

CANADA Daily News and Updates July 12th 2024

Ocean Updates

- Global Demand for Ocean Container Shipping Hits All-Time High
- The Age of Alliance Domination of East-West Box Trades May Be Over

Rail Updates

- Port of Montreal Completes Rail Optimization Project

Ocean Updates

Global Demand for Ocean Container Shipping Hits All-Time High

Global demand for ocean freight container shipping hit an all-time record in May amid soaring spot rates and severe port congestion, according to data released by Xeneta and Container Trades Statistics.

In May, 15.94 million TEU were transported by ocean, surpassing the previous record of 15.72 million TEU from May 2021. Year-to-date volumes are just under 74 million TEU, a 7.5% increase compared with the first five months of 2023.

“More containerized goods are being shipped by ocean than ever before at a time when available capacity is impacted by diversions around Africa due to conflict in the Red Sea and severe port congestion in Asia and Europe,” said Emily Stausbøll, Xeneta Senior Shipping Analyst. “This is a perfect storm of pressure on ocean supply chains which has resulted in the chaos of recent months.”

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

The Age of Alliance Domination of East-West Box Trades May Be Over

The market share of independent container shipping services on the major east-west deepsea trades has climbed in recent months and, according to new data from Sea-Intelligence Consulting, is returning to pandemic-era levels.

According to the analyst, as many as a third of services offered on the transpacific trade over the next three months are expected to be provided outside of vessel-sharing agreements, including express services operated independently by alliance-member carriers.

“The Asia-North America West Coast tradelane is poised to see a sharp increase in the capacity share of non-alliance services in the coming months,” said Sea-Intelligence chief executive Alan Murphy. “The data shows that nearly 30% of the deployed capacity on the tradelane is scheduled to be offered on services operated outside of the alliance structures.

“We see a similar pattern for Asia-North Europe, but less so for Asia-North America East Coast and Asia-Mediterranean.”

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

Rail Updates

Port of Montreal Completes Rail Optimization Project

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has completed its extensive project to optimize rail capacity, a flagship project to improve the performance and fluidity of its logistics services. Phased in over three years at a total cost of \$62.4 million, this ambitious project that extends from Bourbonnière Avenue to Panet Street, near the Jacques-Cartier Bridge, signals a major increase in the Port of Montreal's rail capacity.

Through the project, the MPA installed two new tracks totalling 6 km of additional track and six switches to serve the 14 terminals and relocated the Port Road and all related infrastructure (sewer, water supply, power and telecom networks, etc.).

Read more in a [press release from the Port of Montreal](#).