

FrachtNEWS

Logistics Market Report

**Global Market**

Ocean Freight



Global Markets React to Escalating U.S. Tariffs Amid Consumer Uncertainty

A sweeping escalation in the United States import tariffs has triggered widespread volatility in global financial markets and raised fresh concerns among logistics and supply chain leaders. With newly confirmed tariff rates reaching levels not seen in decades, businesses across the globe are bracing for downstream effects on demand, costs, and trade flows. Deborah Elms, head of trade policy at the Hinrich Foundation, warned that “the cost is going to be significantly higher for American companies and American consumers who will respond surely by buying less” (Irish Independent, 2025). This shift in consumer behavior is expected to depress domestic demand, forcing a recalibration of supply chain strategies across key industries, particularly in manufacturing, retail, and electronics. Beyond U.S. borders, global exporters are already experiencing the strain. Raghuram Rajan, former

IMF chief economist, highlighted the broader implications: “For the rest of the world, this is a serious demand shock” (Irish Independent, 2025). Reduced American import activity could ripple through key supplier economies, amplifying uncertainty for international logistics providers and freight operators. For logistics professionals, the immediate implication is clear: rising trade barriers are reshaping global supply and demand dynamics. With cost pressures building and demand volatility increasing, adaptability in sourcing, routing, and inventory strategies will be crucial to mitigating risk in an evolving tariff landscape.

Source: Irish Independent. (2025, August 1). *Global markets tumble as Trump's tariff reality starts to bite.* Irish Independent.
<https://www.independent.ie/business/irish/global-markets-tumble-as-trumps-tariff-reality-starts-to-bite/a508574994.html>

Global Market

Ocean Freight

New U.S. Trade Agreements Provide Minimal Support for Ocean Freight Market Stability

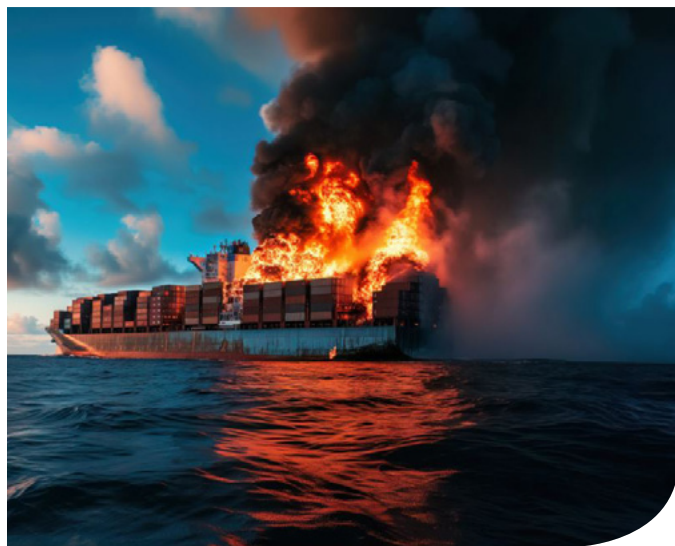
Recent trade agreements between the United States and its international partners are doing little to address the ongoing downturn in the ocean container shipping industry, according to new insights from Xeneta, a global ocean freight rate benchmarking platform. Despite political progress, spot market rates continue to fall sharply across major trade routes. “US trade deals are not a magic bullet and we should not expect them to breathe new life into the subdued ocean shipping market,” stated Emily Stausbøll, Senior Shipping Analyst at Xeneta (Schuler, 2025). Carriers are now cutting capacity on U.S. trade routes in an attempt to slow the rate decline, but global overcapacity remains a significant barrier to recovery. Despite reporting strong earnings in prior years, carriers may struggle to maintain profitability if rate declines persist. Even as some carriers prepare to implement General Rate Increases (GRIs) on transpacific lanes, industry skepticism remains. Given the persistent demand weakness, pricing recovery is expected to remain elusive.

Source: Schuler, M. (2025, July 29). *U.S. Trade Deals Offer Little Relief for Struggling Container Market*. gCaptain.

<https://gcaptain.com/u-s-trade-deals-offer-little-relief-for-struggling-container-market/>



Houthi Group Escalates Maritime Threats in Red Sea, Targeting Vessels with Israeli Ties



The Houthi rebel group in Yemen has issued new threats against commercial vessels connected to nations or companies that conduct business with Israel, escalating risks across crucial maritime corridors. This announcement marks a significant development in what the group is calling a “fourth phase of escalation,” intensifying an already volatile shipping environment in the region. “The Houthis do not have to attack every ship in the Red Sea, but they need to attack enough to keep the threat credible,” explained Afshon Ostovar, associate professor at the Naval Postgraduate School (Mongilio, 2025). As the security situation intensifies, global supply chains must brace for continued volatility in the region.

Source: Mongilio, H. (2025, July 29). *Houthi to Target Ships in Red Sea that Travel to Israeli Ports in New Escalation, Group Says*. USNI News.

<https://news.usni.org/2025/07/29/houthis-to-target-ships-in-red-sea-that-travel-to-israeli-ports-in-new-escalation-group-says>

Global Market

Ocean Freight

Maritime Unions to Convene at Global Summit to Address Automation's Impact

In a significant move to address the growing concern of automation in the global logistics sector, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) are co-hosting a worldwide conference on November 5-6 in Lisbon. The "People Over Profit: Anti-Automation Conference" intends to bring together maritime unions worldwide to foster an integrated effort on this critical issue in port operations. Dennis Daggett, Executive Vice President of the ILA, stated, "the summit was organized to bring to dockworkers, seafarers, tugboat workers, marine engineers, master mates, pilots and all other maritime labor leaders in one place to 'collectively strategize, share experiences and strengthen our united front' against increasing automation" (Taylor, 2025). The IDC, representing 92 organizations across 41 countries and over 100,000 members, has called for unions to confirm their delegate participation by 1 August 2025. The conference underscores a shared concern among global port laborers regarding the increasing deployment of automated technologies and their potential impact on jobs and working conditions. This movement comes at a time when other sectors of the supply chain, including major logistics



and tech firms, are aggressively implementing automation strategies, leading to widespread job reductions. The Lisbon summit will likely shape the next phase of organized labor's global response to this evolving challenge.

Source: Taylor, G. (2025, July 11). ILA, IDC Unite to Host Global Anti-Automation Conference in November. yahoo!news.

https://www.yahoo.com/news/ila-idc-unite-host-global-192451601.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAA_C4MiMaANvNNfmhFPvmZg9fRrkqflnv0Wgwce7aHxrkwgSW8DAhJ-8VuhDe_wKoPXkkYukeknDv6j78DxMyBCFuhJNojvKGvNu1hYdxGyXp2OWgqGGg8dNoCzPLfUVlqUJekezndt9tIrleqeK2lybKXJkmfZ-IT5nT82i4znQ1

Global Market

Air Freight

Market Diversification Key to Air Cargo Growth in Second Half of 2025



Air cargo demand outside the China-US route is growing, but sustaining this shift remains uncertain. Judah Levine, Freightos' head of research, noted, "there's still growth on other lanes, including Chinese e-commerce platforms... that's having a positive impact in not letting volumes slip too much" (Jeffrey, 2025). While transpacific volumes dropped 11% in May, increases on lanes like Asia-Europe and from markets like Taiwan and Vietnam suggest diversification is underway. The second half of 2025 will depend on how well the market adapts to these evolving trade patterns.

Source: Jeffrey, R. (2025, July 11). Second half air cargo volumes depend on market diversification. Air Cargo News.

<https://www.aircargonews.net/supply-chains/second-half-air-cargo-volumes-depend-on-market-diversification/1080374.article>

Global Market

Air Freight

UN Advances Digital Negotiable Cargo Document to Boost Global Trade

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) approved a draft convention to establish negotiable cargo documents across all transport modes. ICAO highlights that this will “empower small businesses to access finance, landlocked nations to participate more fully in global trade, and us all to build a more efficient, resilient, and digitalized trade ecosystem” (Brett, 2025). The move aims to close a legal gap, limiting negotiability of documents outside ocean shipping, enabling faster, safer, and more accessible trade worldwide.

Source: Brett, D. (2025, July 18). *Negotiable air cargo document gains UN commission approval*. Air Cargo News.

<https://www.aircargonews.net/supply-chains/negotiable-air-cargo-document-gains-un-commission-approval/1080409.article#:~:text=Plans%20to%20develop%20a%20negotiable,UNCITRAL%20approved%20a%20draft%20convention>



Global Market

Breakbulk

Multipurpose Vessel Rates Hold Steady Amid Ongoing Market Uncertainty



Source: Kershaw, D. (2025, July 7). *Toepfer Transport's monthly multipurpose shipping rate update*. Heavy Lift & Project Forwarding International. <https://www.heavyliftpf.com/sectors/toepfer-transport-monthly-multipurpose-shipping-rate-update/21174.article>

Toepfer Transport's July 2025 multipurpose shipping index reflects a market holding its ground despite ongoing global uncertainties. “Despite the well-known geopolitical and economic challenges, it remains uncertain whether this stability indicates a strong and resilient market environment or if it's merely a calm before a storm,” Toepfer Transport noted (Kershaw, 2025). Asset values in the MPP segment also appear stable, though there are signs of mild downward pressure on newbuilding prices. However, those potential declines are being offset by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, particularly recent shifts in the U.S. dollar. For logistics and supply chain professionals, the consistency of these rates is significant. It may suggest more predictable pricing for multipurpose cargo movements, which is especially important in a market often shaped by volatility and disruption. While the near-term outlook appears steady, the underlying risks tied to broader economic and political factors mean the industry remains watchful.

North America Market

Ocean Freight



Shifting U.S. Trade Policies Disrupt Import Planning

As the traditional peak season for U.S. imports from Asia would typically gain momentum, the 2025 shipping landscape has instead been marked by unusual volatility. The disruption stems largely from the rapid shifts in U.S. trade policy, particularly the imposition and pausing of tariffs, which have left importers to adopt a more cautious approach while navigating a fog of uncertainty. Lars Jensen, CEO of Vespucci Maritime and analyst for the Journal of Commerce, explains, “As we got into June, US importers changed their perspective and pulled back on the notion of frontloading as valid risk mitigation in the face of increasing tariff uncertainty” (Jensen, 2025). This instability leads importers to restrict their shipments to only what is absolutely necessary. As tariff threats loom and policy remains unpredictable, supply chain stakeholders must brace for continued instability in trade flows and freight market dynamics.

Source: Jensen, L. (2025, July 17). *Whiplash of US tariff policy forces importers into ‘wait-and-see’ mode*. Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/whiplash-of-us-tariff-policy-forces-importers-into-wait-and-see-mode-6045440>



BIMCO Introduces Clause to Navigate U.S. Trade Fee Challenges



In anticipation of new U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) fees targeting Chinese-built and -owned vessels, the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) has released a standardized clause to help the shipping industry manage evolving regulatory risks and contractual uncertainty. BIMCO’s initiative comes amid widespread concern across the maritime sector regarding the operational and legal impact of the fees. In a statement, the association noted that these charges “will significantly raise the cost of seaborne trade to and from the US and add to regulatory challenges for the shipping industry” (Howard, 2025). BIMCO plans to monitor the clause’s effectiveness and revise it as needed to align with evolving regulations and industry demands.

Source: Howard, G. (2025, July 22). *Bimco clause addresses USTR fees on Chinese ships*. Seatrade Maritime. <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulations/bimco-clause-addresses-ustr-fees-on-chinese-ships>

North America Market

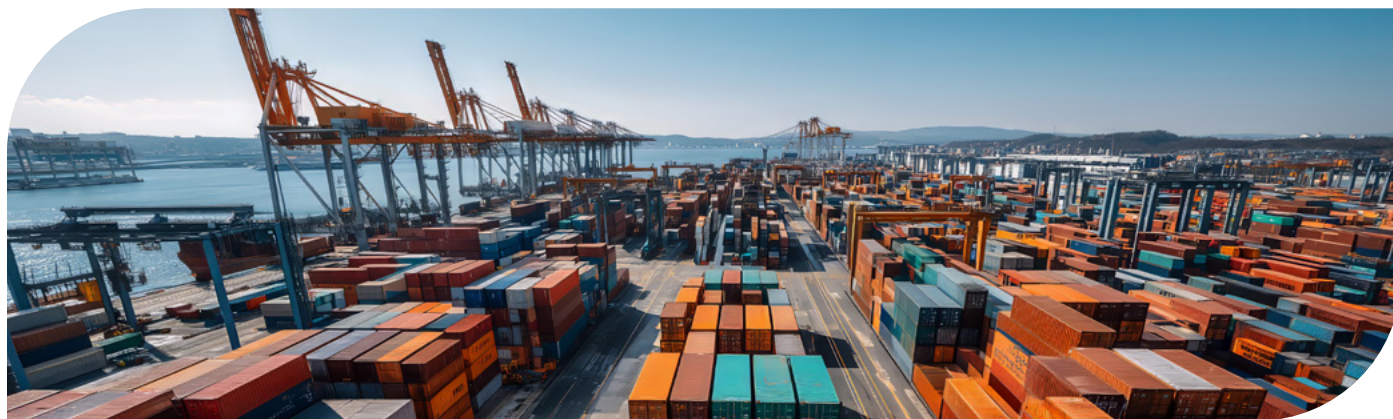
Ocean Freight

Foreign Trade Zones Regain Relevance Amid Ongoing Tariff Uncertainty

Amid shifting U.S. trade dynamics in 2025, companies are taking a renewed interest in Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) as a strategic tool to address tariff unpredictability. An FTZ, distinct from a Free Trade Zone, is a secured site located near a U.S. port of entry and legally considered outside the country for customs purposes. Products within the FTZ are not considered “imported” until they exit the zone, providing importers with greater flexibility to manage tariff exposure. According to Jackson Wood, Director of Industry Strategy,

Global Trade Intelligence for Descartes, “The number one action organizations can take right now to try to minimize the impact of U.S. tariffs is to get creative and be open-minded about the options available—and Foreign Trade Zones are absolutely worth considering” (Goldin, 2025).

Source: Goldin, P. (2025, July 18). *Taking a new look at FTZs to help navigate tariff uncertainty*. American Journal of Transportation. <https://www.ajot.com/insights/full/ai-taking-a-new-look-at-ftzs-to-help-navigate-tariff-uncertainty>



CMA CGM Expands U.S.-Flag Fleet



CMA CGM has taken a significant step in bolstering the American maritime fleet with the reflagging of the CMA CGM Phoenix, now the largest containership to operate under the U.S. flag. This initiative supports the company’s wider plan to scale its U.S. presence, both in logistics capabilities and employment. “By expanding our US-flagged fleet, we will create new jobs, support American exports, and help strengthen the nation’s maritime capabilities for years to come,” said Adeline Franger Chouraqui, CEO of CMA CGM America (Saville, 2025). CMA CGM, which also owns U.S.-flag carrier American President Lines (APL), is aligning this expansion with its broader strategy to increase port capacity and logistics investments across the United States.

Source: Schuler, M. (2025, July 24). *CMA CGM Phoenix Becomes Largest Containership Ever to Fly U.S. Flag*. gCaptain. <https://gcaptain.com/cma-cgm-phoenix-becomes-largest-containership-ever-to-fly-u-s-flag/>

North America Market

Air Freight

US to Suspend De Minimis Exemption for All Imports



Beginning August 29, the U.S. will end the de minimis exemption for goods under \$800 from all countries, affecting supply chains ahead of peak season. Officials noted the policy will “significantly impact import timelines, customs clearance, landed costs, and sourcing strategies” (Jeffrey, 2025). Low-value shipments will now face applicable duties, with full tariffs phased in by country of origin. The change follows earlier removal of de minimis treatment for Chinese goods and aligns with broader tariff actions under the current administration.

Source: Jeffrey, R. (2025, July 31). *US to end de minimis exemption for all countries next month.* Air Cargo News. <https://www.aircargonews.net/e-commerce-logistics/us-to-end-de-minimis-exemption-for-all-countries-next-month/1080462.article>

North America Market

Rail Freight

Coast-to-Coast Rail Alliance Could Reshape U.S. Intermodal Market

In a landmark move reshaping the future of American freight rail, Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS) have announced a definitive merger agreement that will combine their operations into the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. The unified network will span over 52,000 route miles across 43 states and connect roughly 100 ports, forming an expansive corridor from coast to coast. Jim Vena, Union Pacific’s CEO and future head of the combined railroad, emphasized the transformative nature of the merger, stating “Railroads have been an integral part of building America since the Industrial Revolution,

and this transaction is the next step in advancing the industry” (Trains.com Staff, 2025). By uniting East and West rail systems, the merger sets the stage for a new era of domestic freight efficiency, providing a more competitive, environmentally aligned alternative to road transport and aligning with long-term infrastructure goals.

Source: Trains.com Staff. (2025, July 29). *Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern reach \$85 billion merger deal.* Freightwaves. https://www.freightwaves.com/news/union-pacific-and-norfolk-southern-reach-85-billion-merger-deal?oly_enc_id=9241H1871612B5T





Rising Tariffs Strain U.S.-Brazil Trade Relations and Disrupt Global Shipping Networks

Tensions between the United States and Brazil have escalated significantly with the U.S. announcing a 50% tariff on all Brazilian imports, effective August 1. The tariff announcement comes amid increasing political friction between the two nations. Early indications of logistical disruption are already visible. Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has halted its Pearl service, and Maersk is adjusting operational strategies in response to shifting demand and trade flows. Such measures underscore how quickly geopolitical developments can ripple through the maritime sector, affecting supply chain planning and carrier profitability. "Ports handling Brazilian exports to the US may experience fluctuating container volumes, while carriers reconfigure operations to mitigate risks" (Magli, 2025). Logistics stakeholders must remain agile in managing capacity, rerouting cargo, and forecasting demand amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.



Source: Magli, D. (2025, July 10). *US-Brazil trade war intensifies with new 50 per cent tariff*. Port Technology International.
<https://www.porttechnology.org/news/us-brazil-trade-war-intensifies-with-new-50-per-cent-tariff/>

Full Draft Restored at Panama Canal, Enhancing Global Shipping Efficiency



Source: Magli, D. (2025, July 9). *Panama Canal restores full draft amid global trade shifts*. Port Technology International.
<https://www.porttechnology.org/news/panama-canal-restores-full-draft-amid-global-trade-shifts/>

The Panama Canal has fully restored its operational capacity, ensuring seamless transit for global shipping. The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced that the canal now maintains a 50-foot draft, overcoming drought-related constraints from 2023 and early 2024. This milestone enhances reliability for container and bulk vessels navigating East-West and North-South trade routes. Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez Morales, ACP Administrator, noted, "LPG and container volumes are trending upward, while dry bulk has recovered from last year" (Magli, 2025). To meet evolving trade demands, the ACP is exploring infrastructure projects, including expanded transshipment capabilities and a potential liquefied petroleum gas pipeline. The Long-Term Slot Allocation (LoTSA) system has also improved scheduling efficiency, supporting the canal's operational success. The ACP is advancing sustainability with initiatives like hybrid tugboats and a carbon-reduction slot program, alongside community support efforts near the canal. These developments strengthen the canal's role as a cornerstone of global logistics while prioritizing environmental and social responsibility.

Mexico Market

Air Freight



U.S. Tightens Restrictions on Mexican Airlines Over ATA Noncompliance

Mexican airlines are under new scrutiny after failing to comply with international air cargo procedures outlined by the Air Transport Association (ATA). According to reports, U.S. authorities have imposed stricter limitations due to these regulatory breaches. "The airlines were found to have breached ATA regulations, prompting swift U.S. enforcement actions" (Lennane, 2025). This development highlights growing U.S. attention to compliance and may influence how cross-border cargo operations are managed going forward.



Source: Lennane, A. (2025, July 18). Mexican airlines face stiff US restrictions after 'breaching' ATA. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/mexican-airlines-face-stiff-us-restrictions-after-breaching-ata/>

Asian Market

Ocean Freight

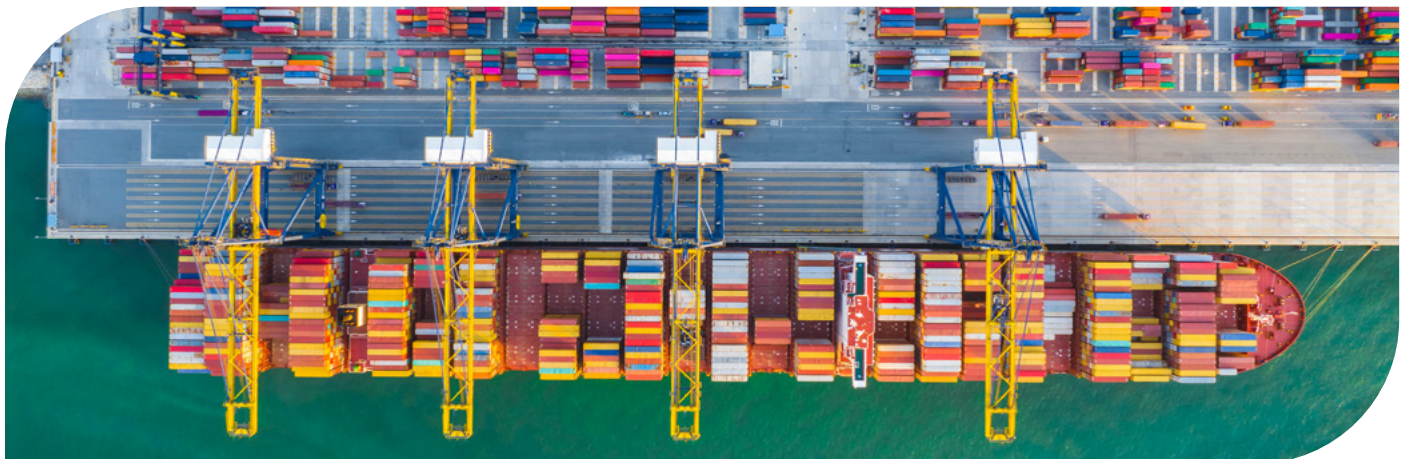


Forwarders Navigate Spot Rate Declines with Anticipated Market Adjustments

In the ever-evolving ocean freight market, recent trends indicate a continued softening of spot container freight rates on key trade routes, including transpacific and Asia-Europe corridors. Despite the absence of general rate increases (GRIs) or peak season surcharges (PSSs) to stabilize pricing, carriers are strategically prioritizing high-yielding spot cargo, which may impact short-term contract allocations. Forwarders and shippers are bracing for potential cost adjustments as the industry navigates this complex landscape, balancing supply chain efficiency with

market realities. A forwarder operating on the Asia-Europe route shared, "We're expecting some surcharges to come in to bring the longer-term rate levels up nearer the short term" (Marle, 2025). However, market analysts remain skeptical about their effectiveness amid continued weak demand.

Source: Marle, G. (2025, July 25). Forwarders expect surcharges as ocean spot rates continue to slide. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/forwarders-expect-surcharges-as-ocean-spot-rates-continue-to-slide/>





Asian Market

Ocean Freight

Thailand-Cambodia Ceasefire Sparks Southeast Asia's Infrastructure Growth

The recently brokered ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia marks a significant turning point for Southeast Asia's logistics and infrastructure landscape. Mediated by Malaysia with diplomatic support from both the U.S. and China, the agreement brought an end to five days of hostilities that had severely disrupted regional trade and displaced hundreds of thousands. As regional tensions ease, investment in infrastructure, logistics, and energy is expected to surge. "The reopening of five major border checkpoints... has already spurred a 30% premium in rerouted logistics contracts" (MarketPulse, 2025).

Source: MarketPulse. (2025, July 28). *Thailand-Cambodia Border Stability: A Catalyst for Southeast Asia's Infrastructure Renaissance*. Alnvest. <https://www.alnvest.com/news/thailand-cambodia-border-stability-catalyst-southeast-asia-infrastructure-renaissance-2507/>



Asian Market

Air Freight

Qantas Freight Expands Asia Links with New Shanghai and Bangkok Routes



Qantas Freight is boosting capacity between Australia and Asia by launching twice-weekly Airbus A330-200 freighter flights from Sydney to Shanghai, marking the first direct service using its own aircraft. Additionally, a new second weekly Asia-U.S. service via Bangkok adds flexibility for shippers. "Global freight demand to and from Asia continues to grow and we're launching this additional capacity to support our customers' fast-moving critical cargo and e-commerce shipments," said Igor Kwiatkowski, Qantas Freight's executive manager (Kulisch, 2025). These developments improve direct access to China's busiest cargo port and U.S. destinations.

Source: Kulisch, E. (2025, June 23). *Qantas Freight adds freighter connections to Shanghai, Bangkok*. Freight Waves. <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/qantas-freight-adds-freighter-connections-to-shanghai-bangkok>

European Market

Ocean Freight



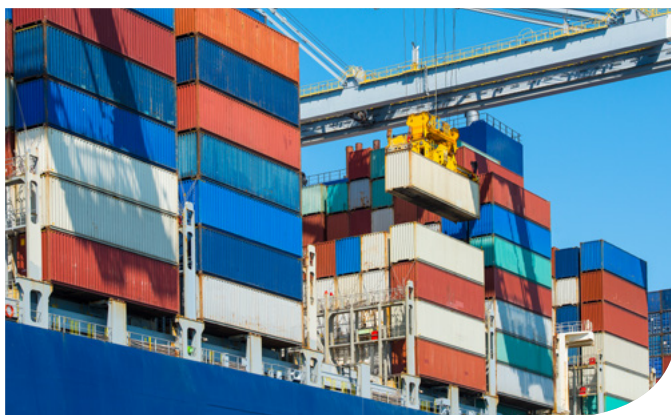
New Transatlantic Trade Pact Signals Improved U.S.-EU Cooperation

In a pivotal move for global commerce, the United States and the European Union have reached a new trade agreement, just days before a looming policy deadline. The trade pact is designed to address long-standing concerns about fairness and access between the two markets. The accord is expected to facilitate investment between the two economies and support job stability on both sides of the Atlantic. “The deal, according to European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, is a 15% tariff across the board” (CBS News, 2025). As the logistics and trade communities await the implementation phase, the deal presents new opportunities for shippers, forwarders, and supply chain stakeholders to capitalize on a more collaborative and balanced transatlantic trade environment.

Source: CBS News. (2025, July 28). *Trump says U.S. has reached trade deal with European Union as Aug. 1 deadline loomed.* CBS News.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-european-union-trade-deal-reached-scotland/>



North European Ports Brace for Surge in Asian Imports Amid Terminal Strain



Source: Knowler, G. (2025, July 25). *Wave of Asian boxes to hit congested North Europe ports in August-September.* Journal of Commerce.
<https://www.joc.com/article/wave-of-asian-boxes-to-hit-congested-north-europe-ports-in-august-september-6050283>

North European ports are expected to face significant operational pressure in August and September as a surge of container volumes from Asia arrives at terminals that are already operating near capacity. This influx coincides with sustained double-digit growth in European import demand and strained infrastructure throughout much of the year. Lars Jensen, CEO of Vespucci Maritime, emphasized the implications of these volumes: “The lack of progress in removing port congestion in Europe is worrying seen in the light of this coming peak load of cargo” (Knowler, 2025). Shipping lines are attempting to adapt through operational adjustments like port omissions, direct calls to secondary ports, and inland depot usage. Terminals are urged to enhance berth planning and leverage advanced forecasting tools to better manage vessel arrivals and yard capacity. Moving containers to inland depots is another strategy to alleviate pressure on deep-sea terminals.

European Market

Air Freight

Ukrainian Resilience Takes Flight with Modernized An-124

Antonov Airlines has successfully returned a modernized An-124 to the skies, showcasing Ukraine's aerospace capability despite ongoing challenges. Originally built in 1994, the aircraft (UR-82073) was upgraded with Western and Ukrainian systems, replacing legacy Russian components. "Relocation of [the An-124] became not just a technical solution, but a symbol of the stability, professionalism and unity of Ukrainian aircraft manufacturers," the company stated (Kaminski-Morrow, 2025). The flight from Kyiv to Leipzig on 11 July marks not only a technical milestone, but a broader signal of recovery for Ukrainian aviation.



Source: Air Cargo News. (2025, July 21). Antonov Airlines flies modernised An-124 out of Kyiv. <https://www.aircargonews.net/freighter-operators/antonov-airlines-flies-modernised-an-124-out-of-kyiv/1080415.article>

African Market

Ocean Freight



Shifting Trade Routes and Port Congestion Disrupt African Supply Chains



Source: Whiteman, A. (2025, July 15). Carriers introduce surcharges as congestion builds at African ports. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/carriers-introduce-surcharges-as-congestion-builds-at-african-ports/>

Shipping congestion continues to escalate across several African ports, prompting major ocean carriers to introduce pricing adjustments as they navigate persistent disruptions in the wake of broader geopolitical instability. CMA CGM and MSC have announced new surcharges on services moving between India, the Middle East, and Africa. Hapag-Lloyd is also expected to take similar action. While peak season demand is cited as a contributing factor, the primary strain stems from severe delays and reduced port productivity. The latest conflict in the Middle East has further compounded the operational challenges facing the region. As Cindy Luyt, General Manager of 1Up Cargo South Africa, explained: "In Southern African ports there have been a number of vessels stopping for repairs and bunkering due to the large number rerouting via Cape of Good Hope rather than transiting the troubled Red Sea, and avoiding the Suez Canal" (Whiteman, 2025). With vessel bunching, longer lead times, and strained infrastructure, shippers should anticipate continued schedule volatility throughout the coming months.

Oceania Market

Ocean Freight



Australia's Maritime Sector Gains International Recognition for Environmental Leadership

Ports Australia has been named a finalist in the 2025 International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) Sustainability Awards for its groundbreaking emissions guidance tool, reflecting growing international recognition for Australia's leadership in environmental responsibility within maritime logistics. According to Ports Australia CEO Mike Gallacher, "As Australia moves toward a net-zero economy, it's important for our ports to have alignment and clarity on emissions inventories. While undertaking this project, we found that there was nothing else like this in the world, so our ports have come together to develop this guidance that will not only benefit port operators, but also other key stakeholders, such as tenants and service operators" (Newton, 2025). The winners of the IAPH Sustainability Awards will be announced at the World Ports Conference in Kobe, Japan, in October 2025.



Source: Newton, A. (2025, July 22). *Ports Australia nominated for sustainability awards*. The Daily Cargo News. <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/ports-australia-nominated-for-sustainability-awards>

ESG Market

Ocean Freight

Southern Africa Detours Spark Surge in Ocean Freight Emissions Amid Red Sea Disruptions



The prolonged detours of container ships around southern Africa, prompted by ongoing security threats in the Red Sea, have resulted in a significant rise in the carbon footprint of maritime operations. Alan Murphy, CEO of Sea-Intelligence Maritime Analysis, noted, "In an era with high focus on reductions of carbon emissions, the impact of the Red Sea crisis on specifically container shipping has been an increase in emissions matching the total annual emissions of Cambodia" (Knowler, 2025). Carriers have aimed to minimize environmental impact by sailing at reduced speeds, improving fuel efficiency, and optimizing vessel capacity. However, the increase in total emissions is colliding with incoming European Union regulations, including the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and FuelEU Maritime initiative. Carriers plan to streamline compliance by integrating these regulations into a single fuel surcharge, though this approach has sparked concerns among shippers due to limited transparency.

Source: Knowler, G. (2025, July 14). *Africa diversions drive sharp rise in ocean carrier emissions*. Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/africa-diversions-drive-sharp-rise-in-ocean-carrier-emissions-6042937>