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# Air Transport Updates

## CANADA

### ✈️ Government of Canada announces funding for essential projects and equipment at Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport

On July 17, 2023, Government officials announced that the Government of Canada is making major investments to strengthen safety at the Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport. Through Transport Canada's Airports Capital Assistance Program, the Airport is receiving nearly \$3.5 million to: 1. rehabilitate airfield lighting and electrical systems; 2. construct runway end safety areas (RESA); and 3. purchase a large snowblower, a loader, a runway sweeper and a plow truck. The rehabilitation work and the new equipment will keep passengers, airport workers, and crew safe through maintenance of the runways and taxiways during de-icing and snow clearing. This funding is in addition to the more than \$5 million provided to the Airport through the Program in 2021-22 to rehabilitate Runway 11-29, install taxiway signage and purchase an aircraft rescue firefighting vehicle. Government of Canada announces funding for essential projects and equipment at Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport, July 17, 2023, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

### ✈️ Air Canada Rolls Out More Product Improvements Offering Additional Comfort and Convenience



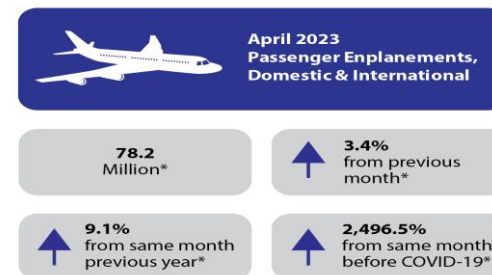
Source: Air Canada

Air Canada on July 19, 2023 announced that fresh new features to its products and services, adding even more comfort and convenience to its onboard travel experience. The upgrades include expanded in-flight food and beverage offerings to suit a variety of needs and tastes, more family-friendly options in the airline's award-winning in-flight entertainment library, as well as additional advances to the Air Canada App. These updates are the latest made by the airline as part of its '*More to Travel*' initiative, a series of ongoing improvements underway across its travel products and services.

*Air Canada Rolls Out More Product Improvements Offering Additional Comfort and Convenience, July 19, 2023, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

## US/WORLD

### ✈️ April 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 7.8% from the Same Month Last Year



\*seasonally adjusted

Source: BTS

U.S. airlines carried 77.5 million system-wide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in April 2023, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for

seasonality, April 2023 enplanements are up 3.4% from March 2023 and down 3.3% from the all-time high reached in January 2020. BTS reported 67.5 million domestic passengers and 10 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in April 2023, 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.

*April 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 7.8% from the Same Month Last Year, 14 July 2023, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## ✈️ **First Quarter 2023 Average Air Fare Decreases 4.1% from Fourth Quarter 2022**

U.S. Average Domestic Fares

From 4Q 2022: ▼ -4.1%

From 1Q 2022: ▲ 9.8%



Source: BTS

The average U.S. domestic air fare decreased in the first quarter of 2023 to \$382, down 4.1% from the fourth quarter 2022 inflation-adjusted fare of \$398. Adjusted for inflation (constant 2023 dollars), the average 1Q 2023 air fare was up 34.7% from \$283 in the second full quarter (Q3) of the pandemic in 2020 and down 8.4% from the pre-pandemic Q4 2019 fare of \$417. In the first quarter 2023, passenger demand increased with U.S. airlines reporting 75.4 million originating passengers, up 138.8% from 31.6 million passengers in the fourth quarter of 2020.

*First Quarter 2023 Average Air Fare Decreases 4.1% from Fourth Quarter 2022, July 17, 2023, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## ✈️ **Addressing North American Air Traffic Control Shortcomings**



Source: IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released the following statement by its Director General, Willie Walsh, on the performance of the United States and Canadian air traffic control (ATC) organizations. “Over the past 12-18 months airlines have responded to the very strong post-pandemic travel demand by adding tens of thousands of employees to their workforces. US passenger airline employment is now at its highest level in over two decades, for example. In contrast, ATC staff shortages in North America continue to produce unacceptable delays and disruptions for the traveling public on both sides of the border. “Ottawa and Washington, DC need to take ownership of the issues under their direct control and lead in resolving them. Appointing a permanent FAA Administrator would be a first and major step in urgently addressing the US aviation/air traffic control infrastructure constraints, which are hindering airlines from delivering the service travelers expect. Furthermore, refraining from doubling down on costly and poorly thought-out air travel consumer rights regulations in both countries, would free up resources across the entire value chain, in order to enhance the customer experience,” said Walsh.

*Addressing North American Air Traffic Control Shortcomings, July 20, 2023, [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)*



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## Rail Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### UP, CN Put Biofuels to the Test with Train-Track Treadmills



Source: Railway Age

The Class I railroads joined forces in 2023 to share the costs and resources needed to test a blend of renewable fuels on two classes of locomotives. The signal is clear: In addition to being the most environmentally responsible way to move freight by land, the rail industry is united to find solutions to further reduce rail's environmental footprint. "Working with Union Pacific and our suppliers is absolutely the right thing to do, for our stakeholders, our customers and the communities in which we operate," said **François Bélanger**, senior director, Sustainability at CN. "It underscores our commitment as an industry to finding more sustainable paths forward."

*UP, CN Put Biofuels to the Test with Train-Track Treadmills, July 14, 2023, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)*

#### Railway carloadings, May 2023



Source: Statcan.gc.ca

Canadian railways transported 30.7 million tonnes of freight in May 2023, down 5.0% compared with May 2022, and the first such decline in 12 months. Strong growth in carloadings of grain tempered the overall decrease. Despite this decline, freight traffic volume was just below the five-year average of 31.6 million tonnes for May. The rail traffic decline in May was the result of lower volumes across all types of rail operations: non-intermodal, intermodal and traffic from US connections. After 12 consecutive months of year-over-year increases, domestic non-intermodal freight loadings (mainly commodities) edged down by 2.0% to 24.1 million tonnes in May compared with the same month in 2022, led by a sharp decline in carloadings of iron ores.

*Railway carloadings, May 2023, July 20, 2023, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

### US/WORLD

## CSX adds eight rail-served properties in seven states to select site program



Source: AJOT

CSX announced its latest group of high-ranking properties to receive CSX Select Site designation under the newly expanded industrial development program. Eight sites in seven states have earned a Gold, Silver or Bronze rating based on an evaluation of a wide range of site characteristics. CSX worked with more than 60 communities over the past several months to gather information and identify top candidates for the Select Site program, which connects expanding companies with highly desirable rail-served properties. *CSX adds eight rail-served properties in seven states to select site program, July 14, 2023, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*

## For Week 28, Carloads Rise, Intermodal Falls



Source: Railway Age

U.S. rail traffic for the week ending July 15, 2023 (Week 28) was 478,153 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.4% from the same week last year, according to the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) July 19 report. Total carloads were 225,609, up 0.9%, while intermodal volume of 252,544 containers and trailers fell 5.3%. Year-to-date, carloads improved 0.5%, but intermodal dropped 10.0% from the prior-year period. In comparison, for the week ending July 8, 2023, U.S. Class I railroads hauled a total of 407,843 carloads and

intermodal units, declining 5.1% from the same week last year, according to AAR. That comprises 197,086 carloads—down 2.3% from the year-earlier period—and 210,757 containers and trailers—down 7.6% from 2022. Seven of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase for the week ending July 15, 2023, compared with the same week last year. Canadian railroads reported 87,054 carloads for the week ending July 15, 2023, up 1.2%, and 49,682 intermodal units, down 36.3% from the same point in 2022. For the first 28 weeks of this year, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 4,408,662 carloads, containers and trailers, down 2.7%.

*For Week 28, Carloads Rise, Intermodal Falls, July 19, 2023, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)*

## CSX: 'Building Momentum' in 2Q23



Source: Railway Age

"The ONE CSX team continued to build momentum this quarter as our merchandise and coal businesses continued to demonstrate significant volume gains," President and CEO Joe Hinrichs said July 20, 2023 during the Class I railroad's second-quarter 2023 financial report. "Though intermodal activity remains challenged, our strong service performance distinguishes us in the marketplace and is attracting shippers to our network." Revenue totaled \$3.70 billion, a 3% decline year-over-year "as lower fuel prices, reduced supplemental revenue, a decline in export coal benchmark prices, and a decrease in intermodal volumes more than offset the effects of volume growth in coal and merchandise and solid gains in merchandise pricing," the railroad reported. Operating income came in at \$1.48 billion, falling 13% from second-quarter 2022's \$1.70 billion. Net earnings were \$996 million (or \$0.49 per diluted share), down 15.6% from second-quarter 2022's \$1.18 billion (or \$0.54 per diluted share). Last year's results included a \$122 million gain (\$0.04/share after-tax) related to the commonwealth of Virginia property sale agreement. CSX reported an operating ratio of 59.9%. In second-quarter 2022, the operating ratio was 55.4%, and included "the effects of lower real estate gains, the acquisition of Quality Carriers and higher fuel prices," CSX said at that time. The operating ratio came in at 43.4% in second-quarter 2021.

CSX: *'Building Momentum'* in 2Q23, July 20, 2023,  
[www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)



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## Marine Transport Updates

### CANADA


 **First all-electric tugboat in the world now plying the waters of B.C.**



Source: National Post

The B.C. coast is now home to the first fully electric tugboat in the world. HaiSea Marine, a collaboration between the Haisla Nation and Seaspan, welcomed the arrival of the HaiSea Wamis. The all-electric HaiSea Wamis arrives in Vancouver harbour on July 8, 2023.

*First all-electric tugboat in the world now plying the waters of B.C., July 17, 2023, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)*

 **Post-strike recovery for western Canadian ports measured in weeks, not days:**



Source: Feightwaves

A spokesperson for CPKC says the “supply chain recovery is expected to be prolonged” in the aftermath of the dockworker strike in western Canada. It could take into September 2023 before the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert fully recover from the 13-day dockworker strike that idled both western Canadian ports and disrupted trans-Pacific sailing schedules, industry observers told the *Journal of Commerce* on July 14, 2023. The strike ended on July 12, 2023 when the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (Canada) and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association agreed on terms for a tentative four-year contract. But forwarders, shipping lines and trucking interests say they are advising their customers it will take weeks — possibly into September — for operations at Prince Rupert and Vancouver — Canada's largest port — to return to normal.

*Post-strike recovery for western Canadian ports measured in weeks, not days: sources, July 14, 2023, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)*

## B.C. port strike back on after union rejects mediator's four-year deal as 'far too long'



Source: Financial Post

Workers are back on strike at British Columbia ports after their union rejected a mediator's tentative agreement, stunning business community leaders who had welcomed the end of strike action last week. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada announced on July 19, 2023 its leadership caucus chose to reject the tentative agreement because it did not believe the deal can protect jobs “now or into the future.” An employers organization said the rejected deal was 'fair and comprehensive,' with wage and benefit hikes above the 10% increases workers got over the past three years.

*B.C. port strike back on after union rejects mediator's four-year deal as 'far too long', July 18, 2023, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)*

## B.C. ports in limbo as union removes strike notice despite ongoing dispute with employers



Source: Financial Post

Union gave no reasons or details behind the decision in what employers group calls 'a fluid and unpredictable situation'. The fallout from the labour dispute at [British Columbia ports](#) continues to unfold, as the union representing about 7,400 workers abruptly rescinded a strike notice hours after issuing it. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau has stepped up action in the federal response to B.C. ports potentially shutting down again in the dispute between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada and the BC Maritime Employers Association, convening an incident response group typically gathered at times of “national crisis” or events with major implications for Canada.

*B.C. ports in limbo as union removes strike notice despite ongoing dispute with employers, July 20, 2023, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)*

## Uncertainty at B.C. ports continues as possible deal emerges in labour dispute



Source: National Post

The uncertainty at British Columbia ports persists as a union local for workers says that a tentative agreement has been reached between a union bargaining committee and employers, the latest development in a tumultuous week in the high-stakes labour dispute. A statement on the website of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada Local 502 says that a tentative agreement has been reached with the BC Maritime Employers Association, and the ILWU will hold an “emergency contract caucus” July 21 to decide if the deal will be sent to the full union membership for ratification.

*Uncertainty at B.C. ports continues as possible deal emerges in labour dispute, July 21, 2023, [www.financialpost.ca](http://www.financialpost.ca)*

## Independent Study Confirms Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway Shipping Vital to Economic Strength and Development

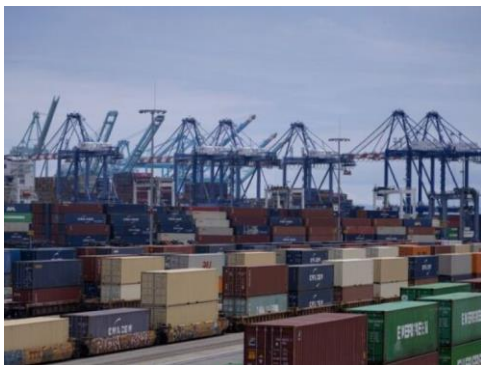
Chamber of Marine Commerce, July 21, 2023. A comprehensive independent study of the economic impacts of the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system for the 2022 shipping season was released today, detailing the billions in economic activity and hundreds of thousands of jobs supported by the industry. Titled

“Economic Impacts of Maritime Shipping in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region,” the study reviews the industry’s economic impacts from multiple perspectives and showed that even in a year in which the world was gripped with pandemic challenges, global unrest, and supply chain concerns, marine shipping drove the North American economy forward. Terence Bowles, President and CEO of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, is quoted.

To read the full article, please visit: [https://www.marinedelivers.com/media\\_release/independent-study-confirms-great-lakes-st-lawrence-seaway-shipping-vital-to-economic-strength-and-development/](https://www.marinedelivers.com/media_release/independent-study-confirms-great-lakes-st-lawrence-seaway-shipping-vital-to-economic-strength-and-development/)

## US/WORLD

### Port of Los Angeles June cargo volume strongest in a year



Source: AJOT

The Port of Los Angeles moved 833,035 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in June 2023, its best performance since last July 2022 and just 5% less than last year’s record. “Cargo volume has increased a remarkable 70% since February 2023 with four months of consecutive gains,” said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka during a media briefing. “Although we will likely see cargo ease in July 2023, I’m optimistic that the second half of 2023 will show improved performance compared to the first six months.” Seroka was joined at the Port’s media briefing by Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Julie Su, who discussed her role in the recent tentative agreement between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association. Su also discussed the U.S. Department of Labor’s initiatives to create jobs and empower American workers.

June 2023 loaded imports reached 435,307 TEUs, down 2% compared to the previous year. Loaded exports came in at 108,050 TEUs, an increase of 15% compared to last year. Empty containers landed at 289,679 TEUs, a 14% year-over-year decline. During the first six months of 2023, the Port handled 4,137,379 TEUs, a 24% decline compared to the same period in 2022.

*Port of Los Angeles June cargo volume strongest in a year, July 14, 2023, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*

### SC Ports finishes fiscal year 2023 with strong June



Source: AJOT

South Carolina Ports finished the fiscal year 2023 with steady container volumes and stellar activity at its rail-served inland ports. In fiscal year 2023, SC Ports handled nearly 2.6 million TEUs and 1.4 million pier containers. While this is down about 10% from fiscal year 2022 — when pandemic spending spurred an unprecedented cargo boom — volumes are up 1% from fiscal year 2021, a much more typical year. In June, SC Ports handled 203,091 TEUs and 112,883 pier containers, up more than 3% year-over-year. Retail, advanced manufacturing, automotive, and cold storage sectors continue to drive growth at the Port of Charleston. “SC Ports provides reliable, efficient service for companies’ supply chains,” SC Ports President and CEO Barbara Melvin said. “Port-dependent businesses will continue to invest in South Carolina to gain access to a well-run port with capacity in the booming Southeast market.” Inland Port Dillon had a record fiscal year in 2023, handling 39,143 rail moves, which is an impressive 50% increase from the year prior. Inland Port Greer also had a strong fiscal year, with 146,813 rail moves, down about 3% year-over-year. Both rail-served inland ports handled record June volumes. Inland Port Dillon recorded 4,048 rail moves, up 139% from last year. Inland Port Greer had its busiest June ever, with 14,887 rail moves, up 24% year-over-year.

*SC Ports finishes fiscal year 2023 with strong June, July 18, 2023, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*



## Steady cargo volumes at Port Houston



Source: AJOT

Port Houston handled 315,983 TEUs in June 2023, making the total for the year thus far more than 1.8 million TEUs, a decrease of just 2% compared to last year's record-breaking year. Loaded exports continue to lead the way, with 673,228 TEUs through the first half of the year, an increase of 12% compared to last year. Loaded imports are down 7% year-to-date compared to last. "It's not surprising that import volumes are slightly under last year's unprecedented pace," said Roger Guenther, Executive Director at Port Houston. "But container activity through Houston remains strong overall. To put it into perspective, import TEUs at Port Houston are up 30% compared to 2019, before the pandemic." At Port Houston's breakbulk facilities, general cargo declined 22% year-to-date compared to 2022. However, there continues to be demand for rail, oil country goods, line pipe, and other products, resulting in steel imports up 11% this month compared to June 2022. Auto import units at Port Houston, while down 10% in June are up 30% year-to-date compared to 2022.

*Steady cargo volumes at Port Houston, July 18, 2023, [www.aot.com](http://www.aot.com)*

## Port of Corpus Christi announces Q2 Volumes - New Record



Source: AJOT

The Port of Corpus Christi's customers moved nearly 50 million tons of goods through the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in Q2 2023, setting a record for the fifth consecutive quarter. The 49.7 million tons moved in Q2 was a 7.1 percent increase from the same period last year and slightly higher than the prior record set in Q1 2023. The new high mark primarily can be attributed to a jump in crude oil exports. The Port of Corpus Christi saw a 3.1 percent increase in crude oil shipments (to nearly 31.1 million tons) compared to Q1 2023. For the first six months of 2023, the Port of Corpus Christi has moved 99.3 million tons, a 10.3 percent increase from the same period in 2022. The leading commodities for the first half of this year are crude oil, petroleum products, and dry bulk commodities. "The continued growth in goods movements is a testament to the strength of our Port of Corpus Christi customers and their capacity to meet the energy needs of our global trading partners and allies," said Kent Britton, Interim Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Financial Officer for the Port of Corpus Christi. "The infrastructure growth of the past decade in this region has our customers well positioned for success."

*Port of Corpus Christi announces Q2 Volumes - New Record, July 20, 2023, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*



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## Road Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### TC Changes Contraventions Regs to Increase HoS Violation Fines



Source: Ontruck

New fines for Hours-of-Service violations announced by Transport Canada will lead to “swift enforcement” of related rules and ease the strain on the justice system, the department said. As reported by Truck News, recently announced changes to *Contraventions Regulations* add to federal penalties that were already in place but limited to warnings or court proceedings. “Issuing contravention tickets provides a new tool for authorities to use, however they do not replace the court process,” the regulator said in a July 10 statement. “This remains available to prosecute offenders of the *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations*.”

*TC Changes Contraventions Regs to Increase HoS Violation Fines, July 14, 2023, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)*

#### Urban public transit, May 2023



Source: Statcan

In May 2023, 120.8 million passenger trips were made on urban transit networks in Canada. This total represents over three-quarters (77.8%) of the May 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest recovery rate to date. This is an increase of 26.0% (+24.9 million trips) from May 2022. It marks more than two years of consecutive monthly year-over-year increases. With activity and travel behaviour continuing to move toward historic patterns, ridership recovered to 77.8% of the pre-pandemic May 2019 level. While this was the highest rate of recovery since the pandemic, there were still 34.5 million fewer passenger trips in May 2023 compared with the same month in 2019. On a monthly basis before the pandemic, public transit ridership typically edged down from April to May. Meanwhile, May 2023 saw a 5.8% rise from April 2023. In May 2023, transit agency operating revenues (excluding subsidies) were \$290.1 million, an increase of \$68.6 million, or 31.0%, from May 2022, albeit \$46.1 million lower than the pre-pandemic May 2019 level.

*Urban public transit, May 2023, July 19, 2023, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## Mullen's revenue, profit slide compared to a year ago



Source: Today's Trucking

Mullen Group's Q2 revenue and net income slid as freight demand softened and pricing normalized. The company reported \$494.3 million in revenue for the quarter, down 5.2%, year over year, and net income was \$36.5 million, a 14.5% decline. "This was another very good quarter for our organization, especially taking the slowing economy and changing consumer spending patterns into consideration, generating quarterly revenues of nearly a half a billion dollars," Murray Mullen, chairman and senior executive officer, said in a release. "Our leaders, in fact all of our people, understood the changes occurring in the market and adjusted accordingly, ensuring we captured market share but at the same time maintained margin. I could not be more pleased." While there are no signs an economic downturn is imminent, Mullen said the company is closely watching how rising interest rates will affect consumer spending.

*Mullen's revenue, profit slide compared to a year ago, July 20, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)*

## US/WORLD

### Economic Trucking Trends: U.S. holiday brings positive signs for freight, equipment demand

The U.S. Independence Day holiday has come and gone, and with it came some encouraging signs on several fronts concerning freight and equipment. Trucking added jobs while there continues to be a sharp increase in carrier revocations, suggesting a rebalancing is slowly occurring with independent operators packing it in and potentially returning to larger fleets. Spot market rates were surprisingly resilient over the week leading up to the holiday – was it a sign of a potential recovery, or at least a bottoming of spot market rates? Truck visits to Top 50 retailers over the holiday week were also surprisingly strong. Does this signal a drawdown in retail inventories, and is it potentially

another sign the freight markets have bottomed? And lastly, ACT Research is upping its outlook for equipment sales and production for the remainder of this year and next.

*Economic Trucking Trends: U.S. holiday brings positive signs for freight, equipment demand, July 14, 2023, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)*

### Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$21 Million in Grants to Improve Road Safety on Tribal Lands

On July 20, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced \$20.9 million in grant awards for 88 Tribal projects that will reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries on Tribal lands. The grants, from the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund for proven countermeasures such as pavement markings, rumble strips and better pedestrian infrastructure, are one way in which the Biden-Harris administration is investing in communities across the country and addressing the unacceptably high number of roadway deaths, as laid out in the Department's National Roadway Safety Strategy.

*Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$21 Million in Grants to Improve Road Safety on Tribal Lands, July 20, 2023, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*



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## Other Transport Updates

### CANADA



#### Adopting AI to augment the workforce

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) platforms such as ChatGPT has led to increased interest across all industries in exploring its potential applications. In logistics, for example, AI has shown great potential to increase operational efficiency. The main reason why many industries, including logistics, have embraced artificial intelligence on such a wide scale is its superior data processing capabilities, as the ultimate goal of the logistics sector is to deliver goods as efficiently as possible. Although “efficiency” is often thought to equate to speed, it also involves cost, maximizing capacity, and other factors. Human error is one of the biggest detriments to efficiency, as it causes slowdowns, increases costs, and can lead to a reduction in capacity. To combat this, many industries – including logistics – are beginning to embrace artificial intelligence to eliminate potential sources of human error.

*Adopting AI to augment the workforce, July 18, 2023, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*

### US/WORLD



#### Russia pulls out of Ukraine grain deal, in potential blow to global food supplies and Russia pulls the plug on Ukraine grain export deal



Source: Cargo News

Russia said on July 17, 2023 that it was suspending its participation in a crucial deal that allowed the export of Ukrainian grain, once again raising fears over global food supplies and scuppering a rare diplomatic breakthrough to emerge from Moscow's war in Ukraine. The earlier agreement was brokered by Turkey and the United Nations. The corridor's shutdown will hit key buyers like China, Spain and Egypt. The move jeopardizes a key trade route from Ukraine, one of the world's top grain and vegetable oil shippers, just as its next harvest kicks off. It also comes after Ukrainian drones damaged a key bridge to Crimea on July 17, 2023.

*Russia pulls out of Ukraine grain deal, in potential blow to global food supplies, July 18, 2023, [www.cargonews.com](http://www.cargonews.com); and Russia pulls the plug on Ukraine grain export deal, July 18, 2023, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*



#### Labour disruptions up over 136 percent in 2023, report finds

A new study of supply chain disruptions has found that global labour disruptions to supply chain operations have climbed by over 130 percent this year, as the British Columbia ports strike resumes. According to data from Resilinc covering the first half of 2023, labour disruptions are substantially higher this year, up by 136 percent. This includes company and site-level strikes, national strikes (like the

strikes in France or the worker walkouts at Starbucks in the U.S.), layoffs (like this year's job cuts at Google, PayPal, Meta, and Amazon), and labour protests, among others. From January 2023 through June 2023, Resilinc's EventWatchAI platform reported a total of 8,197 supply chain disruptions, with the healthcare, high tech, automotive, aerospace, and food and beverage industries bearing the brunt of the impact.

*Labour disruptions up over 136 percent in 2023, report finds, July 19, 2023, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*



## Job Postings

### \* **Principal Planner: Freight Planning, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority**

Under the direction of the Director of Freight Planning, the Principal Planner: Freight Planning will be responsible for performing a full range of technical planning, research, analysis, written reports, and outreach activities in the specialized field of freight and goods movement planning. The job requires knowledge of goods movement, the application of tools of analysis, the ability to research freight and related topics and produce reports, as well as the ability of effectively engage and interact with stakeholders in the public and private sector. To apply, please click here:

<https://njit.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/4582?c=njit>

### \* **GLG, looking for consulting experts in various transportation and logistics fields**

We have been approached by GLG, a bona fide professional services organization which provides hourly consulting services, looking for experts in various transportation and logistics fields. These are done over the phone or in a web meeting (not in person). If you would like to be considered as a candidate (GLG typically pay up to \$200/hr. for these 30 minute or 60 minute consultations) for any of these please let Andrew Young know and he will put you in contact with them ([uschapter@ciltna.com](mailto:uschapter@ciltna.com)).

### **Diesel-to-Electric Battery Repowering | Trains, Trucks, or Boats**

One of our clients, a railcar manufacturer, would like to speak with an expert who is knowledgeable about repowering heavy machinery, such as trains, boats, and trucks. More specifically, they're looking to better understand what it takes to go from diesel to electric battery powered, as well as who the leading suppliers of key components are (e.g., power control systems, inverters, batteries, motors, etc.).

## Project Questions

- Do you have experience repowering heavy machinery, such as trains, boats, or trucks? If so, please elaborate on your relevant experience below.
- Are you able to discuss the repowering design, specifically what it takes to transition from conventional diesel to electric battery powered?
- Are you knowledgeable about suppliers of key repowering components (e.g., power control systems, inverters, batteries, motors, etc.)? If so, please note which component suppliers you could elaborate on during a call below.

## Fleet Management | Market Overview

One of our clients, a project team at a professional services firm, would like to speak with individuals that have in depth knowledge on the truck fleet management space. Topics of interest include:

- Products offered by truck fleet management companies
- Value chain
- Products
- Market size, areas for growth, and top players in the space

Please Note: Our client is working on behalf of a corporation or investment firm. GLG Network Members are not permitted to consult about their current employer(s) or provide any information that may be considered confidential or proprietary to their current or former employers or other third parties.

## Project Questions

- Can you list what are the main products that a truck fleet management company offers?
- On a scale from 1-5 (1=not able to speak, 5=extremely knowledgeable), how knowledgeable are you on the following topics related to fleet management:
- Who do you believe are the 3-5 main truck fleet management companies and who has been gaining market share in the last 5 years?

- Can you speak to what is the average gross margin that fleet management companies generally have combining all products and services? (in %)

### **Fleet Operations | Fleet Manager Perspective**

One of our clients, a project team at a professional services firm, would like to speak with professionals with fleet management experience across truck, rail, maritime, or aviation fleets.

Please Note: Our client is working on behalf of an Oil & Gas Provider. GLG Network Members are not permitted to consult about their current employer(s) or provide any information that may be considered confidential or proprietary to their current or former employers or other third parties.

#### **Project Questions**

- Roughly how many vehicles are/were included in your fleet?
- Are you involved in the evaluation and decision-making process for fuel choices and alternative products used in your fleet? Please select which best represent your relevant experience.
- Are you familiar with fuel alternative products ("green fuel", biofuels, etc.)? Please briefly elaborate on your experience in 1-2 sentences.
- Can you speak to your preference of fuel vs. fuel alternative products and your rationale? Please briefly elaborate in 1-2 sentences.
- Could you provide examples of and speak to companies that are selling fuel alternative products in the market today? What are your perceptions of these companies?
- Can you speak to the fuel alternative products in the market today? What are your perceptions of these products? What has influenced your perception? Please briefly elaborate on your ability to discuss in 1-2 sentences.
- Could you provide examples of when you have utilized fuel alternatives within your business/at your place of work? What were the advantages? The disadvantages? Please briefly elaborate on your ability to discuss in 1-2 sentences.
- Could you speak to making purchase decisions regarding fuel alternatives? What were your considerations? What ultimately influenced your decision? Please briefly elaborate on your ability to discuss in 1-2 sentences.
- Could you speak to the sources/influences that you consulted during this buying process? Please briefly elaborate on your ability to discuss in 1-2 sentences.
- Does your CURRENT company compete with Oil & Gas Manufacturers.
- Do you have current/recent experience (within 0-2 years) in fleet management across any of the following segments?

### **Freight Brokerage Services | Overview**

One of our clients, an analyst at an investment management firm, would like to speak with a Network Member who can speak on the freight brokerage services space. Topics of discussion include:

The unique dynamics of fresh produce / temperature-controlled shipping

- Defensive actions to take during a brokerage downturn
- Main drivers of freight brokerage financials
- Up and coming tech platforms for freight brokerages

GLG Network Members are not permitted to consult about their current employer(s) or provide any information that may be considered confidential or proprietary to their current or former employers or other third parties.

#### **Project Questions**

- Can you speak to the unique dynamics of fresh produce/temperature-controlled shipping? If so, please elaborate on your ability to do so below.
- Have you navigated a downturn at your brokerage? If so, can you speak on the defensive actions that were taken?
- Can you speak on the main drivers of freight brokerage financials? If so, please elaborate in 1-2 sentences on your ability to do so below.
- Can you speak on any emerging tech platforms for freight brokerages? If so, please elaborate on them below.
- Do you have any off-limit topics and/or anything you might be contractually obligated not to discuss regarding this consultation or space? If so, please briefly elaborate on the topics you are not allowed to discuss.



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