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Ocean Updates

Liner Schedule Reliability Worsened in a Q4 'Rife with Challenges'

The pervasive headwinds of Q4 24 translated into yet another decline in ocean shipping schedule reliability – but there are signs of a welcome respite for shippers on the horizon.

Liner database eeSea on Thursday published its Schedule Reliability Scorecard, which reveals average delays reached 4.8 days globally in Q4, up on Q3's average of 4.5 days.

The period was "rife with challenges, and it shows", said eeSea.

"While still comfortably shy of the worst global delays of 7.7 days during the peak COVID years, 2024 delay averages for each quarter sit firmly in the early-mid 2021 range of between four and five days," it added.

Read more in an article from The Loadstar.

International Business/Government

How the Chinese New Year Is Impacting Global Supply Chains in 2025

As we kick off 2025, the Chinese New Year (CNY) brings some familiar challenges, but this year, it's especially interesting given the state of the global economy and trade.

The Chinese New Year, which falls earlier than usual this year, has already led to a surge in shipments to and from China as businesses prepare for the holiday shutdown. But it's not just about the holiday rush. The new U.S. administration is expected to introduce new tariffs, prompting many companies to bring shipments forward in anticipation of potential disruptions.

In addition, the ongoing boom in e-commerce is pushing air freight demand higher. Many factories close early for the New Year, leading to a surge in requests for accelerated deliveries. In January, airlines canceled numerous flights due to the challenges of operating long-haul routes,

which contributed to a reduction in cargo capacity. However, delayed e-commerce shipments, along with the use of charter flights and alternative transportation methods, have softened the upward pressure on air freight rates.

Read more in an article from Air Cargo Week.