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Transportation's Top Stories

## Air Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### The WestJet Group statement on Encore ratification results



The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), the certified union representing WestJet Encore pilots, on May 10, 2024 announced that its membership did not ratify the tentative agreement, reached on April 8, 2024. The results of the ratification do not impact operations. "We are disappointed to learn that our WestJet Encore pilots have rejected an agreement that is distinctly competitive within Canada's airline industry and solutioned their unique concerns," said Diederik Pen, President of WestJet Airlines and Group Chief Operating Officer. "Our tentative agreement represented a robust negotiation process that got us to our final offer, and while we will meet with ALPA to determine next steps, we will hold firm on what is reasonable to ensure we can continue providing meaningful employment and affordable air travel to Canadians."

*The WestJet Group statement on Encore ratification results, May 10, 2024, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

#### WestJet and IAM reach tentative agreement

WestJet and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the certified union representing WestJet load controllers, reached a tentative agreement on the first collective bargaining agreement between the organizations. Both parties now await the ratification vote to be put forward to membership. "WestJet is pleased to have reached a tentative agreement that recognizes the important contributions of our load controllers," said Diederik Pen, President of WestJet Airlines and Group Chief Operating Officer. "They play an integral role in the safety and performance of our operations and this agreement recognizes the talent, dedication and hard work of this collective group."

*WestJet and IAM reach tentative agreement, May 10, 2024, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

#### The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalty to WestJet for violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has issued an administrative monetary penalty of \$142,500 against WestJet for four violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR) related to personnel training obligations, as well as providing services to persons with a disability. This penalty is for incidents that occurred in October 2023. On October 5, 2023, WestJet failed to ensure that two members of their personnel had received either adequate or timely training, including with respect to interacting with the public, the requirements of the ATPDR regulations and the policies and procedures of the transportation service provider with

respect to persons with disabilities. These contraventions relate to subsection 16(1) and section 21 of the ATPDR. On October 5, 2023, WestJet also failed to assist a passenger with a disability with disembarking a flight and transferring between their passenger seat and a mobility aid upon arrival of the flight. These contraventions relate to subsections 35(f) and 35(h) of the ATPDR. WestJet has 30 days to request a review before the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

*The Canadian Transportation Agency issues administrative monetary penalty to WestJet for violations of the Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations, May 13, 2024, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)*

## **The WestJet Group boosts Calgary's global connectivity through enhanced Winter 787 Schedule**



Source: WestJet

The WestJet Group on May 13, 2024 announced significant enhancements to its transoceanic and leisure travel offering with its winter 787 schedule, revealing expanded year-round service between Calgary International Airport (YYC) and Tokyo Narita International Airport (NRT) and an increase to daily connectivity between Calgary and Paris Charles-de-Gaulle International (CDG) and London Heathrow International (LHR) Airports. As The WestJet Group continues to fortify its position as Canada's leisure travel champion, the airline is also enhancing its 787 presence on popular leisure routes with service between Canada, Mexico and Hawaii. John Weatherill, WestJet Group Executive Vice-President and Chief Commercial Officer said "Our 787 winter schedule reflects the growing demand for year-round international options for business and leisure travellers from our global hub in Calgary to Asia, Europe, and North America...."

*The WestJet Group boosts Calgary's global connectivity through enhanced Winter 787 Schedule, May 13, 2024, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

## **The land of Fire and Ice awaits: The WestJet Group inaugurates non-stop service between Calgary and Iceland**



Photo credit: Kristin Grisdale

The WestJet Group on May 15, 2024 celebrated the takeoff of its highly anticipated service between Calgary and Reykjavik (Keflavik). The exclusive service, linking the Group's global hub in Calgary to Iceland, not only bolsters the airline's efforts to enhance YYC Calgary International Airport's connectivity but reinforces the city's standing as the best connected mid-sized city in North America. With the departure of the sold-out WestJet Flight 38, WestJet marks its seventh direct connection to Europe from its global hub in Calgary this summer *The land of Fire and Ice awaits: The WestJet Group inaugurates non-stop service between Calgary and Iceland, May 15, 2024, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

## **Porter Airlines lands in Saskatoon for the first time**

Porter Airlines is inaugurating service to Saskatchewan for the first time with daily nonstop roundtrip service between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Saskatoon International Airport (YXE). The new service marks the airline's presence in all 10 Canadian provinces for the first time in its history. Passengers will be provided with competitive pricing and experience an elevated service standard that no other airline in North America offers for economy passengers. The route connects to Porter's Eastern Canada network out of Toronto-Pearson, including Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa and St. John's.

*Porter Airlines lands in Saskatoon for the first time, May 16, 2004, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)*

## **US/WORLD**

### **Air Travel Consumer Report: February 2024 Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on May 13, 2024 released its Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational

data compiled for the month of February 2024. For February 2024, 0.6% of *flights were cancelled*, far lower than the 1.8% cancellation rate for February 2023 and the 3.2% cancellation rate for pre-pandemic February 2019. In February 2024, reporting marketing carriers posted an *on-time arrival rate* of 83.7%, up from both 72.8% in January 2024 and 79.5% in February 2023. The year-to-date on-time arrival rate for 2024 is 78.1%. In February 2024, airlines reported *ten tarmac delays* of more than three hours on domestic flights, compared to 71 tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights reported in January 2024. In February 2024, reporting marketing carriers handled 36.1 million bags and posted a *mishandled baggage rate* of 0.48%, lower than both the rate of 0.75% in January 2024 and the rate of 0.61% in February 2023. In February 2024, reporting marketing carriers reported checking 54,929 *wheelchairs and scooters and mishandling* 716 for a rate of 1.30% mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, lower than both the rate of 1.48% mishandled in January 2024 and the rate of 1.40% mishandled in February 2023.

*Air Travel Consumer Report: February 2024 Numbers, May 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

Source: BTS

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a 2023 after-tax net profit of \$7.8 billion, and a pre-tax operating profit of \$13.2 billion.

*US Airlines gain \$7.8 billion in 2023, an increase over 2022, May 15, 2024, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

### DOT Fines Volaris \$300,000 for Unlawfully Keeping Hundreds of Passengers on the Tarmac for Hours

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on May 15, 2024 fined Volaris Airlines \$300,000 for violating federal statutes and the Department's rule prohibiting tarmac delays of four hours or more on international flights without providing passengers an opportunity to deplane. The airline was also ordered to cease and desist from future similar violations.

*DOT Fines Volaris \$300,000 for Unlawfully Keeping Hundreds of Passengers on the Tarmac for Hours, May 15, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

### US Airlines gain \$7.8 billion in 2023, an increase over 2022

2023 Net Profit: \$7.8 billion  
↑ \$6.3B from 2022 (\$1.6B)



Scheduled Passenger Airlines



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## Rail Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### Negotiations with the TCRC

CN has been made aware that the Minister of Labour has requested clarity, on May 9, 2024, from the Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) on whether or not any services are essential and therefore must be maintained during a labour disruption. As a result of that request, there can be no strike or lockout before the CIRB issues a decision. It is highly unlikely that such determination could be made before May 22. However, CN strongly believes that the current uncertainty around a labour disruption must be resolved decidedly and as soon as possible for employees, customers, and Canadians who depend on rail to get them everyday essential goods. The Company continues to seek a negotiated agreement with the TCRC. *Negotiations with the TCRC, May 10, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)*

#### Unifor Affiliated CNTL Drivers Ratify New Collective Agreement

CN announced on May 14, 2024 that the tentative agreement between CNTL, a CN subsidiary dedicated to first and last mile trucking container pickup and deliveries, and owner-operators affiliated with Unifor has been ratified. This four-year agreement covers approximately 750 owner-operators under contract with CNTL in Canada until December 31, 2027. Remi G. Lalonde, Executive Vice-President and Chief Commercial Officer at CN said "We are pleased that CNTL reached this new agreement with Unifor through collaborative negotiations. We are committed to working with owner-operators to support business needs and ensure that they can deliver critical first mile and last mile services to our customers." *Unifor Affiliated CNTL Drivers Ratify New Collective Agreement, May 14, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)*

#### CN unveils innovative Transload Facility in Flat Rock



Source: AJOT

CN indicated that it was pleased to announce the grand opening of its new transload logistics facility in Flat Rock, Michigan. Target Steel, the facility's first customer, will convert a large part of its traffic from trucks to rail for steel coils. This resulting streamlining of operations and removal of a substantial number of heavy-weight trucks off highways, is expected to reduce related greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75%. Helen Quirke, Vice-President, Supply Chain and Business Development, CN said "We are excited to open this state-of-the-art facility in Flat Rock. It is a testament to CN's commitment to sustainable logistics solutions. This facility exemplifies our dedication to innovation, growth and environmental stewardship to power the economy."

*CN unveils innovative Transload Facility in Flat Rock, May 24, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*

#### FRA Makes More Than \$2 Billion in New Funding Available to Continue Improving America's Busiest Passenger Rail Corridor

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on May 14, 2024 issued a Notice of Funding

Opportunity (NOFO) that makes available over \$2 billion in Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program funding for projects located on the Northeast Corridor (Fed State-NEC). The corridor supports 800,000 passengers per day and billions of dollars in annual economic activity. Modernizing this critical infrastructure to provide safer, faster and more reliable passenger rail service for travelers and commuters is a key part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda.

*FRA Makes More Than \$2 Billion in New Funding Available to Continue Improving America's Busiest Passenger Rail Corridor, May 14, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

## **Feds ask Canada Industrial Relations Board to review potential rail strike**

The Ministry of Labour has asked the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to look into the potential rail workers' strike and if it would impact the health and safety of Canadians. Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan Jr. posted on social media May 9, 2024 addressing the situation, writing, "Today I asked the Canada Industrial Relations Board to look into maintenance of activities agreements between @TeamstersRail, @CNRailway & @CPKCrail. Serious concerns have been raised about potential impacts to the health and safety of Canadians. It's our duty to look into this." Inside Logistics reported May 2, 2024 that the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) announced that close to 10,000 workers at CN and CPKC had voted to authorize strikes at both companies, potentially impacting Canada's supply chain. Unless an agreement can be reached, a work stoppage could occur as early as May 22, 2024.

*Feds ask Canada Industrial Relations Board to review potential rail strike, May 16, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*

## **Update on TCRC collective bargaining negotiations**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CP) on May 1, 2024 published the following update on collective bargaining with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC): CPKC and the TCRC leadership will resume meeting on May 17, 2024 with the assistance of federal mediators in an effort to achieve new collective agreements for our Train and Engine (T&E) and Rail Traffic Controller (RCTC) employees.

*Update on TCRC collective bargaining negotiations, May 16, 2024, [www.cpkc.ca](http://www.cpkc.ca)*

## **CN Presents Simplified Offer to TCRC to Achieve a Deal**

In an attempt to avoid a work stoppage and end the unpredictability for Canada's supply chains, CN tabled a new offer to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC). The new offer remains fully compliant with the Federal Government's Duty and Rest Period Rules (DRPR) which define the requirements related to the hours of work and rest periods for employees who are in positions designated critical to safe railway operations. Since the beginning of bargaining in 2023, CN's proposals have focused on modernizing the collective agreement to enhance employee safety, introducing predictable scheduling with planned consecutive days off, better work-life balance, and increased financial compensation.

*CN Presents Simplified Offer to TCRC to Achieve a Deal, May 16, 2024, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)*

## **US/WORLD**

## **Weekly Rail Traffic for the Week Ending May 11, 2024 and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 19**



Source: RailwayAge

Through the first 19 weeks of 2024 (ending May 11, 2024), total North American carload and intermodal traffic rose 2.0% from the same point last year, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported on May 8, 2024. The U.S., Canada and Mexico all experienced gains. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 468,748 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.6 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending May 11 were 209,319 carloads, down 7.0 percent compared with the same week in 2023, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 259,429 containers and trailers, up 7.7 percent compared to 2023. Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2023. Canadian railroads reported 94,624 carloads for the week, up 5.1 percent, and 73,591 intermodal units, up 4.1 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 19 weeks of 2024, Canadian

railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 3,064,779 carloads, containers and trailers, up 0.9 percent.

*Weekly Rail Traffic for the Week Ending May 11, 2024, May 15, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com) and AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 19, May 15, 2024, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)*



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## Marine Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### BC port foreman contract talks stall as government delays rail strike threat



Source: JOC

Negotiations between port employers on the West Coast of Canada and a foremen's union have stalled, raising risk of labor disruption for the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert as the federal government tries to head off a separate rail strike threat. The British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) has filed a complaint with Canada's labor tribunal accusing Local 514 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) of "protracting negotiations" over a new four-year contract covering 730 union foremen, the BCMEA said in a statement on May 10, 2024. The announcement comes a day after Canadian Labor Minister Seamus O'Regan Jr. contacted the Canadian Industrial Relations Board.

*BC port foreman contract talks stall as government delays rail strike threat, May 13, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)*

#### Government of Canada announces support to relieve supply chains congestion and enhance efficiency at the Port of Sept-Îles

The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Diane Lebouthillier, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$10 million through the National Trade Corridors Fund for the Port of Sept-Îles. The project involves updating the Monseigneur-Blanche terminal at the port to better support marine towing and navigation assistance services for port traffic. More specifically, the project will: 1. maintain trade volumes by providing safe infrastructure for marine towing services; 2. maintain and secure tugboat operations to better serve cargo vessels; 3. provide the iron and aluminum industry with navigational assistance for the ocean-going ship movements that use the port; 4. maintain the port's supply and export chains; 5. ensure the continuity of cruise ship operations; and 6. ensure the terminal is safe and more resilient to climate change.

*Government of Canada announces support to relieve supply chains congestion and enhance efficiency at the Port of Sept-Îles, May 15, 2024, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

#### Centre of Expertise in Port Logistics launched in Quebec

The creation of a new logistics expertise centre was announced in Quebec, and will operate with the goal of carrying out applied research projects for the industry, as well as develop competitive, intelligent, and sustainable logistics chains. The Centre of Expertise in Port Logistics took advantage of the fourth annual Assises québécoises du secteur maritime to announce the launch, as well as introduce its board of directors, members, and general manager.

## US/WORLD

### Yang Ming nearly triples Q1 profits on improving shipping market



Source: JOC

Yang Ming Marine Transport nearly tripled net profit in the first quarter on the back of higher freight rates and improved economic conditions while holding out the prospect of an even better nine months ahead. Taiwan's second-largest container line cited a raft of reasons for its optimism in a commentary on its first-quarter results on May 10, 2024. These included better-than-expected economic growth both for the global economy and China in particular, the latter boosted by government stimulus measures, and recovery in the US, India and other emerging countries. Inflation is easing in most economies, improving household purchasing power, Yang Ming noted.

*Yang Ming nearly triples Q1 profits on improving shipping market, May 10, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)*

### Failed electrical breaker triggered Dali crash: NTSB



Source: JOC

The Dali suffered two electrical blackouts on its outbound transit from the Port of Baltimore when infrequently used electrical breakers unexpectedly tripped, shutting down the engine and navigational control, the US federal agency investigating the fatal accident that closed most of the port for nearly two months said on May 14, 2024. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released the initial findings on the incidents that led to the collision of the 9,962-TEU ship with the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which toppled into the Baltimore harbor following the crash. At the time of its departure, the Dali's crew configured the ship's electrical system.

*Failed electrical breaker triggered Dali crash: NTSB, May 14, 2024, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)*

### Container ship lacked backup system to avoid Baltimore bridge strike

Cargo vessels are not equipped with backup power sufficient to avoid situations such as the one in March 2024 when the container ship Dali struck and collapsed Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, the country's top transportation safety investigator told lawmakers. Testifying before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday, National Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy said the backup generator that kicked in after the Dali lost power roughly half a mile from the bridge restored emergency lighting, navigation functions, radio equipment, alarms and a steering pump that allowed for low-speed, limited rudder movements. That wasn't enough. "It does not power propulsion, and without the propeller turning, the rudder was less effective — they were essentially drifting," she told the committee.

*Container ship lacked backup system to avoid Baltimore bridge strike, May 15, 2024, [www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)*



## **Port of Long Beach Cargo volumes climb in April**

Trade moving through the Port of Long Beach gained momentum in April 2024, marking the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year cargo growth at the nation's second-busiest seaport. Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 750,424 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) last month, up 14.4% from April 2023. Imports rose 16.3% to 364,665 TEUs and exports declined 19.9% to 98,266 TEUs. Empty containers moving through the Port increased 30.7% to 287,493 TEUs. "Imports are steadily climbing as we continue to work with industry partners to rebuild our market share," said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. "We are strengthening our competitiveness with our brand of operational excellence, customer service and ongoing infrastructure investments that will keep cargo moving efficiently well into the future." "Our highly skilled workforce and terminal operators continue to raise the bar on growing cargo volumes safely and sustainably," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bobby Olvera Jr. "Our collaboration with labor and industry makes us the Port of Choice."

*Port of Long Beach Cargo volumes climb in April, May 14, 2024, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*



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# Road Transport Updates

## CANADA

### Canada's fleets see 67% increase in EV adoption, Geotab finds

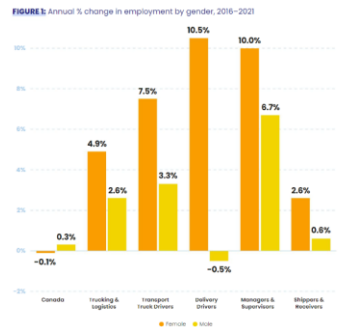
There has been a 67% increase in EV adoption among Canadian commercial fleets year-over-year, concluded Geotab's recent global report on the state of commercial transportation in Q1, 2024. This edition of the report highlighted key trends, challenges, and potential within the industry. While the report found that fleets using proactive safety features through Geotab – including predictive data intelligence – saw a 40% reduction in collision rates globally, it has also recorded Canadian fleets' achievements in enhancing operations and moving towards achieving their sustainability goals.

Canada's fleets see 67% increase in EV adoption, Geotab finds, May 10, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

report. Of those women who would consider a career in trucking and logistics, the majority would prefer office jobs over driving a truck. While the industry has made significant progress in attracting female talent to the industry, there is much more work to be done. The trucking industry employed 26,235 more women in 2021 than in 2016, and the number of female truck drivers increased by 43% in these five years, reaching 14,270. However, women still make up around 4% of the Canadian truck driving force. Last year, trucking HR Canada (THRC) surveyed 1,500 Canadian women — who were either active job-seekers or represented the current industry's workforce as an employer or employee — to better understand the barriers to entry women experience in the trucking industry.

Safety, industry image remain top concerns among women: THRC, May 13, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)

### Safety, industry image remain top concerns among women: THRC



Source: Today's Trucking

One in four career-seeking women would consider a job in the trucking and logistics sector, according to Trucking HR Canada's survey

### Ontario Introducing Stiff Penalties to Combat Auto Theft

The Ontario government is cracking down on auto theft by introducing legislation that, if passed, would suspend driver's licences for people convicted of the crime. With auto thefts and carjackings on the rise across the province, the legislation would help deter potential thieves and make it more challenging for criminals to re-offend. "Car theft is a cowardly and often violent crime that can traumatize victims and communities who experience it," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is sending a clear message to those who commit these crimes and using every tool in our toolbox to keep them off our streets."

Ontario Introducing Stiff Penalties to Combat Auto Theft, May 14, 2024, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

## Freight markets should improve in the second half, but it's 'status quo' for now



Source: Today's Trucking

Overall truck loadings have been flat through last year and this year, but there's reason to believe they'll begin to improve in the third quarter. That's the word from Avery Vise, FTR's vice-president of trucking, who was speaking on a recent State of Freight webinar. But he tempered expectations by adding "I would say it's not going to be overall particularly robust growth." At this point of a long-running freight recession, fleets can be forgiven for grabbing onto any positive projections. And most positive movement for truckers in terms of volumes and rates will come as a result of capacity exiting the market. This process began in 2022, and by late that year the carrier base began to decline consistently on a net basis, Vise explained. "We've had some volatility in this trend, especially recently. But in general, more carriers are still failing than are entering the market." Still, today there are roughly 92,000 more authorized for-hire carriers in the U.S. than existed pre-pandemic, though most of them are one- and two-truck operations. This stemmed from an influx of new entrants beginning in July 2020 as truckers got into business for themselves to chase surging spot market prices. That resulted in an increase of the carrier base to the tune of about 42%, Vise said.

*Freight markets should improve in the second half, but it's 'status quo' for now, May 14, 2024, [www.todyastrucing.ca](http://www.todyastrucing.ca)*

## Urban public transit, March 2024



Source: Statcan

In March 2024, the number of urban transit passenger trips in Canada reached 134.3 million, representing over four-fifths (81.5%) of the March 2019 ridership, before the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents an increase of 6.8% (+8.5 million trips) from March 2023, marking three consecutive years of monthly year-over-year growth since April 2021. However, despite this continued growth, there were over 30 million fewer passenger trips in March 2024 compared with the same month in 2019. In March 2024, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) reached \$317.4 million, an increase of 11.6% (+\$32.9 million) from March 2023. However, this was still \$23.7 million lower than in March 2019, before the pandemic.

*Urban public transit, March 2024, May 16, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## MTO Announces Proposed Enhancements to Roadside Enforcement and Truck Driver Training




Source: Ontruck

Ontario's Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria introduced *The Safer Roads and Communities Act* on May 16, 2024 – a bill that provides additional powers to MTO enforcement officers and initiates a comprehensive review of commercial driver training. "This bill is paving the way by ensuring that enforcement officers have all the necessary powers to keep our roads safe and that our province has the best qualified commercial drivers operating to meet the growing demands of the Ontario supply chain," said Stephen Laskowski, President of the Ontario Trucking Association. "We applaud the government for these changes and for launching industry discussions to identify gaps and meaningful improvements to keep Ontario's roads safe for everyone." Under Chair James Steed, OTA's Board has emphasized the need to raise the bar for commercial driver training and licensing.

*MTO Announces Proposed Enhancements to Roadside Enforcement and Truck Driver Training, May 16, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)*

## US/WORLD



## **INVESTING IN AMERICA: Brent Spence Bridge Project Marks New Milestone as President Biden's Infrastructure**

In a major milestone for the Brent Spence Bridge project between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the project's sponsors have cleared the comprehensive environmental review, setting the stage for a groundbreaking in the coming months. The Biden-Harris Administration has invested \$1.6 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law toward the Brent Spence Bridge, a major transportation corridor that sees over \$1 billion in freight move across it every day. The project will upgrade the existing bridge and build a new additional bridge dedicated to interstate drivers to improve traffic along a critical freight route that runs from Canada to Florida.

*INVESTING IN AMERICA: Brent Spence Bridge Project Marks New Milestone as President Biden's Infrastructure, May 10, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*



## **Cargo theft increased 46% in Q1: CargoNet**

Criminal activities impacting the logistics and transportation industry reached new highs in Q1, 2024, Verisk's CargoNet reports. This year, the organization documented 925 incidents, a 46% increase compared to the same time last year, and a 10% rise from Q4, 2023. On average, the stolen shipment value in Q1 was \$281,757, while the declared total value was \$76 million. By extrapolating the average shipment value across events without a declared value, CargoNet estimates that a total of \$154.6 million worth of goods were stolen during this period. Illinois and California showed the highest spike in cargo thefts.

*Cargo theft increased 46% in Q1: CargoNet, May 10, 2024, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)*



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## Other Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, April 2024



Source: Statcan

In April 2024, the preliminary number of international arrivals to Canada by air and automobile increased 8.9% from April 2023. By air, the number of non-resident arrivals in Canada totalled 640,000 in April 2024, up 12.1% year over year. Meanwhile, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from abroad reached 1.9 million, a 7.5% increase from April 2023. By automobile, US residents took 918,800 trips to Canada in April 2024, up 10.1% from the same month in 2023. The number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States also rose, up 8.7% year over year to 1.9 million trips in April 2024.

Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, April 2024, May 10, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

#### CTA Appears Before Standing Committee on International Trade



Source: Ontruck

The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) joined five other organizations in appearing before the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade, which is focused on the state of the international and domestic supply chain and matters that could be addressed to improve these systems. CTA used the opportunity to provide a brief overview of its supply chain submission, which provided suggestions of how the Government of Canada and the United States could improve transportation policy to improve and bolster the trucking supply chain. The committee members showed interest in trucking issues like the need to provide the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) with support to maintain and increase the presence of sufferance warehouses, address hours of operation at the border for food/ag inspections, the Peace Bridge pre-arrival readiness evaluation (PARE), importance of Gordie Howe bridge investment, truck/driver rest areas and aligning winter road maintenance standards.

CTA Appears Before Standing Committee on International Trade, May 10, 2024, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)

#### Global supply chains operating near maximum capacity

After four years of wild swings that included shortages and glut, global

supply chains are now operating at near capacity according to the most recent GEP Global Supply Chain Volatility Index. The GEP Global Supply Chain Volatility Index — an indicator tracking demand conditions, shortages, transportation costs, inventories, and backlogs based on a monthly survey of 27,000 businesses — rose in April to -0.18, from -0.32 in March, which signals that global supply chains are operating at close to full capacity.

*Global supply chains operating near maximum capacity, May 14, 2024, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*

## Trade by exporter and importer characteristics: Goods, 2023



Source: Statcan

The number of enterprises exporting goods rose by 1.4% to 48,718 in 2023, the highest level since 2005. Meanwhile, the number of enterprises importing goods increased by 2.3% to 163,881. Large enterprises had the highest year-over-year growth for exporters (+5.6%) and importers (+6.2%). The value of goods exported by large enterprises rose by 3.0% to \$420.8 billion in 2023. Conversely, the value of goods exported by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) decreased by 8.6% to \$282.5 billion, primarily among medium-sized enterprises, which have 100 to 499 employees. A similar pattern was observed for goods imports in 2023; large enterprises (+6.7%) increased their import value, while SMEs (-1.9%) decreased theirs.

*Trade by exporter and importer characteristics: Goods, 2023, May 16, 2024, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## US/WORLD



## Biden-Harris Administration Announces Third Year of SMART Grants, Funding Transportation Technology and Innovation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced May 13, 2024 that it is accepting applications for the third year of its **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program**. The SMART Grants Program was made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. As part of the President's Investing in America agenda, the program will fund up to \$500 million in grants over five years to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems that improve transportation safety and efficiency. In the first two rounds of SMART Grants, USDOT selected 93 projects in 39 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, totaling \$148 million.

*Biden-Harris Administration Announces Third Year of SMART Grants, Funding Transportation Technology and Innovation, May 13, 2024, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*



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Thank you to all who participated and attended the 2024 CILTNA Spring Outlook Conference in Vancouver on Friday, May 10th. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our event sponsors:

CN, CPKC, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Railway Association of Canada, Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia, GCT Global Container Terminals, Harbour Link Container Services Inc., British Columbia Institute of Technology, Maritime Magazine and Prince Rupert Port Authority

Thank you also to Victor A. Osei - Bonsu (MBA, MILT, CIM) for taking all of the photographs at the event.

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## Job Postings

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

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

To apply, please click here:

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

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