



The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport

North
America

Transportation's Top Stories

Air Transport Updates

CANADA

✈️ **Canadians should book their flights now as airline fares set to soar this summer, says expert**



Source: Financial Post

Canadians are currently enjoying the benefits of a domestic price war as airlines try to generate business in what's typically a quiet quarter for air travel. Now may be the best time for Canadians to buy airline tickets because fares are set to soar this summer, according to an industry expert. Gradek said Canadians are currently enjoying the benefits of a domestic price war as airlines try to generate business in what's typically a quiet quarter for air travel. He said Canada's two ultra-low cost carriers, Flair Airlines and Lynx Air, are leading the price cuts with other airlines following not too far behind. "Flair and Lynx are the price leaders in Canada," said Gradek. "Air Canada, WestJet, Porter are kind of playing along." The problem is that's not likely to be sustainable.

Canadians should book their flights now as airline fares set to soar this

summer, says expert, February 5, 2024, www.financialpost.ca

✈️ **Air Canada Announces Scholarships for Aspiring Aircraft Maintenance Engineers at 7 Technical Colleges Across the Country**

Air Canada on February 8, 2024 announced an agreement with seven colleges across the country to provide financial assistance to students who self-identify as women or visible minorities who are pursuing studies as Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs). This new scholarship strengthens Air Canada's commitment to supporting access for under-represented students in this highly desirable career path. One student from each school will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to assist with the cost of their education to become AMEs. Students who are awarded a scholarship will be offered an opportunity for a work placement at Air Canada Maintenance. The initial agreement with the schools is for three years.

Air Canada Announces Scholarships for Aspiring Aircraft Maintenance Engineers at 7 Technical Colleges Across the Country, February 8, 2024, www.aircanada.ca

US/WORLD

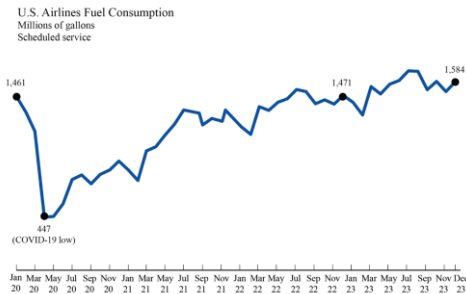
✈️ **Air Travel Consumer Report: November 2023 Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on February 2, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of November 2023 for on-time performance, mishandled baggage, and mishandled wheelchairs and scooters. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. DOT remains committed to ensuring airline passengers are treated fairly and flights operate as scheduled. For the first 11 months of 2023, 1.4% of flights were

cancelled, far below the 2.5% cancellation rate for the first 11 months of 2022 and the 2.0% cancellation rate for first 11 months of pre-pandemic 2019.

Air Travel Consumer Report: November 2023 Numbers, February 2, 2024, www.dot.gov

✈️ U.S. Airlines' December 2023 Fuel Cost per Gallon Down 7.2% from November 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 2.1% from Pre-Pandemic December 2019



Source: BTS

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on February 5, 2024 released U.S. airlines' December 2023 fuel cost and consumption numbers indicating U.S. scheduled service airlines used 1.584 billion gallons of fuel, 5.3% more fuel than in November 2023 (1.504 billion gallons) and 2.1% more than in pre-pandemic December 2019. The cost per gallon of fuel in December 2023 (\$2.80) was down 22 cents (7.2%) from November 2023 (\$3.01) and up \$0.79 (39.5%) from December 2019. Total December 2023 fuel expenditure (\$4.43B) was down 2.2% from November 2023 (\$4.53B) and up 42.4% from pre-pandemic December 2019. Year-over-year changes in fuel consumption and cost for December 2023 include 5.2% increase in domestic fuel consumption, 6.4% decrease in domestic fuel cost, and 11.0% decrease in cost per gallon. Domestic fuel consumption increased 4.0% from November 2023 to December 2023, while decreasing 0.05% from December 2019. Increased fuel consumption reflects an increase in airline passenger travel over the same period.

U.S. Airlines' December 2023 Fuel Cost per Gallon Down 7.2% from November 2023; Aviation Fuel Consumption Up 2.1% from Pre-Pandemic December 2019, February 5, 2024, www.bts.gov

✈️ Digitalization, Sustainability, and Safety & Security at Top of WCS Agenda

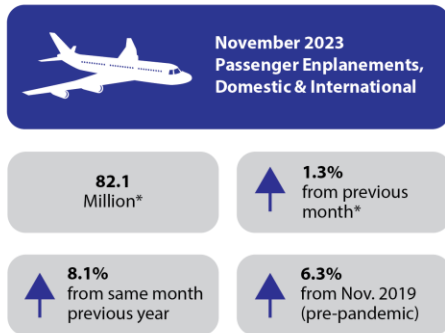


Source: IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced the agenda for the IATA World Cargo Symposium (WCS) which will feature specialized tracks on Digitalization, Sustainability and Safety & Security. WCS is taking place in Hong Kong (SAR), China from 12 - 14 March 2024. "Air cargo is an unsung hero of the global economy. In normal times, it delivers some 35% of the value of goods traded across borders. In the pandemic, air cargo brought medical supplies and vaccines to where they were needed. And today it is providing a vital transport alternative for some products as Red Sea shipping lanes face geopolitical uncertainty. Air cargo's success matters. When air cargo's global leaders gather in Hong Kong for the IATA World Cargo Symposium, ensuring the future reliability and growth of this critical sector will be top of mind with an agenda focused on sustainability, digitalization, safety and security," said Brendan Sullivan, IATA's Global Head of Cargo.

Digitalization, Sustainability, and Safety & Security at Top of WCS Agenda, February 7, 2024, www.iata.org

November 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.1% from the Same Month in 2022



*seasonally adjusted

Source: BTS

U.S. airlines carried 77.7 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in November 2023, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). When adjusted for seasonality, November enplanements are up 1.3% from October and reached a new all-time high reached in November 2023. BTS reported 68.4 million domestic passengers and 9.3 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in November 2023, not adjusting for seasonality. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 (Tables 1-24) and complete data since 2000.

November 2023 U.S. Airline Traffic Data Up 8.1% from the Same Month in 2022, February 8, 2024, www.bts.gov



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Transportation's Top Stories

Rail Transport Updates

CANADA

VIA Rail Canada recognized by Forbes as one of Canada's best employers 2024

VIA Rail Canada (VIA Rail) announces its recognition by Forbes as one of Canada's Best Employers 2024. This prestigious accolade serves as a testament to VIA Rail's unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional work environment to its employees, including competitive and equitable compensation and benefits, a good work-life balance, training and growth opportunities. VIA Rail secured the top position as the best employer in the air and rail passenger transportation industry. "Our outstanding employees are a close-knit community of passionate individuals who share a love for trains, travel, and a common mission of putting passengers first," said Mario Pélouquin, President and CEO of VIA Rail. "They are the backbone of VIA Rail, and that is a strong motivation to continue providing the best employee experience we can."

VIA Rail Canada recognized by Forbes as one of Canada's best employers 2024, February 2, 2024, www.viarail.ca

CN Legal Department Awarded Mansfield Certification for Boosting Diversity Within Leadership

CN is pleased to announce it has achieved Mansfield Certification, a designation awarded by Diversity Lab that measures the structural changes and actions CN has taken to ensure the hiring and promotion processes and paths to leadership within our legal department are open and transparent to all qualified lawyers and other legal professionals. The Mansfield Rule Law Department Edition is a certification process designed to ensure all participating corporate legal departments provide a fair and equal opportunity to be hired, promoted and advance into leadership. Mansfield is focused on broadening the talent pool for consideration in hiring, including those historically

underrepresented in the legal profession, and to facilitate transparent leadership pathways.

CN Legal Department Awarded Mansfield Certification for Boosting Diversity Within Leadership, February 5, 2024, www.cn.ca

AAR: 'January Not Necessarily a Harbinger of What's to Come'



Source: Railway Age

"In January, severe winter weather significantly disrupted railroad and rail customer operations in much of the country," said Association of American Railroads (AAR) economist Dan Keen. "Moreover, uncertainty remains in the economy, especially in sectors that are important to railroads, like manufacturing. Because of these factors, January is not necessarily a harbinger of what's to come for rail traffic in the months ahead." The Association of American Railroads (AAR) on February 7, 2024 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending February 3, 2024, as well as volumes for January 2024. U.S. railroads originated 1,025,168 carloads in January 2024, down 7.2 percent, or 79,725 carloads, from January 2023. U.S. railroads also originated 1,206,014 containers and trailers in January 2024, up 5.5 percent, or 63,195 units, from the same month last year. Combined U.S. carload

and intermodal originations in January 2024 were 2,231,182, down 0.7 percent, or 16,530 carloads and intermodal units from January 2023. In January 2024, six of the 20 carload commodity categories tracked by the AAR each month saw carload gains compared with January 2023. Canadian railroads reported 91,685 carloads for the week, up 1.8 percent, and 72,643 intermodal units, up 12.7 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first five weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 743,641 carloads, containers and trailers, down 5.8 percent.

AAR: 'January Not Necessarily a Harbinger of What's to Come', February 7, 2024, www.railwayage.com; and Rail traffic for week ending January and the week ending February 3, 2024, February 7, 2024, www.ajot.com

US/WORLD

CSX Reaches Paid Sick Leave Agreements with Four Unions; BLET Ratifies Agreement with SL&A

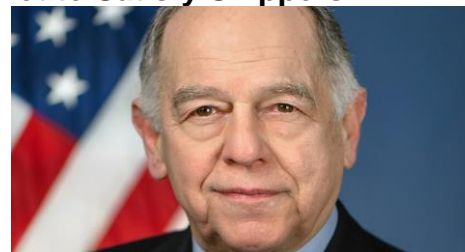


Source: Railway Age

CSX announced Feb. 1 that it has reached agreements with four additional groups of railroad workers to provide paid sick leave benefits. The unions include Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Transportation Division Conductors/Trainmen (SMART-TD C&O), SMART-TD Yardmasters, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, and Carrolton Road-Transportation Communications Union-represented Engineers/Yardmen/Maintenance of Way employees. According to the Class I, these agreements extend coverage to more than 600 employees, “further solidifying CSX’s industry-leading initiative of providing paid sick leave to its workforce.” In 2023, CSX became the first U.S. Class I railroad to extend paid sick leave agreements to its contract workers.

CSX Reaches Paid Sick Leave Agreements with Four Unions; BLET Ratifies Agreement with SL&A, February 2, 2024, www.railwayage.com

Can STB Pivot to Satisfy Shippers?



Source: RailwayAge

Rail captive shippers—primarily of chemicals and coal—unable to utilize barge or truck alternatives and lacking two-railroad competition owing to decades of mergers are an unhappy lot. They pay more because they lack modal choices. “They may be destined to future unhappiness if public policy focus does not change,” says retired University of Tennessee economist Mark Burton. Public policy can erase discriminatory rate spreads, but decades of such rigid fiat brought the rail industry to the brink of financial ruin. Redemption was delivered by Congress in 1980 through partial economic deregulation—lawmakers recognizing the essentiality of demand-based differential pricing whereby those with fewer transportation alternatives necessarily pay more to keep the rail network solvent. The economic rationale is railroads have relatively high fixed costs to be paid in full regardless of whether 100,000 carloads are transported or just 1,000. The costs include building and maintaining—and paying property taxes on—an extensive privately owned infrastructure. Barge and truck operators can charge less because their rights-of-way are government provided, with lower than full-cost recovery user charges. As shippers with competitive options won’t pay more for rail, railroads must charge less if the business is to be had. So long as lower rates at least cover direct costs of the transportation provided—crew compensation, fuel and maintenance associated with infrastructure wear and tear—even a minimal contribution to fixed costs reduces the spread captive shippers must shoulder. “It’s time we created a new, forward thinking set of regulatory goals important to the 21st century,” Burton says.

Can STB Pivot to Satisfy Shippers?, February 5, 2024, www.railwayage.com

US rail group tells Buttigieg safety record has been misrepresented



Source: AJOT

The US railroad industry trade group pushed back against comments made about rail safety in an unusually forceful letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who spoke with the media and participated in a press conference last week ahead of the one-year anniversary of the derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The Association of American Railroads said that rail is the safest mode of cargo transportation and safer than other industries when measured by injury and illness per hours worked by employees. Since 2000, the industry has also improved its employee casualty rates by 46% and train accidents per million train miles have decreased 23%, the trade group said in the letter. “That is why it is so disheartening to hear those who know better misrepresent the industry’s safety record — and its continuing efforts to become even safer — in furtherance of their own agendas,” said the letter, signed by Ian Jefferies, chief executive officer of the AAR. “Allowing misunderstandings about freight rail safety to go uncorrected undercuts public confidence, not only in the safety of one key component of our nation’s critical infrastructure, but also in your department.”

US rail group tells Buttigieg safety record has been misrepresented, February 6, 2024, www.ajot.com



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Marine Transport Updates

CANADA

NWSA gateway Terminal 46 supports transport of Canadian-bound automobile cargo in Seattle



Source: AJOT

Terminal 46 marked a significant milestone on Friday, February 2nd, as it welcomed the arrival of the GLOVIS vessel *Silver Sky* transporting automobiles destined for Canada. More than 2,500 automobiles discharged at Terminal 46, in The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) gateway, where they will await transport to Canadian KIA and Hyundai dealerships later this month. As the first automobile vessel in more than 20 years to call the terminal, this new automobile business will further increase automobile volumes in the NWSA gateway which were up 96% year-over-year in December 2023. Over the past several years, Terminal 46 has played a critical role in providing available capacity for various cargo needs throughout the gateway. In response to post-pandemic containerized cargo surges, Terminal 46 evolved into a crucial near-dock storage facility, facilitating the seamless movement of containerized cargo. Today, Terminal 46 stands ready to handle this increased Canadian-bound cargo opportunity. "The NWSA works hard to ensure we can accommodate the needs of our customers and we are glad to have strategic properties like Terminal 46 to help facilitate

more cargo movement in our region," stated Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma Commission President and NWSA Co-Chair.

NWSA gateway Terminal 46 supports transport of Canadian-bound automobile cargo in Seattle, February 5, 2024, www.ajot.com

Ocean freight industry lagging in digitization, report finds



Source: Inside Logistics

A new study has found that 40 percent of ocean freight carriers are not using digital solutions to expedite operations. The report, based on a large-scale survey conducted by ODeX, provides in-depth insights into the operational challenges, adoption of digital documentation, and the evolving landscape of maritime logistics.

Ocean freight industry lagging in digitization, report finds, February 6, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

Port of Montreal supports nearly 600,000 jobs, study finds



Source: Inside Logistics

The Port of Montreal is pivotal in underpinning 589,364 jobs and generates \$93.5 billion in economic activity, a new study has found. These figures from a Martin Associates economic study indicate the importance of the Port of Montreal to the Canadian and Quebec economies, where 3.5 percent of national GDP (\$93.5 billion) and 10 percent of Quebec GDP (\$54.9 billion) are due, in part, to the business activities driven by the 36 million metric tons (tonnes) of cargo that moved through the port in 2022. The study, “Economic Impacts of the Port of Montreal”, measured the impacts of cargo-related activities at the Port of Montreal on the economies of Canada and Quebec.

Port of Montreal supports nearly 600,000 jobs, study finds, February 8, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

US/WORLD

Red Sea turmoil drives Chinese exporters to rail, other alternatives

A recent round of U.S. and British strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen raise fresh questions about the impact of container shipping in the Red Sea, as shippers continue to seek alternative means of navigating the crisis. The strikes, which were conducted on Saturday, spurred threats from Houthi leaders and a warning from Jake Sullivan, national security advisor to President Joe Biden, that any direct response by Iran — rather than through the Houthi rebels it backs — “would be met with a swift and forceful response from us.” Container shipping fundamentals have tightened as trade continues to be diverted from the Red Sea. Prior to the attacks, roughly 28% of container ship volumes passed through the Suez Canal, per analysis from Bank of America. Now, those volumes are down 90%. *Red Sea turmoil drives Chinese exporters to rail, other alternatives, February 5, 2024, www.freightwaves.com*

Tanker transits plunge 20% in Red Sea: Lloyd’s List

New data from Lloyd’s List Intelligence shows an acceleration of tankers diverting away from the Red Sea. Since Jan. 12, 2024 when the first of three U.S.-led military strikes began on Houthi land targets, more than 106 tankers have changed routes to avoid the area. Lloyd’s List is tracking the rapid drop in transits of tankers and bulk vessels through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Lloyd’s List Intelligence vessel tracking data recorded a 40% week-on-week (w/w) drop in crude tankers transiting the Bab el-Mandeb strait the week ending Feb. 4, 2024. The average daily number of active vessels in the Red Sea last week was 212, down from about 229 the week prior and from 373 last year. Red Sea tanker transits plunged 20%, as more than 100 tankers diverted to travel around the Cape of Good Hope since initial military strikes on Houthis. But according to new data from Vortexa, the number of crude tankers rerouting appears to be accelerating. The data reflects cargo-carrying vessels of 10,000 deadweight tonnage or more. The pre-Houthi attack average was taken for the period Nov. 6 to Dec. 3, 2023.

Tanker transits plunge 20% in Red Sea: Lloyd’s List, February 7, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

Port of New York and New Jersey total volume for 2023 exceeds pre-COVID numbers



Source: AJOT

The Port of New York and New Jersey finished 2023 with volume totals that exceeded 2019’s pre-COVID numbers by 4.4 percent. December’s 2023 total volume added to the positive numbers, reaching 633,925 TEUs (351,402 containers), a 3.4 percent increase compared to the 613,011 TEUs (341,108 containers) recorded in December 2022. This number brings the Port of New York and New Jersey’s 2023 total to 7,810,005 TEUs (4,328,153 containers). Imports also rose in December 2023 at the Port of New York and New Jersey. Compared to the previous year, imports increased by 7.5 percent, totalling 326,412 TEUs (180,534 containers) and 303,596 TEUs (169,605

containers). For 2023, total imports reached 3,990,270 TEUs (2,212,980 containers), a 16.9 percent decrease compared to the 4,804,436 TEUs (2,663,226 containers) recorded in 2022. December 2023 exports increased 1.4 percent compared to December 2022. A total of 104,278 TEUs (56,013 containers) passed through the Port of New York and New Jersey in December 2023 versus 102,866 TEUs (55,544 containers) the previous year. For 2023, exported loads reached 1,284,976 TEUs (693,781 containers), a 1.1 percent decrease from the 1,299,070 TEUs (703,472 containers) recorded in 2022. In 2023, the seaport was the second busiest in the nation for loaded imports and exports, handling 5.3 million loaded TEUs throughout the year. Export empties decreased by 1.7 percent in December, totalling 200,746 TEUs and 204,115 TEUs in December 2022. A total of 2,512,038 export empties were recorded in 2023, a 25.4 percent decrease compared to the 3,369,519 TEUs of 2022. Import empties rose by 10.1 percent in 2023 versus the previous year.

Port of New York and New Jersey total volume for 2023 exceeds pre-COVID numbers, February 7, 2024, www.ajot.com

Coast Guard finalizes 2024 Great Lakes Pilotage Rates

On February 9, 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) published a Final Rule in the Federal Register outlining U.S. Great Lakes pilotage rates for the 2024 shipping season. The new rates seek to generate revenue for each of the three U.S. Great Lakes pilot associations by implementing hourly charges for pilotage services according to geographic area. Pilotage rates are paid by vessel operators serving Great Lakes ports. Although pilotage is a necessary service for safe navigation, Great Lakes ports have historically criticized the Coast Guard for being insensitive to high pilotage costs, which can negatively impact the competitiveness of maritime commerce on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system. The Coast Guard proposes to increase the overall cost of U.S. Great Lakes pilotage in 2024 compared to 2023 by \$2.6 million or 7 percent. In 2024, the USCG is proposing a total workforce of 58 fully registered pilots and 6 apprentice pilots. The Coast Guard will be increasing annual individual pilot compensation from \$424,318 to a new high of \$440,658 - a 3.8 percent increase.

Coast Guard finalizes 2024 Great Lakes Pilotage Rates, February 9, 2024, www.ajot.com



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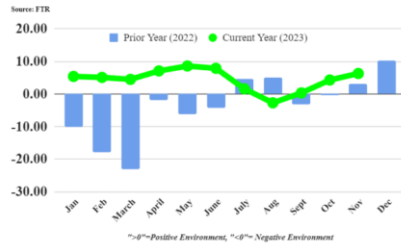
**North
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Transportation's Top Stories

Road Transport Updates

CANADA

Economic Trucking Trends: Spot rates pull back as severe winter weather fades



Source: Today's Trucking

It was a quiet week for trucking economic news, with spot market rates pulling back due to milder weather, shippers continuing to enjoy falling diesel prices, and used truck prices reaching their weakest points since April 2021. Conditions improved for shippers in November, according to the latest FTR Shippers Conditions Index (SCI), which came in at a reading of 6.3. That reflects the most favorable conditions for shippers since last June. Thank lower fuel prices. And don't get too comfortable. *Economic Trucking Trends: Spot rates pull back as severe winter weather fades, February 2, 2024, www.todaystrucking.ca*

We Want to Make Canadian Highways Safer. And We Need Your Help



Source: Cantruck

Truck drivers move Canada's economy, and their voices need to be heard when decision makers consider infrastructure improvements and highway safety. The calls to improve highway safety in Canada are getting increasingly louder and the Canadian Trucking Alliance wants to hear from drivers, as well as fleet operators and safety managers to get insights into the issues and challenges and feedback on what they believe the solutions should be. Whether it's opinions on highway construction and poor road design, unsafe driving from other drivers, the lack of rest areas or cellular coverage in various parts of the country, we want to know your thoughts. CTA has launched a Canada Highway Safety Perceptions survey and is asking members fleets and the wide industry to circulate it to their drivers and encourage participation. The survey – accessed here – is accessible online and by smartphones in English and French. The survey requires no personal or corporate information to participate, and all results will be presented generically.

We Want to Make Canadian Highways Safer. And We Need Your Help, February 5, 2024, www.cantruck.ca

B.C. fines carrier that hit Massey Tunnel roof \$2,371



Source: Today's Trucking

B.C.'s Commercial Vehicle and Safety Enforcement (CVSE) agency last week fined a trucking company \$2,371 after one of its tractor-trailers hit the roof of the Massey Tunnel in the Greater Vancouver Area on Jan. 10, 2024. The driver was issued a violation ticket for failing to remain at the scene of a collision under Sec. 68(1) of the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act, according to an RCMP news release. The B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure had immediately suspended the carrier – T S D Holdings – grounding all 20 vehicles in its fleet. Following an investigation, CVSE issued violation tickets to the carrier, and required it to submit an action plan for safe transport of oversized loads before lifting the suspension on Jan. 19. CVSE continues to monitor the carrier, the release said. On Jan. 10, Richmond RCMP responded to a report of a combination commercial vehicle and trailer collision with the roof area of the Massey Tunnel midspan. Evidence was discovered suggesting that the tunnel had sustained damage and needed to be immediately closed until a thorough structural assessment could be completed by the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

B.C. fines carrier that hit Massey Tunnel roof \$2,371, February 6, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

US/WORLD

Transportation prices grow for first time in 19 months, survey says

Transportation prices flipped to expansion for the first time in 19 months as retailers increase inventories, a Tuesday supply chain report said. The Logistics Managers' Index (LMI) was up 5 percentage points to 55.6 in January with all eight components of the index signalling growth. The LMI is a diffusion index in which a reading above 50 indicates expansion while one below 50 signals contraction. This index has been in expansion territory for five of the past six

months. "This growth is driven by an increase in the restocking of inventories — especially for retailers — after a busy holiday season as Americans are clearly feeling better about the overall economy," the report said. An inflection in transportation prices was likely the biggest takeaway from the report.

Transportation prices grow for first time in 19 months, survey says, February 6, 2024, www.freightwaves.com

UPS climbs most since 2022 as cost cuts spur UBS upgrade

United Parcel Service Inc. rose the most in more than a year after UBS Group AG upgraded the courier to buy, predicting the company will continue to rein in expenses following its elimination of 12,000 management jobs. Analyst Thomas Wadewitz anticipates UPS' March 26 investor day will shed light on its plans to support margin expansion and earnings growth even amid muted revenue trends. UPS jumped 4.9% on February 6, 2024 in the biggest one-day gain since November 2022, adding more than \$5 billion to its market value. "We expect UPS to lay out two large levers for cost reduction including automation in buildings and rationalization of facilities that combined could support over \$2 billion of annual cost savings over the next several years," he wrote in a note to clients on February 5, 2024. After a disappointing earnings report last week, UPS said it would save more than \$1 billion by cutting 12,000 of its 85,000 management jobs. Wadewitz also sees potential for UPS to reduce headcount by 20,000 in its sorting and delivery stations through technologies like robotics, which he estimates would save the company roughly \$1.1 billion.

UPS climbs most since 2022 as cost cuts spur UBS upgrade, February 6, 2024, www.ajot.com

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$1.5 Billion in Federal Funding to Modernize Bus Fleets and Deploy Clean Transit Buses Across America

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on February 8, 2024 announced the availability of approximately \$1.5 billion to support American transit vehicle manufacturing – including zero-emission buses – help build bus facilities, and promote workforce development. Historic investment in transit, made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and as part of his Investing in America agenda, will help transit agencies replace aging buses, reduce air pollution, provide good-paying jobs, and improve the reliability of transit systems.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$1.5 Billion in Federal Funding to Modernize Bus Fleets and Deploy Clean Transit Buses Across America, February 8, 2024, www.dot.gov



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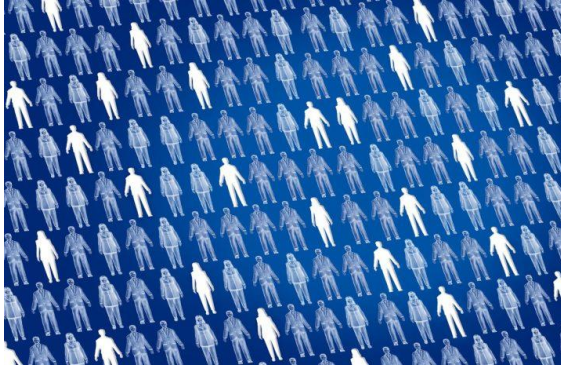
North
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Transportation's Top Stories

Other Transport Updates

CANADA

Almost 20,000 manufacturing jobs unfilled in Ontario



Source: Inside Logistics

Ontario manufacturers continue to face acute workforce needs with 18,900 jobs currently unfilled, over 7,000 confirmed new manufacturing jobs about to open up and significant retirements expected between now and 2028. Breaking this down by region, the Greater Toronto Area, Kitchener-Waterloo and the Hamilton-Niagara region are facing the largest number of vacancies and are expected to face even more pressure as new manufacturing jobs, especially in the auto and electric vehicle sector, are about to come available, according to data from Statistics Canada and analysis by Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME). These vacancies underscore the most pressing challenge facing manufacturers today.

Almost 20,000 manufacturing jobs unfilled in Ontario, February 1, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

Canada reinforcing trade ties with US in advance of presidential election

Canada's trade minister, Mary Ng, went to Washington, DC, last week to reinforce the importance of the Canada-US trade relationship. Ng, whose full title is minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development, met with industry and business leaders in the US capital to discuss ongoing Canada-U.S. collaboration. The talks covered areas of mutual interest, including cross-border supply chains, manufacturing, research and labour. The visit was part of the Team Canada strategy on engagement with the United States, which is co-led by Minister Ng and François-Philippe Champagne, minister of innovation, science and industry, with the collaboration of Kirsten Hillman, Canada's ambassador to the United States.

Canada reinforcing trade ties with US in advance of presidential election, February 5, 2024, www.insidelogistics.ca

Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2023



Source: Statcan

In December 2023, Canada's merchandise exports decreased 1.9%, while imports edged up 0.2%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade balance went from a surplus of \$1.1 billion in November to a deficit of \$312 million in December 2023, the first monthly trade deficit since

July 2023. The December deficit is close to the typical bounds for monthly revisions to imports and exports.
Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2023, February 7, 2024, www.statcan.gc.ca

2024 Compass report: leader survey highlights

The 2024 Compass Report analyzes the business and transportation outlook of executives and leaders in business, labour and government across Canada’s transportation industry. This year’s findings reveal a landscape pressured by economic and geopolitical uncertainties, manifesting in several key challenges. Survey respondents identified their top five current business challenges as economic slowdown, inflation, labour shortages, geopolitical instability, and supply chain resilience/sustainability. These challenges are exacerbated by a generally pessimistic business outlook, with only 20% maintaining an optimistic view for 2024—the lowest level since the inception of the Compass Survey in 2017. Over half (52%) of respondents perceive a deterioration in the business investment climate. They attribute this largely to regulatory hurdles, high costs and government policies, particularly those related to climate change and social issues. Many leaders (57%) rated the regulatory environment as poor, with concerns centred on restrictive regulations and long approval processes.
2024 Compass report: leader survey highlights, February 7, 2024, www.westac.ca

US/WORLD

January 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.7%) Was the Same As the January 2023 Level (4.7%) And Above the Pre-Pandemic January 2019 Level (4.0%)

U.S. Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	Transportation Sector Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
January 2024 4.1%	January 2024 4.7%
▲ 0.2 change from same month last year	↔ 0.0 change from same month last year

Source: BTS

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.7% (not seasonally adjusted) in January 2024 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data have been updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ (BTS) [Unemployment in Transportation](#) dashboard. In January 2024, the transportation sector unemployment rate remained unchanged from 4.7% in January 2023 and was above the pre-pandemic January 2019 level of 4.0%. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May 2020 and July 2020.
January 2024 U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment (4.7%) Was the Same As the January 2023 Level (4.7%) And Above the Pre-Pandemic January 2019 Level (4.0%), February 2, 2024, www.bts.gov

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$110 Million in Relief Funding to Help Public Transportation Providers Recover from Natural Disasters

On February 5, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced nearly \$110 million in funding to [eight public transportation providers and state Departments of Transportation](#) in six states and one U.S. territory to help communities recover from recent natural disasters. The support, provided through FTA’s [Public Transportation Emergency Relief \(ER\) Program](#), will help agencies repair damaged equipment and facilities and recoup costs for evacuation and rescue operations following floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes that occurred in 2017 and 2020-22.
Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$110 Million in Relief Funding to Help Public Transportation Providers Recover from Natural Disasters, February 5, 2024, www.dot.gov

December 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.9% from the Previous Month and Up 1.8% from the Same Month Last Year



Source: BTS

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, rose 0.9% in December 2023 from November 2023, rising for the first month after a one month decline, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From December 2022 to December 2023 the index rose 1.8%

December 2023 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Up 0.9% from the Previous Month and Up 1.8% from the Same Month Last Year, February 7, 2024, www.bts.gov



**The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport**

**North
America**

Transportation's Top Stories Other CILT News

**CILTNA Ottawa Chapter
Pub Social**

The CILTNA Ottawa Chapter hopes you can join us as we kick off the New Year with an informal social at the pub. 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!

Tuesday, 27 February 2024

5 PM – 7 PM

D'Arcy McGee's, 44 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5A8

Cost: CILTNA Members - No charge
Non-Members - \$15.00

To register, please visit:
<https://ciltna.com/events/ottawa-chapter-pub-social/>

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: <https://ciltna.com/events/ottawa-chapter-pub-social/>

Sponsored by:

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

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
60 Minute Webinar
12:00 PM ET/ 9:00 AM PT/ 5:00 PM GMT

Join Charl van Niekerk, CEO of Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, to hear the latest on the Gordie Howe International Bridge and how this critical infrastructure located at the Windsor-Detroit border will seamlessly connect North America.

Charl van Niekerk, CEO of
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

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: <https://ciltna.com/events/a-future-with-the-gordie-howe-international-bridge/>




The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
Women in Logistics and Transport

“Succeeding in Uncertain Times”

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL woman IS A TRIBE OF OTHER successful WOMEN WHO HAVE her back.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 @ 12 pm – 1 pm ET/9 am-10 am PT
 - via Zoom

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

Guest speaker: Peta Wolmarans, Director, Planning at Vancouver International Airport will speak to us about “Succeeding in Uncertain Times”

Peta is a transportation planner and champion of data driven decision-making. She has worked at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) since 2018, as it navigated through both the busiest and quietest years since its inception. She will share lessons learned about resilience and collaboration.

**This event is open to all women (CILTNA members and supporters) so please share this with anyone you feel would be interested in joining us.*

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.



McMaster Institute for Transportation & Logistics (MITL) Presents:

MITL “In Conversation” Luncheon Series:

With Jean Aubry-Morin
 Vice-President, External Relations, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC)

The Green Shipping Corridor at the Heart of the Decarbonation of the New Economy

February 15th, 2024
 12:00 pm-1:00 pm (EST)

Jean Aubry-Morin
 Vice-President, External Relations, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC)



Mr. Aubry-Morin has held various positions in the High Technology industry, and since May 2008, with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) under contract with Transport Canada. He plays a key Senior Leadership role in the management of the inland shipping transportation corridor of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway in Canada and the United States of America. As a Vice-President of External Relations with the Seaway since 2013, he is responsible for stakeholder relations, continuous development, and enforcement of “Seaway Joint Regulations” for marine services jointly with the US Seaway (Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation). His portfolio also includes Trade Relations, Government Relations, Indigenous Affairs & Community Relations, Media, and Public Relations.

Mr. Aubry-Morin, vice-president of external relations at the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), will speak about the “Seaway” network as an essential maritime transportation corridor that supports the economy North American binational. His presentation will focus on the creation, governance and objectives of the Canada Marine Act which guide the SLSMC so that the Corporation fulfills its mandate. He will also address the path of modernization since its commercialization in 1998 and will cover the strategic direction the corporation is taking to face climate change & the new decarbonized economy while the digitalization is at the core of the business strategy.



BRIGHTER WORLD | mcmaster.ca



The McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics invites you to attend our 2024 MITL “In Conversation” Luncheon Series with Jean Aubry-Morin, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation.

The 2024 MITL “In Conversation” Luncheon Series presents timely, transportation and logistics-focused research on a diverse range of topics relevant to academia, government, and private sector. Please share with any colleagues you feel might be interested.

The Green Shipping Corridor at the Heart of the Decarbonation of the New Economy with Jean Aubry-Morin

Thursday, February 15th, 12:00pm-1:00pm (EST)

Free Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/green-shipping-corridor-at-the-heart-of-decarbonation-of-the-new-economy-tickets-825322049467>

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 [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

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>

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