



The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport

North
America

Transportation's Top Stories

Air Transport Updates

CANADA

✈️ Winnipeg airport to get \$19-million cargo upgrade



Source: Insidelogistics

A construction project that will boost cargo capacity at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport is getting up to \$19.4 million in funding from the National Trade Corridors Fund. The construction of a new storage facility will include space for cold storage and perishable goods and will increase the airport's overall cargo capacity for both imports and exports as well as improving accessibility of goods for remote and Northern communities. The project involves apron expansion; relocating current tenants; site preparation; demolishing vacant buildings; constructing the air cargo facility; and, performing associated civil work. The airport saw 4,700-plus cargo planes land in 2022.

Winnipeg airport to get \$19-million cargo upgrade, December 29, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

✈️ Air Canada ranked last in 2023 for on-time performance among 10 largest North American airlines



Source: National Post

Air Canada notched the worst on-time performance among large airlines in North America in 2023, according to a new report, even as the carrier surged back to profitability. The country's biggest carrier landed 63 per cent of its flights on time last year, placing it last among the continent's 10 largest airlines. That means roughly 140,000 planes rolled up to the gate late — more than 15 minutes after scheduled arrival. The score was five percentage points below the second- and third-lowest carriers, JetBlue Airways and Frontier Airlines, respectively. Canada's other major airline, WestJet, placed seventh in North America with a score of 69 per cent. "When I joined the industry, good OTP was 75 per cent-plus," said Willy Boulter, a Cirium advisory board member and 35-year aviation veteran. Targets have gone up since. Delta Air Lines came first with an on-time performance (OTP) of 85 per cent, followed by Alaska Airlines at 82 per cent. Better technology in areas ranging from jet engines to air traffic control have made on-time goals more achievable than ever, said Boulter.

Air Canada ranked last in 2023 for on-time performance among 10 largest North American airlines, January 2, 2024, www.nationalpost.ca

✈️ Cargojet and Canadian North renew cargo deal



Source: Inside Logistics

Cargojet and Canadian North have renewed their 20-year-long cargo partnership for another five years. The renewed partnership signifies a major increase in cargo capacity. This expansion will enable more frequent and efficient deliveries, ensuring that remote and northern communities in Canada's Arctic have reliable access to essential supplies. Under the renewed partnership, Cargojet will be the exclusive provider for air cargo from Winnipeg and Ottawa to Iqaluit, while Canadian North will continue to deliver air cargo across Canada's Arctic. This builds upon Canadian North's recent announcement to double the size of its cargo facility in Ottawa by 2026. Every year, Cargojet assists Canadian North in flying over 10.6 million kilograms of cargo, which is equivalent to approximately 1,000 polar bears.

Cargojet and Canadian North renew cargo deal, January 4, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

US/WORLD

✈️ Airline stocks head for first annual gain since before the pandemic

US airline stocks weathered a domestic travel slowdown and geopolitical turmoil to notch their first yearly gain since 2019, capping a hard-fought rebound from when the pandemic grounded aircraft and pummeled the industry. The S&P Supercomposite Airlines Industry Index advanced 7.1% this year, its best annual performance since rising 12% four years ago. SkyWest Inc. leads the nine-member gauge with a 217% surge, followed by 20% pops from Delta Air Lines Inc. and Allegiant Travel Co. The swing back to positive performance reflects consumers' persistent demand for experiences despite the looming threats that elevated interest rates would rein in discretionary spending and conflict in the Middle East would exacerbate oil volatility. Record holiday travel has helped to brighten the financial outlook for the

industry, with Delta, JetBlue Airways Corp. and Southwest Airlines Co. all making note of strong year-end bookings. "Valuations are rising recently as investors look past fare weakness to lower fuel prices which could provide the ability to cut fares and support demand with minimal or no impact on profit," says Bloomberg Intelligence analyst George Ferguson.

Airline stocks head for first annual gain since before the pandemic, December 29, 2023, www.ajot.com

✈️ 2023 by the Numbers: More Flights, Fewer Cancellations, More Consumer Protections



Source: DOT

U.S. aviation ended 2023 on a better note for passengers with the lowest flight cancellation rate in at least 10 years, alongside expanded consumer protections for travelers. "Thanks to the tireless work of our nation's aviation safety professionals, millions of travelers were able to fly safely and without disruption last year," said *Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg*. "We are glad to see this 10-year low rate of cancellations, and our Department will continue to take every step to ensure air travel is smooth and safe for passengers in the new year." In 2023, there were 16.3 million flights and a cancellation rate below 1.2 percent, the **lowest rate in a decade**. According to the Transportation Security Administration, 2023 was also the busiest year for air travel ever. Travel around Christmas and New Year's was notably smooth. From Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, to Monday, January 1, 2024, the cancellation rate was just 0.8 percent despite a record number of passengers flying during the busy holiday season. The cancellation rate during that same period in 2022 was 8.2 percent. *2023 by the Numbers: More Flights, Fewer Cancellations, More Consumer Protections, January 3, 2023, www.dot.gov*

✈️ Air cargo set for a positive 2024



Source: IATA

All regions are expected to experience air cargo growth in 2024, according to IATA. The Middle East is set for the biggest rise at 12.3% while Africa will see a more modest 1.5% growth. On average, air cargo is forecast to grow 4.5%. “Yields will likely decline in 2024 but they will still be above their 2019 levels,” says Rachel Yuting Fan, IATA Sustainability and Economics. “Cargo revenue will also be about 11% above 2019 and comprise 12% of total industry revenue. In other words, 2024 will see sustained revenue growth and the sector outperform pre-pandemic levels.” The relevant economic markers are also positive with 3.5% growth in global trade projected for 2024. Broadly, belly capacity is back and will carry the majority of air cargo while freighters have disappeared entirely. Dedicated freighters will maintain their usual share of the market. Other beneficial factors include the continued growth of e-commerce, the reduction in delivery times, and the robust performance of high-value specialized products, such as pharmaceuticals, which seem resilient to the industry’s usual volatility. Possible downsides include China’s supply chain and currency fluctuations. Overall: 1. Cargo revenues are expected to fall to \$111 billion in 2024. 2. Yields will remain high by historical standards, despite falling in 2023 and 2024. Yield progression has been extraordinary in recent years (-8.2% in 2019, +54.7% in 2020, +25.9% in 2021, +7% in 2022, -32.2% in 2023). 3. Cargo volumes are expected to reach 61 million tonnes in 2024.

Air cargo set for a positive 2024, January 4, 2023, www.iata.org

✈️ Air cargo enters 2024 with cautious optimism after December demand and rates boost

2024 may herald the start of a new economic growth cycle for the global air cargo industry after last year ended with a +9% year-on-year rise in demand and the general air cargo spot rate reached its highest level in nine months, suggests the latest weekly market data analysis

by Xeneta. While the geopolitical environment and cost of living pressures continue to present significant hurdles to global trade, the predictability of air cargo means the industry stands to benefit from escalating international disruption, albeit producing only modest gains in volumes, says Niall van de Wouw, Xeneta’s Chief Airfreight Officer. He said: “To say 2024 is a ‘new dawn’ is perhaps a little too optimistic, but I certainly think it’s the start of a new cycle for airlines and forwarders – and shippers are likely to also appreciate the stability returning to the market so they can more accurately predict the transportation costs for the products they are selling.” Weekly market data for December shows the global average air cargo spot rate peaking at USD 2.60 per kg, up +6% on its November 2023 level, boosted by a +9% annual growth in demand. The general air cargo spot rate, however, continued to record a double-digit year-on-year fall of -18%. This compares to a growth ratio of -25% in November 2023 compared to the previous year.

Air cargo enters 2024 with cautious optimism after December demand and rates boost, January 3, 2023, www.ajot.com



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Rail Transport Updates

CANADA

Freight Rail Services Price Index, December 2023



Source: Statcan

Data for December for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available. The index is 130.1 for December 2023 down from 1.6 points from November 2023. The index is up 1 point from December 2022 of 129.1. For the 4th quarter of 2023 the index is 130.9 up from the previous quarter of 122.4 and up 2.8 points from the 128.1 for the 4th quarter of 2022.

Freight Rail Services Price Index, December 2023, January 2, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

US/WORLD

Will Congress pass any rail safety bills in 2024?

The passage of any rail safety legislation in Congress next year is likely to be influenced by two things, industry observers told *FreightWaves*: the 2024 presidential election and the release of a report by the National Transportation Safety Board on the February 2023 derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in East Palestine, Ohio. That February derailment — although it resulted in no injuries or deaths — has prompted calls to bolster rail safety because it led to the

venting of tank cars carrying vinyl chloride, a hazardous material. That venting, conducted because of concerns that chemical reactions inside the derailed tank cars would eventually cause an explosion, resulted in a huge plume of smoke over the derailment site, rattling locals and raising concerns about the environmental health of communities in the area. NTSB is expected to release its final investigative report in 2024. The report will include recommendations about what the industry and stakeholders can do to enhance rail safety. NTSB's reports typically come out 12-16 months after an incident, so the report on the East Palestine derailment could come as soon as the first quarter of 2024 but is more likely to come out midyear, sources said. That report and its recommendations could influence what kind of rail safety legislation is produced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Indeed, Republican House leaders indicated in 2023 that they would not move on rail safety legislation until NTSB's report on East Palestine came out, multiple sources told *FreightWaves*. In the Senate, a rail safety bill co-sponsored by the senators of Ohio and neighboring Pennsylvania and others passed the Senate Commerce Committee in May but never got to the Senate floor for a vote in 2023. Notwithstanding the above, things tend to slow down in election years.

Will Congress pass any rail safety bills in 2024?, January 1, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

7 hot issues for rail stakeholders in 2024

Here are seven issues that rail industry stakeholders are keeping track of in 2024 in the U.S. 1. Reciprocal switching, common carrier obligation. 2. Uncertainties over STB chairmanship and makeup of the board. 3. Government action to bolster the supply chain and fund infrastructure. 4. California's transition from diesel locomotives to zero-emissions configurations. 5. 2024 as next stage for intermodal collaborations. 6. Federal action on rail safety. 7. Labor contract negotiations.

7 hot issues for rail stakeholders in 2024, January 4, 2023, www.freightwaves.com



For U.S. Rail Traffic, 2023 Ends on a High Note



Source: Railway Age

The fourth quarter was “the best quarter of 2023 for U.S. rail volumes on a year-over-year basis,” AAR Senior Vice President John T. Gray reported Jan. 2. “It appears that intense rail efforts to improve service quality are paying off. Railroads are hopeful that gains in the fourth quarter will carry over into the first quarter of 2024 and beyond.” Total U.S. rail carloads were up 2.0% in fourth-quarter 2023 over the same quarter in 2022, while U.S. intermodal was up 5.5%, according to Gray, who provided the results in the *Association of American Railroads’* (AAR) rail traffic report for December and the week ending Dec. 30, 2023. December 2023 was the fourth consecutive month that total year-over-year carload and intermodal volumes rose for U.S. Class I railroads. They hauled 1,859,264 carloads and intermodal units last month, up 8.8%, or 150,685 carloads and containers and trailers, from December 2022, according to the AAR. This comprises 876,881 carloads—increasing 7.3%, or 59,804 carloads, from December 2022—and 982,383 containers and trailers—rising 10.2%, or 90,881 units, over December 2022. Canadian railroads reported 75,463 carloads for the week ending Dec. 30, 2023, up 9.9%, and 56,220 intermodal units, up 6.4% compared with the same week in 2022. For the first 52 weeks of 2023, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 8,299,862 carloads, containers and trailers, down 2.4%.

For U.S. Rail Traffic, 2023 Ends on a High Note, January 3, 2024, www.railwayage.com



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Marine Transport Updates

CANADA

QSL to operate wharves at Thorold, Ontario



Source: Insidelogistics

QSL has partnered with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) and Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) to operate SLSMC's Wharves 5 and 6. Fifty-five acres of combined SLSMC and HOPA land will be used for cargo handling and storage in Thorold, Ontario, with access to the Welland Canal. The Niagara Region, on the doorstep of the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area, is connected to Class-1 North American rail lines, and offers direct access to ports around the world through the Welland Canal and Great Lakes Seaway system. QSL operates a network of marine terminals in North America.

QSL to operate wharves at Thorold, Ontario, December 29, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca

Gordie Howe International Bridge to open in Fall 2025



Source: Todays Trucking

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team has confirmed that construction completion is planned for September 2025, with the first vehicles expected to travel across the bridge that fall. Originally, the \$5.7-billion project connecting Windsor, Ont., and Detroit, Mich., across the Detroit River, was scheduled for completion in November 2024 with opening anticipated by the end of the year, according to a news release. However, the project experienced disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like most public-private partnership (P3) contracts, the contract between the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BNA) provides for the schedule and cost impacts of certain risks to be shared. As a result, WDBA and BNA have agreed to amend the contract to include the new September 2025 construction completion date, new measures to ensure this date is achieved, and an updated overall contract value of \$6.4 billion.

Gordie Howe International Bridge to open in Fall 2025, January 4, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

US/WORLD

Maersk temporarily pauses Red Sea routings after new attacks

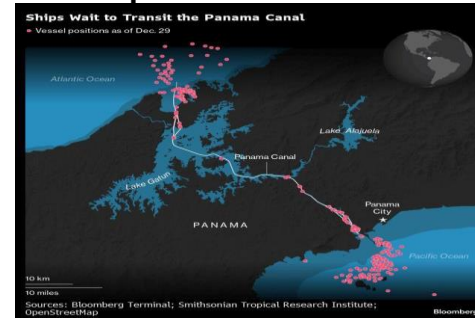


Source: JOC

Maersk on December 31, 2023 said it would pause any further transits through the Red Sea for at least 48 hours after one of its container ships was attacked twice within 24 hours by Houthi rebels who do not appear deterred by the presence of a multinational naval force meant to restore security in the region. The second attack against the Maersk Hangzhou this weekend represented an escalation in hostilities as Houthis used small boats to get within 65 feet of the 14,000-TEU vessel in an attempt to board the ship, which Maersk said was not damaged by missiles fired by the Houthi. As a result of this diversion, ocean carriers are pushing up rates and adding surcharges as ships get diverted from the Suez Canal to the longer transit around southern Africa.

Maersk temporarily pauses Red Sea routings after new attacks, December 31, 2023, www.joc.com

Saving the Panama Canal will take years and cost billions, if it's even possible



Source: AJOT

The Panama Canal Authority is weighing potential fixes that include an artificial lake to pump water into the canal and cloud seeding to boost rainfall, but both options would take years to implement, if they're even feasible. With water levels languishing at six feet (1.8 meters) below normal, the canal authority capped the number of vessels that can cross. The limits imposed late last year were the strictest since 1989, when the conduit was shut as the US invaded Panama to extract its de facto ruler, Manuel Noriega. Some shippers are paying millions of dollars to jump the growing queue, while others are taking longer, costlier routes around Africa or South America. The constraints have since eased slightly due to a rainier-than-expected November, but at 24 ships a day, the maximum is still well below the pre-drought daily capacity of about 38. As the dry season takes hold, the bottleneck is poised to worsen again. "As a canal, as a country, we need to take some measures because it isn't acceptable," Erick Córdoba, the manager of the water division at the canal authority, said in an interview. "We need to calibrate the system again." The canal's travails reflect how climate change is altering global trade flows. Drought created chokepoints last year on the Mississippi River in the US and the Rhine in Europe. In the UK, rising sea levels are elevating the risk of flooding along the Thames. Melting ice is creating new shipping routes in the Arctic. Under normal circumstances, the Panama Canal handles about 3% of global maritime trade volumes and 46% of containers moving from Northeast Asia to the US East Coast. The channel is Panama's biggest source of revenue, bringing in \$4.3 billion in 2022. To allow for 24 vessels a day through the dry season, the canal will release water from Lake Alajuela, a secondary reservoir. If the rains begin to pick up in May 2024, the canal might be able to start increasing traffic, according to Córdoba.

Saving the Panama Canal will take years and cost billions, if it's even possible, January 2, 2024, www.ajot.com

Ocean rates spike as Red Sea diversions continue

Key insights: 1. The international naval presence in the Red Sea has not deterred Houthi attacks, which continued into the new year. 2. Maersk – which had started returning some vessels to the Red Sea last week – has suspended all its transits again following a missile attack and attempted hijacking of one of its ships on Saturday. 3. International tensions are mounting as US forces sunk the attacking Houthi vessels, killing their crews. The UK has announced plans to attack Houthi positions in Yemen if the attacks continue, and Iran has moved a warship into the area. 4. The diversions are resulting in longer transit times for shippers, and could lead to port congestion and empty container shortages, though no backlogs have been reported yet. 5. Higher costs from longer trips are also sending ocean rates spiking: Asia - N. Europe rates more than doubled to above \$4,000/FEU this week, with Asia - Mediterranean prices climbing to \$5,175/FEU. Some carriers have announced rates above \$6k/FEU for Mediterranean shipments starting mid-month, and surcharges of \$500 to as much as \$2,700 per container could make all-in prices even higher. 6. Asia - N. America rates climbed 55% to \$3,900/FEU to the East Coast. West Coast prices climbed 63% to more than \$2,700/FEU as carriers may be anticipating an increase in West Coast volumes to avoid Red Sea-related issues. 7. But even at \$5,000 - \$8,000/FEU, Asia - N. Europe and Mediterranean prices would be 45% - 65% lower than their \$14k/FEU pandemic peak in late 2021, and 65% - 75% lower compared to the Asia - N. America East Coast peak of \$22k/FEU.

Ocean rates spike as Red Sea diversions continue, January 3, 2024, www.ajot.com

East Coast port powered by 100 percent clean energy

On January 4, 2024, the Port of Virginia is powering all its terminals with electricity from clean resources and accelerating its goal to becoming carbon-neutral by 2040. “Virginia is the first major US East Coast port to power its entire operation using 100 percent clean electricity,” said Stephen A. Edwards, CEO and executive director of the Virginia Port Authority (VPA). “In doing so, the port is building upon its reputation as America’s Most Modern Gateway.” “Our cargo operations and overall performance are world-class, and we are advancing sustainability goals that are aligned with how we operate. This is a modern approach to meeting our environmental targets and we are setting ourselves apart as a result.” Using clean electricity helps the port offset its carbon footprint by reducing carbon emissions 45 percent per container. The reduction comes in two target areas, scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 1 are emissions – exhaust -- from equipment and scope 2 are the emissions generated from the electricity used to power and charge electric equipment as well as

supplying port buildings with lighting, heating, air conditioning, etc. This milestone demonstrates the port’s commitment to supporting sustainability in Virginia. And, the accomplishment puts the port eight years ahead of its original 2032 goal of using clean energy to power operations, an integral step in reaching its net-zero by 2040 commitment. “The Port of Virginia has long been a leader in innovation and growth,” said Glenn Davis, director of the Virginia Department of Energy. “It has continued that leadership into the energy sector by powering its entire port operation with 100 percent clean energy.”

East Coast port powered by 100 percent clean energy, January 4, 2024, www.ajot.com

West Coast shipping rates surge as Red Sea fallout goes global



Source: Freightwaves

As Red Sea disruptions intensify, container shipping spot rates are rising on the other side of the globe: for cargo shipped from Asia to the U.S. West Coast. The Red Sea crisis coincides with drought restrictions in the Panama Canal. Asian cargo bound for East and Gulf Coast ports had previously been switched from Panama to the Suez Canal, and is now being rerouted on even longer voyages around the Cape of Good Hope. The much shorter route from Asia to the West Coast is looking increasingly attractive. At 14 knots, a direct voyage from Shanghai to New York via the Cape of Good Hope takes 43 days, according to Sea-Distances.org. Shanghai-Los Angeles spot rates spike 30%. A direct voyage from Shanghai to Los Angeles takes only 17 days (plus additional time for cross-country land transport). The question now is how long Panama and the Red Sea disruptions will persist, giving new strength to Asia-West Coast spot rates. Annual trans-Pacific contracts generally run from May 1-April 30 and are negotiated in February-April. If trans-Pacific spot rates are supported for months, not weeks, disruptions could push annual contract rates

higher.

West Coast shipping rates surge as Red Sea fallout goes global,
January 4, 2024, www.freightwaves.com



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Road Transport Updates

CANADA

Truckers in B.C. call for more training after latest overpass strike



Source: Today's Trucking

A Metro Vancouver truckers' group said the recent rash of trucks with high loads smashing into highway overpasses cannot be stemmed by tougher punishments alone. Gagan Singh with the United Truckers Association said his group would write to the provincial government in the coming days asking for better training and support for drivers who have to handle oversized loads but may lack the skills and equipment to measure them. His remarks come after a semi-trailer operated by Chohan Freight Forwarders crashed into a Highway 99 overpass in Delta on Dec. 28, embedding the load of girders into the concrete and snarling traffic for hours. The Transport Ministry said it was the sixth such incident involving Chohan in two years, and announced the suspension of the firm's safety certificate, putting its 65 vehicles off B.C. roads as of Friday afternoon. Singh said responsibility cannot fall on drivers alone, but must be shared with trucking firms, the companies shipping over-height cargo and the provincial government.

Truckers in B.C. call for more training after latest overpass strike, January 2, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

Ontario's 407 ETR to hike rates from Feb. 1, 2024



Source: Today's Trucking

The 407 ETR is ending a four-year rate freeze by announcing a new rate schedule that comes into effect on Feb. 1, 2024. It is going to cost more to drive a truck on Ontario's Highway 407 ETR (express toll route). All other fees remain unchanged, according to a news release. The highway is an all-electronic open-access toll route in the Greater Toronto Area, spanning 108 kilometres from Burlington in the west to Pickering in the east. 407 ETR's rate schedule is updated annually, however tolls were frozen at February 2020 levels at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Implementing the 2024 rate schedule comes as traffic levels continue to stabilize with more drivers resuming regular activities like commuting to and from work. "407 ETR remains committed to providing the exceptional service we're known for both on and off the road," said 407 ETR president and CEO, Javier Tamargo. Toll rates vary by the section of the highway driven, day of the week, time of day, direction of travel and weight of vehicle.

Ontario's 407 ETR to hike rates from Feb. 1, 2024, December 29, 2023, www.todaystrucking.ca

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November 2023, January 2, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

BC acts on overpass crash, suspends fleet

The British Columbia government has suspended operations for a trucking fleet after one of its trucks crashed into an overpass on December 28. Chohan Freight Forwarders Ltd had its safety certificate suspended on December 29th, meaning the company's entire fleet of 65 commercial vehicles will be unable to operate in B.C. as well, the driver and the carrier responsible will face the toughest fines in any Canadian jurisdiction. The outcome of the investigation could lead to further action. The government recently announced new penalties for fleets that repeatedly collide with transport infrastructure, like bridges. 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 acts on overpass crash, suspends fleet, January 2, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November 2023



Source: Statcan

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2019=100) is now available for November, 2023. The index is 136.6 down 1 point from October 2023 and up 1.3 points from last November 2022.

OTA Discussion Paper Highlights Land Use Planning opportunities to support the Trucking Industry

The reliance on trucking services to support communities and the modern supply chain in Ontario, has resulted in tremendous growth in trucking operations and an unprecedented demand for the need to establish transportation terminals within municipalities and other strategic locations. The discussion paper, commissioned by the association and endorsed by its Board of Directors identifies the challenges in finding available lands that are suitable for trucking operations but counters these challenges with a host of recommendations that can bring the trucking industry and the planning process in line with each other to support economic development and job creation. "Trucking is the lifeblood of the Ontario economy. There is not a domestic or export portion of the economy that is not reliant on the trucking industry and its services so the goal with this exercise is to understand how we can all work together, both governments and industry on solutions through the planning process that will benefit the province and its communities", said Geoff Wood, Sr. VP, Policy, Ontario Trucking Association. Historically, trucking operations have been located in areas where they can effectively run their businesses and successfully service their customers, and where the real-estate economics could be supported by supply chain economics, but competing land-use factors are changing this equation at rapid pace and it requires necessary attention.

OTA Discussion Paper Highlights Land Use Planning opportunities to support the Trucking Industry, January 4, 2024, www.ontruck.ca

US/WORLD

Bankruptcies, fraud and a missing trucker: Key trucking stories in 2023

While the August 2023 demise of less-than-truckload carrier Yellow Corp. monopolized headlines in both mainstream and industry media in 2023 after the 99-year-old trucking firm filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection — the largest filing in U.S. trucking history — a number of smaller trucking companies and brokerages also called it quits or sought bankruptcy protection after a brutal year in the freight industry. Other FreightWaves stories focused on fraud investigations and the mysterious disappearance of an Iowa truck driver, who was last seen by his family on Nov. 20.

Nikola closes 2023 with 35 hydrogen trucks sold

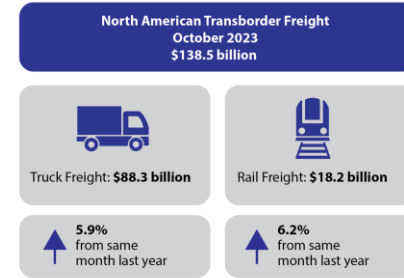


Source: Inside Logistics

Nikola sold 35 of its hydrogen fuel cell electric trucks (FCEVs) in the North American market in 2023. Nikola Corporation, through its HYL A brand, in 2023 produced 42 and wholesaled 35 Class 8 Nikola FCEVs. Of the seven trucks produced but not wholesaled, three are being used in an extended field test with a fleet partner, two are in continued validation and engineering and two are being used for service training/customer demos. “What an effort by our dedicated and passionate team, to create — and deliver — what we believe is the only U.S. designed and assembled Class 8 hydrogen fuel cell electric truck on the road today,” said Nikola CEO Steve Girskey. “Our pioneering spirit is what made it possible to wholesale these 35 trucks to our dealers for customers in the U.S. and Canada. We thank our employees, customers and partners for this achievement, and look forward to delivering more trucks in 2024.”

[Nikola closes 2023 with 35 hydrogen trucks sold, January 4, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)

North American Transborder Freight up 3.5% in October 2023 from October 2022



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, TransBorder Freight Data, <https://data.bts.gov/stories/s/myhq-rmfq>

Source: BTS

The major highlights of transborder freight in October 2023 between the U.S. and North American countries Canada and Mexico are as follows: 1. Total transborder freight: \$138.5 billion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 3.5% compared to October 2022; 2. Freight between the U.S. and Canada totaled \$65.7 billion, up 0.5% from October 2022; 3. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico totaled \$ 72.8 billion, up 6.4% from October 2022; 4. Trucks moved \$88.3 billion of freight, up 5.9% compared to October 2022; 5. Railways moved \$18.2 billion of freight, up 6.2% compared to October 2022; 6. Vessels moved \$11.1 billion of freight, up 3.1% compared to October 2022; 7. Pipelines moved \$10.0 billion of freight, down 12.0% compared to October 2022; 8. Air moved \$4.9 billion of freight, down 3.7% compared to October 2022; and 9. Multiple modes declined due to decreases in value of oil and energy commodities. Transborder freight between Canada and US were as follows: 1. Truck \$37.1b; 2. Rail \$9.8b; 3. Pipeline \$9.3b; 4. Air \$3.1; and 5 Vessel \$2.5b. The statistics in this release may not reflect changes in tonnage moved.

[North American Transborder Freight up 3.5% in October 2023 from October 2022, January 4, 2024, www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)



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Other Transport Updates

CANADA

Prince Rupert Port Authority Releases its 2022 Sustainability Report



Source: PRPA

The Prince Rupert Port Authority is proud to officially release its 2022 Sustainability Report. PRPA is building a better Canada by growing trade, and partnerships mean everything to us.

[Prince Rupert Port Authority Releases its 2022 Sustainability Report, January 4, 2024, www.rupertport.com](https://www.rupertport.com)

US/WORLD

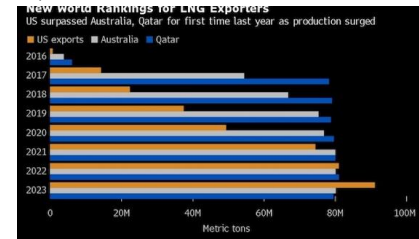
DOT Launches New Advisory Committee to Help Shape Federal Approach to Transportation Innovation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on December 29, 2023 announced the launch of the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) to provide advice to DOT and the Secretary of Transportation about plans and approaches for transportation innovation. Advisory committee members were selected for their ability to provide diverse perspectives across sectors, geographies,

and areas of expertise. The 27 TTAC members include experts from academia, think tanks, the public sector, labor, and industry covering topics including automation, cybersecurity, safety, accessibility, law, government, entrepreneurship, privacy, equity, and more.

DOT Launches New Advisory Committee to Help Shape Federal Approach to Transportation Innovation, December 29, 2023, www.dot.gov

US becomes top LNG exporter after overtaking Australia and Qatar



Source: AJOT

The US has become the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas for the first time, with 2023 shipments overtaking leading suppliers Australia and Qatar. The US exported 91.2 million metric tons of LNG in 2023, a record for the country, according to data through Dec. 31 compiled by Bloomberg. The expanded output was due to last year's restart of Freeport LNG in Texas, which had been shuttered for months following a June 2022 fire and explosion. Qatar, the top LNG supplier in 2022, saw its volumes shrink for the first time since at least 2016, with a 1.9% decline dropping the nation into third spot for shipments of the super-chilled fuel. Australia ranked second, with exports that were little changed from 2022. This year, two new LNG projects in the US are due to start production: Venture Global LNG Inc.'s Plaquemines facility in Louisiana and Golden Pass in Texas, a joint venture between

Exxon Mobil Corp. and QatarEnergy. At full capacity, the two projects would add another 38 million tons a year from the US.
US becomes top LNG exporter after overtaking Australia and Qatar, January 2, 2024, www.ajot.com

Weather to be biggest supply chain risk in 2024: report



Source: Inside Logistics

In its 2024 risk report, everstream.ai said a US\$1 billion weather-causes event happens every three weeks, on average, in the United States. In the 1980s these events only occurred every four months. The report highlights the drought affecting the Panama Canal as an example of weather-related disruptions. “From 2024 onwards, very large tanker carriers (VLTC) may avoid the Panama Canal altogether due to increased waiting times. Other shipping operators will reroute cargo via the Suez Canal or the Cape of Good Hope,” the report suggested. Winter storms are another weather risk. Global ocean temperatures begin 2024 at record highs, and, combined with a rising trend in disruptive winter weather (snow, ice, wind), this elevates the risk of more harmful storms. Changes in precipitation distribution patterns will also create increased drought and flooding around the world.

Weather to be biggest supply chain risk in 2024: report, January 3, 2023, www.insidelogistics.ca



**The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport**

**North
America**

We at CILTNA would like to congratulate Hon. David Collenette on being appointed to the Order of Ontario. This is a well-deserved honour, David.

Province Honours 25 New Order of Ontario Appointees

2023 Order of Ontario recognizes outstanding leaders for their exceptional contributions to building a stronger province.

The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, announced 25 new appointments to the Order of Ontario for 2023.

The Order of Ontario - the province's highest honour - recognizes outstanding people who have made exceptional contributions to help build a stronger province, nation and world. Members of the Order come from all walks of life and represent various sectors of society including public service, business, journalism and health care.

"As Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, it is my privilege to congratulate the Order's appointees for 2023. These Ontarians have demonstrated the highest levels of merit, excellence and dedication in their respective disciplines, and they have made significant impacts here at home and around the world," said Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont. "Our province gratefully acknowledges their remarkable contributions, which inspire us all to be leaders and change-makers."

The 2023 appointees to the Order of Ontario are:

Jay Aspin
John M. Beck
Jo-Anne Clarke
Hon. David Collenette
Claire Crooks
Julie Di Lorenzo
John English

Transportation's Top Stories Other CILT News

Lee Errett
Gervan Fearon
Patrick Foran
Blake C. Goldring
Herbert Ho Ping Kong
Blake Hutcheson
Michael Latner
Bernard Leduc
Joy MacDermid
Dwayne Morgan
Florence Ngenzebuhoro
Hazelle Palmer
Fred Possmayer
Peter Simon
Gary Slaight
George Trusler
Raquel Urtasun
Bhavana Varma

"I am proud of the incredible breadth and depth of talent we have here in Ontario. Each one of these exceptional Ontarians are leaders and trailblazers who exemplify the best of our province," said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "Their achievements, dedication and leadership have contributed to building a stronger Ontario and a better world for all. On behalf of a grateful province, congratulations to all the appointees being recognized."

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1004014/province-honours-25-new-order-of-ontario-appointees>

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>

* **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?

Go to: https://twitter.com/cilt_na and Follow Us.



★ 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/LHqtGV1mTip9XqFvvzDdV9>

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