



CANADA

✈️ **Canadians to benefit from expanded air transport agreements with Ethiopia, Jordan and Türkiye**

On December 15, 2023, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced that Canada has recently expanded its air transport agreements with Ethiopia, Jordan and Türkiye. 1. The expanded agreement with Ethiopia allows seven weekly passenger flights for each country, up from five. It will support growing bilateral ties and stronger connectivity with Ethiopia, and enhanced access to sub-Saharan Africa. 2. The expanded agreement with Jordan enables seven weekly passenger flights for each country, up from three. It will accommodate growing passenger demand between Canada and Jordan. 3. The expanded agreement with Türkiye increases the number of weekly all-cargo flights to seven for each country, up from three. The new rights under these agreements are available for use by airlines immediately.

Canadians to benefit from expanded air transport agreements with Ethiopia, Jordan and Türkiye, December 15, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

✈️ **Monthly civil aviation statistics, October 2023**



Source: Statcan

Major Canadian airlines carried 6.5 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in October 2023, up 9.0% from the same month in 2022. At 17.5 billion, passenger-kilometres in October 2023 reached pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels (compared with the same month of 2019) for the first time. As capacity was 20.6 billion available seat-kilometres, the passenger load factor was 84.8% in October 2023. Operating revenue earned in October exceeded the level from the same month of 2019, before the pandemic, for the 11th consecutive month.

Monthly civil aviation statistics, October 2023, December 19, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

✈️ **Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, October 2023**



Source: Statcan

In October 2023, Canada's major and select small airports recorded a total of 474,837 aircraft movements. This was down 1.6% from October 2022, representing the fourth year-over-year decline in the last five months. Total domestic movements declined 2.3% from October 2022. The number of international movements between Canada and countries other than the United States was up 10.8% year over year in

October 2023, while movements to and from the United States increased 7.6%.

Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, October 2023, December 19, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

US/WORLD

IATA Rolls Out New Timatic Product to Support Contactless Travel



Source: IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has rolled out the next generation travel documentation and verification system which supports contactless travel and enhances the passenger experience. To achieve this, [Timatic](#) has undergone a complete redesign, setting a new benchmark in travel compliance solutions. Building on the success of its predecessor, [Timatic AutoCheck](#) offers a streamlined and interactive experience enabling travelers, airlines and travel professionals to easily access accurate and clearly worded immigration information. The entire document checking process has been automated with tailored instructions for each passenger. With passenger traffic set to double by 2040, the optimization and enhancement of airport processes will need to continue. Verifying passengers' travel documentation is one of the more time-consuming tasks which will benefit from further automation. Moreover, the new features of Timatic AutoCheck will also play an essential role in supporting the industry in the move towards contactless travel. IATA's most recent [Global Passenger Survey \(GPS\)](#) revealed that complex visa requirements deter travelers who want a convenient, digital online visa process. Moreover, many are willing to share their travel document information for faster airport immigration procedures.

IATA Rolls Out New Timatic Product to Support Contactless Travel, December 15, 2023, www.iata.org

US Airlines gain \$1.6 billion in third quarter 2023, a decrease over third quarter 2022

2023 Net Profit: \$1.6 billion

↓ \$0.8B from 2022 Net Profit of \$2.4B



Scheduled Passenger Airlines

Source: BTS

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a third-quarter 2023 after-tax net gain of \$1.6 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$3.3 billion. One year earlier, in the third quarter of 2022, the airlines reported an after-tax net gain of \$2.4 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$4.7 billion.

US Airlines gain \$1.6 billion in third quarter 2023, a decrease over third quarter 2022, December 20, 2023, www.bts.gov



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Transportation's Top Stories

Rail Transport Updates

CANADA



Railway carloadings, October 2023



Source: Statcan

In October 2023, the volume of freight carried by Canadian railways amounted to 32.6 million tonnes, down 1.3% from October 2022 levels, marking the sixth straight month of year-over-year decline. Increases in loadings of potash and some energy products helped to offset a steep decline in grain shipments. Despite the overall decline, total freight carried approached the five-year average of 33.3 million tonnes for October 2023. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the "Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard" on Statistics Canada website. The decline in total freight carried in October 2023 reflected a lower volume of domestic traffic, both non-intermodal loadings (mainly commodities) and intermodal loadings (mainly containers).

Railway carloadings, October 2023, December 18, 2023, www.railwayage.ca



TSB: Railcar Structural Failure Led to 2019 CN Tunnel Derailment



Source: Railway Age

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) on Dec. 18 reported that structural failure of a bathtub gondola car led to the 2019 derailment of a CN train proceeding through the CN Paul M. Tellier Tunnel en route from Sarnia, Ontario, to Port Huron, Mich. At the time of the accident, "there was no industry or regulatory requirement to periodically conduct a full inspection of the car to ensure it maintained its structural integrity," the TSB reported. "As a result, its structural integrity deteriorated and this was not identified. ..."

TSB: Railcar Structural Failure Led to 2019 CN Tunnel Derailment, December 19, 2023, www.railwayage.com



Minister of Transport announces proposed changes to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations to enhance safety for transportation of dangerous goods across Canada

On December 20, 2023, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced that Transport Canada is proposing to introduce changes to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, which will further improve the safety of Canada's transportation system and

reduce the risk of accidents across the country. The proposed amendments to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, are aimed at: 1. enhancing buffer car requirements; 2. strengthening emergency response assistance plan requirements for the transport of agricultural anhydrous ammonia on public roads; 3. aligning our regulations with other federal rules on transporting dangerous goods; 4. introducing new rules to match international codes; and 5. referencing and incorporating two new standards.

Minister of Transport announces proposed changes to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations to enhance safety for transportation of dangerous goods across Canada, December 20, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

Maximum Grain Revenue Entitlements for Crop Year 2022–2023

In a determination issued on December 21, 2023, the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) ruled that revenues of both the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) and the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway Company (CPKC) were above their respective maximum grain revenue entitlements for the crop year 2022–2023. 1. CN's grain revenue of \$1,079,522,039 was \$3,457,939 above its entitlement of \$1,076,064,100. 2. CPKC's grain revenue of \$943,886,400 was \$3,369,407 above its entitlement of \$940,516,993. CN and CPKC now have 30 days to pay the amount they exceeded their 2022–2023 revenue entitlements, in addition to a five percent penalty of \$3,630,836 for CN and \$3,537,877 for CPKC. Regulations require these payments to go to the Western Grains Research Foundation. In the 2022–2023 crop year, 45,303,841 tonnes of Western grain were moved. This represents a 60 percent increase in volumes compared to the last crop year, which saw 28.4 million tonnes transported. The increase in the volume of grain was due mainly to improved growing conditions following the drought experienced in Western Canada during the 2021–2022 growing season.

Maximum Grain Revenue Entitlements for Crop Year 2022–2023, December 21, 2023, www.cta-otc.gc.ca

RAC Releases Rail Trends 2023 Report



Source: Railway Age

The 31st edition of the report is a compendium of Canadian rail data up to Dec. 30, 2022. Data is reported by **RAC** member companies, including Class I and short line railways, as well as tourist, intercity and commuter passenger railways. Highlights of *Rail Trends 2023* include: 1. “Railways invested \$2.4 billion to improve safety, efficiency, capacity, and supply chain fluidity. 2. “Railways paid a record \$2.2 billion in taxes to Canadian governments—supporting social programs we all rely on. 3. “Industry employment increased by 3.2% and average wages increased by 2.2% to \$104,443. 4. “Freight fuel efficiency improved to 711 revenue ton-miles per gallon—setting another consecutive record.” “Canada’s railways are pulling for Canada—and this report confirms that they are the backbone of our economy. Day in, day out, more than 35,000 dedicated railroaders work tirelessly to move more than \$380 billion dollars in goods and getting tens of millions of passengers where they need to be,” said RAC President and CEO Marc Brazeau, adding that “Canada’s freight railways continue to be standout supply chain performers, as the safest, most environmental, and reliable, all at virtually the lowest cost anywhere in the world.”

RAC Releases Rail Trends 2023 Report, December 21, 2023, www.railwayage.com

US/WORLD

Can intermodal rail increase its market share by 25% by 2030?

A report from Supply Chain Ecology and commissioned by the Environmental Defense Fund looks on how intermodal rail can meaningfully gain market share. Despite U.S. intermodal containers traffic trending lower on a cumulative basis in 2023, intermodal rail is still a viable way to not only compete against the trucking market but also to support the long-term growth of the North American freight rail industry — provided that the industry and its stakeholders be willing to take some risks to ensure the success of rail, according to a report

from consulting firm Supply Chain Ecology and commissioned by environmental group Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). The report indicates that the use short-line railroads will grow US network for intermodal. The report, *Decarbonizing Long Haul Freight: A study on intermodal rail as a viable option for freight decarbonization*, sought out a number of industry experts and came up with five recommendations: 1. Integrate short-line railroads into the Class I railroads' network via haulage agreements. 2. Develop more intermodal hubs, which can be used by short lines to enable more rail-to-truck transfers. 3. Utilize advancements in freight technology, including autonomous rail cars and technology that promotes improved traffic management. 4. Develop freight intelligence tools that enable shippers to see service reliability and costs-related data. 5. Update service standards via measures such as allowing the Surface Transportation Board to define the common carrier obligation.

Can intermodal rail increase its market share by 25% by 2030?, December 15, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

Railroads urge border officials to reopen US-Mexico crossings



Source: AJOT

Railroads are calling for US Customs and Border Protection to reopen US-Mexico rail crossings at El Paso and Eagle Pass, Texas. The CBP temporarily closed the crossings on December 18, 2023 morning and is moving more personnel to the areas after “observing a recent resurgence of smuggling organizations moving migrants through Mexico via freight trains,” according to a CBP statement on December 17, 2023. “The urgency of reopening these crossings and restoring rail service between the two nations cannot be overstated,” Ian Jefferies, president of the Association of America Railroads, said in a statement. Union Pacific Corp. operates trains at both crossings and BNSF Railway Co., a unit of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., moves trains through El Paso. The two carriers combined run 24 trains a day through the crossings that carry agriculture products, automotive parts, chemicals and other goods, the association said. Union Pacific said

the crossings represent 45% of its operations between the US and Mexico, and that it doesn't have enough capacity to reroute the train traffic. For every day the crossings are closed almost 4,500 rail cars are delayed, which has ripple effects across the network.

Railroads urge border officials to reopen US-Mexico crossings, December 18, 2023, www.ajot.com



A Look Back at 2023



Source: Railway Age

Despite its rough patches, 2023 was on balance a very good year for the rail industry. “In 2023, the freight rail industry celebrated its 194th year of operation, American Association of Railway noted. “The year witnessed substantial investments, totaling billions of dollars, aimed at elevating safety, enhancing service and advancing sustainability initiatives. Railroads expanded main line trackage, modernized infrastructure, diversified service offerings, grew intermodal yards, integrated AI into operations and continued exploring renewable energy solutions.”

A Look Back at 2023, December 19, 2023, www.railwayage.com



Derailment, safety, partnerships among rail's big issues in 2023



Source: Freight Waves

2023 seemed to kick off quietly for U.S. freight railroads: The industry had seen the resolution of the labor contract impasse between craft unions and U.S. Class I railroads in December 2022, while rail service was steadily improving after some struggles earlier in the year. However, the February derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in East Palestine, Ohio, brought an unanticipated and sometimes harsh spotlight on rail safety, with congressional lawmakers and other public officials scrutinizing the industry's safety record and calling for reforms to bolster safety standards. Other unanticipated events, such as partnerships that arose in the intermodal space following the finalization of the merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern, also played out throughout the year and some heated topics from 2023 are likely to carry into 2024. Here are some of the key events and happenings in the freight rail industry in 2023: 1. Government, general public raise concerns about rail safety. 2. Union and carriers reach agreement on sick leave agreement but other union concerns remain. 3. Final decision on reciprocal switching looms. 4. California Air Resources Board sees future in zero-emissions locomotive configurations. 5. Intermodal partnership follow CP-KCS merger.

Derailment, safety, partnerships among rail's big issues in 2023, December 21, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

2023, U.S. Class I railroads hauled a total of 502,583 carloads and intermodal units, rising 7.6% from the prior-year period, according to **AAR**. This comprises 234,449 carloads, up 6.5% from 2022, and 268,134 containers and trailers, up 8.6% compared with last year. All of the ten group of commodities posted an increase for the week. For the week ending Dec. 16, 2023, Canadian railroads reported 97,399 carloads, up 4.3%, and 72,910 intermodal units, up 2.4% compared with the same point last year.

AAR: North American Rail Volume Down Through Week 50, December 20, 2023, www.railwayage.com

AAR: North American Rail Volume Down Through Week 50



Source: Railway Age

North American rail volume for the first 50 weeks of this year (ending Dec. 16) on 12 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads came in at 32,902,626 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers. Cumulative volume in the U.S. was 23,511,642 carloads and intermodal units, down 2.8% from 2022; in Canada, 8,004,143 carloads and intermodal units, down 3.0%; and in Mexico, 1,386,841 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.3%. For the week ending Dec. 16,



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Marine Transport Updates

CANADA

Minister of Transport announces new training opportunities to strengthen Canada's world-class marine sector

On December 15, 2023, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced the expansion of the Marine Training Program to the Western Arctic Marine Training Consortium (WAMTC) in Hay River, Northwest Territories. WAMTC will launch its inaugural program in January 2024, offering local residents the skills and qualifications to gain meaningful employment in the marine industry and serve the needs of their community.

Minister of Transport announces new training opportunities to strengthen Canada's world-class marine sector, December 15, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

Transport Canada funds innovative research to prevent spread of invasive species in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River

On December 20, 2023, the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced investments of up to \$10.9 million for four projects through the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) to improve ballast water management systems in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region to combat aquatic invasive species. The four selected projects, funded through the OPP's Ballast Water Innovation Program (BWIP), will advance industry-led solutions to assess and address technical challenges related to the installation, operation, and maintenance of ballast water management systems in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region. Ballast water management systems reduce the risk of introducing or spreading invasive species when ballast water is unloaded. The organizations receiving funding are: 1. Albion Marine

Solutions Ltd. 2. Algoma Central Corporation. 3. Armateurs du Saint-Laurent. 4. Mouawad Consulting Canada LP

Transport Canada funds innovative research to prevent spread of invasive species in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, December 20, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

US/WORLD

MSC ships turn away from Red Sea as trade disruptions mount



Source: AJOT

MSC Mediterranean Shipping Co. SA, the world's largest container line, joined competitors in diverting ships away from the Red Sea to avoid the threat of attacks on commercial cargo carriers by Houthi rebels operating in Yemen. The MSC Palatium III was attacked on December 15, 2023 in the Red Sea, the company said in a statement on its website, confirming earlier reports. There were no injuries among the crew of the container ship, though there was "limited fire damage" and the vessel has been taken out of service. "Due to this incident and to protect the lives and safety of our seafarers, until the Red Sea passage is safe, MSC ships will not transit the Suez Canal

eastbound and westbound,” the company said in its statement. “Some services will be rerouted to go via the Cape of Good Hope instead,” it said, referring to the southern tip of Africa. UK naval forces shot down a suspected attack drone that was targeting merchant ships in the Red Sea, Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said in a post on X on Saturday. The HMS Diamond used a Sea Viper missile to down the target, he said, without giving more details.

MSC ships turn away from Red Sea as trade disruptions mount, December 17, 2023, www.ajot.com

Shipping lines stop entering Red Sea after attacks



Source: Inside Logistics

The world's major shipping lines have both suspended sailings that would pass through the strait at the south end of the Red Sea. The screen capture from Vesselfinder.com shows ships in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden on December 18, 2023. Yellow triangles represent cargo ships, orange triangles are tankers. Maersk, Hapag Lloyd, MSC and CMA CGM all announced they were suspending transits for vessels bound for the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Suez Canal to pause their journey until further notice. Maersk made the announcement on Friday, followed closely by the other lines. Maersk said in a customer bulletin that the decision was made following a near-miss incident involving *Maersk Gibraltar* on December 14, 2023, and yet another attack on a container vessel the following day. Crisis24, a security monitoring service, said the attackers launched a ballistic missile, which narrowly missed the ship. *Shipping lines stop entering Red Sea after attacks, December 18, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca*

U.S.-led coalition aims to restore safe shipping in Red Sea



Source: Inside Logistics

The United States has taken the lead in an operation to restore the security of shipping in the Red Sea. Operation Prosperity Guardian is bringing together the U.S., the United Kingdom, Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain, to jointly address security challenges in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The goal, according to a US defence department statement is “ensuring freedom of navigation for all countries and bolstering regional security and prosperity.” During a trip to the Middle East, U.S. defence secretary Lloyd Austin convened a virtual meeting with ministers, chiefs of defence, and senior representatives from 43 countries, as well as the European Union and NATO, to discuss the increased threat to maritime security in the Red Sea.

U.S.-led coalition aims to restore safe shipping in Red Sea, December 19, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

Brace for increased shipping rates as lines avoid Red Sea

Recent missile attacks by Houthi militants in the Red Sea have prompted leading shipping entities like CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, Maersk, and Mediterranean Shipping Co. to temporarily halt transits through the Suez Canal. Additionally, the Panama Canal has been effectively closed to MPV (multipurpose) shipping until at least May 2024, leading carriers to explore alternative routes via the Cape of Good Hope and the Strait of Magellan. Four of the top five largest container carriers will be avoiding the Red Sea and the Suez Canal until security is restored to the waterway. Together with ZIM who was

already diverting their Red Sea traffic, these carriers represent 56 percent of global capacity, meaning an estimated 17 percent of global volumes will be taking a longer, more expensive route from Asia around the southern coast of Africa. Container diversions will take an extra seven to 14 days in transit time depending on the lane, and mean a 15 to 20 percent increase in costs for carriers. In addition to longer voyages and higher costs, disruptions to scheduled arrival times could cause congestion at destination ports and some equipment shortages as empty containers take longer to get back to origin ports.

Brace for increased shipping rates as lines avoid Red Sea, December 19, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca



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Road Transport Updates

CANADA

Traffic Flow Dashboard



Source: Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada has launched the Traffic Flow Dashboard as a source of experimental statistics to provide information on the traffic flow on selected road segments in the cities of Calgary and Toronto.

Traffic Flow Dashboard, December 15, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

BC cracking down on truckers who hit infrastructure

BC is taking action is being taken to deter truckers from crashing into highway infrastructure. Trucking companies involved in infrastructure crashes will see stronger consequences that escalate for repeat offences. In cases where a company has a history of non-compliance, including previous infrastructure crashes, enforcement measures will become increasingly severe. This includes potential suspension and possible cancellation of a company's carrier safety certificate, essentially preventing their operation in B.C.

BC cracking down on truckers who hit infrastructure, December 15, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

Ontario Takes Next Step to Build the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

The Ontario government is awarding a contract to construct the elevated portion of the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, marking a major milestone in the province's plan to deliver faster and better transit that connects communities from Toronto to Mississauga. The new extension will connect more people to jobs and rapid transit in Toronto and Mississauga.

Ontario Takes Next Step to Build the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, December 15, 2023, www.mto.gov.on.ca

The Top 10 Canadian trucking issues of 2023



Source: Inside Logistics

It's been a year. And for many, 2023 was one to forget. After record rate increases, driver wage increases and freight availability in 2022, this past year reminded one that we work in a cyclical industry. But looking back on some of our top headlines of the past year and the themes that persisted through the year, there was also plenty to be excited about. The adoption of new technologies, the deployment of zero-emission trucks, heightened driver training standards, and the arrival of AI also rose to the forefront as more upbeat themes from 2023. Here's a list of the top ten stories that dominated news coverage over

the past year: 1. Freight recession. 2. Driver Inc. 3. ELD mandate takes effect. 4. Yellow bankruptcy. 5. Municipal issues. 6. M&A deals. 7. Higher standards for training. 8. EV adoption accelerates. 9. Cybersecurity and fraud. 10. Artificial Intelligence.
The Top 10 Canadian trucking issues of 2023, December 18, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

Government freezes Confederation Bridge toll rates for 2024



Source: Today's Trucking

Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez announced that the federal government is freezing tolls for a second year, at current rates, for the Confederation Bridge. The span links Prince Edward Island with the mainland province of New Brunswick. The bridge operator, Strait Crossing Bridge Limited (SCBL), will receive funding from Transport Canada to avoid increases in tolls related to high inflation. Freezing tolls will support bridge users, in particular P.E.I. residents and businesses who have been hit hard by high inflation, especially during a period of economic rebuilding and recovery, according to a news release.

Government freezes Confederation Bridge toll rates for 2024, December 21, 2023, www.todaystrucking.ca

Dealmakers expect M&A to ramp up in '24, even in 'uncertain' environment



Source: Today's Trucking

When Charles Dickens wrote in *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," he could've been writing about the last two years in the trucking industry. He wasn't. But, he could've been. Trucking companies who enjoyed record profitability amid strong freight demand and limited capacity just one short year ago have seen their fortunes come crashing back to earth as a sudden tightening in freight availability coincided with an increase in capacity and rising costs to create a challenging environment in 2023. Margins were squeezed, profitability crushed, and spot market volumes evaporated. What a difference a year makes. Those conditions have merger and acquisition experts adapting to a new reality when trying to place valuations on businesses that are up for sale. This could see M&A activity increase.

Dealmakers expect M&A to ramp up in '24, even in 'uncertain' environment, December 21, 2023, www.todaystrucking.ca

US/WORLD

Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Opening of Nation's First NEVI-Funded EV Charging Stations in Ohio and New York

On December 15, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration applauds Ohio and New York for opening America's first electric vehicle (EV) fast charging stations funded through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. A critical component of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$5 billion over five years to create good-paying American jobs building out reliable EV charging infrastructure with locations at least every 50 miles on highways. Since President Biden took office, EV sales have tripled, private investment has grown exponentially, and the number of publicly available charging ports has

grown by 70%. The momentum is putting America ahead of schedule to reach the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of building a national network of 500,000 public EV charging ports by 2030.

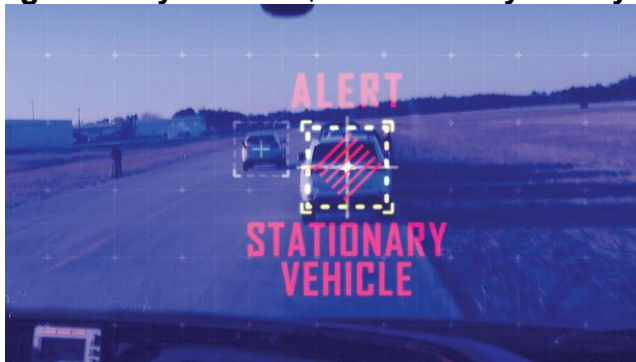
Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Opening of Nation's First NEVI-Funded EV Charging Stations in Ohio and New York, December 15, 2023, www.dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation announces \$88.3 million loan for Louisiana to build critical connector project

On December 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that its Build America Bureau has provided a \$88.3 million loan to the Louisiana State Bond Commission for the benefit of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to build the LA 415 Connector, a new link between LA 1 and LA 415 at Interstate 10 (I-10) in the City of Port Allen in Baton Rouge Parish. By providing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF) loans and other financing, the Bureau helps communities expedite infrastructure projects and reduce project costs.

U.S. Department of Transportation announces \$88.3 million loan for Louisiana to build critical connector project, December 18, 2023, www.dot.gov

Trucking Industry Invests \$14B in Safety: Study



Source: Ontruck

The trucking industry in the US invests \$14 billion annually in technology, training and other expenditures to improve highway safety, The American Trucking Associations reports. "The trucking industry's highest commitment is to keep our roads, drivers and the entire motoring public safe," Chris Spear, president and CEO of ATA, said.

"This report clearly demonstrates that safety isn't just a slogan for our industry, it is our mission. While others talk about their commitment to safety, the trucking industry is doing the work and investing in life-saving technology and training every day." According to ATA's Safety Spend Survey, the industry invested \$14 billion in 2022 — more than 40% higher than ATA's last survey conducted in 2015. ATA surveyed a variety of motor carriers — from fleets with just a few trucks to carriers with more than 10,000 power units on the road, running the full breadth of the industry. In total, companies responding to the survey accounted for almost 170,000 drivers and nearly 160,000 trucks.

Trucking Industry Invests \$14B in Safety: Study, December 15, 2023, www.ontruck.ca

ATA Truck Tonnage Index decreased 1% in November



Source: AJOT

American Trucking Associations' advanced seasonally adjusted (SA) For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index decreased 1% in November 2023 after increasing 0.8% in October 2023. In November 2023, the index equaled 113.7 (2015=100) compared with 114.9 in October 2023. "We continued to see a choppy 2023 for truck tonnage into November," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "It seems like every time freight improves, it takes a step back the following month. While year-over-year comparisons are improving, unfortunately, the freight market remains in a recession. Looking ahead, with retail inventories falling, we should see less of a headwind for retail freight, but I'm also not expecting a surge in freight levels in the coming months." October's gain was revised down slightly from our November 21 press release. Compared with November 2022, the SA index fell 1.2%, which was the ninth straight year-over-year decrease. In October 2023, the index was down 2.4% from a year earlier.

ATA Truck Tonnage Index decreased 1% in November, December 19, 2023, www.ajot.com



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Other Transport Updates

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All-Canada Executive Team: It's all About Rebuilding Supply Chains

The U.S. and Canadian governments are putting supply chain resiliency at the top of their agendas.

It took a global pandemic for most of us to understand the fragility of the world's supply chains. The images of empty supermarket shelves and people panic buying toilet paper were an early indication that in times of crisis, the logistics that keep the wheels of the economy turning very quickly break down. For many businesses, the challenges continued long after the lockdowns ended as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, trade bottlenecks in China, and inflation hurt imports of everything from construction materials to semiconductors. What was presumed to be a back-office function — the flow of raw materials necessary for the rest of the business to operate — suddenly became strategic. Now, governments are waking up to the need to strengthen supply chains, with President Biden setting up a taskforce in November to focus solely on maintaining a flow of goods, including essential shipments of pharmaceuticals and food. It's a moment where several of the top scoring chief executives in the Institutional Investor All-Canada Executive Team are prepared to shine.

"When it comes to transforming the world's supply chains, it's a marathon, not a sprint," says John Sicard, chief executive of Kinaxis, a Canadian company that builds applications using AI to help businesses improve their supply chain management. He said Kinaxis has been advocating for a fundamental shift in the way supply chains are operated for 40 years. In 2023, the company released four new applications to help businesses grapple with the fast-changing nature of logistics. They include planning tools to help businesses manage transportation, orders, and returns on the road, plus AI to organize large amounts of data related to customer demand. Sicard says it's no

longer enough for business leaders to have a cascade approach to supply chains, where one step follows the next. Instead, he advocates a more holistic approach to prevent bottlenecks and mistrust passing down the chain.

In April, the historic Canadian Pacific Railway, which includes 12,500 miles of track across seven Canadian provinces, merged with Kansas City Railway, a route running almost 4,000 miles from Kansas City to Mexico and beyond, creating the first railway line connecting Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Keith Creel, the chief executive who oversaw the deal, is a top scorer in Institutional Investor's All-Canada Team.

To read the full article, visit:

<https://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/2ckma0v2mign2ftcvsg74/research/all-canada-executive-team-its-all-about-rebuilding-supply-chains>

Top US-Canada supply chain stories of 2023



Source: Freight Waves

In 2023, the Canadian commercial transportation industry witnessed everything from strikes at ports in British Columbia to protests from truck drivers fighting for unpaid wages to one of the biggest railroad mergers in North American history. With 2023 coming to an end,

FreightWaves has compiled the five biggest stories that shaped the Canadian transportation industry this year. These stories are: 1. Canadian Pacific's \$31 billion acquisition of Kansas City Southern approved by regulators. 2. Dockworkers at Canada's West Coast ports launch strike. 3. Canadian trucking officials call for an end to Driver Inc. 'scam'. 4. Canadian cities create laws to crack down on illegal truck parking. 5. Canada adds millions in federal funding to train, recruit new truckers.

Top US-Canada supply chain stories of 2023, December 15, 2023, www.freightwaves.com

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport announces improvements to Canada's supply chain by alleviating key corridor bottlenecks

On December 20, 2023, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, Vance Badawey, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre, announced an investment of over \$12 million through the National Trade Corridors Fund. The six projects that received funding will improve Canadian supply chain efficiency by alleviating bottlenecks in key corridors. The Government of Canada will contribute up to: 1. \$5 million to the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority to install non-intrusive inspection technologies for commercial vehicles that will facilitate more efficient processing and reduced wait-times for trucks entering the U.S. 2. \$4.2 million to the St. John's Port Authority for the wharf redevelopment at Pier 20 West and Pier 21 to address the growing demand for servicing inshore fishing vessels. 3. \$2 million to BlueNode Inc. to introduce an artificial intelligence platform that will improve supply chain visibility at Canadian ports and support greater collaboration among supply chain players through intermodal interfaces. 4. \$675,000 to the Province of British Columbia to conduct a study of the Moray Bridge to improve the efficient movement of goods and people, increase the capacity and reliability of transportation and trade networks and address the projected impacts of climate change on key infrastructure. 5. \$75,000 to the Corporation of the City of North Bay to conduct a feasibility study to identify and assess the options available to enhance the capacity of North Bay's trade corridor. 6. \$74,500 to the City of Toronto's Economic Development Program to assess the condition of old dockwalls at the Port of Toronto, resulting in a work plan to repair and upgrade the dockwalls to modern standards.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport announces improvements to Canada's supply chain by alleviating key corridor bottlenecks, December 20, 2023, www.tc.gc.ca

Travel between Canada and other countries, October 2023



Source: Statcan

In October 2023, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada accounted for 88.3% of the number observed in October 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the number of returning Canadian residents reached 90.8% of the level recorded in October 2019. Residents of overseas countries took 509,800 trips to Canada in October 2023, and US residents took 1.6 million trips. At the same time, Canadian residents returned from 3.9 million trips abroad. Although the cruise ship season in Canada has come to an end, cruise vacations recorded another monthly high with 162,100 total arrivals in Canada by cruise ships in October 2023. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the [Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard](#).

Travel between Canada and other countries, October 2023, December 21, 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca

US/WORLD

Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for Over \$9 Billion in Funding to Modernize Nation's Bridges

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced on December 20, 2023 that it has opened applications for \$9.7 billion in multi-year funding, which was announced in September 2023, to improve the nation's bridges through the competitive Bridge Investment Program's "Planning" and "Bridge Project" categories, which fund bridge planning, repair and replacement projects under \$100 million.

Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for Over \$9 Billion in Funding to Modernize Nation's Bridges, December 20, 2023, www.dot.gov



The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport

North
America

Transportation's Top Stories Other CILT News



The National Supply Chain Office held their inaugural National Supply Chain Forum on December 15, 2023. For those that were not able to join the live event, the recording can be found [HERE](#) (available for 180 days). The presentation slides from the event can be found [HERE](#).

Job Postings

*** The University of Tennessee in partnership with UT-ORII, have two research faculty positions available: 1) ITS and 2) Traffic Safety**

The University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory founded UT-ORII in 2019 to help the US maintain prominence as a global leader in innovation and discovery, and to create a robust talent pipeline in areas of growing national need and demand. UT-ORII is funded by the Department of Energy and the State of Tennessee.

Details of the job descriptions are provided below.

Research Assistant Professor – Intelligent Transportation System
<http://apply.interfolio.com/136411>

Research Assistant Professor – Traffic Safety
<http://apply.interfolio.com/136412>

*** Manager, Government Affairs and Communications, CPKC**

Canadian Pacific (CP) and Kansas City Southern (KCS) are now CPKC. As the only truly North American railway, we are making big moves! Drawing on our strong foundations and heritage, CPKC moves essential goods across our 20,000-mile network to support economic growth throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Be a part of history as we connect a continent and create exciting career opportunities across our new transnational network. Visit cpkcr.com to learn about the CPKC advantage, our purpose and culture.

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION:

The Manager, Government Affairs and Communications, will be responsible for managing a range of government relations initiatives to promote the business and policy objectives of Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) at the municipal and provincial level, in Quebec and Ontario. Under the supervision of the Director, Indigenous Relations and Government Affairs, the Manager will work closely with the Government Affairs and Communications and Media Relations

teams, and others across the company, to execute the initiatives of CPKC's government affairs program. The Manager will also lead CPKC's engagement with francophone media and assist the Communications and Media Relations team with the development of communications products in French. Finally, the Manager will assist the Community Relations team with responding to public inquiries in French. While the Manager's primary focus will be on government affairs and francophone media relations, some engagement with Indigenous communities may also be required.

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Develop, maintain, and grow strong relationships with key municipal and provincial elected officials and staff to tell the inspiring story of

CPKC: the first and only transnational railway seamlessly connecting Canada, the United States and Mexico

Deploy fact-based arguments to educate key municipal and provincial stakeholders, and other audiences, to ensure CPKC is known as the credible industry leader on issues and public policies affecting the railway industry

Attend and represent CPKC at governmental, political, and other external stakeholder meetings and events

Represent CPKC in business and industry coalitions, as required
Monitor, analyze, and respond to current and potential policy and legislative or regulatory actions at the municipal and provincial level related to the railway industry and CPKC

Collaborate horizontally across the company to support CPKC's business and policy goals

Assist the Communications and Media Relations team with the development of content and communications materials in French, including press material (press releases, media lines, Qs & As, etc)

Assist the Community Relations team with responses to public inquiries in French

Manage relationships with francophone reporters and external stakeholders, including writing and communicating directly with reporters, when required.

Identify risks and opportunities for CPKC

Perform other duties, as assigned, consistent with the goals of CPKC

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's Degree with 5+ years of professional experience in government or a government relations role

Excellent written and oral communication skills in both French and English, with a demonstrated ability to write in a clear, concise, effective and professional manner

Ability to learn quickly and demonstrate intellectual curiosity

Strong advocacy skills with a demonstrated ability to distill complex ideas and communicate them effectively

Exceptional interpersonal and relationship building skills

Knowledge of the Canadian system of government and policy-making process.

Positive and engaging attitude

Professional appearance, work ethic, and demeanor

Strong ability to work collaboratively as a team player and accomplish tasks with self-direction

High degree of personal initiative and desire to achieve success for CPKC

Exceptional organizational and time management skills, with a proven ability to prioritize and manage multiple initiatives simultaneously

Proven ability to work in a fast-paced environment, while remaining calm under pressure and maintaining high quality work standards

High proficiency with standard computer platforms, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

WHAT CPKC HAS TO OFFER:

Flexible and competitive benefits package

Competitive company pension plan

Employee Share Purchase Plan

Performance Incentive Program

Annual Fitness Subsidy

Part-time Studies Program

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

As an employer with North American presence, the possibility does exist that the location of your position may be changed based on organizational requirements.

Background Investigation:

The successful candidate will need to successfully complete the following clearances:

Criminal history check

Reference check

Driver's License Verification

Management Conductor Program:

Becoming a qualified conductor or locomotive engineer is the single best way for a management employee to learn the business at CPKC.

You may be required to obtain a certification or to maintain your current certification/qualification as a conductor or locomotive engineer.

CPKC is an employment equity employer committed to the principles of employment equity and inclusion. We encourage all qualified candidates to apply including women, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC), members of the LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities. Accommodations for the job application process can be provided, as appropriate, upon request. All applicant information will be managed in accordance with the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)".

To apply, please click [HERE](#).

* **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).

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.



★ Did you know CILTNA now has an X (formerly Twitter) Account?

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★ Did you know CILTNA has a YouTube Channel?

To view all of our past webinar recordings, please subscribe to our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1gRKcOcJ5vohMSRFBjIEFA>

Subscribe and click the bell icon to receive notifications whenever we post a new webinar video.

★ CILTNA International News Feed (INF) on WhatsApp

Join our new International News Feed for all the latest daily news on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is free messaging app for Smartphones.

To download the app to your phone, go to: <https://www.whatsapp.com/> and create your WhatsApp account. Once you have an account, click this link to join CILTNA's INF:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LHqtGV1mTip9XqFvzvDdV9>

If you need assistance with creating your account or joining, please contact Rebecca Whelan at admin@ciltna.com