

CANADA Daily News and Updates June 20th 2024

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Air Updates

WestJet Cancels Some 40 Flights in Anticipation of Strike by Mechanics

As of Wednesday, the WestJet Group had cancelled about 40 flights in anticipation of a possible strike by its aircraft maintenance workers today.

WestJet says it started cancelling and consolidating its flights in order to park aircraft in a safe and organized manner.

Some 670 WestJet mechanics, represented by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, are poised to walk off the job as early as Thursday night after serving the airline with strike notice earlier this week.

The flight cancellations came as WestJet waits for a response to its request that the Canadian Industrial Relations Board intervene.

If accepted, the move would refer the dispute to arbitration and prevent labour action by both sides, the company says.

Read more in an [article from CHEK News](#).

Ocean Updates

Beware a Potential Flaw in Index-Linked Ocean Container Shipping Contracts

Index-linked contracts are becoming increasingly popular in ocean freight container shipping, but some contain a potential flaw that could cost shippers vast sums of money.

The problem arises when a shipper uses 40ft equivalent containers (FEU) to transport their goods but the contract with the service provider (carrier or freight forwarder) is linked to a 20ft equivalent container index (TEU).

To illustrate the potential magnitude of this issue, if a business is shipping 1,000 FEUs from China to South America and paying rates based on a TEU index, it could be costing upwards of US\$4.3 million too much at today's rates.

Read more in an [article from Xeneta](#).

Major Box Lines Enhance Their Coverage of India Trades as Demand Grows

Major container lines are boosting their coverage of the India trades to tap into anticipated stronger export/import demand growth amid the trade diversification in Asia.

Container industry stakeholders are generally bullish on India's economic indicators. The latest trade data also signals a rebound in goods export volumes – up 9% year on year by value last month.

Recent sailings out of Nhava Sheva and Mundra on the larger tradelanes of Europe and the U.S. have reported full capacity utilization rates, according to port sources.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).