

North America

# Transportation's Top Stories Air Transport Updates

## CANADA

WestJet Group refinances majority of existing term loan facility secured by WestJet Rewards loyalty program and WestJet's brand



Source: WestJet

On February 13, 2024, WestJet Group Inc. announced that it extended the maturity of the substantial majority of its term loan borrowings to 2031. WestJet did so by entering into a new secured term loan facility, capitalizing on its ratings upgrade and its strong financial performance, which exceed its pre-COVID earnings. "We are very pleased with this innovative structure, secured by our loyalty program and brand," said WestJet Group Chief Financial Officer Mike Scott. "This opportunistic refinancing transaction enhances our financial flexibility and was oversubscribed, which is reflective of the strength of the WestJet Rewards Loyalty program and the WestJet brand." WestJet's liquidity is in excess of \$2 billion and its pro forma adjusted net leverage ratio at year-end 2023 was approximately three times adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

WestJet Group refinances majority of existing term loan facility secured by WestJet Rewards loyalty program and WestJet's brand, February 13, 2024, <u>www.westjet.ca</u>

# Government of Canada invests to upgrade an essential cargo distribution facility and aircraft hangar in Northern Quebec

On February 9, 2024, the Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$14.5 million through the National Trade Corridors Fund. The investment to Air Inuit Ltd. includes the construction of a new cargo warehouse and extension of the hangar bay for aircraft maintenance at the Kuujjuaq, Quebec, airport. This project will allow the Kuujjuaq airport to: 1. improve security of the north-south transportation corridor between Montreal and Nunavik and within the Nunavik region; 2. improve the ability to preserve food security with larger storage capacities and build a more reliable supply chain; and 3. increase economic development with added capacity to support business growth, infrastructure, and industries more efficiently. *Government of Canada invests to upgrade an essential cargo distribution facility and aircraft hangar in Northern Quebec, February 9,* 2024, www.tc.gc.ca

### Federal funding to help build northern cargo facility Air Inuit has been selected to receive funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund.



Source: Inside Logistics

The investment of up to \$14.5 million includes the construction of a new cargo warehouse and extension of the hangar bay for aircraft maintenance at the Kuujjuaq, Quebec, airport. Air Inuit offers passenger and cargo services throughout Northern Quebec, connecting to Quebec City and Montreal. Kuujjuaq is a hub, with connections to numerous smaller communities. Kuujjuaq Airport is owned by Transport Canada. It is operated by the Kativik Regional Government. Designated a remote airport under the National Airports Policy, it is the community's only reliable year-round means of transportation.

Federal funding to help build northern cargo facilityAir Inuit has been selected to receive funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund, February 13, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

# Porter announces first Saskatchewan service with daily Toronto Pearson-Saskatoon route

Porter Airlines is introducing its unique all-economy service delivered with style, care and charm to Saskatchewan for the first time. Flights between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Saskatoon International Airport (YXE) are a significant step in the airline's commitment to expanding its transcontinental network. It is also adding three new crew basis in Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver. Porter Airlines spread the love on Valentine's Day by inaugurating its Ottawa-Calgary route, connecting Eastern and Western Canada with the airline's unique style, care and charm.

Porter adding three new crew basis in Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver, Porter announces first Saskatchewan service with daily Toronto Pearson-Saskatoon route; and Porter begins flights on new Ottawa-Calgary route, February 14 and 15, 2024, <u>www.flyporter.com</u>

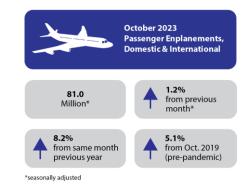
# Canada pilots see progress with mediator in fight for historic pay gains

Pilots are seeing progress in contract talks after a private independent mediator was hired to bridge gaps with the country's largest carrier overpay and quality of life demands, a union representative said on February 15, 2024. Air Canada's aviators, who are represented by the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), are pressing for historic gains to narrow a wage gap with higher-paid U.S. counterparts who secured record contracts in 2023 amid strong travel demand. "We found that using this professional mediator in this private mediation agreement is starting to get the ball rolling," said Charlene Hudy, who heads the local union representing Air Canada pilots.

Canada pilots see progress with mediator in fight for historic pay gains, February 15, 2024, <u>www.globeandmail.ca</u>

## **US/WORLD**

Cortober 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.2% from the Same Month in 2022



U.S. airlines carried 82.6 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in October 2023, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, October enplanements are up 1.2% from September and reached a new all-time high in October 2023. BTS reported 73 million domestic passengers and 9.6 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in October, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 (Tables 1-24) and complete data since 2000.

October 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.2% from the Same Month in 2022, February 8, 2024, <u>www.bts.gov</u>

### U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 1,492 Jobs in December 2023; Employment Remains 8.4% Above Pre-Pandemic December 2019



Source: BTS

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment decreased to 812,698 workers in December 2023, 1,492 (0.18%) fewer workers than in November 2023 (814,190) and 63,208 (8.43%) more than in pre-pandemic December 2019 (749,490). U.S. scheduled-service passenger airlines employed 535,672 workers in December 2023 or 66% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines lost 242 employees in December 2023. Spirit Air Lines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 667 employees; Delta Air Lines added 237, and United Air Lines added 171. U.S. cargo airlines employed 272,380 workers in December 2023, 34% of the industry total. Cargo carriers lost 1,193 employees in December. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 498 jobs.

U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Lost 1,492 Jobs in December 2023; Employment Remains 8.4% Above Pre-Pandemic December 2019, February 12, 2024, <u>www.bts.gov</u>

### Triving greater efficiency in European air travel



Source: IATA

European aviation needs greater efficiency throughout the value chain if it is to continue delivering social and economic benefits, says Rafael Schvartzman, IATA's RVP for Europe. "The headline figures are positive, but we are not yet fully recovered from the pandemic and the margins are thin," he says. "European airlines have some major challenges ahead of them and are still in a fragile state. The market is extremely competitive and now, more than ever, we need to have the right policies to help us deliver what European citizens clearly want, which is affordable, sustainable air travel." Last year's hike in demand supports this view. In 2023, European air travel grew more than 20%. This generated an estimated EUR7.2 billion (\$7.7 billion) profit, and both traffic and profit are expected to grow modestly in 2024. But there isn't consistency in demand across the region. Broadly, Mediterranean markets did well in 2023 but Eastern Europe is still suffering from the effects of the Ukraine war. There is also a knock-on effect from the various conflict zones in the Middle East.

Driving greater efficiency in European air travel, February 14, 2024, <u>www.iata.org</u>

# oneworld named the best global airline alliance for wines, for the 13th year in a row



Source: AJOT

Roger Blackburn, oneworld VP Europe, Middle East and Africa (second from the left), collects the Gold award in the Best Alliance category in the Business Traveller 'Cellars in the Sky Awards', awarded for the 13th year in row, surrounded by colleagues from fellow oneworld members airlines. For the 13th year in a row the oneworld® alliance has been named the world's Best Airline Alliance for wines served by member airlines onboard in an annual international tasting competition.

oneworld named the best global airline alliance for wines, for the 13th year in a row, February 15, 2024, <u>www.ajot.com</u>

### Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in Grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Improve 114 Airports Across the U.S.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$970 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Investing in America agenda to 114 airports across the country, spanning 44 states and three territories. This announcement, which Secretary Buttigieg will make as part of the Administration's Investing in America tour, delivers on President Biden's commitment to rebuilding our nation's infrastructure while lowering costs for families, creating good jobs, and advancing opportunity for all Americans. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in Grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Improve 114 Airports Across the U.S., February 15, 2024, <u>www.dot.gov</u>



North America

## Transportation's Top Stories Rail Transport Updates

## CANADA

# CN's Sustainability Leadership Recognized through Key ESG Rankings

CN is pleased to be recognized by the 2024 S&P Global Yearbook as one of the top sustainability performers in the transportation industry. CN was also recognized for its leadership on climate change by global environmental non-profit CDP. CN's achievements reflect the Company's steadfast dedication to environmental stewardship, social responsibility and good governance underpinned by consistent and comprehensive reporting.

CN's Sustainability Leadership Recognized through Key ESG Rankings, February 12, 2024, <u>www.cn.ca</u>

advance a freight rail safety provision of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Manufacturers of newly built freight cars placed into U.S. service will face restrictions. The Railway Supply Institute (RSI) weighed in this month, as did the Rail Security Alliance, which represents North American freight railcar manufacturers and component suppliers.

<u>FRA Proposes Changes to Freight Car (Safety Standards)</u>, February 9, 2024, <u>www.railwayage.com</u>

## Legend and Legacy: 175 Years of BNSF and Counting



Source: Railway Age

It was 175 years ago today, Feb. 12, 1849, that the Illinois General Assembly chartered the Aurora Branch Railroad, a six-mile-long track between Batavia, Ill., and West Chicago. Chugging along with borrowed equipment and secondhand steel tracks, little did the branch line, nor the developing American economy, know this small railway would grow into one of the largest North American railroads. Now serving 28 states in the western two-thirds of the U.S., three Canadian provinces and five key Mexican gateways with 32,500 route miles of track, BNSF is proud of our humble beginning. "Our legacy of growth and innovation was made possible by generations of resilient and dedicated railroaders from more than 400 predecessor rail lines,

## **US/WORLD**

# FRA Proposes Changes to Freight Car (Safety Standards)



Source: RailwayAge

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in December 2023 proposed to amend the Freight Car Safety Standards (FCSS) to

leading up to the people of BNSF who continue that tradition today," BNSF President and CEO Katie Farmer said. For further history on BNSF see this source.

Legend and Legacy: 175 Years of BNSF and Counting, February 12, 2024, <u>www.railwayage.com</u>





Source: Railway Age

Through the first six weeks of 2024 (ending Feb. 10), total North American carload and intermodal traffic was down 0.8%-virtually flat-compared with the same point last year, according to the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) Feb. 14 report. While Mexico saw a gain, Canada experienced a decline and U.S. traffic was virtually flat. North American rail volume for the first six weeks of this year on 12 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads came in at 3,775,396 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers. Cumulative volume in the U.S. was 2,716,022 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.2% from 2023; in Canada, 905,968 carloads and intermodal units, down 4.7%; and in Mexico, 153,406 carloads and intermodal units, up 5.9%. Canadian railroads reported 92,811 carloads for the week ending Feb. 10, 2024, down 0.5%-virtually flat-compared with the same week in 2023. They also reported 69,516 intermodal units for the week ending Feb. 10, 2024, up 2.9% from the same point last year. North American Rail Volume Flat Through Week 6, AAR, February 14, 2024, www.railwayage.com



North America

## Transportation's Top Stories Marine Transport Updates

## CANADA

## **Quarter State Sta**



Source: Inside Logistics

Unifor members working at Autoport at the Port of Halifax have rejected a tentative agreement. Autoport is a subsidiary of CN Rail and its facility is one of North America's largest vehicle processing and transshipment facilities, handling nearly 185,000 vehicles per year. The union said the agreement did not reflect the contributions its workers make to Autoport's operations. The union has contacted the conciliation officer to communicate the results of the vote. It formally requested the filing of a 'no board' report with the province of Nova Scotia. This action initiates a 14-day cooling-off period, which the union said it needs to "reassess our position and strategize our next steps".

Unifor members reject Autoport settlement, February 9, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

# Global trade organizations make joint call for safe shipping in the Red Sea



Source: Inside Logistics

A group of over 100 global trade organizations has called on countries to join, support, or align with the mission to support safe and secure maritime commerce in the Red Sea. In an open letter called the "Global Maritime Security Joint Letter", the groups expressed support for Operation Prosperity Guardian, the US-led multinational security initiative with at least 23 participating countries, including Canada. *Global trade organizations make joint call for safe shipping in the Red Sea, February 12, 2024, <u>www.insidelogistics.ca</u>* 

## US/WORLD

Carriers, shippers using feeder networks to mitigate Red Sea port disruptions



Source: JOC

The diversion of ultra-large container ships away from the Red Sea is delaying shipments for frustrated Saudi and, to a lesser extent, Egyptian importers and forcing them to rely on feeder networks. The shipping industry still deems southbound voyages through the Suez Canal as far as Jeddah Islamic Port in Saudi Arabia as beyond the reach of the Houthi militant attacks that have forced the majority of large container ship traffic to divert around the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa, Dr. Amr Hassanein, yard planning manager for Damietta Container & Cargo Handling Co. (DCHC) in Egypt. The use of feeder networks is helping to mitigate some of the Red Sea port disruptions.

Carriers, shippers using feeder networks to mitigate Red Sea port disruptions, February 13, 2024, <u>www.joc.com</u>

# Florida ports are surging with traffic, but Georgia and Texas are going to be competition

Florida's 16 publicly owned seaports had a banner year in 2023, setting records for cargo and cruise traffic, according to a report recently released by the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council. Seven of the 16 ports accommodate cruise ships, 10 handle cargo. But despite that good news, Mike Rubin, president of the Florida Ports Council, offered a warning that Florida's ports can't simply soak up the sunshine and relax. Rubin said Georgia and Texas are taking steps to encroach on Florida's market share by investing heavily in their ports. He said he is especially concerned with Texas as the state legislature there is expected to allocate more than \$200 million in the coming years to increase port capacity and improve infrastructure.

Florida ports are surging with traffic, but Georgia and Texas are going to be competition, February 13, 2024, <u>www.cargonews.com</u>

FMC upholds ruling upending current chassis pool system



Source: Freightwaves

Long-standing practices for feeding chassis into intermodal markets have been dealt another blow in legal proceedings before the Federal Maritime Commission. In a 4-1 vote Tuesday, the FMC upheld an administrative law judge's (ALJ) ruling from just over a year ago that the current system of major oceangoing carriers designating exclusive chassis providers for port-to-port moves, also known as merchant hauling, violates federal law. The case was brought in 2020 by the Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC), an arm of the American Trucking Associations. The defendant is the Ocean Carrier Equipment Management Association (OCEMA). It is a U.S.-based group of 12 major ocean carriers, and the intermodal movement of freight is its sole activity. Specifically, IMCC said the chassis pool system violated 46 U.S. Code § 41102, a part of the U.S. code that deals with ocean shipping.

FMC upholds ruling upending current chassis pool system, February 14, 2024, <u>www.freightwaves.com</u>

### Lanuary Volumes Up at Ports of LA, Long Beach



Source: Railway Age

Trade moving through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach rose in January 2024 as retailers stocked up ahead of the Lunar New Year, when east Asian factories typically close for up to two weeks. The Port of Los Angeles handled 855,652 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) last month, surpassing January 2023 by 18%. According to the Port, this was the second-best start to the year on record; it was eclipsed only by the pandemic-induced cargo surge in 2022. January 2024 loaded imports came in at 441,763 TEUs, up 19% from the prior-year period. Loaded exports landed at 126,554 TEUs, up 23% from the same month last year. The Port processed 287,336 empty containers, a 14% rise over 2023. At the Port of Long Beach, dockworkers and terminal operators moved 674,015 TEUs in January, up 17.5% from the same point last year. While imports increased 23.5% to 325,339 TEUs, exports were down 18.1% to 86,525 TEUs. Empty containers moving through the Port increased 28% to 262,151 TEUs. The strong start to 2024 marked the Port of Los Angeles' sixth consecutive month of year-over-year (y/y) increases, following 12 months of declines in cargo movement, and the Port of Long Beach's fifth consecutive month of v/v increases, after 13 months of declines.

January Volumes Up at Ports of LA, Long Beach, February 15, 2024, <u>www.railwayage.com</u>; and Port of LA 's Seroka Reports 18% Volume Jump, February 15, 2024, <u>www.ajot.com</u>



North America

## Transportation's Top Stories Road Transport Updates

## CANADA

TransForce Boss: Drive Inc a "Disaster' for Trucking Industry



Source: Ontruck

The head of Canada's largest trucking firm says rampant driver misclassification is harming compliant companies like his as well as drivers, a problem felt all the more acutely in lean economic times, reports Canadian Press. Alain Bédard, chairman and CEO of TFI International, is calling the phenomenon known as Driver Inc. a "disaster" for truck outfits because rule-breaking carriers who purposefully misclassify employee drivers and independent contractors while denying them legal labour entitlements gain a competitive advantage. Driver Inc. refers to the misclassification of workers as self-employed, which means the company does not pay benefits, basic labour protections and payroll taxes.

*TransForce Boss: Drive Inc a "Disaster' for Trucking Industry, February 9, 2024, <u>www.ontruck.ca</u>* 

TFI International considers inviting other specialized



Source: Todays Trucking

Speaking on a Q4 earnings call with analysts, TFI International chairman and CEO Alain Bedard said the timing of the sale of its U.S. truckload van division, CFI, was "opportunistic" and allowed the company to pivot into a more desirable specialized truckload segment with its billion-dollar acquisition of Daseke. "We're big fans of tanks, big fans of flatbed and dump operations," Bedard said. "That is really our focus. Daseke is a perfect fit for us." TFI International held off offering guidance for 2024 as it integrates the flatdeck mega-fleet, which will likely not contribute to profits this year but could add 50 cents a share in 2025. Flatdeck and tanker is in, when it comes to TFI International's U.S. truckload operations. Van and reefer is out. *TFI International considers inviting other specialized TL players into* 

spinout, February 9, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca

Mack Trucks invests \$14.5M in Roanoke Valley Operations expansion



Source: Inside Logistics

Mack Trucks is investing \$14.5 million to expand its Roanoke Valley Operations (RVO) manufacturing facility in Virginia to prepare the plant for higher demand for the Mack MD Series and Mack MD Electric vehicles. "Mack is committed to making the industrial and product investments we need to be a North American market leader," said Stephen Roy, global president of Mack Trucks. "The expansion of the RVO plant will help us grow in a strategic market segment and support our sustainability goals." Mack's investment will go toward equipment, tooling and a 72,000 square-foot building expansion, making the facility 352,000 square feet. Construction will begin in April, and the expansion project is expected to be completed in Q4 2025.

Mack Trucks invests \$14.5M in Roanoke Valley Operations expansion, February 12, 2024, <u>www.todaystrucking.ca</u>

### Ontario Banning Road Tolls, Freezing Driver's Licence Fees to Keep Costs Down



Source: Ontruck

The Ontario government is keeping costs down for drivers by introducing legislation that would, if passed, ban tolls on provincial

highways. This ban would apply to the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway once uploaded to the province, as well as the province's 400-series highways. "Our government under the leadership of Premier Ford is on a mission to keep costs down for families and businesses," said Prabmeet Sarkaria. Minister of Transportation. "First, we scrapped the tolls on Highways 412 and 418, now we're protecting drivers from the costs of new tolls. Together with our cut in the gas tax and eliminating the licence plate sticker fee, we're saving drivers hundreds of dollars every year." To further keep costs down for people, the province is also proposing to make the current freeze on driver's licence and Ontario Photo Card fees permanent through legislation, saving drivers an estimated \$66 million over the next five years. By legislating the current freeze, which was originally put in place through regulation and which has saved applicants \$22 million since 2019, the government is ensuring that any future increases can only be made through legislation. Stephen Laskowski, President & CEO of the OTA said "Roads are an investment in the supply chain. The trucking industry - through provincial and federal fuel taxes, federal carbon taxes, provincial registration and permit fees - is already contributing a major portion of the revenues the province of Ontario invests in road infrastructure. The trucking industry greatly appreciates this legislation, which is a recognition that all road users, including the commercial trucking industry, already pay their fair share of road investment."

Ontario Banning Road Tolls, Freezing Driver's Licence Fees to Keep Costs Down, February 15, 2024, <u>www.mto.gov.on.ca</u>; and OTA Supports Legislation to Ban Road Toll's & Freeze License Fees, February 15, 2024, <u>www.ontruck.ca</u>

# Opportunistic Mullen Group sees chance to add LTL density

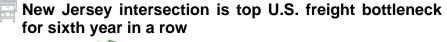


Source: Todays Trucking

Mullen Group's Q4 revenue edged down less than 1% year over year to \$498.6 million, as incremental revenue from acquisitions helped offset lower fuel surcharge revenue and soft freight and logistics demand. Net income fell 52.2% to \$32.1 million, but largely due to a \$29.3 million gain on sale of property, plant and equipment that Mullen enjoyed in Q4 2022. It improved its operating margins from 15.4% to 15.9%. "Results for the fourth guarter were consistent with our previously released Dec. 11 update, although demand was light in all four segments as the year came to a close," chairman and senior executive officer Murray Mullen said in a release. "Basically, we lost a week's worth of revenue due to the timing of the holiday schedule. In addition, we accelerated the restructuring of the B.&R. Eckel's group, acquired earlier in 2023, resulting in one-time restructuring charges of approximately \$2.9 million in the guarter." Looking ahead to 2024, Mullen said he's more optimistic about business conditions than he was a year ago.

Opportunistic Mullen Group sees chance to add LTL density, February 15, 2025, <u>www.todaystrucking.ca</u>

### **US/WORLD**





Source: Todays Trucking

For the sixth year in a row, the intersection of I-95 and SR 4 in Fort Lee, New Jersey is once again the Number 1 freight bottleneck in the U.S. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) has released its 13th annual list highlighting the most congested bottlenecks for trucks in America. The <u>2024 Top Truck Bottleneck</u> <u>List measures the level of truck-involved congestion at more than 325 locations on the national highway system. The bottleneck locations detailed in this latest ATRI list represent the top 100 congested</u>

locations, although ATRI continuously monitors more than 325 freight-critical locations.

New Jersey intersection is top U.S. freight bottleneck for sixth year in a row, February 13, 2024, <u>www.todaystrucking.ca</u>



North America

# Transportation's Top Stories Other Transport Updates

## CANADA

# Alberta's Premier Smith sees US LNG export pause as opportunity

President Joe Biden's decision to pause approval of new liquefied natural gas export licenses is an opportunity for Canada as the country prepares to start exporting the fuel, Alberta's premier said. "I note, with interest, that the Americans may be pausing on their LNG export," Danielle Smith, head of the country's fossil fuel-producing heartland, said on Bloomberg TV. "I look at that as an opportunity for us. If we can be an additional supplier to the world of this vitally important energy source that's also lower emissions, and lower polluting, I think we have a role to play." After years of delays, Canada's first LNG export plant is scheduled to start operation as early as 2025, shipping as much as 14 million metric tons annually from British Columbia to Asia. A number of additional projects off the Pacific Coast are at various levels of development and more than a dozen have been proposed over the years.

Alberta's Premier Smith sees US LNG export pause as opportunity, February 9, 2024, <u>www.ajot.com</u>

# Canadian Transportation Agency recognized as one of the National Capital Region's top employers for 2024

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has been named as one of the National Capital Region's Top Employers for 2024. This special designation recognizes employers in the Ottawa-Gatineau area that are leaders in providing exceptional places to work. It identifies the CTA as an organization that offers competitive benefits, professional development opportunities, and a supportive workplace culture.

Canadian Transportation Agency recognized as one of the National Capital Region's top employers for 2024, February 9, 2024, <u>www.cta-otc.gc.ca</u>

Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, January 2024



Source: Statcan

In January 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 10.6% from January 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 431,400 in January 2024, up 13.8% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad reached 1.9 million, a 12.3% increase from January 2023. By automobile, US residents took 573,400 trips to Canada in January 2024, up 1.4% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States also rose, up 11.5% year over year to 1.6 million trips in January 2024.

Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, January 2024, February 12, 2024, <u>www.statcan.gc.ca</u>

### Traffic Flow Dashboard



Source: Statcan

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, February 15, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca* 

## **US/WORLD**

### Manufacturing growth not predicted until 2025

Despite a tough year ahead for most regions and territories in 2024, growth will return in 2025 for many sectors. In line with Interact Analysis's previous update to its Manufacturing Industry Output (MIO) Tracker, the company's latest forecasts show the lowest point in the manufacturing cycle for many regions and sectors is expected to occur this year. Despite this, key regions such as the US and Germany will shrink half as much in 2024 as they did at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In contrast with most industry sectors, the semiconductor segment is expected to have a much better 2024, following a difficult year in 2023.

Manufacturing growth not predicted until 2025, February 15, 2024, <u>www.insidelogistics.ca</u>



## ered of Logistics North port America

# Transportation's Top Stories Other CILT News



CILTNA GTA/H Region Chapter Webinar: "A Future with the Gordie Howe International Bridge"

Join us on Tuesday, February 27 at 12 pm ET/ 9 am PT/ 5 pm GMT to hear Charl van Niekerk, CEO of Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, speak to us about the latest on the Gordie Howe International Bridge and how this critical infrastructure located at the Windsor-Detroit border will seamlessly connect North America.

Sponsored by Strangford Logistics.

To register please visit: <u>https://ciltna.com/events/a-future-with-the-gordie-howe-international-bridge/</u>



The CILTNA Ottawa Chapter hopes you can join us on Tuesday, February 27 from 5-7 PM, as we kick off the New Year with an informal social at D'Arcy McGee's at 44 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends, and to hear about upcoming Ottawa Chapter events that we have in store for the coming year. Snacks will be provided as well as one drink per guest.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Registration: CILTNA Members – No charge Non-Members – \$15.00

For registration, please visit: <u>https://ciltna.com/events/ottawa-chapter-pub-social/</u>



Ladies, grab a coffee on February 20 at 12 pm ET/9 am PT and join us online for an hour with guest speaker, Peta Wolmarans, Director, Planning at Vancouver International Airport who will speak to us on "Succeeding in Uncertain Times".

#### Please RSVP at: https://ciltna.com/events/wilat-sip-chat/

\*This event is open to CILTNA Members and their supporters so please share this invite with anyone you feel would be interested in joining us.



## Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) presents the 2024 New York Rail Summit

On March 5th -2:30 pm to 6:30 pm please join us for informative and interactive presentations on a range of topics related to rail in New York. A unique opportunity to hear from four leaders at the heart of the city's rail industry.

Opportunity to meet and network with fellow rail professionals in the city.

Location: 666 3rd Avenue, Oculus Room (6th Floor), New York 10017 (5-minute walk from Grand Central Station)

Registration: CILT Members: No charge | Non-Members: \$25.00

\*\*\*\* Refreshments provided \*\*\*\*

Capacity is limited - register now to avoid disappointment.

To register, please visit: <u>https://ciltna.com/events/2024-new-york-rail-summit/</u>

## **Job Postings**

### \* Economist Policy Analysis

If you hold postgraduate studies in economics, business or a related discipline and have at least 5 years of experience in developing/assessing economic policy and regulation in either a government or commercial environment you may want to consider this position at IATA's Sustainability & Economics division. The objective is to provide our airline members with the sustainability and economic analyses, tools, and support to allow them to meet present and measure themselves against the overall industry's performance.

We work with airlines, regulators, and civil society to develop and implement policies, standards, and solutions that support the sustainable development of air transport and mitigate its impact on the environment. Learn more about the responsibilities, necessary skills and location of this  $\underline{\mbox{role.}}$ 

### \* 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

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#### **Project Questions**

• Can you speak to the unique dynamics of fresh produce/temperature-controlled shipping? If so, please elaborate on your ability to do so below.

• Have you navigated a downturn at your brokerage? If so, can you speak on the defensive actions that were taken?

• Can you speak on the main drivers of freight brokerage financials? If so, please elaborate in 1-2 sentences on your ability to do so below.

• Can you speak on any emerging tech platforms for freight brokerages? If so, please elaborate on them below.

• Do you have any off-limit topics and/or anything you might be contractually obligated not to discuss regarding this consultation or space? If so, please briefly elaborate on the topics you are not allowed to discuss.



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