Ontario flagship property, January 23, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 24. Amazon Canada says it will close all seven of its warehouses in Quebec, January 22, 2025, [www.nationalpost.ca](#)
- 25. North American Transborder Freight was unchanged at 0.0% in November 2024 from November 2023, January 23, 2025, [www.dot.gov](#)
- 26. CTA-OTA Laud Ideas to Remove Internal Trade Barriers as Potential Response to U.S. Tariffs, January 24, 2025, [www.ontruck.org](#)
- 27. Investment continues amid chaos in EV and battery supply chain, January 24, 2025, [www.financialpost.ca](#)
- 28. US LTL providers seeking bigger share of Mexico cross-border trucking, January 24, 2025, [www.joc.com](#)
- 29. Clarience Technologies acquires work truck upfitter Ranger Design, January 27, 2025, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
- 30. Federal inquiry into Canada Post opens hearings, January 27, 2025, [www.nationalpost.ca](#)
- 31. Ontario Northland Secures Bilevel Overhaul Contract for GO Transit, January 28, 2025, [www.railwavage.com](#)
- 32. Ontario Taking Bike Lanes Off Toronto’s Busiest Streets, January 28, 2025, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](#)

In the face of continued tariff threats from president-elect Trump, Ontario announced “Operation Deterrence,” a preparedness and planning framework to increase security at international border points. The plan focuses on tackling suspicious and criminal activities, such as transportation of illegal guns and drugs – as well as human trafficking – by employing highly visible and coordinated enforcement activities.

10. Goodyear to sell Dunlop brand to Sumitomo Rubber Industries

Goodyear announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to sell the Dunlop brand, comprising trademarks and intangible assets necessary for operations of the brand business in Europe, North America and Oceania for consumer, commercial and other specialty tires, together with certain associated intellectual property, to Sumitomo Rubber Industries (SRI). SRI will pay Goodyear approximately \$701 million for the transfer of the Dunlop brand, a “transition fee” for support in transitioning the Dunlop brand to SRI, and the purchase of Dunlop tire inventory, according to a news release. The transaction also provides for additional ongoing offtake, licensing and other arrangements. “This is another important milestone as we continue to execute against our Goodyear Forward transformation plan. We are optimizing our portfolio and reducing leverage to drive sustainable and substantial shareholder value creation,” said Mark Stewart, Goodyear chief executive officer and president, in a release.

11. North American Transborder Freight rose 0.3% in October 2024 from October 2023

Transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico was as follows: 1. Total transborder freight: \$138.9 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 0.3% compared to October 2023; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$64.3 billion, down 2.2% from October 2023; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$74.6 billion, up 2.5% from October 2023; 4. Mexico continued to lead Canada in freight dollar value for the last 20 months; 5. Trucks moved \$88.4 billion of freight, up 0.1% compared to October 2023; 6. Railways moved \$16.0 billion of freight, down 12.0% compared to October 2023; 7. Vessels moved \$9.6 billion of freight, down 13.6% compared to October 2023 - Vessels moved 25.2% less mineral fuels by dollar value; 8. Pipelines moved \$8.0 billion of freight, down 20.7% compared to October 2023 - Pipelines moved 20.6% less mineral fuels by dollar value; 9. Air moved \$4.7 billion of freight, down 3.3% compared to October 2023. Transborder trade between Canada and US were as follows: \$33.1b Road; \$7.5b Pipeline; \$7.7b Rail; \$3.1b Vessel; and \$2.7b Air.

12. Pause of the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles Program

The Government of Canada is dedicated to supporting Canada’s transition to net-zero emissions, including accelerating the transition to zero-emission vehicles. This is why Transport Canada introduced the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) Program in 2019. The iZEV Program has been a huge success. Over 546,000 vehicles have been incented through this program since it began, helping Canada reach a new ZEV market share of 11.7% in 2023, a significant increase from 3.1% in 2019. New ZEV market share reached 14.2% in the first three quarters of 2024, including a new record high of 16.5% in the third quarter of 2024. The iZEV Program was scheduled to pause on March 31, 2025, or once all the available funding has been accessed by Canadians. Canadians will benefit from incentives until Program funds are exhausted.

13. Canada’s small fleets lag in EV adoption: Pembina Institute

As global electric vehicle (EV) sales are hitting record highs with a projected 16.7 million units sold in 2024, small fleet operators in Canada are struggling to keep up, Pembina Institute found. While EVs now represent one in six new vehicle registrations worldwide, electric vans, trucks, and buses remain a small fraction of the Canadian market, accounting for just 2% of sales by the end of 2023. From the interviews with small fleet operators — from florists and bakers to electricians and delivery services — Pembina Institute uncovered that lack of accessible information and skepticism about whether electric models can handle the demands of commercial use are the two biggest challenges cited. To address these challenges, the organization launched *Moving to Electric*, a new guide offering tools, guidance, and practical solutions for small fleet operators considering EV adoption.

14. Industry Offers Guidance to Premiers in Dealing with Potential US Tariff Threat

“Just as during the COVID crisis, the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) will provide input and assistance in the design of tax and program measures to assist carriers through this potential economic crisis,” said Laskowski. “As a country, we need to also urgently act on long term tax and competitiveness measures that can make our sector and the sectors we serve more resilient and competitive. These include items like accelerated CCA rates, changes to corporate and personal taxes, along with reviewing and changing measures that have been introduced which make us less competitive in a global market.”

15. Quebec Liberals want Lion founder Marc Bedard to answer to parliamentary commission

At the end of the parliamentary session before the holidays, Quebec Premier François Legault declared in the House that he wanted to start the year 2025 “as a Lion.” The Liberal opposition took him at his word and published a press release earlier on January 16, 2025 in which it called for a “parliamentary commission to hear, in particular, the CEO of [Lion Electric], Marc Bedard.” The movement is led by Monsef Derraji, spokesperson for Transport and Sustainable Mobility. In his request, Derraji refers to a [Radio-Canada article](#) which, he says, reports the submission of false orders,

unrealistic forecasts, superficial optimism and the failure to communicate bad news such as the cancellation of orders or persistent problems with products, particularly trucks. Possible breaches of the *Securities Act* are also mentioned, the Liberal MP points out.

16. ACT Expo to focus on changing landscape of sustainable transportation

ACT Expo this year will focus on the changing landscape of sustainable transportation, preparing fleets to navigate the transition to cleaner vehicles while maximizing the economics involved. This four-day event will be held April 28-May 1 at the Anaheim Convention Center, featuring keynote presentations, executive panels, technical workshops and a trade show. The full agenda can be found at www.actexpo.com/agenda and visitors can save more than 35% off registration if they register before Feb. 1.

17. CTA/OTA: Cutting the Capital Gains Tax Hike Will Help Family-Run Trucking Businesses

The Canadian Trucking Alliance is applauding Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre's promise to reverse the capital gains tax (CGT) hike should he become Prime Minister. CTA has been calling on all federal parties to focus their attention on much-needed measures that will improve growth and investment in Canadian businesses, not make us less competitive and productive. CTA Chair Greg Arndt, owner of Jade Transport in Winnipeg said "The trucking industry is dominated by small-medium enterprises (SMEs). Operating a SME in trucking has many challenges. Most do not have retirement funds to secure our livelihoods for the long-term while we try to maintain the viability of our businesses for the next generation. An increase in a retroactive tax like capital gains will be devastating to small and medium-size trucking owners and their families."

18. Trimac acquires flatbed carrier Watt & Stewart

Bulk transportation company Trimac Transportation has acquired Watt & Stewart, a flatbed and specialized carrier serving Canada and the United States as of Jan. 15, 2025. The addition of Watt & Stewart expands Trimac's service offerings, particularly in the mining, forestry and heavy equipment transportation sectors, according to a news release. With locations in Claresholm, Alta., and Lexington, S.C., they are positioned to serve mining and manufacturing hubs across North America. Founded by Neil Watt and John Stewart in 1987, Watt & Stewart has grown from a small operation to 124 tractors and 205 trailers over its decades-long history.

19. ECONOMIC TRUCKING TRENDS: Lots to like in latest industry data

There continue to be increasing signs that the trucking industry is turning a corner toward greater prosperity. Trucking conditions reached their strongest levels since April 2022, according to FTR, while trailer orders received a bump. The Canadian spot market finished 2024 strong, with load volume growth and reduced capacity. The U.S. spot market has also been strong, albeit severe winter weather has served as a tailwind. Industry forecaster FTR's Trucking Conditions Index jumped in November 2024, to levels not seen since April 2022. The reading of 3.02 was up sharply from 0.49 in October 2024, thanks to lower fuel costs and improving rates. FTR is forecasting the freight market to be "consistently favourable for carriers" by the second quarter of this year.

20. Urban public transit, November 2024

In November, 143.3 million passenger trips were taken on urban transit networks in Canada, recovering 87.0% of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level from November 2019. However, this remains 21.5 million fewer passenger trips compared with the same month in 2019. In November 2024, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) was up 3.7% from the same month in 2023, reaching \$347.8 million, albeit \$11.5 million lower than the pre-pandemic level in November 2019.

21. Seven Canadian carriers win TCA Fleet Safety Awards

Several Canadian fleets are among the 18 division winners in the Truckload Carriers Association's (TCA) 49th Annual Fleet Safety Awards. The awards recognize truckload carriers that exhibit an 'exceptional dedication to safety' by achieving the lowest accident frequency ratios per million miles within six mileage-based divisions, TCA said in a news release. Seven Canadian winners include: 1 Bison Transport, Winnipeg; 2. Challenger Motor Freight, Cambridge, Ont.; 3. Erb Transport, New Hamburg, Ont.; 4. Trans-West Logistics, Lachine, Que.; 5. Loblaw Transport, Calgary; 6. Lion Force Transport, Brampton, Ont.; and 7. Transpro Freight Systems, Milton, Ont.

22. Cargo theft soared 27% in 2024

CargoNet reports 'record-breaking' cargo theft activity in Canada and the U.S. in 2024, with 3,625 reported incidents marking a 27% increase over 2023. The average value per theft also climbed to \$202,364 (all figures US), up from \$187,895 the previous year. Each quarter of 2024 surpassed previous records set in 2023, with the biggest spike occurring in Q1, which saw 317 more incidents than the same period the year before. The rate of increase narrowed as the year progressed, with Q4 showing an 11.81% year-over-year growth in cargo theft.

23. GLS Canada moves into new Ontario flagship property

GLS Canada has signed a lease on a new Ontario flagship property on Hwy. 50 in Vaughan, Ont., which will allow it to grow its Canadian operations. The facility offers more than 200,000 sq.-ft of dock and office space, with integrated parcel and freight handling capabilities. It will serve as the central point for GLS Ontario operations, adding to the

company's network of 65 terminals across Canada. "This new hub will not only strengthen our operational capabilities, but will reinforce our dedication to serving our customers with the highest standards of quality and innovation," said Rick Barnes, president of GLS Canada.

24. Amazon Canada says it will close all seven of its warehouses in Quebec

Amazon Canada says it is closing all seven of its warehouses in Quebec over the next two months. The online retailer says 1,700 permanent employees in the province will be laid off, as will 250 temporary workers. The decision comes amid strained labour relations with unionized employees at the multinational's warehouse in Laval, Que., a Montreal suburb.

25. North American Transborder Freight was unchanged at 0.0% in November 2024 from November 2023

Transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico for November 2024 is as follows: 1. Total transborder freight: \$131.0 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, unchanged at 0.0% compared to November 2023. 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$61.8 billion, down 5.2% from November 2023. 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$69.1 billion, up 5.1% from November 2023 - Mexico continued to lead Canada in freight dollar value for the last 21 months. Trucks moved \$82.6 billion of freight, up 0.4% compared to November 2023. 4. Railways moved \$16.3 billion of freight, down 5.8% compared to November 2023. 5. Vessels moved \$9.7 billion of freight, down 6.6% compared to November 2023 - vessels moved 11.3% less mineral fuels by dollar value. 6. Pipelines moved \$7.9 billion of freight, down 25.2% compared to November 2023 - pipelines moved 25.2% less mineral fuels by dollar value. 7. Air moved \$5.2 billion of freight, up 7.3% compared to November 2023. US - Canada border trade (both directions) is: Truck \$ 32.4b; Pipeline \$7.5b; Vessel \$8.3b; Rail \$3.1b; and Air \$3.3b.

26. CTA-OTA Laud Ideas to Remove Internal Trade Barriers as Potential Response to U.S. Tariffs

The Canadian Trucking Alliance is encouraged after the premiers and prime minister met on January 23, 2025 to discuss Canada's response to potential tariffs being implemented by the U.S. and agreed to have an urgent discussion around opportunities to increase internal trade within Canada - a move which would create increased efficiencies, productivity, and lead to greater resiliency in the face of these ongoing threats.

27. Investment continues amid chaos in EV and battery supply chain

In signing his Unleashing American Energy order, Trump said he was cancelling the EV "mandate," but some industry insiders see a silver lining in support for critical materials processing and production. Producers are hopeful the EV supply chain will create enough jobs that Trump will act cautiously before eliminating legislation propping up projects. Investment in Canada's electric vehicle supply chain continues even as United States President Donald Trump threatens to roll back climate legislation and halt the EV transition. On January 23, 2025, InMotion Ventures Ltd., Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC's investment arm, committed \$2 million to Cyclic Materials Inc., a rare earth recycling startup in Toronto, thereby raising its total series B funding to \$55 million.

28. US LTL providers seeking bigger share of Mexico cross-border trucking

Undeterred by tariff threats and inspired by projected growth in Mexican manufacturing, US LTL providers are building a bigger presence on the US-Mexico border. In doing so, LTL companies are pursuing a larger share of cross-border business historically handled more by truckload carriers and intermodal rail providers, while answering demand from US importers for more frequent, smaller shipments. Increased LTL participation in cross-border trucking may also help reduce an entrenched imbalance in truck capacity at the US-Mexico border that exacerbates costs.

29. Clariance Technologies acquires work truck upfitter Ranger Design

Clariance Technologies has announced its acquisition of Ranger Design, a manufacturer of upfitting products for commercial vehicles. The addition strengthens Clariance's position as a provider of work truck upfitting, the company announced in a release. "We are excited to welcome Ranger Design to the Clariance Technologies team of companies," announced Brian Kupchella, CEO of Clariance. "This acquisition aligns with our vision to provide visionary technology for all transportation, to help make the world safer and create superior value for our customers and the communities we serve."

30. Federal inquiry into Canada Post opens hearings

An inquiry into Canada Post kicked off hearings Monday, January 28, 2025 looking into a month-long strike that ended in government intervention, and the viability of the postal service's business model. Canada Post CEO Doug Ettinger emphasized to the Industrial Inquiry Commission the Crown corporation's challenging financial reality and its urgent need for change if it wants to remain solvent. Industrial Inquiry Commission will look into recent strike that ended in government intervention, and the viability of the business model.

31. Ontario Northland Secures Bilevel Overhaul Contract for GO Transit

The Ontario government on Jan. 27, 2025 reported that it is investing more than C\$350 million to refurbish 121 GO Transit bilevel commuter railcars at Ontario Northland's Remanufacturing and Repair Center in North Bay.

32. Ontario Taking Bike Lanes Off Toronto's Busiest Streets

The Ontario government is moving ahead with plans to remove bike lanes on three of Toronto's most congested streets. The province has retained an engineering company to complete design work, as it prepares to reinstate vehicle lanes on Bloor Street West, Yonge Street and University Avenue.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

1. E-commerce is air cargo golden egg but there's a downside

Cross-border e-commerce has indisputably become air cargo's golden egg in recent years to a point where it is no exaggeration to suggest that it is fast-becoming the sector's leading commodity surpassing general cargo. Its ascendancy has put a squeeze on the capacity available to other verticals, driving up rates across the sector. The online purchasing boom for consumer goods showed few if any signs of slowing in 2024 and it is very likely that this will continue to be the case in 2025. The sheer size of airborne cross-border e-commerce traffic can be gauged from the reports earlier this year estimating that Chinese online marketplaces Temu and Shein alone were flying 4,000 tons and 5,000 tons daily respectively and one can safely assume such volumes have increased since. There is a downside to the phenomenon, due to the vast amount of air cargo capacity it is soaking up and which has led to significant changes in the very physiognomy of transport chains. One industry source estimates that for a number of carriers operating on routes from Asia Pacific to the U.S. and Europe, cross-border e-commerce now absorbs up to 80% of their capacity out of the region. This is said to be driving a wedge between airlines and forwarders, the former leaning towards direct collaboration with major e-commerce players and their logistics partners with the signature of block space agreements (BSA). The upshot is the sidelining of some so-called traditional forwarders.

2. Transportation Statistical Annual Report 2024

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is pleased to release the 2024 edition of the Transportation Statistical Annual Report (TSAR). This 30th-anniversary edition of TSAR documents how the transportation system has changed through economic booms, a major recession, and the shock of a pandemic. The 2024 TSAR is organized into 7 focus areas that reflect the topics in BTS's legislative mandate, including some new data items.

3. A Transportation Finance Statistics Makeover

On December 31, 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released Transportation Public Finance Statistics (TPFS) final annual estimates for the first time. This release replaces the June preliminary estimate with actuals. TPFS provides information on transportation-related revenue and expenditures for all levels of Government, including Federal, state, and local, and for all modes of transportation. This data program replaced the former Government Transportation Financial Statistics (GTFS).

4. CBSA to adjust hours at some land entry ports on Jan.6

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has announced adjustments to hours of service at 35 land ports of entry across Canada, effective Monday, Jan.6, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. in local time zones. Of those, eight locations will affect commercial vehicles. The changes, developed in collaboration with the U.S., aim to enhance border security and improve resource allocation at busier crossings, supporting both countries' efforts to process travelers and goods efficiently, the CBSA said in a release. These updates align with U.S. service hours at many ports of entry, allowing for smoother management of inadmissible travelers and goods, which is challenging when one side of the border is closed. The adjustments follow an analysis of operational demands, peak periods, and service needs, with efforts to minimize impacts on border communities.

5. Freight Analysis Framework Experimental County to County Commodity Flow Product

General Transportation

1. E-commerce is air cargo golden egg but there's a downside, December 27, 2024, www.ajot.com
2. Transportation Statistical Annual Report 2024, December 31, 2024, www.bts.gov
3. A Transportation Finance Statistics Makeover, December 31, 2024, www.bts.gov
4. CBSA to adjust hours at some land entry ports on Jan. 6, January 2, 2025, www.todaystrucking.ca
5. Freight Analysis Framework Experimental County to County Commodity Flow Product, January 3, 2025, www.bts.gov
6. New EU rules to improve Gender Balance in corporate boards enter into application, January 3, 2025, www.europa.eu
7. Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2024, January 7, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca
8. Canadian international merchandise trade by mode of transport, 2023, January 7, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca
9. National tourism indicators, third quarter 2024, January 9, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca
10. AI-driven threats to dominate trucking cybersecurity issues in 2025, January 9, 2025, www.todaystrucking.com
11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, December 2024, January 10, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca
12. December 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.3%) Was the Same As the December 2023 Level (4.3%) And Above the Pre-Pandemic December 2019 Level (2.8%), January 10, 2025, www.bts.gov
13. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces 26 Tribes and Alaska Native Villages Receive \$9.6 Million From the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Transit, January 13, 2025, www.dot.gov
14. Copernicus Global Climate Report 2024 confirms last year as the warmest on record, first ever above 1.5°C annual average temperature, January 13, 2025, www.europa.eu
15. Transportation Producer Price Index – December 2024, January 14, 2025, www.bts.gov
16. FHWA Announces Updates to Buy America Requirements to Promote Domestic Manufacturing in Transportation Projects, January 14, 2025, www.dot.gov
17. USDOT Publishes National Roadway Safety Strategy Progress Report; Welcomes New Allies in Action, January 15, 2025, www.dot.gov
18. USDOT Proposes New Rule to Strengthen Safety Requirements for Carbon Dioxide Pipelines, January 15, 2025, www.dot.gov
19. Government of Canada announces

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released the first version of county-to-county commodity flow dataset based on 2022 Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) commodity flows. This experimental product includes estimates of county-level freight tonnage for the year of 2022 for five commodity group and five modes. The five commodity types are aggregated based on the 42 original commodity code in FAF5.6.1. The four modes include truck/air, rail, water, multiple modes and mail, and pipeline. The experimental product includes two sets of files for users to test and explore.

6. New EU rules to improve Gender Balance in corporate boards enter into application

The Gender Balance on Corporate Boards Directive entered into application at the end of 2024, aiming for a more balanced gender representation on the boards of listed companies across all EU Member States. The Directive sets a target for EU large listed companies of 40% of the underrepresented sex among their non-executive directors and 33% among all directors. The deadline for the transposition by Member States was 28th December 2024, and companies must meet the targets by 30 June 2026.

7. Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2024

In November 2024, Canada's merchandise exports increased 2.2% and imports rose 1.8%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world narrowed from \$544 million in October to \$323 million in November. Following a 1.7% increase in October 2024, total exports rose 2.2% in November. The gain was broad-based, with 9 of the 11 product sections rising. Higher prices were partly responsible for the monthly increase in exports; in real (or volume) terms, total exports rose 0.5%. The fall in the Canadian dollar has an impact on the numbers.

8. Canadian international merchandise trade by mode of transport, 2023

On January 7, 2024, the introduction of a new data table for Canada's international merchandise trade by mode of transport offers further insight into how goods move across Canada's borders. Data by mode of transport can reveal the impact of disruptions in transportation, such as supply chain issues, labour disruptions and natural disasters. These data can be used to better inform strategic decision-making to improve not only the efficiency of supply chains and transportation systems, but also policy related to the transportation of goods. Canada's imports are heavily reliant on road transportation, particularly for imports from the United States, because of the countries' shared border. Imports by road accounted for just over one-half (52.2%) of Canada's total import value in 2023, mostly from the United States. Similar to imports, exports by road also grew following the economic downturn, more than doubling from 2009 to 2019. For more data please check Statistics Canada website.

9. National tourism indicators, third quarter 2024

Tourism spending in Canada declined 0.3% in the 2024 third quarter, following a 0.6% increase in the 2024 second quarter. Foreign tourism demand was down 2.7% in the 2024 third quarter, while domestic tourism demand increased 0.5%. Tourism gross domestic product (GDP) decreased 0.6% in the third quarter due to a 2.6% decline in accommodation services, while the number of jobs attributable to tourism was unchanged. By comparison, economy-wide real GDP by industry rose 0.3% in the third quarter. On a nominal basis, tourism's share of GDP dropped to 1.53%.

10. AI-driven threats to dominate trucking cybersecurity issues in 2025

Cybersecurity will be one of the most pressing challenges for the trucking industry in 2025, according to the latest National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) [trucking cybersecurity trends report](#). The association says that as artificial intelligence (AI)- powered phishing campaigns grow more advanced, cyber-enabled cargo theft becomes increasingly sophisticated, and machine learning (ML)-based defence systems evolve rapidly, businesses will need to focus on enhanced detection and response tools and ongoing cybersecurity training for employees. The report highlights several trends set to reshape the trucking sector's cybersecurity priorities. Among them are the growing efficiency of phishing attacks, increased adoption of zero-trust architecture, and growing threats to assets and internet of things (IoT) devices.

11. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, December 2024

In December 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile reached 5.3 million, up 5.5% from December 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 761,300 in

approval of Bunge Global SA's acquisition of Viterra Limited, January 14, 2025, www.tc.gc.ca

20. Transportation Consumer Price Index – December 2024, January 15, 2025, www.bts.gov

21. Canada ready to respond to potential US tariffs on Monday, foreign minister says, January 17, 2025, www.ajot.com

22. November 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.3% from the Previous Month and Up 0.6% from the Same Month Last Year, January 17, 2025, www.bts.gov

23. President Trump Issues America First Trade Policy; Threatens Tariffs on Feb 1, January 21, 2025, www.ontruck.ca

24. Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2024, January 23, 2025, www.statcan.gc.ca

25. 2025 Compass Report: Leader Survey Highlights, January 23, www.westac.com

26. Sean Duffy Sworn In as Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and Takes Immediate Action to Make Cars More Affordable, January 28, 2025, www.dot.gov

27. Rapid building technology could shave months off traditional construction times, January 28, 2025, www.tc.gc.ca

28. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy Takes Action to Rescind "Woke" DEI Policies and Advance President Trump's Economic Agenda, January 29, 2025, www.dot.gov

29. Steering the EU towards greater sustainable competitiveness, January 29, 2025, www.europa.eu

December 2024, up 4.0% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad by air reached 1.6 million, a 3.3% increase from December 2023. By automobile, US residents took 1.1 million trips to Canada in December 2024, up 8.1% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States by automobile also rose, up 6.6% year over year to reach 1.8 million trips in December 2024.

12. December 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.3%) Was the Same As the December 2023 Level (4.3%) And Above the Pre-Pandemic December 2019 Level (2.8%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.3% (not seasonally adjusted) in December 2024 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In December 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate remained unchanged from 4.3% in December 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic December 2019 level of 2.8%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector was higher than overall unemployment. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in December 2024 was 3.8% or 0.5 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in December 2024 was 4.1%.

13. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces 26 Tribes and Alaska Native Villages Receive \$9.6 Million From the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Transit

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration on January 13, 2025 announced \$9.6 million in grants to 26 American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native communities to improve their public transit systems in 14 states. The competitive grants through FTA's Tribal Transit Program enable Tribes to buy transit vehicles, upgrade bus facilities, and expand or improve transit service. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes nearly \$46 million in competitive funding over five years for the Tribal Transit Program, an increase of nearly 83%.

14. Copernicus Global Climate Report 2024 confirms last year as the warmest on record, first ever above 1.5°C annual average temperature

The Copernicus Global Climate Highlights Report 2024, published today, confirms 2024 as the warmest year on record and the *first to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the annual global average temperature*. Last year was also the warmest for all continental regions, including Europe, except Antarctica and Australasia.

15. Transportation Producer Price Index – December 2024

On January 14, 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released the change in the costs faced by producers purchasing transportation services and industries producing them, from December 2023 to December 2024, as measured by the Producer Price Index (PPI). The PPI measures inflation from the perspective of costs to industry or producers of products. Transportation equipment PPI indicate the changes in transportation equipment prices faced by transportation providers, and any increase, increases providers costs. The PPI shows that prices increased for transportation and freight equipment 1.6% in December 2024 from December 2023. Increases in transportation services PPI indicate increases in production costs faced by industries purchasing the services. From December 2023 to December 2024, the transportation services PPI changed, by mode: 1. Air: -0.1%; 2. Rail: +1.1%; 3. Truck: -0.3%; 4. Water: +8.1%; 5. Arrangement of freight and cargo: +7.7%

16. FHWA Announces Updates to Buy America Requirements to Promote Domestic Manufacturing in Transportation Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced a new final rule to end FHWA's longstanding waiver that allows manufactured products used in federal-aid highway projects not to comply with FHWA's Buy America requirements. Since day one of the administration, President Biden and Vice President Harris have worked to make "Made in America" a reality. In his 2024 State of the Union address, the President announced the Biden-Harris Administration's historic step to boost domestic manufacturing in transportation by proposing to discontinue a sweeping Reagan-era Buy America waiver for manufactured products in federal-aid highway projects, a significant loophole in Buy America. The January 14, 2025 rule finalizes that proposal and ultimately will bolster our nation's manufacturing and help create good-paying, American jobs that support the growth of domestic manufacturing.

17. USDOT Publishes National Roadway Safety Strategy Progress Report; Welcomes New Allies in Action

Following the announcement of 10 consecutive quarters of declining roadway fatalities across America, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced on January 15, 2025 its 2025 National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) Progress Report, along with an additional 15 new commitments from businesses and organizations to support the NRSS and take action to reverse the crisis on America's roads. The report provides an update on the Department's efforts to address serious and fatal injuries on our roadways, details the Department's accomplishments related to addressing the NRSS actions in 2024.

18. USDOT Proposes New Rule to Strengthen Safety Requirements for Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

On January 15, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced new comprehensive proposed requirements for carbon dioxide (CO2) and hazardous liquid

pipelines. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) will strengthen existing standards for hazardous liquid and CO₂ pipelines (including CO₂ that is transported in a supercritical fluid state), and for the first-time, establish new standards for transporting carbon dioxide in a gaseous state via pipeline. The proposal also specifically addresses lessons learned from PHMSA's multi-year investigation into a CO₂ pipeline failure in Sartoria, Mississippi, in 2020 as well as input from the public in what has been PHMSA's largest public outreach campaign on record.

19. Government of Canada announces approval of Bunge Global SA's acquisition of Viterra Limited

On January 14, 2025, the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, announced the Government of Canada has approved the acquisition of Viterra Limited by global agri-business Bunge Global SA. The decision, firmly rooted in Canada's public interest, comes with extensive terms and conditions to protect competition, encourage investment in Canada and secure economic benefits for Canadians. The terms and conditions help ensure that the acquisition will not have a negative impact on competition in Canada's grain and oilseed sector, notably for grain purchasing in Western Canada and the sale of canola oil in Central and Atlantic Canada. Farmers will have a wide range of competitive options when they sell their canola and other crops, as well as continue to receive fair prices for their produce.

20. Transportation Consumer Price Index – December 2024

On January 15, 2025, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released the change in the costs faced by consumers for transportation goods and services, from December 2023 to December 2024, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI for all transportation goods and services rose 1.6% from December 2023 to December 2024. Transportation contributed 8.8% to the 2.9% year-over-year increase in the price of all goods and services, per the CPI. Motor vehicle insurance contributed the most to inflation, rising 11.3% year-over-year and contributing 10.9% to the annual increase in the price of all goods and services.

21. Canada ready to respond to potential US tariffs on Monday, foreign minister says

Canada is ready to respond to tariffs from its top trade partner the United States on Monday, January 27, 2025 if President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his threat to impose them, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said on Friday, January 17, 2025. Tariffs could be crippling, given Canada sends 75% of all goods and services exports to the United States, and Canadian officials have stressed the economic harm they would also cause the U.S. "We have a series of measures that are already prepared, certainly, tariffs linked to imports. If the President goes ahead on Monday, we will be ready," Joly said to reporters on Friday after talks in Washington aimed at averting tariffs. "And we are ready for a second round and we are ready for a third round."

22. November 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Down 0.3% from the Previous Month and Up 0.6% from the Same Month Last Year

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, fell 0.3% in November 2024 from October 2024, falling after a marginal month increase (0.2%) in October 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From November 2023 to November 2024 the index rose 0.6%

23. President Trump Issues America First Trade Policy; Threatens Tariffs on Feb 1

As he promised for several weeks, newly inaugurated President Donald Trump has outlined his intentions on international trade through new policies that will require the attention of all levels of government in Canada and the business community. The policies outlined in the plan, called the America First Trade Policy (AFTP), reflect long-time campaign promises by Trump. It states that the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, investigate the causes of the US's annual trade deficits of goods, as well as the economic and national security implications and risks resulting from such deficits. It also recommends the implementation of appropriate measures, such as a global supplemental tariff, or other policies that can be used to remedy such deficits.

24. Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2024

In November 2024, US residents took 1.4 million trips to Canada, and residents of overseas countries took 284,500 trips. The number of non-resident arrivals (US-resident and overseas-resident arrivals combined) in Canada represented 96.7% of the number observed in November 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2024, Canadian residents returned from 3.9 million trips abroad, which represented 94.5% of the level recorded in November 2019. According to seasonally adjusted data, on a month-to-month basis, non-resident arrivals in Canada increased by 3.3% in November 2024. The number of returning Canadian-resident arrivals rose 1.6% compared with October 2024.

25. 2025 Compass Report: Leader Survey Highlights

WESTAC's annual Compass Report analyzes the business and transportation outlook of executives and leaders in business, labour and government across Canada's transportation industry. This year's findings reveal a pivotal shift, with productivity gaps, ongoing disruptions, and systemic inefficiencies emerging as critical concerns impacting competitiveness and supply chain reliability. Survey respondents identified disruptions— including collective

bargaining disputes, climate-related events, and geopolitical instability—as both the number one business and transportation challenge.

26. Sean Duffy Sworn In as Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and Takes Immediate Action to Make Cars More Affordable

On January 28, 2025, Sean Duffy was officially sworn in as the 20th Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). Secretary Duffy was administered the oath of office by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas at the U.S. Supreme Court and was joined by his family. Upon arrival at USDOT headquarters, Secretary Duffy’s first act was signing a memorandum directing staff to start the process of resetting Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, which will ultimately lower the price of a car for American consumers and eliminate the electric vehicle mandate.

27. Rapid building technology could shave months off traditional construction times

On January 28, 2025, the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, the Honourable Anita Anand, announced the successful construction of a new prototype building at the drones and robotics test field on the grounds of the former Killaloe Airport. The small, 380 square foot building was built in only eight days, which can be seen in a [timelapse video](#). Traditional construction of infrastructure can be costly and time-consuming, particularly in remote areas. A building of comparable size to the prototype test building could take several weeks or months to build using traditional construction methods. Transport Canada is researching rapid construction technology as a possible way to quickly build structures. Potential use of the technology could include the construction of utility and storage buildings, operation centres, outbuildings, and emergency response structures that can be torn down after use, flat-packed, and shipped elsewhere.

28. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy Takes Action to Rescind “Woke” DEI Policies and Advance President Trump’s Economic Agenda

On January 29, 2025, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy authorized a series of actions advancing President Donald Trump’s agenda to rescind woke policies, roll back burdensome and costly regulations, restore economic growth, and ensure that all U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) policies align with the Administration’s priorities. These actions deliver on the President’s commitment to rescind harmful policies enacted under the Biden-Harris Administration and reaffirm USDOT’s focus on safety, efficiency, economic prosperity, and regulatory reform.

29. Steering the EU towards greater sustainable competitiveness

A new framework to rekindle economic productivity and secure the EU’s competitive edge has been presented by the European Commission. **The Competitiveness Compass** builds on the recommendations set out in Mario Draghi’s report on the future of European competitiveness. It will steer the EU’s work on competitiveness over the next five years and translate the report’s recommendations into concrete actions for the EU’s future prosperity.