

Transportation Information Update*

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

Editor: Joseph Monteiro*

October 2024, 242

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson*

AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalties to KLM for violations of the Air Passenger Protection Regulations

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has issued administrative monetary penalties totaling \$48,000 against Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) for 30 violations of the Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR) regarding its obligations around information on passenger travel documents. These penalties are for incidents that took place between January 1, 2024, and July 1, 2024. An investigation by a CTA enforcement officer found that KLM failed to: 1. Inform passengers of the terms and conditions of carriage applicable to flight delays, flight cancellations, denied boarding, lost or damaged baggage, and the assignment of seats to children under the age of 14; 2. Inform passengers of the treatment applicable to them, the minimum compensation to which they may be entitled, and the recourse against the carrier available to them, including their recourse to the CTA; and 3. Provide the prescribed notice required by subsection 5(5) of the APPR in its entirety and in both official languages. These contraventions relate to subsections 5(2), 5(3) and 5(5) of the APPR. KLM has 30 days to request a review before the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

2. USDOT Fines Air Canada \$250,000 for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on September 27, 2024 fined Air Canada \$250,000 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 airline was ordered to cease and desist from future similar violations.

3. Air Travel Consumer Report: July 2024 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on September 27, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report. *Flight cancellations:* For July 2024, 2.9% of flights were cancelled, higher than the year-to-date cancellation rate of 1.7% in 2024. *Flight Operations:* The 657,233 flights operated in July 2024 were 105.47% of the 623,120 flights operated in July 2023. Operated flights in July 2024 were up 5.47% year-over-year from the 623,120 flights operated in July 2023 and up 2.14% month-over-month from 643,484 flights operated in June 2024. *July 2024 On-Time Arrival:* In July 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an on-time arrival rate of 68.4%, down from 74.3% in June 2024 and 69.6% in July 2023. The year-to-date on-time arrival rate for 2024 is 75.6%. *July 2024 Tarmac Delays:* In July 2024, airlines reported 72 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights, compared to 70 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights reported in June 2024. In July 2024, airlines reported three tarmac delays of more than four hours on an international flight, compared to six tarmac delay of more than four hours on international flights reported in June 2024. *Mishandled Baggage:* In July 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 45.6 million

AIR TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalties to KLM for violations of the Air Passenger Protection Regulations, September 27, 2024, www.cta-otc.gc.ca
2. USDOT Fines Air Canada \$250,000 for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace, September 27, 2024, www.dot.gov
3. Air Travel Consumer Report: July 2024 Numbers, September 27, 2024, www.bts.gov
4. US says 40 foreign operators may be using Boeing 737s with suspect rudder control parts, September 30, 2024, www.ajot.com
5. Air Transat considering 80-person layoff amid financial turbulence, October 2, 2024, www.globeandmail.ca
6. Porter expands U.S. network with new nonstop Phoenix-Toronto flight, October 3, 2024, www.flyporter.com
7. Air Canada, WestJet must hand over market info to Competition Bureau, court orders, October 3, 2024, www.financialpost.ca
8. Ninth Straight Months of Double-Digit Growth for Air Cargo in August, October 3, 2024, www.iata.org
9. Passenger Demand Up 8.6% in August: Load Factor Reaches Record High, October 4, 2024, www.iata.org
10. U.S. Airlines' August 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon down 4.3% from July 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 1.9% from Pre-Pandemic August 2019, October 7, 2024, www.bts.gov
11. Aeroplan's Points Matching Week to Help Children and Their Families Flying for Essential Hospital Care is Underway, October 8, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
12. Marriott Bonvoy and Aeroplan Launch Expanded Loyalty Partnership Offering Status Match and Two-Way Currency Transfer, October 9, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
13. Air Canada Welcomes Positive Ratification Vote by Pilots on New Four-Year Collective Agreement, October 10, 2024, www.aircanada.ca; and Air Canada pilots vote in favour of new contract, eliminating risk of strike, October 10, 2024, www.cbc.ca
14. July 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 4.5% from the Same Month Last Year, October 10, 2024, www.bts.gov
15. Cargo Drones Market worth \$8.92 Billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 34.2%, October 10, 2024, www.cargonews.com

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

bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.75%, higher than the rate of 0.58% in June 2024, and equal to the rate of 0.75% in July 2023. *Mishandled Wheelchairs and Scooters:* In July 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 85,988 wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling 1,159 for a rate of 1.35% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, higher than the rate of 1.30% mishandled in June 2024 and lower than the rate of 1.39% mishandled in July 2023. *Incidents Involving Animals:* In July 2024, carriers reported three incidents involving the death, injury, or loss of an animal while traveling by air, higher than the one report filed in June 2024 and the one report filed in July 2023. July's incidents involved the death of three animals.

4. US says 40 foreign operators may be using Boeing 737s with suspect rudder control parts

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board on September 30, 2024 said more than 40 foreign operators of Boeing 737 airplanes may be using planes with rudder components that may pose safety risks. The NTSB last week issued urgent safety recommendations about the potential for a jammed rudder control system on some Boeing 737 airplanes after a February incident involving a United Airlines flight. The NTSB also disclosed that it has learned two foreign operators suffered similar incidents in 2019 involving rollout guidance actuators. "We are concerned of the possibility that other airlines are unaware of the presence of these actuators on their 737 airplanes," NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy said in a letter to FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker.

5. Air Transat considering 80-person layoff amid financial turbulence

Transat A.T. Inc. is preparing to lay off up to 80 workers, according to a preliminary notice sent to the Quebec government. It is preparing to lay off up to 80 workers as the tour operator struggles to turn its finances around, according to a preliminary notice sent to the Quebec government. Over the course of the year, the company has felt the headwinds of stiff competition, engine recalls and the threat of a union strike, which together conspired to drain more money from the struggling outfit. Quebec labour rules require some companies to submit potential layoff figures for provincially regulated jobs, even if the cuts never come to pass. In a notice to the province's employment department, Transat says the layoffs could be effective by Nov. 1, 2024 specifying in an email that they would not apply to pilots, flight attendants or other federally regulated roles. Transat spokesman Andréan Gagné says notification of the potential layoffs marks a "precautionary measure" in order to comply with provincial rules. In its first three quarters, Transat reported a combined net loss of \$155.3 million versus a loss of \$28.5 million in the same period a year earlier.

6. Porter expands U.S. network with new nonstop Phoenix-Toronto flight

Porter Airlines inaugurates another new destination on October 3, 2024 with the launch of new service between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). This daily, non-stop flight connects Canada's largest city with one of North America's most popular getaway destinations. The route is Porter's first in Arizona, offering passengers a direct link to the Valley of the Sun, known for its stunning desert landscapes, world-renowned resorts, and vibrant food and arts scenes. Toronto is celebrated as a major international hub for business, culture, and cuisine.

7. Air Canada, WestJet must hand over market info to Competition Bureau, court orders

The Competition Bureau says it has obtained court orders requiring Air Canada and WestJet to hand over information for the watchdog's market study into airline competition. The watchdog is reviewing domestic airline service amid ongoing concerns around prices and quality. The Competition Bureau has obtained court orders requiring Air Canada and WestJet Airlines Ltd. to hand over information for the watchdog's market study into airline competition. Granted

16. Porter Airlines' ascent: Can the comfort carrier last in Canadian skies?, October 13, 2024, www.cbcnews.ca
17. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 40), October 11, 2024, www.ajot.com
18. DOT Penalizes Lufthansa \$4 Million for Violating Passengers' Civil Rights, October 15, 2024, www.dot.gov
19. Second Quarter 2024 Average Air Fare Decreases 2.6% from First Quarter 2024, October 15, 2024, www.bts.gov
20. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 2,761 Jobs in August 2024, October 16, 2024, www.bts.gov
21. Air Canada Awarded Gold Level Certification for Mental Health at Work from Excellence Canada, October 21, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
22. Air Travel Consumer Report: August 2024 Numbers, October 21, 2024, www.dot.gov
23. Air Canada and airBaltic Announce Codeshare Agreement Expanding Connectivity Between Canada and Northern Europe, October 23, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
24. Laguardia Airport named best U.S. airport by Forbes travel guides first verified air travel awards, October 23, 2024, www.ajot.com
25. DOT Issues Landmark \$50 Million Penalty Against American Airlines for Its Treatment of Passengers with Disabilities, October 23, 2024, www.dot.gov
26. Porter Airlines Turns 18, October 23, 2024, www.flyporter.com
27. Porter Airlines becomes Toronto's second-largest carrier with expanded winter service, October 24, 2024, www.flyporter.com
28. Star Alliance Management Team Firmly Focused on Seamless Customer Experience, October 24, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
29. Justice Department and Department of Transportation Launch Broad Public Inquiry into the State of Competition in Air Travel, October 24, 2024, www.dot.gov
30. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in Funding to Modernize Airport Terminals Across 46 States, October 24, 2024, www.dot.gov
31. Justice Department and Department of Transportation Launch Broad Public Inquiry into the State of Competition in Air Travel, October 24, 2024, www.dot.gov
31. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award at the APEX 2025 Awards, October 28, 2024, www.aircanada.ca
32. Air Canada Cargo opens new cold chain facility at Heathrow Airport, October 29, 2024, www.insidelogistics.com
33. IATA to Offer Digital Currencies in Financial Settlement Systems, October 29, 2024, www.iata.org

by the Federal Court last month, the rulings require the country's two biggest airlines to produce records and answer questions around barriers to entry into the field, performance metrics and agreements with airports and other airlines.

8. Ninth Straight Months of Double-Digit Growth for Air Cargo in August

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for August 2024 global air cargo markets showing continued strong annual growth in demand. 1. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), rose by 11.4% compared to August 2023 levels (12.4% for international operations). This is the ninth consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year growth, with overall levels reaching heights not seen since the record peaks of 2021. 2. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 6.2% compared to August 2023 (8.2% for international operations). This was largely related to the growth in international belly capacity, which rose 10.9% on the strength of passenger markets. Industry-wide capacity has reached an all-time high.

9. Passenger Demand Up 8.6% in August: Load Factor Reaches Record High

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for August 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights: 1. **Total demand**, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), was up 8.6% compared to August 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 6.5% year-on-year. The August load factor was 86.2% (+1.6ppt compared to August 2023), a new record high. 2. **International demand** rose 10.6% compared to August 2023. Capacity was up 10.1% year-on-year and the load factor rose to 85.7% (+0.4ppt compared to August 2023). 3. **Domestic demand** rose 5.6% compared to August 2023. Capacity was up 1.2% year-on-year and the load factor was 86.9% (+3.6ppt compared to August 2023). "The market for air travel is hot and airlines are doing a great job at meeting the growing demand for travel. Efficiency gains have driven load factors to record highs while the 6.5% capacity increase demonstrates resilience in the face of persistent supply chain issues and infrastructure deficiencies," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

10. U.S. Airlines' August 2024 Fuel Cost per Gallon down 4.3% from July 2024; Aviation Fuel Consumption up 1.9% from Pre-Pandemic August 2019

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on October 7, 2024 released U.S. airlines' August 2024 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.686 billion gallons of fuel, 2.9% less fuel than in July 2024 (1.736 billion gallons) and 1.9% more than in pre-pandemic August 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in August 2024 (\$2.47) was down 11 cents (4.3%) from July 2024 (\$2.58) and up \$0.52 (26.9%) from August 2019. Total August 2024 fuel expenditure (\$4.16B) was down 7.1% from July 2024 (\$4.47B) and up 29.3% from pre-pandemic August 2019. Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for August 2024 includes a 0.1% decrease in domestic fuel consumption, a 14.1% decrease in domestic fuel cost, and a 14.0% decrease in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption decreased 2.8% from July 2024 to August 2024, while increasing 1.6% from August 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

11. Aeroplan's Points Matching Week to Help Children and Their Families Flying for Essential Hospital Care is Underway

This year's Aeroplan Points Matching Week in support of the Air Canada Foundation's Hospital Transportation Program began on October 8, 2024 and will run until Oct. 13, 2024. The program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, operates on the generous donations of Aeroplan Members and Aeroplan to provide relief for families across Canada whose children need to travel for medical treatment.

12. Marriott Bonvoy and Aeroplan Launch Expanded Loyalty Partnership Offering Status Match and Two-Way Currency Transfer

Marriott Bonvoy®, Marriott International's award-winning travel program – offering the largest portfolio in the industry with more than 30 extraordinary brands and 10,000 global destinations – and **Aeroplan**, Canada's leading travel loyalty program run by Canada's largest airline, Air Canada, have deepened their loyalty partnership, building on a longstanding relationship between two iconic travel brands to offer elevated value and enhanced benefits to travelers.

13. Air Canada Welcomes Positive Ratification Vote by Pilots on New Four-Year Collective Agreement and Air Canada pilots vote in favour of new contract, eliminating risk of strike

Air Canada on October 10, 2024 said that it welcomes the result of a vote by its more than 5,200 pilots, represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, approving a new collective agreement between the company and the association. "We are very pleased this new collective agreement has been approved by our pilot group. The agreement is mutually beneficial and it will keep our pilots the best compensated in Canada and provide the work-life balance improvements they were seeking. At the same time, the agreement gives our company flexibility and creates a framework for future growth of the airline and its network. We look forward to working with our pilots under this renewed partnership," said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive of Air Canada. The four-year agreement, retroactive to September 30, 2023, covers more than 5,200 pilots at Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge. It maintains Air Canada pilots' position as the best paid in the Canadian commercial air transport industry, while providing the company the stability and

flexibility to pursue its growth strategy. The deal, which grants the carrier's pilots a cumulative wage hike of nearly 42 per cent over four years, received 67 per cent votes in favour, according to the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), which represents the workers.

14. July 2024 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 4.5% from the Same Month Last Year

U.S. airlines carried 91.8 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in July 2024, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, July enplanements are down 1.9% from June and down 1.9% from the all-time high reached in June 2024. BTS reported 78.8 million domestic passengers and 13 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in July, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 and complete data since 2000.

15. Cargo Drones Market worth \$8.92 Billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 34.2%

The cargo drones industry is projected to reach USD 8.92 billion by 2030, from USD 1.53 billion in 2024, at a CAGR of 34.2%. The volume of cargo drones is projected to grow from 445 (in Units) in 2024 to 2,746 (in Units) by 2030. The market growth can be attributed to the rising demand for the faster and efficient shipment delivery along with the significant advancement. The market for cargo drones is expanding as companies are seeking ways to increase delivery and logistics effectiveness. These were the findings of the report *“Cargo Drones Market by Solution (Avionics, Route Planning & Optimization, Ground Control Stations), Payload (10-49 Kg, 50-149Kg, 150-249 Kg, 250-449 Kg, 500-499 Kg, 500-999 Kg, >1,000 Kg), Industry, Range, Type, and Region – Global Forecast to 2030”*

16. Porter Airlines’ ascent: Can the comfort carrier last in Canadian skies?

[Porter Airlines](#) has perhaps the loftiest goals in Canadian skies: compete with the sector’s established players, not solely by trying to beat them on cost, but by winning the hearts of its passengers. “It’s a completely different way to travel in economy and it’s allowed us to grow very quickly over the last 18 months,” Porter CEO [Michael Deluce](#) told Global News in an exclusive interview this week. The Toronto-based airline has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic with ambitious growth plans, adding dozens of jets and destinations to its arsenal in a bid to rapidly scale up. But with other promising Canadian airlines routinely coming up short in their bids to add competition to the tightly concentrated field, some experts say Porter could have a narrow runway to success. “The key here is, can they do it profitably and can they make it work? Because everybody’s watching right now,” says Robert Kokonis, president of consultancy AirTrav Inc.

17. WorldACD Weekly Air Cargo Trends (week 40)

Global air cargo spot rates rose to new 2024 highs in the first few days of October 2024 despite a dip in worldwide tonnages linked to national holidays in China and disruptions to air traffic in the Middle East caused by the increased tensions in the region. According to the latest weekly figures and analysis from WorldACD Market Data, average worldwide spot rates edged by a further +1%, week on week (WoW), in week 40 (30 September to 6 October) to US\$2.84 per kilo – their highest level this year – thanks to increases from Asia Pacific (+1%), Africa (+2%) and Central & South America (CSA, +5%) origins. And a +2% WoW increase in contract rates from Asia Pacific also helped drive a +2% WoW increase in the worldwide full-market average of spot and contract rates to US\$2.65 per kilo. However, tonnages from Asia Pacific origins fell in week 40 by -7%, WoW, mainly due to National Day or Golden Week holidays in China, which this year ran from 1-6 October. Those tonnage drops from Asia Pacific origins explained the majority of the overall worldwide tonnages decline of -5%, WoW, in week 40, although there were also significant WoW tonnage declines from Middle East & South Asia (MESA, -9%), Europe (-4%) and North America (-3%) origins.

18. DOT Penalizes Lufthansa \$4 Million for Violating Passengers’ Civil Rights

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on October 15, 2025 announced a \$4 million penalty against Lufthansa for discriminating against Jewish passengers who were traveling from New York City through Frankfurt to Budapest in May 2022. Based on the alleged misconduct of some passengers, Lufthansa prohibited 128 Jewish passengers – most of whom wore distinctive garb typically worn by Orthodox Jewish men – from boarding their connecting flight in Germany. Despite many of the passengers not knowing each other nor traveling together, passengers interviewed by DOT investigators stated that Lufthansa treated them all as if they were a single group and denied them boarding for the alleged misbehavior of a few. Today’s penalty is the largest ever issued by DOT against an airline for civil rights violations.

19. Second Quarter 2024 Average Air Fare Decreases 2.6% from First Quarter 2024

The average U.S. domestic air fare decreased in the second quarter of 2024 to \$382, down 2.6% from the first quarter 2024 inflation-adjusted fare of \$392.

20. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 2,761 Jobs in August 2024

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment decreased to 1,001,452 workers in August 2024, 2,761 (0.27%) less workers than in July 2024 (1,004,213). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 542,983 workers in August 2024, or 54% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines lost 3,100 employees in August 2024. SkyWest Airlines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 150 employees; Spirit Air Lines added 121, and

Republic Airlines added 75. U.S. cargo airlines employed 454,259 workers in August 2024, or 46% of the industry-wide total. Cargo carriers lost 310 employees in August 2024. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, increased employment by 726 jobs.

21. Air Canada Awarded Gold Level Certification for Mental Health at Work from Excellence Canada

Air Canada has been granted Gold Level certification in the category of Mental Health at Work from Excellence Canada, recognizing the airline's dedication to a workplace culture that promotes well-being. The airline is committed to making a difference for its employees by providing the resources, training, and support needed to raise awareness about mental health.

22. Air Travel Consumer Report: August 2024 Numbers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of August 2024 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. In August 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an on-time arrival rate of 74.9%, up from 68.4% in July 2024 and down from 77.2% in August 2023. The year-to-date on-time arrival rate for 2024 is 75.5%. In August 2024, reporting marketing carriers cancelled 2.0% of their scheduled domestic flights, lower than the rate of 2.9% in July 2024 and higher than the rate of 1.5% in August 2023. The year-to-date cancellation rate for 2024 is 1.7%. In August 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 42.5 million bags and posted a mishandled baggage rate of 0.64%, lower than the rate of 0.75% in July 2024, and higher than the rate of 0.61% in August 2023. In August 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 79,385 wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling 1,004 for a rate of 1.26% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, lower than the rate of 1.35% mishandled in July 2024 and lower than the rate of 1.52% mishandled in August 2023.

23. Air Canada and airBaltic Announce Codeshare Agreement Expanding Connectivity Between Canada and Northern Europe

Air Canada and airBaltic on October 23, 2024 announced a codeshare agreement providing customers additional, convenient travel options when flying between Canada and Europe's Baltic states. Effective for travel beginning November 6, 2024, Air Canada's marketing code will be placed on 10 routes operated by airBaltic, enabling customers to travel conveniently to Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania on a single ticket. The routes include the capital cities of Vilnius (Lithuania), Riga (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia) from several European gateways, including Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Stockholm. Also effective for travel beginning November 6, 2024, airBaltic's marketing code will be placed on two routes operated by Air Canada from Toronto to Copenhagen and Amsterdam. Next summer, airBaltic's marketing code will be added on Air Canada's seasonal services from Montreal to Copenhagen and Amsterdam, as well as Toronto to Stockholm.

24. LaGuardia Airport named best U.S. airport by Forbes travel guides first verified air travel awards

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on October 23, 2024 announced LaGuardia Airport's selection as the best airport in the United States by Forbes Travel Guide, which released its first Verified Air Travel Awards based on a survey of 5,000 hospitality and travel expert and the guide's most well-traveled fliers. Today's recognition is the latest in a long list of accolades given to LaGuardia throughout the course of the airport's historic \$8 billion transformation from what was once the nation's worst airport into what is now its best.

25. DOT Issues Landmark \$50 Million Penalty Against American Airlines for Its Treatment of Passengers with Disabilities

On October 23, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a \$50 million penalty against American Airlines (American) for numerous serious violations of the laws protecting airline passengers with disabilities between 2019 and 2023. DOT's investigation into American Airlines uncovered cases of unsafe physical assistance that at times resulted in injuries and undignified treatment of wheelchair users, in addition to repeated failures to provide prompt wheelchair assistance. American also mishandled thousands of wheelchairs by damaging them or delaying their return, leaving travelers without the device they need for mobility.

26. Porter Airlines Turns 18

Porter is celebrating 18 years of service and it's been another transformative year for the airline. With its continuing North American expansion, Porter is already the second-largest airline operating flights to the U.S. and Canada at Toronto Pearson International Airport, and the largest airline operating out of Ottawa. In the past 12 months, Porter has: 1. Grown to 3,900+ team members (up from 1,500 in 2022); 2. Taken delivery of 20 new E195-E2 aircraft (operating 42 in total of an order up to 100); 3. Total fleet size of 71 aircraft, including 29 De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft; and 4. Added 20 new routes (current total 65) and 11 new destinations (current total 38)

27. Porter Airlines becomes Toronto's second-largest carrier with expanded winter service

Porter Airlines is operating its largest-ever winter schedule, establishing its position as the second-largest carrier in Toronto. With up to 180 daily flights across 34 destinations, Porter's elevated economy experience is available to more

cities from both Toronto Pearson International Airport and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. At Toronto Pearson, Porter will operate up to 86 daily flights, a 19% increase from last winter's schedule. The airline is now serving 23 destinations, including four upcoming new options: West Palm Beach, San Diego, Thunder Bay and Palm Springs. Every flight from Toronto Pearson is operated by the state-of-the-art, 132-seat Embraer E195-E2.

28. Star Alliance Management Team Firmly Focused on Seamless Customer Experience

Star Alliance, the world's leading global airline alliance, firmed up its key management appointments aimed at further enhancing its strategic focus on a seamless experience for member airline customers as they benefit from the Star Alliance network. Ambar Franco joins Star Alliance as Vice President, Customer Experience. Franco will lead the development and implementation of initiatives designed to enhance the overall customer journey across the alliance: their booking experience, the experience of customers at airports and when they connect between Star Alliance member airlines, and then to ensure their continuing loyalty post travel.

29. Justice Department and Department of Transportation Launch Broad Public Inquiry into the State of Competition in Air Travel

On October 24, 2024, the Justice Department's Antitrust Division and the Department of Transportation jointly announced a broad public inquiry into the state of competition in air travel. The agencies are seeking public information on consolidation, anticompetitive conduct, and a wide range of issues affecting the availability and affordability of air travel options. The topics covered in the agencies' joint Request for Information (RFI) include previous airline mergers, exclusionary conduct, airport access, aircraft manufacturing, airline ticket sales, pricing, and rewards practices, and the experiences of aviation workers.

30. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in Funding to Modernize Airport Terminals Across 46 States

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$970 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 125 U.S. airports, spanning 46 states, Guam, and Palau. This announcement is the fourth investment of nearly \$1 billion, furthering the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to rebuilding our nation's infrastructure while lowering costs for families, creating good jobs, and spurring economic growth.

31. Justice Department and Department of Transportation Launch Broad Public Inquiry into the State of Competition in Air Travel

On October 24, 2024, the Justice Department's Antitrust Division and the Department of Transportation jointly announced a broad public inquiry into the state of competition in air travel. The agencies are seeking public information on consolidation, anticompetitive conduct, and a wide range of issues affecting the availability and affordability of air travel options. The topics covered in the agencies' joint Request for Information (RFI) include previous airline mergers, exclusionary conduct, airport access, aircraft manufacturing, airline ticket sales, pricing, and rewards practices, and the experiences of aviation workers.

32. Air Canada Earns Passenger-Rated Five Star Global Airline Award at the APEX 2025 Awards

Air Canada is honoured to have been recognized once again with a Five Star Global Airline Award at the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) 2025 Awards, recognizing its continued commitment to excellence. This is the sixth time in seven years that the airline has been awarded an APEX Five Star rating, which is based on customer feedback. "I thank our customers and APEX on behalf of our 40,000 global employees for bestowing on us this recognition as a Five Star Global Airline. We continue to invest in our customer experience, including our award-winning in-flight entertainment system and new digital features via the Air Canada app, to deliver an elevated level of comfort and convenience to our loyal customers. And we remain committed to furthering the customer experience at Air Canada with exciting new features to be rolled out in the coming months," said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada.

32. Air Canada Cargo opens new cold chain facility at Heathrow Airport

Air Canada Cargo has opened a new cold chain facility at London Heathrow, its largest European hub, to better serve its customers shipping temperature-sensitive cargo. The upgraded facility will feature nearly 900 square-feet of temperature-controlled areas to fully meet strict industry standards and global regulatory requirements, ensuring products stay within the required temperature range. Air Canada Cargo connects London Heathrow to and from its global network with over 45 weekly widebody flights.

33. IATA to Offer Digital Currencies in Financial Settlement Systems

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that it will offer digital currencies in the financial settlement systems it operates for the aviation industry. "Digitalization impacts many aspects of our daily lives, including the currency we use. With the increasing use of digital currencies, it is imperative that IATA's industry financial settlement systems adapt to support the needs of those using our services," said Muhammad Albakri, IATA's Senior Vice President for Financial Settlement and Distribution Services. The first digital currency to be offered is the digital Renminbi, which will be available in the China Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) by the end of 2024. "China is

one of the most advanced countries in the world in the adoption of digital currency. Recognizing the trend, IATA's China Airline Committee requested for the digital Renminbi to be included in the BSP. This is an important development and IATA will accommodate the digital Renminbi by year-end," said Albakri.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Port of Montreal to face three-day strike against two terminals next week

Almost half of the Port of Montreal's container capacity will be shuttered through the first half of next week as dockworkers there plan to strike two of its five container terminals, the latest move in a long-simmering standoff between the local longshore union and the port's maritime employers. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 375 sent a 72-hour notice to the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) of its intent to strike, according to a statement from the Montreal Port Authority. The strike will target the Viau and Maisonneuve container terminals from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2, 2024.

2. US East Coast port strike set to start Tuesday, says union

A port strike on the U.S. East Coast and Gulf of Mexico will go ahead starting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, the International Longshoremen's Association union said on Sunday, September 29, 2024 signaling action that could cause delays and snarl supply chains. "United States Maritime Alliance ... refuses to address a half-century of wage subjugation," the union said in a statement. The United States Maritime Alliance, known as USMX, represents employers of the East and Gulf Coast longshore industry. USMX did not immediately comment. If union members walk off the job at ports stretching from Maine to Texas, it would be the first coast-wide ILA strike since 1977, affecting ports that handle about half the nation's ocean shipping. A source said no negotiations were taking place and none are currently planned before the midnight Monday deadline. The union said previously the strike would not impact military cargo shipments or cruise ship traffic.

3. Partial strike underway shuts down two Montreal container terminals

While a devastating strike looms for October 1, 2024 on the US East and Gulf coasts, Canada is dealing with its own labour conflict at the Port of Montreal, the largest Canadian container gateway on the Eastern Seaboard. But for the present the work stoppage has taken the form of a three-day partial strike that has shut down two of the port's five container terminals as of early September 30, 2024. The Viau and Maisonneuve terminals are operated by Termont that the longshore union – Local 375 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees - targeted for initial industrial action. Termont handles about 40% of Montreal's total container traffic and employs some 350 dockers out of the port's 1,120 longshore workers. The existing collective agreement expired on December 31, 2023. The Maritime Employers Association (MEA) indicated it had tried all possible means of averting the planned strike but to no avail. A complete shutdown of the Port of Montreal, even for just one week, could have an impact of tens of millions of dollars on Canada's GDP and impact severely on supply chains.

4. Truckers pre-pull imports as strike set to close East, Gulf coast ports

Port truckers have pulled the last containers they could out of marine terminals ahead of their closure on October 1, 2024 due to a strike by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), filling up storage yards and constraining chassis supply until the ports reopen. Some of the 45,000 members of the ILA that work at East and Gulf Coast ports are expected to staff picket lines outside marine terminals at midnight tonight, when the current collective bargaining agreement with the United States Maritime

WATER TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Port of Montreal to face three-day strike against two terminals next week, September 27, 2024, www.joc.com
2. US East Coast port strike set to start Tuesday, says union, September 29, 2024, www.ajot.com
3. Partial strike underway shuts down two Montreal container terminals, September 30, 2024, www.ajot.com
4. Truckers pre-pull imports as strike set to close East, Gulf coast ports, September 30, 2024, www.joc.com
5. Port of Montreal seeing impact of work stoppage, Oct. 2, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
6. Mid-year trade volumes steady at Port of Vancouver, as container sector recovers, October 1, 2024, www.metrovancouver.com
7. House Republicans, shippers up pressure on Biden to stop US port strike, October 1, 2024, www.joc.com
8. Biden scolds ocean carriers for not paying dockworkers 'fair' wages, *October 1, 2024*, www.freightwaves.com
9. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Calls on Ocean Carriers to Withdraw Surcharges, October 1, 2024, www.dot.gov
10. Volumes steady at Port of Vancouver despite drop in domestic cargo, October 3, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
11. U.S. Department of Transportation Statement on East Coast and Gulf Coast Ports, October 1, 2024, www.dot.gov
12. Ships backing up outside of strike-shut US East, Gulf ports, October 2, 2024, www.joc.com
13. 1 million TEUs could soon be stalled outside strike ports, October 3, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
14. ILA, USMX agree on new wage offer and contract extension that reopens ports, October 3, 2024, www.joc.com
15. Statement by Secretary Pete Buttigieg on ILA and USMX Agreement, October 3, 2024, www.dot.gov
16. US East, Gulf coast ports confident of smooth post-strike reopening, October 4, 2024, www.joc.com
17. Ocean container rates drop five per cent, 66 per cent since peak, October 7, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
18. Union and Maritime Employers' Association convened to mediation meeting, October 7, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
19. Montreal dockworkers set to halt all overtime work as talks drag on, October 7, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
20. Port of Montreal faces disruption as longshore workers refuse overtime, October 9, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

Alliance (USMX) expires. Two New Jersey marine terminals closed earlier than expected due to influx of trucks pre-pulling import.

5. Port of Montreal seeing impact of work stoppage

The Port of Montreal says the ongoing work stoppage at the Viau and Maisonneuve terminals is resulting in a decrease of container handling capacity of 40 per cent. At the end of the first day of the partial strike at the Port of Montreal, which began Sept. 30, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) revealed the first operational impacts. The port said it is seeing an accumulation of containers on the ground, including temperature-controlled containers for food, pharmaceutical and medical products. In addition, goods scheduled to transit through the Viau and Maisonneuve terminals are currently being held up at forwarding agents, and five container ships due to arrive at the Port of Montreal in the next few days have been delayed.

6. Mid-year trade volumes steady at Port of Vancouver, as container sector recovers

Cargo volumes at the Port of Vancouver were steady in the first half of 2024, decreasing less than 1% compared to the same period a year ago, as record international trade was offset by lower volumes of domestic goods. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's 2024 mid-year statistics show port operators and supply chain partners moved 75.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of trade between January 1 and June 30, 2024—led by strong performances in the container, auto and liquid bulk sectors. “Our focus is on working with port operators, and partners and government to ensure a strong, reliable and innovative Pacific gateway to enable both Canada’s trade and our communities to prosper,” said Peter Xotta, President and CEO of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency that enables Canadian trade through the Port of Vancouver while protecting the environment. Performances in container, cruise, auto and liquid bulk sectors lead the way, as port terminals move a first-half record 62 million metric tonnes of international trade.

7. House Republicans, shippers up pressure on Biden to stop US port strike

On the first day of the first strike at US East and Gulf coast ports in nearly 50 years, Republican lawmakers and shipper groups urged the Biden administration to get cargo flowing again by overcoming the president’s opposition to invoking the Taft-Hartley Act. New, sharper criticism from House Republicans on President Joe Biden’s refusal to invoke the executive power anathema to labor, pleas from major retailers and manufacturers, and greater and wider media coverage reflect growing political pressure on Biden. How the Biden administration balances its need to respect union bargaining while protecting a slowing US economy. J.P. Morgan estimates the ILA strike could cost the economy up to \$4.5 billion per day, with some of those costs recovered after ports return to normal operations.

8. Biden scolds ocean carriers for not paying dockworkers ‘fair’ wages

President Joe Biden broke his silence on the labor dispute between the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) by accusing employers of hoarding profits. “Ocean carriers have made record profits since the pandemic and in some cases profits grew in excess of 800 percent compared to their profits prior to the pandemic,” Biden said in a statement issued by the White House on October 1, 2024, after [the ILA went on strike](#) at 14 ports on the U.S. East and Gulf coasts, halting container and roll-on/roll-off operations at 36 marine terminals.

9. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Calls on Ocean Carriers to Withdraw Surcharges

President Biden and Vice President Harris are closely monitoring any

21. US retailers expect modest import bump in October to close out peak season, October 8, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)
22. Descartes releases October Global Shipping Report, October 8, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
23. September 2024 U.S. container imports exceed 2.5M TEUs., October 8, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
24. Strong freight rates drive higher Q3 revenue for Taiwan’s ‘Big Three’ carriers, October 9, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)
25. Port of Montreal faces potential supply chain disruptions amid overtime strike, October 10, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](#)
26. Iron, steel, petroleum continues to drive tonnage through St. Lawrence Seaway, October 11, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
27. UPDATED: Port of Montreal faces disruption as longshore workers initiate overtime strike, September 11, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
28. IMO proposes ‘Pricing Mechanism’ for ships to reduce Ghg emissions, October 14, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
29. Port of Oakland container volume continues to grow anticipating strong 4th quarter, October 14, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
30. Canada labour minister proposes new mediator for Montreal port workers strike, October 15, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
31. Asia-Europe carriers target pre-Lunar New Year demand with rate hikes, blank sailings, October 15, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)
32. Ripple effects playing out globally from ILA strike: analyst, October 17, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)
33. Drop in container rates now 69 per cent below 2021 peak, October 18, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
34. Port of Long Beach sees strongest September on record, October 17, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
35. Port of Long Beach: Gene Seroka announces historic third quarter, October 21, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
36. Borderlands Mexico: Port of Corpus Christi becomes global crude oil supplier, October 20, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](#)
37. Another strike notice issued for Port of Montreal workers, October 24, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
38. Hapag-Lloyd raises full-year forecast on ‘stronger than expected’ Q3, October 24, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)
39. Container rates continue to plunge, October 24, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](#)
40. MEA concerned about new strike notice from Montreal longshoremen, October 25, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.com](#)
41. Cargo-ship owner to pay US \$102 million over Baltimore bridge collapse, DOJ says, October 25, 2024, [www.ajot.com](#)
42. Master contract discussions to resume in November for U.S. port workers, October 29, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.com](#)
43. Record 2024 cruise season wraps at Port of Vancouver, October 28, 2024, [www.metroportvancouver.com](#)
44. Offshore project delivers Virginia cargo

attempts by companies to opportunistically raise prices, including ocean shippers or others, during the labor dispute at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports. Our administration is calling on ocean carriers to withdraw their surcharges. No one should exploit a disruption for profit, especially at a time when whole regions of the country are recovering from Hurricane Helene. The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has stated that it will use the authority the President called for and signed into law to ensure any fees assessed are legitimate and lawful. President Biden has directed our administration to use every authority at the federal level and to support state and local officials as they use the authorities at their disposal. We are closely monitoring potential supply chain impacts and assessing ways to address potential impacts, if necessary.

windfall, October 28, 2024, www.joc.com
45. Port Houston surpasses 3 million TEUs in record time, steel imports also up 25% in September, October 28, 2024, www.ajot.com

10. Volumes steady at Port of Vancouver despite drop in domestic cargo

Cargo volumes at the Port of Vancouver were steady in the first half of 2024, decreasing less than one per cent compared to the same period a year ago, as record international trade was offset by lower volumes of domestic goods. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's 2024 mid-year statistics show port operators and supply chain partners moved 75.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of trade between Jan. 1 and June 30, led by strong performances in the container, auto and liquid bulk sectors. "Our focus is on working with port operators, and partners and government to ensure a strong, reliable and innovative Pacific gateway to enable both Canada's trade and our communities to prosper," said Peter Xotta, president and CEO of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency that enables Canadian trade through the Port of Vancouver while protecting the environment.

11. U.S. Department of Transportation Statement on East Coast and Gulf Coast Ports

On October 1, 2024, DOT officials met with businesses that will be affected by labor disputes to continue their ongoing dialogue about impacts to the supply chain and provide an update on the Administration's efforts to encourage the parties to negotiate in good faith. Since early summer, DOT's Multimodal Freight Office has been engaged with shippers, ocean carriers, ports, railroads, and other supply chain partners on the potential impact of a strike. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, DOT has established strong relationships across the supply chain to address bottlenecks—from disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the closure of the Port of Baltimore—and continues to communicate with partners on every level of the supply chain. Our Administration supports collective bargaining as the best way for workers and employers to come to a fair agreement, and we encourage all parties to come to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith—fairly and quickly.

12. Ships backing up outside of strike-shut US East, Gulf ports

Container ship anchorages are growing outside of US East and Gulf coast ports on the second day of a dockworker strike, with carriers offering limited options to avoid delays and currently planning to divert only a handful of vessels to alternative ports. As of October 2, 2024, at least 64 container ships were scheduled to call one of the 15 US ports affected by striking members of the International Longshoremen's Association, according to data from Sea-web, a sister product of the Journal of Commerce within S&P Global. Carriers have little option at the moment but to divert ships that are already underway for US East and Gulf coast ports shuttered by the ILA strike.

13. 1 million TEUs could soon be stalled outside strike ports

East Coast container ports are shut down by a strike by International Longshoremen's Association workers, but that hasn't stopped the parade of inbound ships from queuing up outside those maritime hubs. "Currently, there are over 400,000 twenty foot-equivalent units (TEUs) being carried on the queued vessels outside the affected East and Gulf Coast ports, another 33% increase from yesterday and a 170% jump from the day before the strike began," said Jena Santoro, senior manager of Intelligence Solutions at Everstream Analytics, in an email to FreightWaves. "There are now 59 vessels waiting, up from 45 [Wednesday, October 2, 2024] and just three on Sunday. "Given this trajectory, if the strike lasts even one week, the number of waiting container vessels could easily exceed 100 with the number of halted TEUs surpassing 1 million."

14. ILA, USMX agree on new wage offer and contract extension that reopens ports

Maritime employers and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) have reached a tentative deal to reopen container terminals at East and Gulf Coast ports after trading new wage offers that would bring dockworker pay up over 60%. Longshore workers will work under a three-month contract extension until a formal deal is reached. Official announcement of the breakthrough is expected on October 3, 2024 evening, sources told the *Journal of Commerce*. The White House is scheduled to host a briefing on October 4, 2024 morning on the port strike. The ILA rejected an earlier offer from maritime employers of \$3 per hour per year, but they are readying to accept a \$4 per hour deal.

15. Statement by Secretary Pete Buttigieg on ILA and USMX Agreement

This tentative agreement to get workers a historic and much-deserved raise would not be possible without the leadership of President Biden, Vice President Harris, the ILA, and the USMX member companies. I want to thank everyone involved for putting the country first, finding a path forward to reopen ports, and ensuring that essential goods—including those bound for areas hard hit by Hurricane Helene—will be moving again.

16. US East, Gulf coast ports confident of smooth post-strike reopening

Ports up and down the US East and Gulf coasts expect a generally smooth resumption of cargo flow after reopening early on October 4, 2024 morning thanks to a tentative agreement on Thursday, October 3, 2024 that ended a three-day dockworker strike. The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents maritime employers, said in a joint statement late Thursday they "have reached a tentative agreement on wages and have agreed to extend the master contract until Jan. 15, 2025, to return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues."

17. Ocean container rates drop five per cent, 66 per cent since peak

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) decreased five per cent to US\$3,489 per 40-ft container the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. The latest WCI composite index of US\$3,489 is 66 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but it is 146 per cent more than the average pre-pandemic rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,097 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,269 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,828, which was inflated by the exceptional 2020-22 COVID-19 period. Freight rates from Shanghai to Genoa decreased nine per cent to US\$3,848 per 40-ft container. Similarly, rates from Shanghai to Rotterdam declined eight per cent to US\$3,815. Rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles dropped four per cent to US\$5,258 per 40-ft box and rates from Shanghai to New York and Rotterdam to Shanghai fell two per cent to US\$5,922 and US\$590 per feu respectively. Meanwhile, rates from New York to Rotterdam, Rotterdam to New York and Los Angeles to Shanghai remain stable.

18. Union and Maritime Employers' Association convened to mediation meeting

The Maritime Employers' Association (MEA) and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 375 have been convened by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) to a mediation meeting, according to a statement from the MEA. Meanwhile, CUPE 375, which represents Port of Montreal longshore workers, says the MEA has not made itself available to negotiate. Workers at Viau and Maisonneuve terminals at the Port of Montreal began a 72-hour strike the morning of Sept. 30, with the union representing the workers saying in a statement that efforts to avoid the strike were "in vain." "Whether through mediation, supported by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, or before the Canada Industrial Relations Board in an emergency hearing this afternoon, our efforts have not borne fruit," the union said in a statement.

19. Montreal dockworkers set to halt all overtime work as talks drag on

Dockworkers at the Port of Montreal plan to halt all overtime work starting later this week in a pressure tactic aimed at management as contract talks grind on. The union representing nearly 1,200 longshore workers at the port said Monday, October 7, 2024 that it has filed notice that the "overtime strike" will kick off at 7 a.m. EDT on Thursday October 10, 2024 and continue indefinitely. "We're ready to negotiate intensively, but since the employer is dragging its feet, we're putting a little pressure on it to devote its energies to finding a solution," said Michel Murray, a spokesman for the union local affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. He said scheduling remains a key stumbling block in the bargaining sessions, which resumed on Friday October 4, 2024 under the watch of two federal mediators. The discussions restarted after a three-day strike last week at two terminals that handle 41 per cent of container traffic at the country's second-largest port.

20. Port of Montreal faces disruption as longshore workers refuse overtime

The union representing Port of Montreal longshore workers announced it will refuse to work overtime starting at 7 a.m. tomorrow (Oct. 10) for an unlimited period of time. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 375 informed the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) of the move, as negotiation between the two parties continue. "We are still bargaining with the help of two mediators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service assigned to the case," said CUPE union representative Michel Murray. "We're willing to get down to intensive negotiations, but since the employer is dragging their feet, we're turning up the pressure so that they put forth the energy needed to find a solution." The MEA said it has advised CUPE 375 that the complete cessation of overtime has a significant impact on deployed crews and the tasks required for operations.

21. US retailers expect modest import bump in October to close out peak season

US retailers are forecasting a modest year-over-year increase in imports this month to close out the 2024 peak shipping season, with most of the holiday merchandise already having entered the country due to the frontloading of imports from Asia this summer. Furthermore, the brief three-day strike by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) on the East and Gulf coasts is not expected to disrupt transportation supply chains ahead of the traditional beginning of the holiday shopping season, the National Retail Federation (NRF) said.

22. Descartes releases October Global Shipping Report

Descartes Systems Group, the global leader in uniting logistics-intensive businesses in commerce, released its October Global Shipping Report for logistics and supply chain professionals. The report shows that September U.S. container import volumes were 2,520,935 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), which marks the second time this year that volumes have eclipsed 2.5 million TEUs and the third month in a row that they have surpassed the 2.4 million TEU

threshold that has historically strained U.S. maritime logistics. Despite another month of elevated volumes, port transit time delays decreased at the majority of top 10 U.S. ports. The October update of the logistics metrics monitored by Descartes reinforces the strength of U.S. container imports since the start of 2024; however, potential challenges associated with the recently resolved International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) strike and ongoing conflict in the Middle East may create pressure on global supply chains throughout the remainder of the year.

23. September 2024 U.S. container imports exceed 2.5M TEUs.

September 2024 marks a 1.7% increase over August 2024, a significant 14.4% rise compared to September of last year, and an impressive 23.5% increase over pre-pandemic September 2019. Over the first nine months of 2024, import volumes are 16.5% higher than the same period in 2019. "Despite a third month of elevated container import volumes, port transit delays improved at the majority of the top 10 U.S. ports in September," said Jackson Wood, Director, Industry Strategy at Descartes. "Imports from China are contributing to overall U.S. volumes, posting the three highest monthly volumes on record in July, August and now September."

24. Strong freight rates drive higher Q3 revenue for Taiwan's 'Big Three' carriers

Taiwan's Big Three carriers — Evergreen Marine, Yang Ming Marine Transport and Wan Hai Lines — each saw third-quarter revenues more than double from a year ago on stronger freight rates. Rates were driven by an early peak season as shippers consigned cargo ahead of the longshore strike along the US East and Gulf coasts last week and a capacity crunch as vessels continued to divert around southern Africa to avoid militant attacks in the Red Sea. Evergreen's third-quarter revenues climbed 109% to \$4.8 billion from \$2.3 billion a year earlier, according to its exchange filings.

25. Port of Montreal faces potential supply chain disruptions amid overtime strike

An overtime strike by the Longshoremen's Union CUPE Local 375, began at the Port of Montreal at 7 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2024. The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) said in a statement it is concerned about the supply chain delays this will cause. The strike, which can affect the handling of around 50% of goods, could slow down the movement of imports and exports, including food, medical supplies, and industrial raw materials. While the entire port remains operational, longshoremen will not be working overtime. Around 10 ships expected at the port could be affected by these pressure tactics, MPA says.

26. Iron, steel, petroleum continues to drive tonnage through St. Lawrence Seaway

The St. Lawrence Seaway announced its 2024 September performance figures, with 23.6 million mt (metric tons) of cargo shipped since the beginning of the navigation season. While overall tonnage is slightly down compared to last year, iron, steel, petroleum and potash demonstrate positive trends that underscore the seaway's role in North American supply chains, with indications of a strong finish for grain this season also expected. Cargos that showed increases compared to the same period in 2023 include: 1. Grain: 6.2 million mt of Canadian and U.S. grain, up by 251,000 mt or 4.2 per cent; 2. Potash: 1.1 million mt up by 200,000 mt or 21 per cent; 3. Petroleum products: 2.2 million mt, up by 487,000 mt or 28.8 per cent; and 4. Iron and steel: 1.5 million mt up by 313,000 mt or 26 per cent.

27. UPDATED: Port of Montreal faces disruption as longshore workers initiate overtime strike

As the overtime strike began Oct. 10, 2024 at the Port of Montreal, in accordance with the notice filed by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 375, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) said it is concerned about the impact on the logistics chain and the supply of goods and commodities for businesses and the public. During the partial strike, all Port of Montreal terminals will remain open, but Port of Montreal longshoremen will not be working overtime as part of their duties. The MPA said this could result in processing delays and a backlog of containers waiting to be handled. The union representing Port of Montreal longshore workers announced Oct. 8 that it would refuse to work overtime starting at 7 a.m. Oct. 10, 2024 for an unlimited period of time. CUPE 375 informed the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) of the move, as negotiation between the two parties continue.

28. IMO proposes 'Pricing Mechanism' for ships to reduce Ghg emissions

The United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO) is considering a 'pricing mechanism' to accelerate international shipping's transition away from greenhouse gases (ghg) and toward zero emissions. The proposal came out of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) session that was held at IMO Headquarters in London from September 30th to October 4th. On October 10th the IMO announced that the Marine Environment Protection Committee: "made progress on the development of mid-term measures aimed at cutting down greenhouse gas emissions to meet the ambitions set out in the [2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships](#). These proposed regulations are scheduled for adoption in late 2025, building on previously adopted "[short-term measures](#)" for GHG reduction which focus on enhancing the energy efficiency of ships. The mid-term measures under discussion include: 1. a technical element, i.e., a global marine fuel standard regulating the phased reduction of a marine fuel's GHG intensity; and 2. an economic element, i.e., a maritime GHG emissions pricing mechanism."

29. Port of Oakland container volume continues to grow anticipating strong 4th quarter

The Port of Oakland's loaded container volume recorded a 7% increase in September 2024, compared to the same time last year. For the second month, loaded imports experienced double digit growth. Port operators recorded 10.4%

growth, handling 82,180 TEUs (twenty-foot containers) in September 2024, compared to 74,428 TEUs in September 2023. Loaded exports rose 2.9% year over year. Port operators processed 61,466 TEUs in September 2024, versus 59,757 TEUs in September 2023. “Oakland has benefited from a final push by importers wanting to ensure supplies for the holiday season,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “We expect to have a strong fourth quarter for container volume because it’s also harvest time. We are seeing more agricultural exports going to overseas markets.”

30. Canada labour minister proposes new mediator for Montreal port workers strike

Canada's Labour Minister Steve MacKinnon on October 15, 2024 proposed the appointment of a special mediator for a 90-day period for Montreal port workers strike. MacKinnon said that there would be no strike or lock-out during the deadline negotiation period, according to a post on X. Talks between the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) and Montreal Longshoremen's union remain in a deadlock over wages. The parties will have to submit responses to the Labour Ministry no later than Friday, Oct. 18, the MEA said in a statement. The strike has impacted the Viau and Maisonneuve terminals, which account for about 40% of the port's container traffic. The Montreal Longshoremen's Union did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

31. Asia-Europe carriers target pre-Lunar New Year demand with rate hikes, blank sailings

Forwarders expect freefalling Asia-North Europe ocean spot rates to bottom out in October and then climb through the remainder of the year as carriers increase blank sailings and roll out rate hikes to target early Chinese New Year demand. In an advisory to customers this week, a Europe-based global forwarder said there is less volume currently on the Asia-Europe trade because some factories and shippers were holding cargo back in anticipation of rates falling further. But that will change. November demand is expected to be strong because the blank sailings will limit capacity and the Chinese New Year peak.

32. Ripple effects playing out globally from ILA strike: analyst

The three-day strike by dockworkers at East and Gulf coast ports earlier this month will bring a delayed reduction in capacity on some trade lanes and could affect cargo frontloading ahead of another potential work stoppage in January, container shipping analyst Lars Jensen said on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Despite its brevity, shippers can expect to see ongoing impacts on tonnage supply on some trade lanes from the Oct. 1-3 strike, Jensen, CEO of Vespucci Maritime and a *Journal of Commerce* analyst, told the South Carolina International Trade Conference. “A three-day strike doesn’t sound like much but that doesn’t mean it’s over,” Jensen said.

33. Drop in container rates now 69 per cent below 2021 peak

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) decreased four per cent to US\$3,216 per 40-ft container for the week of Oct. 14-18, with rates now 69 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021. This week's WCI composite index is, however, 126 per cent more than the average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rate of US\$1,420. The average composite index for the year-to-date is US\$4,058 per 40-ft container, which is US\$1,225 higher than the 10-year average rate of US\$2,834, which was inflated by the 2020-22 COVID-19 period. Freight rates from Shanghai to Genoa decreased nine per cent to US\$3,438 per 40-ft container, while rates from Shanghai to Rotterdam dropped six per cent to US\$3,373. Rates from Shanghai to New York fell three per cent to US\$5,609 and those from Shanghai to Los Angeles declined two per cent to US\$4,941 per 40-ft container. Conversely, rates from Rotterdam to Shanghai increased one per cent to US\$547 and rates from Los Angeles to Shanghai, New York to Rotterdam and Rotterdam to New York remained stable.

34. Port of Long Beach sees strongest September on record

Demand for holiday-related goods nudged the Port of Long Beach to its most active September and busiest quarter on record as shippers continued to move goods ahead of a labor contract deadline for seaports on the East and Gulf coasts that resulted in a three-day strike at the start of October 2024. Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 829,499 twenty-foot equivalent units last month, up just 70 TEUs from the previous record set in September 2023. September also marked the Port's fourth consecutive monthly year-over-year cargo increase. Imports increased 2% to 416,999 TEUs, exports declined 12.8% to 88,289 TEUs and empty containers moving through the Port rose 1.5% to 324,211 TEUs. The Port has moved 6,917,373 TEUs during the first nine months of 2024, up 18.8% from the same period last year. It was also the Port's busiest quarter overall with 2,625,747 TEUs moved between July 1 and Sept. 30, breaking the previous record set during the second quarter of 2022 by 78,628 TEUs.

35. Port of Long Beach: Gene Seroka announces historic third quarter

The Port of Los Angeles handled a record 954,706 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in September 2024, a 27% increase over the previous year. It marked the close of the busiest quarter ever at the Port, which processed 2,854,904 TEUs in the last three months. Nine months into 2024, the Port of Los Angeles is 18% ahead of its 2023 pace. September 2024 loaded imports landed at 497,803 TEUs, a 26% increase compared to the previous year. Loaded exports came in at 114,702 TEUs, a 5% decrease compared to 2023. The Port processed 342,201 empty containers, a

45% jump compared to 2023. Overall, the Port has moved 7,586,395 TEUs the first nine months of 2024, an 18% increase over the 2023 mark.

36. Borderlands Mexico: Port of Corpus Christi becomes global crude oil supplier

The shores along the Corpus Christi Ship Channel are lined with massive storage tanks, grain elevators and oceanbound vessels docked along the 34-mile blue-green waterway. Since Congress repealed the crude oil export ban in 2015 and allowed U.S. crude oil to be sold on the world market, the Port of Corpus Christi has become a global crude oil refinery hub. Through the first eight months of the year, trade at the Port of Corpus Christi, Texas, rose 9% year over year to \$60.29 billion. The port is the largest exporter of oil and fuels in the U.S. and the third-largest exporter of crude oil in the world, behind the top-ranked Ras Tanura port in Saudi Arabia and the Basrah Oil Terminal in Iraq.

37. Another strike notice issued for Port of Montreal workers

The Maritime Employers Association (MEA) said it received a strike notice from the Port of Montréal Longshoremen's Union, CUPE Local 375, the morning of Oct. 24, which consists in a complete 24-hour work stoppage at the Port of Montréal from 7 a.m. Oct. 27, including the Contrecoeur terminal. The MEA said the strike that ensued Sept. 30 paralyzed operations for three days at the Viau and Maisonneuve (Termont) terminals, which represent 41 per cent of Port of Montréal's activities. Also, the strike that began Oct. 10, which halted overtime in all its forms, is still ongoing. The MEA said in a statement that the work stoppages have caused significant operational problems, which are in addition to a number of obstacles that are seriously affecting stability and reliability at the Port of Montréal, as well as in the Québec and Canadian supply chain. Part of that impact is a loss of cargo. The cargo handled by Montréal longshore workers has decreased by 24 per cent since 2022, according to the MEA.

38. Hapag-Lloyd raises full-year forecast on 'stronger than expected' Q3

Hapag-Lloyd has joined soon-to-be alliance partner Maersk in raising its full-year profit forecast following the release of preliminary nine-month figures that beat the carrier's expectations. Even though the results are significantly below the same period a year ago, this year's early peak season out of Asia and the high rates and demand that sustained through the third quarter enabled Hapag-Lloyd to raise its 2024 profit guidance. Given the current course of business, characterized by stronger-than-expected demand and improved freight rates, and despite increased expenses related to the necessary diversion of vessels around the Cape of Good Hope, Hapag-Lloyd is raising its full year forecast.

39. Container rates continue to plunge

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) sank four per cent again the week of Oct. 21-25 to US\$3,095 per 40-ft container, despite spike in Rotterdam to New York route. The latest drop puts container rates 70 per cent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but 118 per cent more than the average 2019 pre-pandemic rate of US\$1,420. The average year-to-date composite index is US\$4,036 per feu, which is US\$1,200 higher than the 10-year average of US\$2,836, which is inflated by the COVID-19 period.

40. MEA concerned about new strike notice from Montreal longshoremen

The Maritime Employers Association (MEA) has issued a statement in response to a 24-hour strike notice from the Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union, CUPE Local 375, set to begin on Sunday, Oct.27, at 7:00 a.m. The strike will affect all work on Port of Montreal grounds, including the Contrecoeur terminal. This follows a series of strikes and pressure tactics that have disrupted port operations, including a recent overtime ban imposed by the union on Oct.10, 2024. MEA highlighted that these disruptions have compounded existing operational challenges, impacting the Quebec and Canadian supply chains and resulting in a notable 24% decline in cargo handled at the port since 2022, with many clients redirecting shipments to U.S. East Coast ports. Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon previously proposed appointing a special mediator to restart negotiations between the MEA and CUPE Local 375 without pressure tactics. However, the proposal was withdrawn when both parties failed to agree on the mediator appointment.

41. Cargo-ship owner to pay US \$102 million over Baltimore bridge collapse, DOJ says

The owner and operator of the cargo ship that struck Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge in March, killing six people, have agreed to pay \$102 million to the federal government, the U.S. Justice Department said on October 24, 2024. The department in September filed a civil claim seeking \$103 million from two Singaporean companies, Grace Ocean Private Limited and Synergy Marine Private Limited. The claim was intended to recoup the money the U.S. government spent responding to the disaster and clearing the wreck of the Dali ship and bridge debris from the Port of Baltimore so the waterway could reopen in June. Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Benjamin Mizer said the settlement "ensures that the costs of the federal government's cleanup efforts in the Fort McHenry Channel are borne by Grace Ocean and Synergy and not the American taxpayer."

42. Master contract discussions to resume in November for U.S. port workers

In a joint statement, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) said they will resume master contract discussions in November 2024 to discuss all outstanding issues to reach a new agreement. The two sides released the statement Oct. 3, 2024 saying they had reached an agreement on wages and have agreed to extend the master contract until Jan. 15, 2025, and will return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other

outstanding issues. “Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease and all work covered by the master contract will resume,” the Oct. 3 statement read.

43. Record 2024 cruise season wraps at Port of Vancouver

The final cruise ship of the 2024 season, *Norwegian Jewel*, will depart from Canada Place tomorrow—marking the end of another successful year for Vancouver’s cruise industry. The award-winning Canada Place terminal at the Port of Vancouver is expected to welcome 327 cruise ship visits and 1.32 million passengers between March 11 and October 29, 2024—breaking the previous record for passengers set last year by more than 80,000 (a 7% year-on-year increase). “We want to thank everyone who helped 2024 be such a successful cruise season in Vancouver—to have back-to-back record years run so smoothly is a huge accomplishment and testament to the dedication of those involved,” said Shri Madiwal, Vice President of Operations and Supply Chain at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency that enables growing trade through the Port of Vancouver, including cruise, while protecting the environment.

44. Offshore project delivers Virginia cargo windfall

Progress on a gigantic wind farm off the US mid-Atlantic coast is picking up speed, and it’s driving a surge of project cargo to the Port of Virginia. In the first nine months of 2024, breakbulk cargo volumes through the port shot up 372% year over year to 360,976 tons, according to the Virginia Port Authority (VPA). The cargo windfall is largely coming from the 2.6-gigawatt Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project, which Virginia utility Dominion Energy is developing in the mid-Atlantic, about 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach, VPA spokesman Joe Harris told the *Journal of Commerce*.

45. Port Houston surpasses 3 million TEUs in record time, steel imports also up 25% in September

Port Houston continues to shatter records, in September 2024 surpassing three million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) faster than ever before. Port Houston has recorded 3,120,589 TEUs so far this year, a 10% increase compared to the same period in 2023. Loaded imports were up 4% for the month of September 2024 and 8% year-to-date. Loaded exports, although down 8% for September 2024, are up 10% year-to-date primarily due to continued demand for resins. Total container volume for the month of Sept. was 329,462 TEUs, an increase of 1% compared to September 2023.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Unifor Files a Notice of Dispute

CN announced on September 27, 2024 that Unifor has filed a Notice of Dispute three days after the beginning of negotiations. The Union represents 3,300 Mechanical, Clerical, and Intermodal employees in Canada across three collective agreements. The current collective agreements expire on December 31, 2024. While CN is disappointed that Unifor is filing the Notice so early in the process, the Company is committed to reaching negotiated agreements with the Union that are good for employees, customers, and the economy.

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

VIA Rail Canada’s (VIA Rail) President and Chief Executive Officer, Mario Pélouquin, was in Winnipeg on September 27, 2024 to address the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and meet with key stakeholders and media. During this event, M. Pélouquin highlighted the important journey VIA Rail is undertaking as part of its new strategic plan which includes the replacement of all its trains from coast to coast over the coming years.

3. Freight Rail Services Price Index, September 2024

Data for September 2024 for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available on Statcan website. The index was 127.8 for September 2024 compared to 124.9 a year ago. The index for the third quarter of 2024 was 126.8 compared to 128.4 for the second quarter of 2024 and 122.4 for the third quarter of 2023. For a further breakdown consult the website.

4. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending September 28, 2024

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on October 2, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending September 28, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 507,537 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. Unifor Files a Notice of Dispute, September 27, 2024, www.cn.ca
2. VIA rail’s President and CEO is in Winnipeg to offer insights into the corporation’s transformation, September 27, 2024, www.viarail.ca
3. Freight Rail Services Price Index, September 2024, September 27, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending September 28, 2024, October 2, 2024, www.ajot.com; and AAR: Week 39 Saw Carloads Down, Intermodal Up, October 2, 2024, www.railwageway.com
5. BNSF Ratifies Five-Year Agreements with ATDA, SMART-MD, October 4, 2024, www.railwageway.com
6. Federal Court of Appeal ruling allows massive CN Rail hub to proceed, October 8, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
7. The Minister of Labour has appointed three conciliators in response to Unifor’s decision, October 8, 2024, www.cn.ca
8. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending October 05, 2024 and Weekly Carloads, Intermodal Decline Slightly: AAR, October 9, 2024, www.ajot.com and www.railwageway.com
9. Rail Vision announces \$20 million standby equity purchase agreement, October 9, 2024, www.ajot.com
10. CPKC and union begin talks on labour relations issues, October 11, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
11. Government of Canada announces support to

week ending September 28 were 227,046 carloads, down 3.5 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 280,491 containers and trailers, up 6.2 percent compared to 2023. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 2,435 carloads, to 20,941; motor vehicles and parts, up 732 carloads, to 16,705; and petroleum and petroleum products, up 617 carloads, to 10,782. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 6,955 carloads, to 60,885; nonmetallic minerals, down 3,168 carloads, to 30,583; and metallic ores and metals, down 1,863 carloads, to 21,213. Canadian railroads reported 96,658 carloads for the week, down 1.6 percent, and 70,390 intermodal units, down 0.3 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 39 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,183,042 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.1 percent.

5. BNSF Ratifies Five-Year Agreements with ATDA, SMART-MD

BNSF on October 4, 2024 announced that members of the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA) and the International Sheet Metal, Air and Transportation Railroad, Mechanical and Engineering Department (SMART-MD) voted to ratify a new agreement.

6. Federal Court of Appeal ruling allows massive CN Rail hub to proceed

The Federal Court of Appeal has dismissed a challenge to the construction of a massive rail-and-truck hub in the Greater Toronto Area, allowing the project to proceed. In a unanimous ruling Friday October 4, 2024, a three-judge panel found that a decision by the federal government to let Canadian National Railway Co. build the terminal despite “significant adverse environmental effects” was reasonable. The \$250-million project aims to double CN’s existing line of tracks in Milton, Ont., and construct a hub for containers to be transferred between trucks and trains. The court case pitted CN and the government against Halton Region and its four municipalities as well as the Halton Region Conservation Authority. In March 2024, a Federal Court decision scuppered the green light given by the government in January 2021 and sent the project back to Ottawa for reconsideration — a ruling that has now been overturned.

7. The Minister of Labour has appointed three conciliators in response to Unifor's decision

The Minister of Labour has appointed three conciliators in response to Unifor's decision to file a Notice of Dispute who will assist the parties in reaching an agreement. The conciliation period will last for 60 days, concluding on December 2, 2024, followed by a 21-day cooling-off period. There can be no work stoppage before January 1, 2025, as the collective agreement remains in effect until December 31, 2024. The Company is pleased to report that discussions to date with Unifor have been productive. Meetings with the union resume the week of October 21st, concluding on December 2, 2024, followed by a 21-day cooling-off period. There can be no work stoppage before January 1, 2025, as the collective agreement remains in effect until Dec. 31, 2024. The Company is pleased to report that discussions to date with Unifor have been productive. Meetings with the union resume the week of October 21st.

8. AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending October 05, 2024 and Weekly Carloads, Intermodal Decline Slightly: AAR

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on October 9, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending October 5, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 486,187 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending October 5 were 225,280 carloads, down 3.5 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 260,907 containers and trailers, down 1.7 percent compared to 2023. Four of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included farm products excl. grain, and food, up 1,553 carloads, to 18,019; chemicals, up 1,140 carloads, to 31,059; and metallic ores and metals, up 828 carloads, to 20,908. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 included coal, down 5,458 carloads, to 61,304; nonmetallic

keep Canadians safe near railway crossing, October 11, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca and Transport Canada Funding Rail Safety Projects, October 15, 2024, www.railwayage.com

12. Union Pacific, Vena powering up railroad’s business, October 17, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

13. North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 41: AAR, October 16, 2024, www.railwayage.com and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending

14. STB Approves Transaction That Creates New CPKC-CSX Class I Connection Linking Mexico, Texas and the U.S. Southeast, October 17, 2024, www.cpkc.ca

15. Norfolk Southern declares quarterly dividend -2024, October 21, 2024, www.ajot.com

16. Norfolk Southern reaches tentative collective bargaining agreement with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, October 21, 2024, www.ajot.com

17. CN Declares Fourth-Quarter 2024 Dividend, October 22, 2024, www.cn.ca

18. CN Announces Third Quarter Results, October 23, 2024, www.cn.ca

19. Manitoba looks at relocating Winnipeg rail lines, October 21, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

20. Norfolk Southern reports strong third quarter 2024 results, October 22, 2024, www.ajot.com

21. CPKC Q3 earnings: First look, October 23, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

22. CPKC reports third-quarter results driven by solid execution; poised for strong finish to 2024, October 23, 2024, www.cpkc.ca

23. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declares dividend, October 23, 2024, www.cpkc.ca

24. Binding arbitration meetings to start in March 2025 between CN and the TCRC, October 23, 2024, www.cn.ca

25. Railway carloadings, August 2024, October 24, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

26. Union Pacific Q3 earnings: First look, October 24, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

27. FRA proposes to amend Safety Technology Regulations to establish strict safety standards while enabling railroad operations, October 25, 2024, www.ajot.com

28. BNSF Secures Agreements With IBEW, NCFE, October 28, 2024, www.railwayage.com

minerals, down 3,937 carloads, to 29,645; and grain, down 1,300 carloads, to 21,933. Canadian railroads reported 94,571 carloads for the week, down 2.0 percent, and 68,805 intermodal units, down 4.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 40 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,346,418 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.0 percent.

9. Rail Vision announces \$20 million standby equity purchase agreement

Rail Vision Ltd. (the “Company”), a technology company at the forefront of revolutionizing railway safety and the data-related market, announced that it has entered into a Standby Equity Purchase Agreement (the “SEPA”), with YA II PN, Ltd. (“Yorkville”), a fund managed by Yorkville Advisors Global, LP. Pursuant to the terms of the SEPA, the Company has the right, but not the obligation, to sell to Yorkville up to \$20 million (the “Commitment Amount”), of the Company’s ordinary shares at any time during the three-year period following the execution date of the SEPA, subject to the restrictions and satisfaction of the conditions in the SEPA. The purchase price of the ordinary shares sold to Yorkville will be at a 3% discount of the lowest daily volume weighted average price of the Company’s ordinary shares during the three consecutive trading day period commencing on the trading day of the delivery of an advance notice by the Company.

10. CPKC and union begin talks on labour relations issues

Unifor Local 101R has officially opened contract talks with Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), seeking to address key issues affecting rail workers across 17 CPKC workplaces in Canada. “Work ownership, poor working conditions and strained labour relations continue to present barriers to creating a respectful and productive work environment for our members,” said Unifor national president Lana Payne. “Resolving these issues is critical for both the workforce and CPKC’s long-term success.” Unifor says its top concerns that will be raised during bargaining are high levels of contracting out, forced overtime and strict company policies that negatively impact work-life balance. “Our goal is to work collaboratively with CPKC to resolve these issues in a way that restores employee morale and respects the critical contributions our members make every day,” said Payne.

11. Government of Canada announces support to keep Canadians safe near railway crossings and Transport Canada Funding Rail Safety Projects

On October 11, 2024, the Honourable Anita Anand, President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, announced over \$45 million for projects to improve railway safety across Canada. This includes over \$44 million for 231 rail safety projects under the Rail Safety Improvement Program. This funding improves safety at grade crossings and along rail lines by supporting infrastructure upgrades and educating Canadians on the importance of safe behaviour around trains and tracks. Today’s announcement also includes nearly \$1.2 million under the Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement. This program supports Indigenous and local communities develop rail safety awareness campaigns, data collection practices, educational resources, and engage with Transport Canada to improve safety practices. Transport Canada on Oct. 11 reported that it will provide more than C\$45 million for railway safety projects across the country. This includes C\$44 million-plus for 231 projects through the Rail Safety

12. North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 41: AAR and AAR reports rail traffic for the week ending October 12, 2024

Total North American carload and intermodal traffic rose 2.4% through the first 41 weeks of 2024 compared with the prior-year period, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported Oct. 16, 2024. The United States, Canada and Mexico all saw gains through the week ending Oct. 12, 2024. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 505,033 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending October 12 were 222,003 carloads, down 1.3 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 283,030 containers and trailers, up 5.9 percent compared to 2023. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. They included grain, up 1,346 carloads, to 23,523; metallic ores and metals, up 1,164 carloads, to 19,277; and farm products excl. grain, and food, up 891 carloads, to 17,894. Commodity groups that posted decreases compared with the same week in 2023 were coal, down 3,412 carloads, to 58,233; nonmetallic minerals, down 2,473 carloads, to 30,465; and motor vehicles and parts, down 1,301 carloads, to 14,412. Canadian railroads reported 98,096 carloads for the week, up 3.5 percent, and 70,155 intermodal units, up 1.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 41 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 6,514,669 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.1 percent.

13. Union Pacific, Vena powering up railroad’s business

In fact, the chief executive of Union Pacific, James Vena, the largest U.S. railroad, wants everyone to have the Czech-Slovak fruit-filled pastry (pronounced ko-LA’-chee). “There’s one over there with your name on it,” he tells a visitor. So it’s hardly by chance, then, that the day’s portion of UP’s Big Boy steam locomotive tour begins in West, Texas. (The name of the town causes some confusion, located as it is in the northeastern portion of the state. West is actually named for its first postmaster, Thomas West.) West is home to the state’s largest Czech population and boasts not one but *two* Czech bakeries. So kolaches all around!

14. STB Approves Transaction That Creates New CPKC-CSX Class I Connection Linking Mexico, Texas and the U.S. Southeast

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), CSX Corporation (CSX) and Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W) on October 17, 2024 said the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has approved CSX's and CPKC's respective applications regarding their acquisition of the rail lines operated by G&W's Meridian & Bigbee Railroad, L.L.C. (MNBR), which will result in the creation of a new direct CPKC-CSX interchange connection in Alabama. Through the now-approved transaction, which was previously announced in June 2023, CPKC will acquire and operate across the 52-mile segment between Meridian, Miss., and Myrtlewood, Ala., currently owned by MNBR, while CSX will operate the lines currently operated by MNBR east of Myrtlewood. As a result, CPKC and CSX will establish a direct Class I-to-Class I interchange at or near Myrtlewood and connect shippers in Mexico, Texas and the Southeast U.S. MNBR will continue to provide local service to customers between Meridian and Myrtlewood.

15. Norfolk Southern declares quarterly dividend - 2024

Norfolk Southern Corporation on October 18, 2024 announced a quarterly dividend of \$1.35 per share on its common stock. The dividend is payable Nov. 20, 2024, to shareholders of record on Nov. 1, 2024. The company has paid a dividend on its common stock for 169 consecutive quarters since its formation in 1982.

16. Norfolk Southern reaches tentative collective bargaining agreement with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Norfolk Southern Corporation announced that it has reached a tentative five-year collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The most recent agreement pushes the coverage of the union workforce under early tentative deals to approximately 67%. The agreement, which is subject to ratification, arrives in advance of the next collective bargaining round, providing covered employees with assurances that they will receive significant upcoming improvements to their pay, healthcare, and vacation benefits.

17. CN Declares Fourth-Quarter 2024 Dividend

CN announced on October 22, 2024 that its Board of Directors has approved a fourth-quarter 2024 dividend on the Company's common shares outstanding. A quarterly dividend of eighty-four and a half cents (C\$0.8450) per common share will be paid on December 30, 2024, to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 9, 2024.

18. CN Announces Third Quarter Results

CN on October 22, 2024 reported its financial and operating results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. Tracy Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, CN said "Our scheduled operating plan demonstrated its resilience in the third quarter, allowing us to adapt our operations to challenges posed by wildfires and prolonged labor issues. Our operations recovered quickly and the railroad is running well. As we close 2024, we will continue to focus on recovering volumes, growth, and ensuring our resources are aligned to demand." Quarterly highlights were: 1. Revenue ton miles (RTMs) of 56,548 (millions), an increase of 2%. 2. Revenues of C\$4,110 million, an increase of C\$123 million, or 3%. 3. Operating income of C\$1,515 million was in line with prior year. 4. Operating ratio, defined as operating expenses as a percentage of revenues, of 63.1%, an increase of 1.1-points. 5. Diluted earnings per share (EPS) of C\$1.72, an increase of 2%. CN continues to expect to deliver adjusted diluted EPS growth in the low single-digit range and continues to expect to invest approximately C\$3.5 billion in its capital program, net of amounts reimbursed by customers. The Company also continues to expect adjusted return on invested capital (ROIC) to be in the 13%-15% range. Over the 2024-2026 period, CN continues to target compounded annual adjusted diluted EPS growth in the high single-digit range.

19. Manitoba looks at relocating Winnipeg rail lines

The Province of Manitoba is conducting a feasibility study to determine if Winnipeg's rail lines should be relocated, and have selected Lloyd Axworthy as the study lead. "Manitoba's rail lines are an essential part of what makes our province a central, economic hub and it's important we explore the best options for its location," said Premier Wab Kinew. "Dr. Axworthy is the best person to guide this process. With his proven leadership and commitment to our province, I know he will bring together the concerns of residents, the business community and all levels of government to bear on this important issue. We know this will be a long-term project and our government looks forward to receiving the results of this study."

20. Norfolk Southern reports strong third quarter 2024 results

Norfolk Southern Corporation announced on October 22, 2024 its third quarter 2024 financial results. For the quarter, income from railway operations was \$1.6 billion, the operating ratio was 47.7%, and diluted earnings per share were \$4.85. Railway operating revenues of \$3.1 billion, up \$80 million, or 3%, compared to the third quarter 2023.

21. CPKC Q3 earnings: First look

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CP) said third-quarter 2024 revenues and earnings improved on freight volumes that were slightly higher than the year-ago quarter. The Calgary, Alberta-based railroad forecast freight volume gains in the mid-single digits and double-digit earnings gains for full-year 2024. Third-quarter revenues were up 6% to \$2.53

billion with diluted earnings per share of 65 cents and core adjusted combined diluted EPS of 72 cents. Regarding these results, Keith Creel, CPKC president and chief executive, in an earnings release said “During the third quarter, we delivered strong performance across the operations of our unrivaled North American network, despite dealing with a number of temporary headwinds.”

22. CPKC reports third-quarter results driven by solid execution; poised for strong finish to 2024

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) on October 23, 2024 announced its third-quarter results, including revenues of \$3.5 billion, diluted earnings per share (EPS) of \$0.90 and core adjusted combined diluted EPS of \$0.99. Keith Creel, CPKC President and Chief Executive Officer said "We continue to see strong revenue growth, uniquely enabled by this new network. With our commitment to operational excellence, safety and customer service, we are doing what we said we would do and generating value for all stakeholders." Third-quarter 2024 results are: 1. Revenues increased by six percent to \$3.5 billion from \$3.3 billion in Q3 2023; 2. Reported operating ratio (OR) increased by 120 basis points to 66.1 percent from 64.9 percent in Q3 2023; 3. Core adjusted combined OR increased by 120 basis points to 62.9 percent from 61.7 percent in Q3 2023; 4. Reported diluted EPS increased to \$0.90 from \$0.84 in Q3 2023; 5. Core adjusted combined diluted EP increased eight percent to \$0.99 from \$0.92 in Q3 2023; 6. Volumes, as measured in Revenue Ton-Miles (RTMs), increased four percent; 7. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-reportable personal injury frequency decreased to 0.85 from 1.02 in Q3 2023; and 8. FRA-reportable train accident frequency decreased to 1.27 from 1.38 in Q3 2023.

23. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited declares dividend

The Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited (CPKC) on October 23, 2024 declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.19 per share on the outstanding Common Shares. The dividend is payable on Jan. 27, 2025, to holders of record at the close of business on Dec. 27, 2024, and is an “eligible” dividend for purposes of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and any similar provincial/territorial legislation.

24. Binding arbitration meetings to start in March 2025 between CN and the TCRC

Following the August 23, 2024 order from the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) imposing binding arbitration between CN and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, both parties have recently agreed on an arbitrator to determine the terms of the next collective agreement. Mediation meetings will occur over seven days in March 2025. If a mediated settlement is not reached during those seven days, arbitration will be scheduled to take place in April 2025. As per the protocol negotiated between the parties, the arbitrator will have sixty days to rule. In view of the foregoing, a decision is expected before the end of Q2. The CIRB has also directed that the current collective agreement remains in place until there is a new agreement, meaning no strike or lockout can occur.

25. Railway carloadings, August 2024

In August 2024, Canadian railways transported 27.8 million tonnes of freight, down 10.9% from August 2023, the lowest tonnage for the month in more than 10 years. Shipments of coal and potash as well as containers led the decline, which coincided with a short but impactful work stoppage that affected Canada's mainline rail carriers. The noticeable trends were: 1. Traffic down from East to West; 2. Coal carloadings lead decline; 3. Carloadings of canola partially offset overall decline; 4. Intermodal traffic down; and 5. American freight down.

26. Union Pacific Q3 earnings: First look

Union Pacific Corp. said third-quarter net income was \$1.7 billion, or \$2.75 per diluted share, up from net income of \$1.5 billion, or \$2.51 per diluted share, for the same period in 2023. “Our third quarter results demonstrate the success of our strategy,” said Union Pacific Chief Executive Jim Vena, in a release. “Improved safety and service performance supported solid revenue growth that we converted into double-digit improvement in third quarter operating income and earnings per share. “The entire Union Pacific team is focused on delivering for our customers and shareholders, and is energized to build on these accomplishments to drive sustainable long-term success.”

27. FRA proposes to amend Safety Technology Regulations to establish strict safety standards while enabling railroad operations

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on October 25, 2024 published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to amend certain regulations on positive train control (PTC) systems. PTC technology is designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, incursions into established work zones, and movements of trains through switches left in the wrong position. This NPRM seeks to improve the efficiency and safety of railroad operations by standardizing regulations concerning railroad operations when PTC systems are not enabled, which can occur due to a PTC outage or when PTC systems are temporarily disabled to facilitate maintenance, repairs, or upgrades to railroad infrastructure.

28. BNSF Secures Agreements With IBEW, NCFE

BNSF on Oct. 25, 2024 reported reaching a five-year tentative agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and a ratified agreement with the National Conference of Firemen and Oilers (NCFE).

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Powerfleet acquires Canadian technology company Fleet Complete

Powerfleet, Inc., a provider of AIoT SaaS solutions for the mobile asset industry, has entered into a definitive agreement providing for the strategic acquisition of Canadian company Fleet Complete, a player in connected vehicle technology and fleet management. With 2.6 million total combined subscribers and forecasted combined revenue of over \$400 million, the acquisition is expected to solidify Powerfleet's position in the rapidly expanding AIoT market, driving toward "Rule of 40" SaaS financial performance in the medium term.

2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, August 2024

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for August 2024 on the Statcan website. The couriers and messenger services price index for August 2024 was 135.9 compared to 136.5 for the previous month and 130.0 for August 2023. For a further breakdown consult the website.

3. CFIB backs new mutual recognition pilot for trucking sector

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is backing a newly announced mutual recognition pilot project for the trucking sector, a move set to reduce internal trade barriers and enhance the movement of goods across Canada. The pilot project — introduced Sept. 26 by Anita Anand, minister of transport, and Dominic LeBlanc, minister of public safety, democratic institutions and intergovernmental affairs — aims to allow participating provinces and territories to recognize each other's trucking regulations without compromising safety standards, a step toward improving efficiency in the industry.

4. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Sends \$62 Billion to States from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for America's Infrastructure

On October 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced \$62 billion in Fiscal Year 2025 funding for 12 formula programs that invest in the nation's infrastructure. These investments from the Biden-Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are creating good-paying jobs building roads, bridges, and tunnel projects across all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico— and helping states chip away at infrastructure needs that have gone unaddressed due to lack of funding.

5. Cargo theft up 49 per cent amid rising criminal sophistication, says report

Freight hubs and major cities across the U.S. and Canada are witnessing a surge in cargo theft, with incidents surging by 49 per cent in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period last year, according to Overhaul's *United States & Canada H1 2024 Cargo Theft Report*. The increase in theft incidents has been accompanied by a dramatic rise in financial impact. The average loss per incident skyrocketed to \$115,230, marking an 83 per cent increase from the same period last year. This trend underscores the growing sophistication and ambition of cargo thieves, who are systematically targeting high-value shipments.

6. Unifor bargains with DHL Express Canada for better wages, working conditions

Unifor started negotiations with DHL Express Canada, representing over 2,000 members employed at the courier's locations nationwide. The union, Canada's largest in the private sector, is advocating for better working conditions, fair wages, and respect for its members, Unifor national president Lana Payne said in a news release. The current collective agreement with DHL Express Canada is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2024. The

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Powerfleet acquires Canadian technology company Fleet Complete, September 30, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, August 2024, September 27, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. CFIB backs new mutual recognition pilot for trucking sector, September 30, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
4. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Sends \$62 Billion to States from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for America's Infrastructure, October 1, 2024, www.dot.gov
5. Cargo theft up 49 per cent amid rising criminal sophistication, says report, October 2, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
6. Unifor bargains with DHL Express Canada for better wages, working conditions, October 2, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
7. CTA Appears before House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, October 3, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
8. Trucking, logistics sector adds 13,600 jobs in second quarter, October 4, 2024, www.todaystruckinginc.ca
9. Ontario Investing in Transportation for Rural Communities, Oct. 7, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
10. Truckers need healthier food at truck stops, clean washrooms at rest areas: USask researcher, October 7, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
11. Manitoulin opens Lloydminster terminal, October 9, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
12. Steep Increase to U.S. Customs Transponder/User Fees Untimely for Cross-Border Fleets, October 10, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
13. OTA Provides Trucking Perspectives to Global Automakers Canada, October 11, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
14. Safety, efficiency and profitability drive design of updated Freightliner Cascadia, October 15, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
15. ATRI survey: Drivers and carriers see top issues in trucking differently, October 14, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
16. Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers, October 15, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
17. Peak-season shipping surcharges start to take effect, October 16, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
18. ATA's Costello feels a return to normal is in the cards in 2025, October 16, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca
19. Lethbridge event highlights supply chain issues, brings together local industry
20. Ontario Building Highways Faster to Get Drivers Moving, October 17, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
21. Trucking HR Canada recognizes 104 trucking companies as Top Fleet Employers, October 17, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
22. Q3 cargo theft incidents 14% higher than last year, Oct. 18, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
23. The Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, October 21, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
24. Bridge study shows impact closures have on

next bargaining meeting has not been scheduled. The members, represented by Unifor locals in British Columbia, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta, work in various roles including truck owner-operators, clerical positions, warehouse staff, and drivers. “Owner-operators want to be able to focus on getting packages from point A to B without the stress of worrying about their routes getting cut and being able to meet the rising cost of living,” Payne said in the release.

7. CTA Appears before House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

In an appearance before the Federal Committee on Finance in its study on the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2025 Budget, the Canadian Trucking Alliance used the opportunity to highlight three key areas of its [pre-budget submission](#), that included : 1. Addressing misclassification of workers in the trucking industry, dealing with the Underground Economy and Tax Evasion; 2. The need to expand and make permanent past 2024 the Accelerated Investment Incentive (AII) &; and 3. Address the challengers the Federal Carbon Tax. The CTA pre-budget submission took the approach that the Alliance has an opportunity to have government take a

serious look at the state of the trucking business in this country and take steps to better support Canadian businesses and the economy. It also focused on bringing back a tax system and business environment that incentivizes growth and ensures fair competition.

8. Trucking, logistics sector adds 13,600 jobs in second quarter

Labor market tightness is easing with 13,600 jobs added to the trucking and logistics sector in the second quarter of this year. Job gains were marginal for transport truck drivers, up just 0.1% or 200 more drivers in Q2 2024 compared to Q2 2023, according to the latest labor market information snapshot from Trucking HR Canada (THRC). “The latest report shows our sector added 13,600 jobs in Q2 2024, mostly in positions other than transport truck drivers,” Craig Faucette, chief program officer, THRC, said in a release. “We are expecting the need to recruit and train new workers into non-driver roles to increase.” The report showed that employment in the trucking and logistics sector increased by 1.8% in Q2 2024 compared to Q2 2023. In Q2 2024, there were 10,400 more delivery and courier service drivers employed, up 11% from Q2 2023 and an additional 4,300 shippers and receivers, a 4.4% increase over Q2 2023.

9. Ontario Investing in Transportation for Rural Communities

The Ontario government is investing \$5 million annually to help smaller communities across the province build safe and reliable transit services. The funding is being delivered through the new Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF). “No matter where you live, Ontarians deserve reliable public transportation to access employment, visit friends and family and maintain healthy, independent lifestyles,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “The Ontario Transit Investment Fund is another targeted step our government is taking to make life easier for people living in the north, rural areas, or other communities with limited transportation options.”

10. Truckers need healthier food at truck stops, clean washrooms at rest areas: USask researcher

Truck drivers hauling freight across Canada continue to highlight the lack of clean washrooms with running water, healthy food options and safe, paved and well-lit parking spaces. And now there’s research to back their claims. A University of Saskatchewan researcher’s team surveyed hundreds of truckers and visited a bunch of truck stops. Dr. Alexander Crizzle, associate professor and director of the driving research and simulation laboratory, wants stakeholders to come together and find solutions. “We know what needs to be done, but as a voice, we don’t collectively come together to push. When I make these phone calls and have these conversations, it’s just me,” he said.

11. Manitoulin opens Lloydminster terminal

Manitoulin Transport has announced the opening of a new terminal in Lloydminster, Alta. Located at 31 Production Ave., the facility enhances the company’s regional service capabilities. It features 10 dock doors and will serve 47 new service points directly from the terminal, the company said in a release. “The new Lloydminster terminal showcases Manitoulin’s dedication to rural communities,” says Jeff King, president of Manitoulin Transport. “With over 85 terminals, we remain committed to offering dependable transportation services to our customers nationwide, not only in large centres, but also in smaller communities. In addition, the Manitoulin Group of Companies and its extensive resources allow us to deliver complete supply chain solutions to enhance the customer experience.”

12. Steep Increase to U.S. Customs Transponder/User Fees Untimely for Cross-Border Fleets

Many members have voiced their concerns to the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) regarding a recent announcement by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) pertaining to an increase to the U.S. customs transponder and customs user fees on October 1st, 2024, related to the funding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant

transportation, October 21, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
25. Uber Freight expands reach, services across Mexico with new location, October 22, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
26. TFI International Announces 2024 Third Quarter Results, October 21, 2024, www.tfiinter.com
27. TFI’s Bedard: Buying UPS’ LTL operations was not a mistake, October 22, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
28. MTA raises concerns over restored apprentice-to-journeyperson ratio, October 23, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
29. CTA to Global Cold Chain Alliance: The Supply Chain Needs to Defund Driver Inc., October 25, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
30. Ontario Moving Ahead to Build Bradford Bypass, October 28, 2024, www.mto.gov.on.ca
31. Regulatory uncertainties loom over trucking industry as U.S. election approaches: TCA, October 28, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

Health Inspection Service (APHIS) program. Under the new fee schedule, the cost to purchase an annual commercial truck transponder has increased from \$402.61 USD to \$752.91 USD. Of the \$752.91 total, \$130.85 is dedicated to the Customs COBRA User Fee and \$622.00 is allocated to the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Fee, which is used to protect the U.S. from the potential impacts from invasive pests and diseases being transported across our border through cross-border trade. These changes represent a near 80 percent increase year-over-year for the annual user fee. The total Single Crossing Fee for Commercial Trucks will also be increasing to \$19.60 USD.

13. OTA Provides Trucking Perspectives to Global Automakers Canada

OTA had the opportunity this week to speak at the quarterly meeting of Transportation and Logistics Committee of the Global Automakers of Canada. Like similar messaging delivered to supply chain groups across the country, OTA's message was simple: "Driver Inc and the Underground Economy are flourishing due to a lack of enforcement at the federal level. All supply chain members need to be aware of this, do their part to eradicate the practice and protect themselves from this exposure," said Geoff Wood, OTA's Sr VP Policy.

14. Safety, efficiency and profitability drive design of updated Freightliner Cascadia

The fifth generation of the Freightliner Cascadia has been introduced, featuring new Detroit Assurance safety capabilities, a cleaner electrical architecture, and aero improvements said to improve fuel economy by 1.9%. Since the truck's introduction in 2007, Daimler Truck North America (DTNA) has sold more than 1 million Freightliner Cascadias across the four generations that preceded this fifth-gen version. The truck has been so successful, according to Mary Aufdemberg, general manager, product strategy and market development with DTNA, that it has helped the brand grow its presence among small fleets, allowing Freightliner to shed its mega-fleet-truck image. "They see they can make money with our product," Aufdemberg said, speaking of small fleets and owner-operators. "Drivers love the comfort it delivers, and they appreciate the safety it delivers."

15. ATRI survey: Drivers and carriers see top issues in trucking differently

The 2024 survey of the top issues in trucking, undertaken each year by the American Transportation Research Institute, once again finds that what drivers think are the big issues aren't the same as those of the industry as a whole. Laying the results of what drivers say are the key issues in trucking against the results of the overall survey – in which driver submissions are part of the final ranking – shows that in 2024, only two issues made it on both the overall top 10 lists and the top 10 list for drivers: truck parking and the state of the economy. ATRI is the research arm of the American Trucking Associations. The results were revealed at the group's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Only the economy was closely ranked by both the overall respondents and the driver survey: It was at No. 1 and No. 3, respectively. The issue of parking was on the top for drivers but seventh overall. Fuel was less of concern in 2024.

16. Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers

The Ontario government is making life easier for drivers by introducing legislation that would, if passed, require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic. Municipalities would be required to demonstrate that the proposed bike lanes won't have a negative impact on vehicle traffic. The province is proposing restrictions for bike lanes, raising highway speed limits, freezing knowledge and road test fees and fixing potholes.

17. Peak-season shipping surcharges start to take effect

UPS, FedEx and GLS Canada announced peak-season shipping surcharges for the coming season, with additional charges starting to kick in. Beginning Sept. 8 until Jan. 18, 2025, UPS said a fee will apply to packages meeting the criteria for additional handling, large package or over maximum limits. From Sept. 22 to Jan. 18, 2025, a fee will apply to all UPS Canada domestic air and ground services, as well as ground services to or from the U.S. Additional changes applied to air shipments from South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam and from the U.S. take effect on Oct. 13. FedEx said during times of elevated volumes, high demand for capacity and increased operating costs across its network, the company will implement demand surcharges. Effective Oct. 14, the demand surcharge for international services originating in Canada and destined to Israel will also be reinstated, FedEx indicated. GLS Canada said to stay ahead of shipping demands during this time of year, it will apply a temporary peak-season surcharge from Oct. 15 through Jan. 17, 2025.

18. ATA's Costello feels a return to normal is in the cards in 2025

A return to "normal" is likely in store for the North American trucking industry over the next year, an environment the industry hasn't experienced since before the pandemic. Bob Costello, chief economist with the American Trucking Associations (ATA) updated Management Conference & Exhibition attendees this week in Nashville, Tenn., where he said "Every cycle is different and this one is no different." The main drivers of truck freight, he indicated "are going to get no worse, and in some cases could get a little bit better." While interest rate decreases by the Fed will help consumers, Costello added "It takes a long time for both increases in the Fed funds rate and decreases to work their way through the economy." He predicted Q3 GDP will come in at about 2.8% growth, getting back closer to historical

levels. While the consumer economy has been resilient, factory output has fallen 0.2% this year, which has been a headwind for truck freight.

19. Urban public transit, August 2024

In August, 124.8 million passenger trips were taken on urban transit networks in Canada as ridership continued to represent roughly 85% of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level from August 2019. In August 2024, transit riders took an estimated 124.8 million trips on Canada's urban transit networks, up 5.9% (+7.0 million trips) compared with August 2023. Passenger traffic was the highest for the month of August in five years, recovering 85.4% of the pre-pandemic level from the same month in 2019. While among the highest rates of recovery to date, there were 21.4 million fewer passenger trips in August 2024 compared with August 2019. In the two years prior to the pandemic (2018 and 2019), ridership dipped by roughly 1% from July to August; in 2024, August ridership edged down 0.2% from July. In August 2024, total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) was up 6.7% from the same month in 2023 to \$313.5 million. This was \$28.8 million lower than the pre-pandemic level in August 2019.

Urban public transit, August 2024, August 16, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

20. Ontario Building Highways Faster to Get Drivers Moving

The Ontario government is introducing legislation that would, if passed, allow the province to build highways faster, getting drivers out of gridlock and where they need to go. The *Building Highways Faster Act* would designate priority highway projects to speed up construction, with Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass and the Garden City Skyway bridge all set to receive this designation.

21. Trucking HR Canada recognizes 104 trucking companies as Top Fleet Employers

More than 100 Canadian trucking companies were recognized Oct. 17, 2024 as the top employers in the sector. The awards were doled out during Trucking HR Canada's Top Fleet Employers awards gala in Toronto. There were 104 fleets recognized in the 11th year of the program, which celebrates those companies that are the best places to work in the trucking and logistics sector, thanks to their HR practices. "The Top Fleet Employers awards gala is the highlight of Trucking HR Canada's year, giving us a chance to come together and celebrate with the country's top fleets," Angela Splinter, CEO, THRC, said in a release. "The Top Fleet Employers program keeps growing every year, demonstrating the industry's desire to continue reaching high standards of HR excellence in operations, champion best practices across the industry, and position the sector as a rewarding workplace." Four fleets were singled out as best in class. They were: 1. Classic Freight Transport (small fleet category); 2. Polaris Transportation Group (medium-sized fleet); 3. XTL Transport (top large fleet); and 4. Walmart Fleet ULC (private fleet services).

22. Q3 cargo theft incidents 14% higher than last year

Cargo thefts across the U.S. and Canada saw a sharp rise in the third quarter of 2024, with 776 theft events reported, representing a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2023, according to a new report from CargoNet. The total value of stolen goods in the third quarter of the year exceeded \$39 million. Despite a slight 1.6% decrease in incidents compared to the second quarter of 2024, the gap is expected to close as delayed reports come in, CargoNet said. The report added that organized crime groups continue to drive the increase in cargo theft turning to increasingly sophisticated tactics of strategic nature, that typically involve some form of document fraud, identity theft, and intent to steal the property they are being entrusted to transport.

23. The Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act

The Government of Ontario is proposing new legislation that, if passed, would make life easier for drivers, getting them out of gridlock and where they need to go. The proposed legislation would create a new *Building Highways Faster Act* that would speed construction of Highway 413, Bradford Bypass, Garden City Skyway bridge and other priority highway projects designated by the province. The new Act would accelerate access to property and property acquisitions and introduce new penalties for obstructing access for field investigations or damaging equipment. The legislation would also allow regulation-making authority to facilitate around-the-clock, 24/7 construction on priority highway projects.

24. Bridge study shows impact closures have on transportation

A Geotab Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) study on commercial freight data on five key U.S. bridges reveals that closures, whether short or long term, can cause disruptions to the movement of goods beyond the region, have a significant impact on traffic congestion and increase the risk of harsh events. In its bridge analysis report, which included the Ambassador Bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ont., Geotab ITS studied the widespread effects of potential closures to show organizations how they can form better transportation plans with real world data. The study focused on five major U.S. bridges in and across California, New York, Tennessee, Maryland and Michigan and included the impact of closures, severe weather and traffic patterns so that communities can prepare for replacement projects in advance.

25. Uber Freight expands reach, services across Mexico with new location

Uber Freight wants a bigger piece of the booming cross-border Mexico freight pie. The company recently opened a new office in the Mexican border city of Nuevo Laredo and has expanded its workforce in the country. Uber Freight also recently appointed Jesus Ojeda, who led customs solutions as senior vice president at Transplace before its acquisition by Uber Freight, as executive vice president of Mexico operations. Last year, the company achieved 77% growth in U.S.-Mexico cross-border business, managing more than 2,000 daily shipments and processing over 25,000 monthly customs entries. Ojeda sees the freight market between the U.S. and Mexico expanding even more in the future because of nearshoring — companies shifting production and manufacturing to Mexico to be closer to the U.S.

26. TFI International Announces 2024 Third Quarter Results

TFI International Inc. a North American leader in the transportation and logistics industry, on October 21, 2024 announced its results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. 1. Third quarter operating income of \$203.3 million increased from \$200.6 million for the same quarter last year, primarily from contributions from business acquisitions offset by weaker market conditions and higher net gains on sale of assets held for sale in the prior year period. 2. Third quarter net income of \$128.0 million compared to \$133.3 million in Q3 2023, while adjusted net income of \$136.6 million increased from \$136.0 million. 3. Third quarter diluted earnings per share (diluted “EPS”) of \$1.50 compared to \$1.54 in Q3 2023, while adjusted diluted EPS of \$1.60 increased from \$1.57. 4. Third quarter net cash from operating activities of \$351.1 million increased from \$278.7 million in Q3 2023 and free cash flow of \$272.5 million increased from \$198.3 million, used in part to repay over \$130 million of debt. 5. The Board of Directors approved a \$0.45 quarterly dividend, an increase of 13%. (All figures in US \$).

27. TFI’s Bedard: Buying UPS’ LTL operations was not a mistake

Alain Bedard, the CEO of TFI International, assured analysts on the company’s earnings call on October 22, 2024 that he wasn’t sorry the company bought less-than-truckload carrier UPS Freight in early 2021. “If you asked me the question, ‘Hey, you think that you made a mistake with this purchase?’” Bedard said, “Not at all.” But the fact that the question even came up, as the fourth anniversary of the acquisition looms in just a few months, highlights the fact that TFI’s LTL operations, mostly made up of the legacy UPS Freight business, remain a significant laggard in the trucking conglomerate’s overall performance. For example, the operating ratio at TFI’s U.S. LTL operations in the third quarter, which ended Sept. 30, was 92.2%. That is a deterioration of 140 basis points from the 90.8% recorded in the third quarter of 2023. In Canada, TFI’s LTL operations posted an improved OR of 76.3%, compared to 77.2% a year ago.

28. MTA raises concerns over restored apprentice-to-journeyperson ratio

The Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA) is expressing concerns about the recently restored one-to-one apprentice-to-journeyperson ratio, fearing it could negatively impact apprentices in Manitoba’s trucking industry without improving safety. Aaron Dolyniuk, executive director of the MTA, said in a news release that while safety remains a top priority, the association’s members believe that a two-to-one ratio for truck and transport mechanics, as well as transport trailer technicians, is both safe and practical. “The negative impact will come from the inability to find enough journeypersons to take on this role to match the number of apprentices hoping to come into the industry. With retirements, that will become increasingly challenging,” he said.

29. CTA to Global Cold Chain Alliance: The Supply Chain Needs to Defund Driver Inc.

The Canadian Trucking Alliance had the opportunity to be part of a panel discussion on October 24, 2024 at the inaugural Canadian Policy Forum of the Global Cold Chain Alliance in Ottawa. Front and centre in the discussions was the need to address Driver Inc – and that it will be up to responsible supply chain partners to get the job done, said Geoff Wood, Sr. VP, Policy, CTA. “It is critical members of the supply chain understand the negativity associated with Driver Inc., its impact on workers’ rights, road safety, and on legitimate, law-abiding trucking companies,” Wood told attendees. “And it’s even more vital that all supply chain partners do their part to stop funding the practice.”

30. Ontario Moving Ahead to Build Bradford Bypass

The Ontario government has awarded a major contract to oversee the design, quality control, safety and delivery of the west section of the Bradford Bypass expressway, marking a significant milestone in the province’s plan to relieve gridlock, save commuters time and keep goods moving across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

31. Regulatory uncertainties loom over trucking industry as U.S. election approaches: TCA

With the upcoming U.S. presidential election, trucking industry stakeholders are bracing for potential regulatory changes that could reshape the sector, according to Dave Heller, senior vice-president of safety and government affairs at the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA). Speaking at the Fleet Safety Council conference in Brampton, Ont., he outlined concerns over the adoption timeline for battery-electric vehicles (BEVs), delays in speed limiter regulations, and unresolved issues around safety fitness determinations and minimum liability insurance — all of which could be influenced by the election outcome.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

1. CITT enters into academic partnership with University of Manitoba

Canada's Logistics Association – is partnering with the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba, which has two programs recognized for advanced standing toward the CITT-Certified Logistics Professional (CCLP) designation. Though this new agreement, graduates of both the Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Supply Chain Management and Logistics programs at the Asper School of Business can access two fast tracks to earn the CCLP designation, with the option to proceed directly to the challenge exam once they have at least three years of experience working in the industry, or with 50 per cent credit equivalency toward earning the designation through the CCLP program of study. Students also have the option to join CITT as affiliate members until they meet the requirements to become certified members.

2. Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Award for Florida A&M University to Establish Mobility Equity Research Center

On September 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced \$2.97 million in research funding for a Mobility Equity Research Center at Florida A&M University, a Historically Black College and University. The new Center, Advancing Community-Centric Equitable Systems and Solutions in Mobility (ACCESS-M), established through a cooperative agreement with DOT, will support the Department's goal of expanding accessibility and mobility to underserved communities, including people with disabilities, older Americans, Tribal Nations, and rural and disadvantaged communities.

3. Travel arrangement services, 2023

The operating revenue of the travel arrangement and reservation services industry group surged 53.5% to a record high of \$15.2 billion in 2023, up 3.8% from 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. This industry group is composed of three industries: tour operators, travel agencies, and other travel arrangement and reservation services. Tour operators accounted for the largest share of revenue in 2023, at 59.7%. It should be noted that travel arrangement and reservation services can be offered to Canadians, mostly digitally, by firms that operate legal entities from foreign countries. Purchases made by Canadian consumers from foreign companies are not included in these estimates.

4. Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators, fourth quarter of 2023/2024

Transport Canada's Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators are now available for the fourth quarter of the 2023/2024 fiscal year (i.e., January to March 2024). Further information can be found on the Statistics Canada website.

5. AI brings benefits, risks to transportation sector: NMFTA

Artificial intelligence (AI) can improve safety and efficiency while cutting overheads of transportation companies but comes with strings attached, ushering in cybersecurity threats and data exposure. Organizations must fully understand both the positive potential and related risk before incorporating these new tools into their business, the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) said in its latest whitepaper. Building off the functions of prediction, pattern recognition, and automation, these tools can support transportation companies with specific uses in such areas as route optimization, freight matching, autonomous driving, predictive maintenance, and demand prediction.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

1. CITT enters into academic partnership with University of Manitoba, October 1, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Award for Florida A&M University to Establish Mobility Equity Research Center, September 30, 2024, www.dot.gov
3. Travel arrangement services, 2023, October 1, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. Multimodal Safety and Security Programs Oversight Delivery Indicators, fourth quarter of 2023/2024, October 1, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
5. AI brings benefits, risks to transportation sector: NMFTA, October 2, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com
6. BTS Updates National Transportation Statistics 09/30/2024, September 30, 2024, www.bts.gov
7. CEOs in Canada are growing more worried about growth, says KPMG, October 3, 2024, www.financialpost.ca
8. September 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.1%) Rises Above the September 2023 Level (4.9%) and the Pre-Pandemic September 2019 Level (3.3%), October 4, 2024, www.bts.gov
9. Cost of living is citizens' main concern at the start of the new legislature, October 3, 2024, www.europa.eu
10. Canadian international trade in services, August 2024, October 8, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
11. Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2024, October 8, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
12. Amazon opening five new Canadian delivery stations, October 10, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
13. Reminder – Transport Canada TDG Client Identification Database Registration required by Oct 25 for Qualifying Ops, October 9, 2024, www.ontruck.ca
14. August 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 1.1% from the Previous Month and Up 1.0% from the Same Month Last Year, October 10, 2024, www.bts.gov
15. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, September 2024, September 11, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca
16. Cyberattacks in global supply chain increasing, says survey, October 15, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
17. Finding and training workers continues to challenge employers, says report, October 15, 2024, www.freightwaves.com
18. Quebec company acquires supply chain solutions firm, October 16, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
19. INVESTING IN AMERICA: U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Creation of More Than 1.7 Million Construction and Manufacturing Jobs, 700,000 Transportation Sector Jobs, Since the Start of the Biden-Harris Administration October 15, 2024, www.dot.gov
20. Lethbridge event highlights supply chain issues, brings together local industry, October 17, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca
21. Department of Transportation Empowers Small and Disadvantaged Businesses to Enter Emerging Transportation Markets, October 16, 2024, www.dot.gov
22. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$4.2 Billion From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Transformational, National Infrastructure Projects, October 21, 2024, www.dot.gov

6. BTS Updates National Transportation Statistics 09/30/2024

On September 30, 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released its monthly update to National Transportation Statistics, a guide to historical national-level transportation trends. This month's updated data tables include the Number of U.S. Airports, Airport Runway Pavement Conditions, Principal Means of Transportation to Work, U.S.-Canadian Border/ U.S.-Mexican Land-Passenger Entering the U.S., U.S. Gross Domestic Product Attributed to Transportation Functions, Injured Persons by Transportation Mode, and the Transit Profile.

7. CEOs in Canada are growing more worried about growth, says KPMG

Chief executives in Canada are getting more concerned about the domestic economy, though most are still bullish on their own companies' prospects over the next few years, according to a survey commissioned by KPMG. Almost 60 per cent of Canadian CEOs say economic uncertainty is their biggest current challenge — slightly higher than the 53 per cent of CEOs globally who said that. The proportion of top executives who expressed confidence in the three-year growth outlook for Canada's economy was 83 per cent, a decline of six percentage points from last year. The proportion of top executives who expressed confidence in the three-year growth outlook for Canada's economy was 83 per cent, a decline of six percentage points from last year.

8. September 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (5.1%) Rises Above the September 2023 Level (4.9%) and the Pre-Pandemic September 2019 Level (3.3%)

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 5.1% (not seasonally adjusted) in September 2024 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data have been updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) [Unemployment in Transportation](#) dashboard. In September 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points from 4.9% in September 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic September 2019 level of 3.3%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector was higher than overall unemployment. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in September 2024 was 3.9% or 1.2 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in September 2024 was 4.1%.

9. Cost of living is citizens' main concern at the start of the new legislature

The European Parliament released on October 3, 2024 the "EU Post-Electoral Survey 2024" looking at voting behaviour and the main priorities of EU citizens. Rising prices and the cost of living (42%) and the economic situation (41%) were the main topics that motivated European citizens to vote in the last European elections in June this year. A third of voters (34%) say that the international situation was a topic that encouraged them to vote, while a similar proportion mentions defending democracy and the rule of law (32%). Those who did not vote also say the cost of living (46%) and the economic situation (36%) could have motivated them to participate in the elections.

10. Canadian international trade in services, August 2024

Canada's monthly international trade in services deficit narrowed from \$1.5 billion in July 2024 to \$1.3 b. in August 2024. Overall, imports of services declined 0.6% to \$18.2 b., while exports of services were up 0.5% to \$16.9 b.

11. Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2024

In August 2024, Canada's merchandise exports fell 1.0%, while imports edged up 0.3%. Consequently, Canada's merchandise trade balance with the world widened from a revised deficit of \$287 million in July 2024 to a deficit of \$1.1 billion in August 2024.

12. Amazon opening five new Canadian delivery stations

Amazon is opening five new delivery stations across Canada each scheduled to open by the end of October. The new locations will include Burnaby, B.C., Calgary, Alta., and Windsor, Ottawa and Richmond Hill, Ont. Amazon says the new facilities will strengthen the company's last-mile delivery network, connecting products to customers with greater efficiency. "Amazon's last-mile network plays a critical role in helping us continue to deliver at the fastest speeds ever. The new Amazon delivery stations bring us closer to our customers, while also creating job opportunities and allowing us to invest in local communities," said Jasmin Begagic, director, Canada operations at Amazon Logistics.

13. Reminder – Transport Canada TDG Client Identification Database Registration required by Oct 25 for Qualifying Ops

[Transport Canada's new](#) registration process known as the Client Identification Database (CID) is for persons or organizations involved in Dangerous Goods (DG) activities. To determine if your organization needs to register, a short survey has to be taken. Registration for qualifying organizations is required by October 25, 2024. CID will allow persons or organizations to register and will collect information about their activities involving dangerous goods. CID

23. Seven projects funded under the National Trade Corridors Fund in Quebec, October 18, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca

24. EU invests over €380 million in 133 new LIFE projects to support the green transition all around Europe, October 20, 2024, www.europa.eu

25. Travel between Canada and other countries, August 2024, October 22, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

26. North American Transborder Freight declined 0.9% in August 2024 from August 2023, October 23, 2024, www.bts.gov

27. The Government of Canada invests in a clean economy for Nova Scotia, October 25, 2024, www.tc.gc.ca

will also be used by Transport Canada to better assess risk, enhance overall safety measures, and facilitate effective communication and collaboration between Transport Canada and registered persons or organizations.

14. August 2024 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 1.1% from the Previous Month and Up 1.0% from the Same Month Last Year

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, rose 1.1% in August 2024 from July 2024, rising for the first month this quarter, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). From August 2023 to August 2024 the index rose 1.0%.

15. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, September 2024

In September 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile reached 5.7 million, up 4.5% from September 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 1.0 million in September 2024, up 3.6% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad by air reached 1.4 million, a 9.2% increase from September 2023. By automobile, US residents took 1.1 million trips to Canada in September 2024, down 6.1% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States by automobile rose, up 8.2% year over year, to reach 2.1 million trips in September 2024.

16. Cyberattacks in global supply chain increasing, says survey

Cyberattacks in the supply chain are becoming increasingly widespread, with several in the industry being impacted by a ransomware attack originating from a software supply chain partner in the past year. Canadian company OpenText released its third annual 2024 Global Ransomware Survey, which reveals the current state of ransomware attacks, including ransom payments, the impact of software supply chain attacks and generative AI. The report found that 62 per cent of respondents have been impacted by a ransomware attack.

17. Finding and training workers continues to challenge employers, says report

Trucking HR Canada's (THRC) latest Labour Market Information (LMI) snapshot for the second quarter of 2024 shows challenges remain for employers to find and train workers in all occupations, particularly non-driver positions. "The latest report shows our sector added 13,600 jobs in Q2 2024, mostly in positions other than transport truck drivers," says Craig Faucette, chief program officer, Trucking HR Canada. "We are expecting the need to recruit and train new workers into non-driver roles to increase." Highlights of the report include: 1. Employment in the trucking and logistics sector increased by 1.8 per cent in Q2 2024 compared to Q2 2023, with the addition of 13,600 jobs. 2. Labour supply for trucking and logistics dipped slightly in Q2 2024 but remains up compared to Q2 2023. 3. 40 per cent of trucking and logistics sector employers expect that recruiting and training workers in non-driver occupations will continue to be very or extremely challenging.

18. Quebec company acquires supply chain solutions firm

Syntax Systems, a Quebec-based technology solutions and services provider for cloud application implementation and management, has acquired Argon Supply Chain Solutions. Argon, a firm specializing in warehouse management and supply chain optimization solutions and SAP Gold Partner, serves a growing range of multi-national customers across the world through its presence in the UK and South Africa.

19. INVESTING IN AMERICA: U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Creation of More Than 1.7 Million Construction and Manufacturing Jobs, 700,000 Transportation Sector Jobs, Since the Start of the Biden-Harris Administration

On October 15, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation is celebrating the historic opportunity of President Biden's Investing in America agenda and the more than 1.7 million construction and manufacturing jobs, and over 700,000 transportation sector jobs that have been created since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration. Removing residential construction jobs from the total, more than 1.3 million construction and manufacturing jobs have been created under the Biden-Harris Administration. And this agenda is spurring union jobs: the U.S. now has 400,000 more union workers than in 2021.

20. Lethbridge event highlights supply chain issues, brings together local industry

During the first-ever Southern Alberta B2B Trade Show and Conference in Lethbridge, Alta., last week, attendees received an overview of both national and local supply chains, with Canada's relationship with China taking centre stage. Trevor Lewington, CEO of Economic Development Lethbridge, said that although tariffs placed on electric vehicle imports from China help protect the domestic economy, they pose a challenge for Alberta. "Canada is the largest supplier of canola to the world. We are the largest supplier of that commodity and value-added products," said Lewington. "China is the largest market that takes and consumes canola products, so it's not a surprise that a few weeks after Canada implemented a 100 per cent tariff on Chinese imports of adhesive battery components, the Chinese government announced a review of Canada's dumping practices of canola into the global market."

21. Department of Transportation Empowers Small and Disadvantaged Businesses to Enter Emerging Transportation Markets

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) launched its “*Pathways to Entrepreneurship Program: Powering Small Businesses in Emerging Transportation Markets*” one-day pilot program experience on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the USDOT Headquarters. The event brought together approximately 400 small business owners, academic leaders, and transportation stakeholders, and provided an overview of the Pathways to Entrepreneurship (P2E) pilot program for small businesses.

22. INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$4.2 Billion From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Transformational, National Infrastructure Projects

On October 21, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced more than \$4.2 billion in funding from the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda through two major discretionary grant programs, the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) grant program and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, both of which have historic levels of funding thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

23. Seven projects funded under the National Trade Corridors Fund in Quebec

On October 18, 2024, the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, announced up to \$38 million for seven projects under the National Trade Corridors Fund. By supporting our supply chains, the Government of Canada is ensuring that goods move faster and cheaper, making life cost less for Canadians. The funding recipients and project details are below. 1. Montreal Port Authority - Increased export capacity for Canadian containerized grains (\$12,500,000); 2. QSL International Ltée - Development of the port terminals in the cities of Sorel-Tracy and Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel (\$13,613,683); 3. Quebec Port Authority - Increase the terminal storage space at Pier 103 (\$1,198,185); 4. Quebec Port Authority - Relocation of a strategic and essential infrastructure for the electrical supply of the L'Anse au Foulon sector (Pier 104 and 105) (\$1,638,500); 5. Quebec Port Authority - Project to increase the capacity and efficiency of the estuary rail yard (\$723,600); 6. Quebec Port Authority - Agreement for the development of a new dry bulk and cargo terminal behind pier 108 in the Anse au Foulon sector (\$6,800,000); and 7. Saguenay Port Authority – New storage area in the southwest sector of the Terminal (\$1,261,343).

24. EU invests over €380 million in 133 new LIFE projects to support the green transition all around Europe

The Commission has granted on October 20, 2024 more than €380 million to *133 new projects* across Europe under the *LIFE Programme for environment and climate action*. The allocated amount represents more than half of the €574 million total investment needs for these projects - the remainder coming from national, regional and local governments, public-private partnerships, businesses, and civil society organisations.

25. Travel between Canada and other countries, August 2024

In August 2024, US residents took 3.2 million trips to Canada, and residents of overseas countries took 811,200 trips. The number of non-resident arrivals (US-resident and overseas-resident arrivals combined) in Canada represented 86.9% of the number observed in August 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In August 2024, Canadian residents returned from 5.3 million trips abroad, which represented 90.2% of the level recorded in August 2019. In August, US residents took 3.2 million trips to Canada, up 12.7% from the same month in 2023. The number of trips recorded in August 2024 corresponded to 90.0% of the level observed in August 2019, before the pandemic. In August, 811,200 overseas residents arrived in Canada, an increase of 5.2% compared to the same month in 2023.

26. North American Transborder Freight declined 0.9% in August 2024 from August 2023

On October 23, 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported Total Transborder Freight by Border in August 2024, Compared to August 2023. The results for transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico were as follows: 1. Total transborder freight: \$136.7 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, down 0.9% compared to August 2023; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada: \$ 63.0 billion, down 6.4% from August 2023; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico: \$73.8 billion, up 4.2% from August 2023 - Mexico continued to lead Canada in freight dollar value for the last 18 months; 4. Trucks moved \$90.7 billion of freight, up 3.3% compared to August 2023; 5. Railways moved \$16.9 billion of freight, down 4.3% compared to August 2023; 6. Vessels moved \$9.8 billion of freight, down 17.2% compared to August 2023 - Vessels moved 19.6% less mineral fuels; 7. Pipelines moved \$8.9 billion of freight, down 9.0% compared to August 2023; and 8. Air moved \$4.7 billion of freight, down 8.8% compared to August 2023. U.S.-Canada (both directions) were as follows: 1. Truck \$36b; 2. Pipeline \$8.3b; Rail \$8.4b; Vessel \$3.5b; and 5. Air \$2.9b.

27. The Government of Canada invests in a clean economy for Nova Scotia

On October 25, 2024, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and Member of Parliament of Cape Breton—Canso, Mike Kelloway, on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, announced up to \$22.5 million for EverWind Fuels. This funding, provided under the Green Shipping Corridor Program, will allow them to: 1. purchase a loading arm to fuel and fill ships with green ammonia; 2. build a pipeline to transport green ammonia from the production facility to the transport terminal; and 3. buy three tugboats and improve the dock to help move and load ships safely.