

Transportation Information Update*

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AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. U.S. Airlines Carried 1.8% Less International Cargo in November 2021 than in November 2020 (Preliminary); Domestic Air Cargo Up 0.3%

U.S. Airlines Carried 0.2% less cargo by weight in November 2021 (preliminary) than in November 2020. The decrease comprises a gain of 0.3% in domestic cargo and a loss of 1.8% in international cargo, according to data filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) by 14 of the leading U.S. cargo airlines. The 14 airlines carry 95% of total cargo by weight transported on U.S. airlines. Cargo data consists of freight and mail carried within the U.S. and between the U.S. and foreign points.

2. Weekly aircraft movements, January 15 to 21, 2022

Weekly data on aircraft itinerant movements are now available for January 15 to 21, 2022 on Statistics Canada website. For the week ending January 15, 2022 domestic movements were 28,758 compared to 27,717 for the week ending December 8, 2022.

3. U.S. Airlines' 2021 Total Fuel Use Decreases 25% from Pre-Pandemic 2019; December 2021 Fuel Use Down 13% from December 2019

The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on February 2, 2022 released U.S. airlines' December Fuel Cost and Consumption numbers indicating U.S. airlines used 1.35 billion gallons of fuel, 7.5% more fuel than in November 2021 and 13.2% less than in pre-pandemic December 2019. At \$2.14, the cost per gallon of fuel in November 2021 was down 17 cents (7.4%) from November's \$2.31 and up 14 cents (7.0%) from December 2019's \$2.00 per gallon. To date, the pandemic-low fuel cost per gallon was May 2020's \$1.03. Total December 2021 fuel cost (\$2.88B) was up 0.68% from November 2021 (\$2.90B) and down 7.54% from pre-pandemic December 2019 (\$3.11B). For the year, U.S. airlines used 13.78 billion gallons of fuel, a 24.6% decrease from pre-pandemic 2019's 18.27 billion gallons. Average fuel cost per gallon in 2021 was \$1.98, a 2.0% decrease from 2019's \$2.00. In 2021, the airlines spent \$27.2 billion on fuel, a decrease of 25.3% from 2019's \$36.5 billion.

4. Time to End US Pre-Departure Testing for Fully Vaccinated Travelers

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), in partnership with Airlines for America (A4A) and 28 US and international aviation and travel and tourism stakeholder groups, urged the US government to remove the pre-departure testing requirement for fully vaccinated air travelers flying to the US. The vaccinated traveler population adds no additional risks to the domestic US population. Increased immunity levels, the pervasiveness of COVID-19 in all 50 US states, rising vaccination rates and new therapeutics, all point to removing the testing requirement for fully vaccinated travelers. "The experience of Omicron has made it clear that travel restrictions have little to no impact in terms of preventing its spread. Moreover, as Omicron is already broadly present across the US, fully vaccinated travelers bring no extra risk to the local population. International travelers should face no

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3. U.S. Airlines' 2021 Total Fuel Use Decreases 25% from Pre-Pandemic 2019; December 2021 Fuel Use Down 13% from December 2019, December 2, 2022, www.bts.gov
4. Time to End US Pre-Departure Testing for Fully Vaccinated Travelers, February 3, 2022, www.iata.org
5. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Add 20,049 Jobs in December 2021, Reaching COVID-19 Pandemic High; Employment Remains 2.9% Below Pre-Pandemic December 2019, February 7, 2022, www.bts.gov
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7. Diverse outcomes in passenger and cargo traffic in 2021, February 5, 2022, www.iata.org
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13. Government of Canada supports Winnipeg International Airport with new funding for critical infrastructure projects, February 10, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca
14. Weekly aircraft movements, January 22 to 28, 2022, February 11, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca
15. Air Canada Salutes its Black Employees; Launches Inaugural Black History Celebratory Flight, February 11, 2022, www.aicanada.ca

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additional screening requirements than what is applied to domestic travel. In fact, at this stage of the pandemic, travel should be managed in the same way as access to shopping malls, restaurants or offices,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General.

5. U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Add 20,049 Jobs in December 2021, Reaching COVID-19 Pandemic High; Employment Remains 2.9% Below Pre-Pandemic December 2019

Scheduled passenger airlines added 8,926 jobs (6,312 full-time equivalents) in December 2021 for 8th consecutive month of job growth. U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 728,150 workers in December 2021, 20,049 (2.83%) more workers than in November 2021 (708,101) and 21,340 (2.85%) fewer than in pre-pandemic December 2019 (749,490). The December 2021 figure is the highest industry headcount since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. scheduled service passenger airlines employed 445,092 workers in December 2021 or 61% of the industry-wide total. Passenger airlines added 8,926 employees (6,312 full-time equivalent employees or FTEs) in December for an eighth consecutive month of job growth dating back to May 2021. United Airlines led scheduled passenger carriers, adding 6,491 employees. U.S. cargo airlines employed 283,051 workers in December, 39% of the industry total. Cargo carriers added 11,123 employees (8,623 FTEs) in December, led by Federal Express (up 12,945).

6. Global airlines expect strong pick up in new job creation, says IATA

A majority of global airline executives expect hiring to go up in the next 12 months due to a speedy recovery in passenger operations, according to an IATA survey. Although there was no significant change in employment levels in the fourth quarter of last year, 59 per cent of respondents expect recruitment efforts to gain (read full story). "The staff hiring should be fueled by the ramp up of passenger operations as travel demand improves."

7. Diverse outcomes in passenger and cargo traffic in 2021

Outcomes in passenger and cargo traffic for 2021 indicate: 1. Traffic developments across key international passenger and cargo indicates that there was a significant divergence in the performance, with the passenger recovery lagging well behind cargo, but also significant differences across routes. 2. A closer look at passenger traffic reveals that routes to, from and within Asia showed the largest contraction in 2021. Routes that were subject to more relaxed travel rules showed some of the fastest recoveries globally, notably the tourism-intensive North-Central America (-31%). 3. Performance across key international cargo markets was also diverse. 4. Looking into 2022, congested container shipping and the return of belly cargo capacity should favour air cargo although it is worth noting that the strong growth observed in 2021 might be hard to sustain, for example given inflation. There is a reason for optimism also on the passenger side.

8. Government of Canada supports Fort McMurray International Airport with new funding for critical infrastructure projects

On February 7, 2022, the Government announced more than \$5 million

in new funding to help the Fort McMurray International Airport recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to support continued air services and important transportation infrastructure projects at the airport. To help ensure safe airport operations for aircraft, passengers and crews, the airport will receive \$2.7 million from Transport Canada’s Airport Critical Infrastructure Program to support upgrades to the airfield lighting system and to purchase new snow removal equipment. In addition to the funding for the critical infrastructure projects, the Government of Canada provided the Fort McMurray International Airport with \$2.6 million from Transport Canada’s Airport Relief Fund to help it maintain continued airport operations and essential air services for residents and workers in Fort McMurray and surrounding communities.

9. Government of Canada supports Edmonton International Airport with new funding for critical infrastructure projects

16. U.S. Scheduled Service Airline 2021 Passengers Increased 83% from 2020, Decreased 27% from Pre-pandemic 2019 (Preliminary), February 14, 2022, www.bts.gov

17. The WestJet Group responds to Canada’s easing of travel and border measures, February 15, 2022, www.westjet.ca

18. Air Canada Ranked One of Montreal’s Top Employers for the Ninth Consecutive Year, February 15, 2022, www.aircanada.ca

19. Canada’s airports are encouraged by government’s easing of travel restrictions and advisories, Feb. 15, 2022, www.cacairports.ca

20. Weekly aircraft movements, January 29 to February 4, 2022, February 16, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

21. Air Canada Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2021 Financial Results, February 18, 2022, www.aircanada.ca

22. Porter adding three non-stop routes for the Maritimes at Toronto City Airport, February 17, 2022, www.flyporter.com

23. Travel Momentum Builds as Restrictions are Lifted -Even faster progress is needed, February 17, 2022, www.iata.org

24. Minister Alghabra marks first International Day for Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families, February 20, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca

25. Quarterly civil aviation statistics, third quarter 2021, February 18, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

26. Air Canada losses offset by cargo gains, February 21, 2020, www.insidelogistics.ca

27. Air Canada Affirms Market Leadership by Expanding its North American Network this Summer as Recovery Accelerates, February 22, 2022, www.aircanada.ca

28. Air Canada Expands its Summer 2022 International Schedule; Relaunching 34 Routes to Europe, Asia, Africa and The Middle East, February 22, 2022, www.aircanada.ca

29. Hybrid drone makes successful cargo flight in California, February 21, www.insidelogistics.ca

30. Porter Airlines’ summer service returning to Muskoka, February 22, 2022, www.flyporter.ca

31. Government of Canada invests in safety at airports in Newfoundland and Labrador, February 23, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca

32. Monthly civil aviation statistics, December 2021, February 24, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

33. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, December 2021, February 24, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

On February 7, 2022, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, and the Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, announced \$10.4 million in new funding to help the Edmonton International Airport recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to support continued air services and important transportation infrastructure projects at the airport.

10. DOT Fines Air China and FlightHub Group for Violating Aviation Consumer Protection Rules

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or Department) took action on February 9, 2022 to protect aviation consumers by issuing fines to an airline and an online ticket agent for violating federal statutes and the Department's aviation consumer protection rules. DOT fined the airline Air China \$300,000 for tarmac delay rule violations and fined ticket agent FlightHub Group \$300,000 for misrepresentations on its website and in online advertising. Both entities were also ordered to cease and desist from future similar violations.

11. Canada's airports support travel and tourism industry call to remove obstacles to international flights, including testing and advisories

The Canadian Airports Council (CAC) Interim President, Monette Pasher, on February 10, 2022 issued the following statement in support of removing unnecessary obstacles to international travel: "Canada's airports join the Canadian Travel and Tourism Roundtable in calling on the federal government to lay out a plan with a clear timeline for removing travel restrictions, including removing all testing and isolation requirements and blanket travel advisories. "Since the start of the pandemic, the safety and health of passengers and workers has been Canada's airports number one priority." A full copy of the statement can be found on the CAC website www.cacairports.ca

12. November 2021 U.S. Airline Traffic Data

U.S. airlines carried 68.1 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in November 2021, seasonally adjusted, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS), up 4.5% from October 2021. BTS reported 61 million domestic passengers and 7.1 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in November 2021. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. Summary data since 2016 and complete data since 2000 can be found on their website www.bts.gov.

13. Government of Canada supports Winnipeg International Airport with new funding for critical infrastructure projects

On February 10, 2022, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, and the Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada, and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, announced over \$5.3 million in new funding to help the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to support continued air services and important transportation infrastructure projects at the airport.

14. Weekly aircraft movements, January 22 to 28, 2022

Weekly data on aircraft itinerant movements are now available for January 22 to 28, 2022. For the week ending January 22, 2022 total domestic movements were 30,623 compared to 28,758 for the week ending January 15, 2022.

15. Air Canada Salutes its Black Employees; Launches Inaugural Black History Celebratory Flight

Air Canada is marking Black History Month by featuring the achievements and contributions of its Black employees to aviation, including an inaugural, Black History celebratory flight. Flight AC914 from Toronto to Fort Lauderdale and return flight AC917 on February 11, 2022, operated with a wide-body Airbus A330-300 aircraft, is being flown with a Black crew of two pilots and eight flight attendants. Air Canada's Black History celebratory flight was also planned and supported by Black managers and employees on the ground and behind the scenes.

16. U.S. Scheduled Service Airline 2021 Passengers Increased 83% from 2020, Decreased 27% from Pre-pandemic 2019 (Preliminary)

For the calendar year 2021, U.S. scheduled service airlines carried 670.4M passengers (preliminary), an increase of 303.6M passengers (83%) from 2020 and a decrease of 245.9M passengers (27%) from pre-pandemic 2019. In 2019, the last full calendar year before the onset of COVID-19, domestic flights accounted for 88% of all passengers, and international flights accounted for 12%. In 2021, domestic flights accounted for 91% of all passengers, and international flights accounted for 9%.

17. The WestJet Group responds to Canada's easing of travel and border measures

The WestJet Group welcomes the announcement from the federal government outlining changes to Canada's border measures and travel policies effective February 28, 2022. The WestJet Group will continue to advocate, based on science and data, for the removal of all measures impacting fully-vaccinated air travellers. "The removal of travel barriers for fully-vaccinated travellers and families is a positive step forward for our industry; we have been advocating tirelessly for these changes on behalf of our guests and our communities," said Angela Avery, WestJet Executive Vice-President, External Affairs. "As a fully-vaccinated industry, we have worked with public health authorities and all governments to curb COVID-19 and today's announcement validates that travel has never been a significant vector of

transmission." WestJet continues to advocate for the return to surveillance arrivals testing only and for the federal government to outline a recovery roadmap for the travel and tourism industry, based on science and reflective of the current realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. Air Canada Ranked One of Montreal's Top Employers for the Ninth Consecutive Year

Air Canada is proud to announce on February 15, 2022 that it has been recognized as one of "Montreal's Top Employers" for 2022 in Mediacorp Canada's annual employer survey, marking the ninth consecutive year that the airline has received this award.

19. Canada's airports are encouraged by government's easing of travel restrictions and advisories

The February 15, 2022 federal announcement easing travel restrictions is a positive step forward in normalizing travel for Canadians and restoring our tourism economy, according to RJ Steenstra, CEO & President of Fort McMurray International Airport and Policy Council Chair of the Canadian Airports Council. "Canada's airports are encouraged by the government's removal of restrictions" he said. "From the earliest days of the pandemic, airports have worked with the government to ensure the safety of travellers and aviation workers. The changes announced today will help the Canadian aviation sector and airports start to rebuild connectivity and choice for Canadians."

20. Weekly aircraft movements, January 29 to February 4, 2022

Weekly data on aircraft itinerant movements are now available for January 29 to February 4, 2022. For the week ending January 29, 2022, domestic movements were 30,568 compared to 30,623 for the week ending January 22, 2022.

21. Air Canada Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2021 Financial Results

Air Canada on February 18, 2021 reported its fourth quarter and full year 2021 financial results. The highlights are as follows: 1) Fourth quarter 2021 operating revenues of \$2.731 billion, 30 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 2021, and over three times fourth quarter 2020 operating revenues; 2) Fourth quarter 2021 operating loss of \$503 million compared to an operating loss of \$1.003 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020; 3) Fourth quarter 2021 EBITDA(1) (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization), excluding special items, of \$22 million compared to negative EBITDA (excluding special items) of \$728 million in the same quarter of 2020; 4) Full year 2021 operating revenues of \$6.400 billion compared to 2020 operating revenues of \$5.833 billion; 5) Record cargo revenues in 2021 of \$1.495 billion compared to 2020 cargo revenues of \$920 million; 6) Full year 2021 operating loss of \$3.049 billion compared to an operating loss of \$3.776 billion in 2020; 7) Full year 2021 negative EBITDA (excluding special items) of \$1.464 billion compared to negative EBITDA (excluding special items) of \$2.043 billion in 2020; 8) Unrestricted liquidity of \$10.4 billion at December 31, 2021, practically unchanged from September 30, 2021, excluding funds that were available at September 30, 2021 under the financial package with the Government of Canada Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada said "The unpredictable course of COVID-19 made 2021 extremely challenging for Air Canada and the global airline industry. But the sequential and year-over-year improvement in Air Canada's fourth quarter results shows the underlying recovery remains intact despite the Omicron variant..."

22. Porter adding three non-stop routes for the Maritimes at Toronto City Airport

Porter Airlines is boosting its presence in the Maritimes in a big way with three new non-stop routes connecting Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Halifax, Fredericton and Moncton. Non-stop Halifax service begins April 7, 2022 featuring up to three daily roundtrips in summer, while Fredericton and Moncton both start May 5, 2022 with one daily year-round non-stop flight each. This new service is in addition to existing flights for each market that stop in Montreal or Ottawa, and don't require passengers to change aircraft.

23. Travel Momentum Builds as Restrictions are Lifted -Even faster progress is needed

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data showing growing momentum in the recovery of air travel as restrictions are lifted. IATA reported a sharp 11-percentage point increase for international tickets sold in recent weeks (in proportion to 2019 sales). In the period around 8 February, 2022 (7 day moving average) the number of tickets sold stood at 49% of the same period in 2019. In the period around 25 January, 2022 (7 day moving average) the number of tickets sold stood at 38% of the same period in 2019. The 11-percentage point improvement between the January and February 2022 periods is the fastest such increase for any two-week period since the crisis began. The jump in ticket sales comes as more governments announce a relaxation of COVID-19 border restrictions.

24. Minister Alghabra marks first International Day for Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, issued this statement in part on February 20, 2022 to mark the first annual International Day for Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families: "Today, on the first International Day for Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families, we join with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international partners to stand with the victims and families who have been profoundly affected by air tragedies around the world. "Those victims and family members have our full support. We grieve with them, and we remember the lives lost..."

25. Quarterly civil aviation statistics, third quarter 2021

The 2021 highlights for the third quarter in civil aviation are follows: Operating revenue for the 24 largest Canadian air carriers totalled \$3.3 billion in the 2021 third quarter, more than double the amount from the same quarter of 2020. However, this represents less than half (40.3%) of the revenue generated in the third quarter of 2019. At \$2.4 billion, passenger revenue remained the main source of revenue for airlines, while air cargo generated \$626.0 million or almost one-fifth (19.3%) of the total, well above the 5% to 7% revenue contribution seen pre-pandemic. In the third quarter of 2021, Canadian carriers transported 9.2 million passengers on scheduled and charter services. While this was over two and a half times more passengers than in the same quarter of 2020, it was just over one-third (36.3%) of the pre-pandemic level reported in 2019.

26. Air Canada losses offset by cargo gains

Air Canada topped expectations as it bled less cash in its latest quarter, a sign the airline's underlying recovery remains on course despite the blow to holiday travel caused by the Omicron variant. 2021 Fourth-quarter adjusted earnings were "modest" but positive for the first time in seven quarters, Rousseau noted. The company reduced its net loss by 60 percent year over year. And passenger revenues climbed by \$1.6 billion to more than four times the year-earlier period as flight volume soared in October and November 2021 relative to 2020. Cargo revenues also helped offset Air Canada's losses, jumping 163 percent to \$490 million compared with the same period a year earlier. "Air Canada Cargo has just concluded a year that saw it grow exponentially, solidifying our position as a market leader in growth over the last 24 months," said Jason Berry, the airline's vice-president, cargo.

27. Air Canada Affirms Market Leadership by Expanding its North American Network this Summer as Recovery Accelerates

Air Canada on February 22, 2022 announced an expansion of its North American network for Summer 2022 as the carrier's recovery from COVID accelerates. With the launch of new service on four transborder and three domestic routes, as well as the restoration of 41 North American routes, Air Canada will operate to 51 Canadian and 46 U.S airports this summer and offer customers the largest network and most travel options of any Canadian carrier.

28. Air Canada Expands its Summer 2022 International Schedule; Relaunching 34 Routes to Europe, Asia, Africa and The Middle East

Air Canada on February 22, 2022 announced an expanded Summer 2022 international schedule with 34 routes relaunching across the Atlantic and Pacific. Starting next month, non-stop services will begin resuming from Toronto to Tel Aviv, Paris, Tokyo and Amsterdam, signs that recovery is well underway. Service from Montreal to Casablanca, Nice, Algiers, Rome, Tel Aviv and Tokyo will also be resuming. From Vancouver, Air Canada will be offering service to Frankfurt, Dublin, and Zurich. Air Canada is also relaunching service to popular tourist destinations such as Barcelona, Budapest, Copenhagen, Madrid, Milan, and Venice, which have been suspended since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

29. Hybrid drone makes successful cargo flight in California

A hybrid-electric cargo drone has performed successful autonomous flights in the San Francisco area. The flights included autonomous vertical take-off and landing. MightyFly's MF-100 autonomous aircraft has a cargo capacity of 45 kilograms and a flight range of 965 kilometres. It is approximately the size of a midsize car, and uses hybrid-electric propulsion that recharges its batteries in flight. A larger aircraft with a cargo capacity of 227 kg is planned.

30. Porter Airlines' summer service returning to Muskoka

Porter Airlines' service to Muskoka, Ontario, returns just in time for your summer plans. Flights begin June 24, 2022, and conclude September 6, 2022. Service between Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport and Muskoka Airport will operate twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays. Connecting flights are also available via Toronto from various Porter destinations.

31. Government of Canada invests in safety at airports in Newfoundland and Labrador

Through Transport Canada's Airports Capital Assistance Program, three airports in Newfoundland and Labrador will receive over \$1.4 million for safety-related projects and equipment that will help maintain safe airport operations for passengers, crews and airport workers. The airports receiving funding are: **Deer Lake** - \$205,000 to purchase a grader; **Gander** - \$863,625 to purchase a loader, a snowplow and a sweeper; **Stephenville** - \$376,000 to purchase a runway surface friction tester and a sweeper. This funding is in addition to the more than \$8 million announced under the program in May 2021 to support safety-related projects at the Churchill Falls, Deer Lake, Gander, and Stephenville airports.

32. Monthly civil aviation statistics, December 2021

Major Canadian airlines carried 3.9 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in December 2021, making it the busiest month of 2021 for air travel. While this was well above the number of passengers carried in December 2020, it was a little over half (54.8%) of the pre-pandemic level reported in the same month in 2019. Over the entire year, these large airlines carried a total of 22.1 million passengers in 2021. Despite sharp improvements during the second

half of the year, the annual total number of passengers was just over one-quarter (25.9%) of those carried in 2019, before the pandemic.

33. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, December 2021

In December 2021, there were 298,233 total aircraft movements at Canada's major airports, an increase of 16.5% from December 2020 but 19.7% lower than the same month in 2019. In the last month of 2021, international movements reached their highest point since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. While up sharply from December 2020, movements to and from the US and other international destinations were 60.3% and 72.3% of the amounts recorded in December 2019 (respectively). In December 2021, Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International was Canada's busiest airport, and Montréal/Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau re-entered the top five for the first time since March 2020. In 2021, there were 4.3 million aircraft movements at Canada's major airports. This was 11.8% higher than in 2020, but 26.8% lower than in 2019. On an annual basis, Boundary Bay, British Columbia was Canada's busiest airport in 2021 for the second consecutive year.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Halifax port expanding terminals

The Halifax Port Authority (HPA) will fill in a basin to create additional space for land-based storage. Halifax will create about eight acres of new land by filling the space between Pier A1 and Pier B at Ocean Terminals. The space between Piers A-1 and B at Ocean Terminals will be filled, starting in May 2022. An estimated 500,000 cubic metres of infill material will be used to create an additional 3.2 hectares (approximately eight acres) of yard space. The newly created land will create a new location for the sequestration of pyritic slate generated from construction projects in downtown Halifax, thus reducing the number of truck loads and related greenhouse gas emissions associated with hauling slate to the Fairview Cove Sequestration Facility.

2. 2021 marks a year of breaking records at The Port of Philadelphia

The Port of Philadelphia, PhilaPort, had a record-breaking year in growth in 2021. The Port saw double-digit growth in containers, breakbulk and overall port tonnage for the year. Year-to-Date TEU volumes have increased 15% to 739,323 TEUs, with imports growing 16% and export 15%. PhilaPort surpassed its 2020 total TEU count of (640,799), marking another new milestone. "It has been an interesting year full of challenges and opportunities," said Jeff Theobald, PhilaPort Executive Director and CEO. "Not only did we surge in container volumes, but some BCOs (beneficial cargo owners) shifted to breakbulk shipments. PhilaPort is one of the only U.S. ports that has several facilities that are purpose-built to handle breakbulk. PhilaPort steel volumes were up 196%, cocoa volumes went up 106% and wood pulp & lumber volumes increased over 10%."

3. The Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) saw a nine percent increase in cargo from 2020 to 2021

A total of 11.2 million tonnes of cargo moved through Hamilton and Oshawa's ports during the 2021 shipping season, aboard the 678 vessels that visited its two ports during the 2021 season, 600 in Hamilton, and 78 in Oshawa. Hamilton Port recorded 10.8 million tonnes in 2021, surpassing 2020's total by almost one million tonnes of cargo, and climbing six percent ahead of its five-year average. Overseas cargo tonnages increased 35 percent and Hamilton's rail cargo has also doubled over the past five years. Hamilton continues to see a steady rise in the growth of agriculture-related commodities, driven by increases in wheat, corn, fertilizer and a whopping 91 percent increase this year in raw sugar, feeding SucroCan's Hamilton sugar

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1. Halifax port expanding terminals, February 1, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. 2021 marks a year of breaking records at The Port of Philadelphia, February 1, 2021, www.ajot.com
3. The Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) saw a nine percent increase in cargo from 2020 to 2021, February 2, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
4. Prince Rupert Port expansion improving Canada's ability to move critical goods and supplies, February 2, 2022, www.rupertport.ca
5. Maersk container ship runs aground in North Sea, February 3, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
6. Senate introduces ocean shipping reform bill, February 3, 2022, www.freightwaves.com
7. Cartel? Liner competition increased as trans-Pacific rates spiked, February 3, 2022, www.freightwaves.com
8. Prince Rupert announces infrastructure upgrades, Feb. 7, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
9. Wolf administration announces additional \$246 Million investment at Port of Philadelphia, February 7, 2022, www.ajot.com
10. Environmental group escalates opposition against port of Vancouver's Roberts bank terminal 2 project, February 8, 2022, www.betterdeltaport.ca
11. FMC to consider regulating ocean carrier billing practices, February 7, 2022, www.freightwaves.com
12. Maersk says 2021 most profitable year ever, Feb. 10, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
13. Port of Long Beach has busiest January on record, February 10, 2022, www.ajot.com
14. 'Container dwell fee' on hold until Feb. 18 at the ports of LB and LA, February 14, 2022, www.ajot.com
15. Scientists urge feds to reject Roberts Bank terminal at port of Vancouver, February 15, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
16. Port of Savannah: 18 Months of Record

refinery. Hamilton also saw significant gains in petroleum, sand, quartz, slag and finished steel for the transportation and construction sectors.

4. Prince Rupert Port expansion improving Canada's ability to move critical goods and supplies

Further plans are in the works at Canada's third-largest port to provide additional capacity and increased resilience to strained supply chains DP World, a global leader in logistics and provider of smart supply chain solutions, and the Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) have announced updates to several critical infrastructure projects that will make Canada's west coast more resilient to future supply chain challenges. Disruptions and congestion experienced during the past year in southern British Columbia and other west coast supply chains have accentuated the need for additional capacity in Prince Rupert. Progress on the Fairview terminal expansion and related logistics projects are an important milestone in a long-term plan to add significant new capacity to the Prince Rupert Gateway and provide a viable alternative in the event of future disruptions. Included in the above are: 1) Fairview Container Terminal capacity will increase to 1.6 million twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) this summer and 1.8 TEUs in 2024; 2) The new Fairview-Ridley Connector Corridor is on track to be completed in Q2 of 2022; 3) Advanced plans for a state-of-the-art export logistics facility; and 4) Import logistics facility will join integrated Prince Rupert logistics ecosystem.

5. Maersk container ship runs aground in North Sea

A container ship has run aground off a German North Sea island, and an initial attempt to free it was unsuccessful, authorities said on February 3,

2022. Shipping company Maersk said on Twitter that the 400-meter (1,310-foot) -long Mumbai Maersk ran aground on a "shallow patch" on February 2, 2022 night. It said that "all crew are safe, there is no pollution and no sign of hull breach." It said that the entrance to the major port of Bremerhaven wasn't obstructed.

6. Senate introduces ocean shipping reform bill

The U.S. Senate introduced on February 3, 2022 its version of legislation aimed at promoting U.S. exports while curbing carriers' power over both container service and equipment fees charged to shippers. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) is similar to legislation that passed overwhelmingly late last year in the U.S. House, though it lacks some of the specifics of the earlier bill. Both bills would give the Federal Maritime Commission authority to initiate rulemakings, making it more difficult for ocean carriers to refuse service to American exporters. "Congestion at ports and increased shipping costs pose unique challenges for U.S. exporters, who have seen the price of shipping containers increase fourfold in just two years. Meanwhile, ocean carriers have reported record profits," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., who cosponsored the bill with Sen. John Thune, R-S.D. "This legislation will level the playing field by giving the [FMC] greater authority to regulate harmful practices by carriers and set rules on what fees carriers can reasonably charge shippers and transporters." The Senate's version of OSRA would: 1) Prohibit ocean carriers from unreasonably declining opportunities for U.S. exports, as determined by the FMC in a new required rulemaking. 2) Promote transparency by requiring ocean common carriers to report to the FMC each calendar quarter on total import/export tonnage and twenty-foot equivalent units (loaded or empty) per vessel that makes port in the United States. 3) Authorize the FMC to self-initiate investigations of ocean common carriers' business practices and apply enforcement measures, as appropriate. 4) Establish new authority for the FMC to register shipping exchanges to improve the negotiation of service contracts.

7. Cartel? Liner competition increased as trans-Pacific rates spiked

It's seemingly inevitable: As ocean carrier profits soar — and they're now reaching historic heights — the highly consolidated liner industry will face growing accusations of unfairness and wrongdoing. *The Hill* reported on February 2, 2022 that Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Senate Judiciary Committee member, "is working on antitrust legislation related to the shipping industry." The same day, the watchdog organization Accountable US accused shipping lines of charging "abusively high fees." Social media posts this week alleged that ocean carriers are "profiteering" and "ripping people off." Over recent months, ocean carriers have been referred to as a "cartel." In November, Business Insider reported that it received an email from the White House referring to "price gouging by the ocean shipping cartel." And yet, the data implies ocean carriers are competing more, not less, with freight prices rising as demand continues to exceed supply chain capacity despite higher carrier competition, not because of artificially lower competition — the definition of a cartel. Trans-Pacific liner competition has increased (the largest tradelane). A new report this week from Sea-

Volume, February 14, 2022, www.railwavage.com
17. Port of Long Beach: Record January Leading to 'Moderately Busy' Spring, February 15, 2022, www.railwavage.com
18. Car carrier adrift near Azores, February 17, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
19. Ports of LA, Long Beach clear containers, set January records, February 17, 2022, www.freightwaves.com
20. Port of Mobile posts January container volume growth, February 18, 2022, www.ajot.com
21. President Biden and U.S. Department of Transportation Announce Historic New Funding to Strengthen Port Infrastructure and Supply Chain Resiliency, February 22, 2022, www.dot.gov
22. U.S. ports to see \$450 million boost, February 23, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
23. Port of Toronto reports increased cargo traffic in 2021, February 24, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
24. Prince Rupert Port seeking to double capacity through the addition of a second container terminal, February 24, 2022, www.rupertport.com
25. President Biden and U.S. Department of Transportation Announce \$1.14 Billion for Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories, February 24, 2022, www.dot.gov

Intelligence highlighted how the recent era of spiking trans-Pacific spot rates coincides with a sharp decrease in market share of the three carrier alliances (2M, Ocean Alliance, THE Alliance). In 2012-2020, the trans-Pacific balance was 15%-20% non-alliance and 80%-85% alliance. According to Sea-Intelligence CEO Alan Murphy, “Over the past 18 months, there has been a very substantial increase in the share of capacity offered outside the alliances. We are now at the point where 35% of the capacity offered is on non-alliance services.” The non-alliance share has doubled. Maersk and MSC won the title of world’s largest ocean carrier. Evergreen’s capacity jumped 15.6% last year. Zim’s rose 14.9% as a result of charters. Capacity of Cosco, ONE and Pacific International Lines fell.

8. Prince Rupert announces infrastructure upgrades

The Prince Rupert Port Authority and terminal owner DP World are boosting capacity on B.C.’s north coast amid ongoing supply chain challenges that an analyst says could bode well for Canadian National Railway Co. The port authority and the global logistics company announced updates that will improve the West Coast’s ability to move goods and supplies. The Fairview container terminal is expected to become Canada’s second-largest when its capacity increases to 1.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) this summer from 1.35 million TEUs. The container yard will expand from 32 to 41 hectares, and two new rubber-tired gantry (RTG) cranes and an eighth dock gantry crane, are being added. On-dock rail capacity will be expanded by 6,680 feet, for a total of 24,680 feet of on-dock rail by 2022. The second stage of the expansion is set to be completed in late 2024 and will see the terminal’s capacity grow to 1.8 million TEUs. Phase 2B will result in 300 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions at DP World’s Fairview Container Terminal, the company said.

9. Wolf administration announces additional \$246 Million investment at Port of Philadelphia

Governor Tom Wolf on February 7, 2022 announced a \$246 million state investment into the Port of Philadelphia to continue modernization efforts and improve regional economic stability. This funding builds upon the Governor’s comprehensive \$300 million Capital Investment Program at the Port of Philadelphia announced in 2016. “The port is an economic driver, not only in Philadelphia, but across the commonwealth,” said Gov. Wolf. “The port supports jobs, encourages trade, and builds connections that help businesses and communities across Pennsylvania thrive. This new \$246 million investment will help the port build on its success over the past few years and will help Pennsylvania build on our commonwealth’s economic success and job growth, too.”

10. Environmental group escalates opposition against port of Vancouver’s Roberts bank terminal 2 project

The Fraser Estuary is on the brink of collapse and if built the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 could be the tipping point, according to Delta-based environmental activist group APE (Against Port Expansion in the Fraser Estuary BC). “When the Port of Vancouver sends its newly updated information for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) project to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada it will perpetuate four Port-generated myths,” APE alleged in a press release on February 8, 2022. The long-delayed updated port brief will be in response to a March 2020 report by a federal review panel that identified “significant environmental effects” in many areas should RBT2 be built as currently planned. “Port and industrial development cannot be allowed to destroy the mudflats, wetlands and ocean habitat, an integral part of the Roberts Bank ecosystem, relied on by millions of migratory and other shorebirds, salmon, other fishes, crabs and southern resident killer whales,” APE affirmed. “The Federal Government has no choice. It must deny approval for Roberts Bank Terminal 2.” Public comment thus far following the recent government’s call for public comment on the \$3.5 billion Robert’s Bank Terminal 2 project has been largely opposed.

11. FMC to consider regulating ocean carrier billing practices

The Federal Maritime Commission is considering regulating how ocean carriers bill their customers for late fees related to picking up and dropping off containers. An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) approved by the agency on February 4, 2022 sets out the details of the proposal setting standards for demurrage and detention billing and seeks public comment to help shape it. Carriers charge demurrage when full containers have not been picked up by their customers — taking up valuable terminal space — within a certain number of days. Detention is charged when the customer is late returning the empty container to the terminal.

12. Maersk says 2021 most profitable year ever

The world’s biggest shipping company said on February 9, 2022 that 2021 was its most profitable year yet, with Denmark’s A.P. Moeller-Maersk bringing in US\$18.7 billion as surging demand from a rebounding global economy led to supply chain logjams. Profits before taxes soared last year from \$3.3 billion in 2020, while 2021 revenue came in at \$61.8 billion, up from \$40 billion. CEO Soren Skou said that “exceptional market conditions led to record-high growth and profitability.” In the last three months, revenue soared to \$18.5 billion from \$11.3 billion in the same period the previous year. Profits in the fourth quarter came in at \$6.3 billion, up from \$1.3 billion.

13. Port of Long Beach has busiest January on record

The Port of Long Beach kicked off 2022 with its busiest January on record, boosted by efforts to successfully move aging cargo out of shipping terminals. Dockworkers and terminal operators moved 800,943 twenty-foot equivalent units in January 2022, up 4.8% from the same month last year. It was the first time the nation’s second-busiest seaport

processed more than 800,000 TEUs in the month of January, surpassing the previous record set in January 2021. Imports rose 6.9% to 389,334 TEUs, while exports increased 5.9% to 123,060 TEUs. Empty containers moved through the Port grew 1.8% to 288,550 TEUs. The strong start to 2022 follows a record-breaking year for the Port of Long Beach with 9,384,368 TEUs moved in 2021.

14. ‘Container dwell fee’ on hold until Feb. 18 at the ports of LB and LA

The Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles announced on February 14, 2022 that consideration of the “Container Dwell Fee” will be held off another week, until Feb. 18. The two San Pedro Bay ports have seen a combined decline of 70% in aging cargo on the docks since the program was announced on Oct. 25. The executive directors of both ports will reassess fee implementation after monitoring data over the next week. Fee implementation has been postponed by both ports since the start of the program. Under the temporary policy, ocean carriers can be charged for each import container dwelling nine days or more at the terminal. Currently, no date has been set to start the count with respect to container dwell time. The ports plan to charge ocean carriers \$100 per container, increasing in \$100 increments per container per day until the container leaves the terminal. Any fees collected from dwelling cargo will be reinvested for programs designed to enhance efficiency, accelerate cargo velocity and address congestion impacts.

15. Scientists urge feds to reject Roberts Bank terminal at port of Vancouver

A group of scientists has written to federal environment minister Steven Guilbeault, urging him to reject the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s (VFPA) proposed Roberts Bank Terminal II (RBT2) project. The letter, co-authored by 12 scientists with expertise on Chinook salmon, Southern Resident killer whales and the Fraser River Estuary, cite the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency’s (now the Impact Assessment Agency) report that found RBT2 will have significant adverse and cumulative effects on certain Fraser Chinook salmon populations and Southern Resident killer whales.

16. Port of Savannah: 18 Months of Record Volume

Port of Savannah posted a record 479,000 TEUs in January 2022, up 4% from same period last year. The Port of Savannah, Ga., handled 479,700 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) in January—a 4% gain over the same month last year, when cargo volumes grew 22%, Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) reported. This the 18th consecutive month of record volumes, GPA said. Over the past year and a half, the Port of Savannah has grown container volumes by 1.2 million TEUs, and in 2021 alone, by more than 930,00 TEUs. “The steps we have taken to add capacity have broken the logjam in global logistics for our customers...”

17. Port of Long Beach: Record January Leading to ‘Moderately Busy’ Spring

At the Port of Long Beach, more than 800,000 containers moved in January 2022 as workers cleared cargo from terminals. Port of Long Beach, Calif., dockworkers and terminal operators moved 800,943 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in January 2022, up 4.8% from prior-year period; it was the busiest January on record, and the port reported that it expects to be “moderately busy into the spring.” The previous January record with more than 800,000 TEUs logged was set in 2021. Last month, the Port of Long Beach saw imports rise 6.9% to 389,334 TEUs; exports grow 5.9% to 123,060 TEUs; and empty containers increase 1.8% to 288,550 TEUs. While import activity “traditionally slows down in February as overseas factories close for Lunar New Year celebrations,” the Port anticipates that “this month may be busier than usual as work continues to clear the docks and reduce the number of ships waiting to enter the Port amid a historic cargo surge.”

18. Car carrier adrift near Azores

A large cargo ship was drifting near the mid-Atlantic Azores Islands on February 17, 2022 after its 22 crew members were evacuated due to a fire on board, the Portuguese navy said. Shipping in the area was warned that the 200-metre-long (650-foot-long) Felicity Ace was adrift. The ro-ro ship, operated by MOL, is carrying a cargo of vehicles, Portuguese navy spokesman Cmdr. Jose Sousa Luis said. Sources report the ship is carrying a load of Porsche and Volkswagens for the U.S. market

19. Ports of LA, Long Beach clear containers, set January records

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach rebounded from year-over-year December 2021 volume drops and reported 2022 January records. The Port of LA handled 865,595 twenty-foot equivalent units last month. It was the best January in the port’s 115-year history and 3.6% better than the first month of 2021, when the port moved 835,516 TEUs. “We also eclipsed our January 2019 record of 852,000 container units, when cargo owners were trying to get ahead of the tariff deadlines set by the previous administration,” Port of LA Executive Director Gene Seroka said during a press conference on February 17, 2022. “Among the contributors to our fast start are strong consumer demand [that] continues to drive imports. Retail sales jumped 3.8% from December to January. Early Lunar New Year, which began Feb. 1, 2022 created a rush of cargo to get out of Asia before the holiday slowdown. And we continue to reposition a tremendous amount of empty containers as demand for those boxes remains high,” Seroka said. January 2022 loaded imports totaled 427,208 TEUs, off 2.4% from last year’s “exceptional showing” of 437,609 TEUs, he said. In

December 2021, the port handled only 385,251 TEUs of imports, down 16% year-over-year and widely attributed to San Pedro Bay congestion.

20. Port of Mobile posts January container volume growth

The Alabama Port Authority released its January 2022 container volumes posting the 3rd highest lift rate in the container terminal's history with 47,768 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) – a 17.5 percent increase year over year when compared to January 2021. Refrigerated containers also posted a 21.5 percent jump compared to January 2021. The Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) volumes grew 167.9 percent handling 2,579 TEUs. “The Port continues its strong growth due to the terminals’ offering of capacity, service and supply chain reliability,” said Beth Branch, Chief Commercial Officer.

21. President Biden and U.S. Department of Transportation Announce Historic New Funding to Strengthen Port Infrastructure and Supply Chain Resiliency

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced nearly \$450 million in newly available grant funding for port-related projects through the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)—by far the largest investment in the program ever. These grants can help ports expand capacity and improve the movement of goods through our supply chains. This funding is made possible because by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is nearly double last year’s investment in PIDP for states and port authorities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will invest \$17 billion in ports and waterways.

22. U.S. ports to see \$450 million boost

Clogged U.S. ports are being given access to nearly US\$450 million in federal money from President Joe Biden’s infrastructure law as part of the administration’s recent stepped-up efforts aiming to ease supply chain congestion and lower prices. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on February 23, 2022 announced the availability of a first batch of competitive grants for ports that will be double last year’s amount annually for five years. The grants are aimed specifically at reducing bottlenecks that have slowed the flow of goods to store shelves and pushed up costs. The grants are among several pots of money under the \$1 trillion law that the department intends to steer toward providing mid-term and long-term relief to the nation’s supply chain, which administration officials described as somewhat outdated and broken. Still, acknowledging that the upgrades will take time, Biden officials have largely shied away from any assurances that Americans could see clear and demonstrable changes to their lives before the 2022 midterm elections.

23. Port of Toronto reports increased cargo traffic in 2021

Imports of cement, steel, sugar and salt moving through the Port of Toronto surpassed 2.2 million tonnes in 2021 for the fifth consecutive year. Overall, 190 cargo vessels visited the port in 2021, delivering a range of bulk, project and general cargo products totalling 2,295,815 tonnes – a four percent increase from 2020. The port estimates that the 2.2 million tonnes of cargo delivered by ship last year took approximately 57,000, 40-tonne trucks off Toronto’s congested roads and highways.

24. Prince Rupert Port seeking to double capacity through the addition of a second container terminal

DP World, a global leader in logistics and provider of smart supply chain solutions, and the Prince Rupert Port Authority have entered into a two-year agreement to assess the feasibility of an innovative new container terminal project in Prince Rupert. The potential project would add up to 2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of annual capacity to the Port of Prince Rupert, significantly increasing Canadian trade capacity with critical Asia-Pacific markets, with considerable potential employment and economic impacts that will bolster the western Canadian economy.

25. President Biden and U.S. Department of Transportation Announce \$1.14 Billion for Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

President Biden and the U.S. Department of Transportation on December 24, 2022 announced more than \$1.14 billion to repair and rebuild roads and bridges in Puerto Rico and four U.S. territories – American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands – under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. The total amount being made available to Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories in Fiscal Year 2022 is \$219 million.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. KCS sees opportunities for ‘productivity gains when volume recoveries occur’

Although refined products volumes to Mexico have been curtailed by a government crackdown on companies seeking to avoid paying taxes, Kansas City Southern still expects growth opportunities for shipping imported refined products into Mexico in the long term, KCS executives told investors on January 27, 2022 while they were on a fourth-quarter 2021 earnings call with Canadian Pacific. For the 4th Quarter of 2021, KCS’ revenues rose 7.8% to \$747.8 million in the fourth quarter amid flat volumes. Net income was \$595.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2021, compared with \$166.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2020. Fourth-quarter 2021 operating expenses were a negative \$62.8 million because \$512.6 million in net merger costs helped to offset other expenses for the quarter. In the fourth quarter of 2020, operating expenses were \$431.1 million.

2. STB’s Annual Rail Rate Index Study: A Deeper Dive

The newly released STB Annual Rail Rate Index Study (Study) summarizes trends in freight rail rates between 1985 and 2019. The Study shows that inflation-adjusted Real Rail Rates have decreased 27% over the past 34 years. Because Real rail rates are lower now than in 1985, the STB Study may be read by some to imply that current rail rates are reasonable in relation to what they have been historically. Unfortunately, this is not an accurate conclusion, because the historical trend in rates provides an incomplete picture of the change in cost of shipping freight by rail.

3. Freight Rail Services Price Index, January 2022

Data for January for the Freight Rail Services Price Index (2018=100) are now available. The Index for January 2022 was 113.6 compared to 112.8 for December 2021. For the 4thQ of 2021, the index was 111.1 compared to 108 for the 3rd Quarter of 2021 and 104.5 compared to the 4thQ of 2020.

4. Intermodal traffic volumes drop in last quarter of 2021

Total intermodal volumes fell 9.8 percent year-over-year in the fourth quarter of 2021, according to the Intermodal Association of North America’s Intermodal Quarterly report. All market segments showed declines: international containers at 16.2 percent; trailers, 10.9 percent; and domestic shipments, 2.4 percent. However, intermodal traffic rose, in total, 3.6 percent for the year. “Although Q4 volumes were down, intermodal loads grew during 2021, albeit at a much slower rate than the previous year,” said Joni Casey, president and CEO of IANA. “Performance continues to be affected by the virus, as well as network congestion and the intermittent scarcity of equipment and labour.”

5. North American Q4 freight railcar orders up sharply amid improving market

Fourth-quarter 2021 freight railcar orders grew by more than 50% from the third quarter, potentially reflecting a favorable market for U.S. railcar manufacturers. North American freight railcar orders rose to 13,477 railcars in the fourth quarter of 2021, compared with third-quarter 2021 orders of 8,607 railcars and fourth-quarter 2020 orders of 3,397 railcars, according to the Railway Supply Institute’s (RSI) American Railway Car Institute

Committee. RSI compiles the data from North American freight railcar builders. Changes in the number of railcar orders and the order backlog can indicate broader trends in the business cycle. The order backlog has increased sequentially for the past five quarters, while deliveries remained steady, RSI said. Order backlogs can show where the railcar market is in the supply-and-demand cycle, with the backlog increasing if there is demand for new railcars. The backlog totalled 42,993 railcars in the fourth quarter of 2021, compared with 37,779 railcars in the third quarter of 2021 and 34,829 railcars in the fourth quarter of 2020.

6. U.S. Rail Traffic Lags in January

RAIL TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. KCS sees opportunities for ‘productivity gains when volume recoveries occur’, January 28, 2022, www.freightwaves.com
2. STB’s Annual Rail Rate Index Study: A Deeper Dive, January 27, 2022, www.railwavage.com
3. Freight Rail Services Price Index, January 2022, January 31, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca
4. Intermodal traffic volumes drop in last quarter of 2021, Feb. 1, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
5. North American Q4 freight railcar orders up sharply amid improving market, February 1, 2022, www.freightwaves.ca
6. U.S. Rail Traffic Lags in January, February 2, 2022, www.railwavage.com
7. Government of Canada takes steps toward implementing innovative technologies to improve rail safety, February 4, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca
8. Draft Key Failure Caused CN Derailment: TSB, February 4, 2022, www.railwavage.com
9. UP, CSX Earn Spots on ‘World’s Most Admired Companies’ List, February 4, 2022, www.railwavage.com
10. Transport Canada Eyes Enhanced Train Control, February 8, 2022, www.railwavage.com
11. CP workers to take strike vote, February 10, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
12. Rail Traffic for the Week Ending February 5, 2022, February 10, 2022, www.ajot.com
13. CN, Progress Rail, REG Launch Renewable Fuels Testing, February 14, 2022, www.railwavage.com
14. Reciprocal Switching’s Potential Impact on Passenger Rail, February 14, 2022, www.railwavage.com
15. Rail Traffic Uptick for Week 6, February 16, 2022, www.railwavage.com
16. TTCI Unveils Railroad Research E-Library, February 16, 2022, www.railwavage.com
17. CP-KCS Merger Proceeding Moves Forward, February 18, 2022, www.railwavage.com
18. Week 7: US Carloads, Intermodal Register Double-Digit Gains, February 23, 2022, www.railwavage.com
19. Norfolk Southern seeks to boost capacity through hiring, operational changes, February 23, 2022, www.americanshipper.com
20. STB Issues Annual Rail Rate Index Study: 1985-2020, February 24, 2022, www.railwavage.com

“For most traffic categories, U.S. rail volumes this January (2022) were down compared to last year,” Association of American Railroads Senior Vice President John T. Gray reported on Feb. 2; total carloads for the month dipped 3% from 2021 and intermodal units dropped 14.6%, according to AAR figures. Canadian railroads reported 74,271 carloads for the week ending Jan. 29, 2022, a 9.5% decline, and 65,392 intermodal units, a 7.2% drop compared with the same week in 2021. For the first four weeks of 2022, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 520,104 carloads, containers and trailers, down 16.3%.

7. Government of Canada takes steps toward implementing innovative technologies to improve rail safety

On February 4, 2022, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced that Transport Canada is publishing a Notice of Intent in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, describing a path forward to implement Enhanced Train Control technologies in Canada. These technologies will provide an additional layer of safety in transporting people and goods across the country’s vast railway network. With driver assist mechanism embedded within, Enhanced Train Control technologies at their most basic level of functionality reduce the potential for human error by alerting the train crew to potential danger. At their most advanced level of functionality, Enhanced Train Control technologies can stop a train’s movement to prevent a collision or derailment.

8. Draft Key Failure Caused CN Derailment: TSB

The derailment of CN train M30631-25, which occurred about 13 km (8 miles) southwest of Edmundston at Mile 8.04 of the Pelletier Subdivision, involved 22 of the 171-car train. Eight of the derailed cars were LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) tank cars, three loads and five empties. There was no fire, and no injuries were reported. No LPG was released. M30631-25 consisted of three head-end locomotives, two DP (distributed power) locomotives at positions 126 and 127 in the consist, and 171 mixed freight cars. The 11,786-foot (2.23-mile)-long train weighed 17,787 tons. TSB’s investigation found that the train, which was operating eastbound at 46 mph, derailed when at the 40th car in the consist, an empty boxcar, struck a coupler that had fallen from the leading (A) end of the preceding car. Cars 40 to 61 derailed. It was determined that the coupler fell after the draft key that was retaining it in place failed in service. The draft key sheared, leaving three small fragments in the yoke. Canada’s Transportation Safety Board (TSB) has determined that a draft key (“cross key”) failure caused the Jan. 26, 2021 derailment of a CN freight train near Edmundston, N.B. TSB said investigation report R21M0002 “draws attention to the importance of reassessing the design and inspection frequency of critical rail components, such as [draft] keys, based on changes in railway operating conditions.”

9. UP, CSX Earn Spots on ‘World’s Most Admired Companies’ List

Union Pacific (UP) and CSX have been named to *Fortune* magazine’s “World’s Most Admired Companies” list for 2022. The list of 333 companies is broken down by more than 50 industry sectors. Ranked with four others in the Trucking, Transportation and Logistics category, UP came in at No. 4 and CSX, No. 6. Also in the category: Maersk Group (1), Ryder System (2), J.B. Hunt Transport Services (3), and C.H. Robinson Worldwide (5).

10. Transport Canada Eyes Enhanced Train Control

Transport Canada has published a Notice of Intent in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, seeking feedback on implementing Enhanced Train Control (ETC) technologies for passenger and freight rail safety in Canada. The move follows recommendations from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada and the 2018 Railway Safety Act Review Panel that Transport Canada develop a Canadian approach to implementing ETC. The current method of controlling train movements in Canada is “rule-based,” governed by the Canadian Rail Operating Rules, and with train movements managed and supervised by rail traffic controllers. Based on work conducted with the railways and labor representatives, Transport Canada said its ETC proposal “focuses on having railway companies tailor investments according to the level of safety risk posed by individual railway corridors.”

11. CP workers to take strike vote

The Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) has served a Notice of Dispute to the Minister of Labour under the Canada Labour Code in accordance with the Canada Labour Code regarding its dispute with CP Rail. The main issues at hand include wages, benefits, and pensions. The Teamsters Canada Rail Conference is conducting a strike vote among its more than 3,000 locomotive engineers, conductors, trainpersons and yardpersons. The strike vote results will be tabulated in late February 2022. The Minister of Labour has appointed a conciliator/mediator to support the process. Representatives from the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference and CP Rail are currently meeting with the conciliator. A legal work stoppage can only take place 21 days after the conciliation process is complete.

12. Rail Traffic for the Week Ending February 5, 2022

For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 458,152 carloads and intermodal units, down 7.6% compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending February 5, 2022 were 218,286 carloads, down 3.6% compared with the same week in 2021, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 239,866 containers and trailers, down 11% compared to 2021. Canadian railroads reported 69,102 carloads for the week, down 10.5%, and 63,418 intermodal units, down 10.5% compared with the same week in 2021. For the first five weeks of 2022, Canadian

railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 652,624 carloads, containers and trailers, down 15.2%.

13. CN, Progress Rail, REG Launch Renewable Fuels Testing

CN, in partnership with Progress Rail and Renewable Energy Group (REG), earlier this month reported starting “100% renewable fuel testing in Pennsylvania.” In a Feb. 2, 2022, *Twitter Post*, announced that the Class I railroad was taking “an exciting step towards our goal to reduce carbon emissions” with the launch of testing. CN; Progress Rail, a Caterpillar Company; and REG in November 2021 teamed to assess “high-level renewable fuel blends including both biodiesel and renewable diesel in support of the companies’ sustainability goals.” “On February 1, locomotives were fueled with a blend of 100% renewable fuels (mix of biodiesel and renewable diesel) on the Bessemer & Lake Erie (B&LE) portion of the CN network (operating in Pennsylvania and Ohio),” CN told *Railway Age* on Feb. 10, 2022. “Tests will be performed over a period of approximately two years, as one objective is for CN and Progress Rail to better understand the long-term durability and operational impacts of renewable fuels on locomotives, especially in cold weather. Renewable Energy Group (REG) will supply high-percentage blends of biomass-based fuel, including both biodiesel (FAME) and renewable diesel (HDRD) for testing.”

14. Reciprocal Switching’s Potential Impact on Passenger Rail

Two passenger rail organizations are urging the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to “carefully consider” how its proposed reciprocal switching regulations would impact their operations as well as investment.

15. Rail Traffic Uptick for Week 6

For the week ending Feb. 12, 2022, U.S. rail traffic was up 5% over the same week last year; total carloads came in 11.9% higher while intermodal volume continued its downward trend, dipping 0.4%, according to the Association of American Railroads’ (AAR) Feb. 16 report. In week 6, U.S. Class I railroads hauled a total of 504,482 carloads and intermodal units, comprising 236,457 carloads and 268,025 containers and trailers. Canadian railroads reported 72,963 carloads for the week, a 5.2% gain, and 67,484 intermodal units, a 4.7% boost compared with the same week in 2021. For the first six weeks of 2022, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 793,071 carloads, containers and trailers, down 12.2%.

16. TTCI Unveils Railroad Research E-Library

The Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) is now providing online access to 30 years of railroad technology research performed under the Association of American Railroads’ (AAR) Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) program. The new e-Library is available to the public. It features *TTCI’s Technology Digest*, a weekly publication that summarizes key findings and outcomes of SRI projects, providing railroads and suppliers with technical information related to wheel-rail interaction, advanced wheel and rail materials, special trackwork, bridges, vehicle dynamics, inspection technologies, and geotechnical studies. New digests will be available in the e-Library 60 days after their initial distribution to AAR-member subscribers, reported TTCI, a wholly owned subsidiary of AAR.

17. CP-KCS Merger Proceeding Moves Forward

BNSF and CN last month told the Surface Transportation Board (STB) they may request limited overhead trackage rights and a line divestiture, respectively, due to the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific (CP) and Kansas City Southern (KCS). In accordance with STB’s merger proceeding schedule, BNSF and CN on Jan. 12, 2022 separately filed descriptions of their anticipated responsive applications that would make the requests. Responsive applications are due Feb. 28, 2022.

18. Week 7: US Carloads, Intermodal Register Double-Digit Gains

U.S. rail traffic for the week ending Feb. 19, 2022, came in at 497,822 carloads and intermodal units, rising 31.7% from the same week last year, based on 237,256 carloads—up 38.2% from 2021—and intermodal volume of 260,566 containers and trailers—up 26.3%, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported on Feb. 23, 2022. Canadian railroads reported 74,320 carloads for the week, a 9.2% gain, and 64,704 intermodal units, a 1.3% increase vs. the same week in 2021. For the first seven weeks of 2022, they reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 932,095 carloads, containers and trailers, dropping 10%.

19. Norfolk Southern seeks to boost capacity through hiring, operational changes

Norfolk Southern admits that its rail network is congested, particularly for international, intermodal and automotive products services. But the railroad hopes that aggressive efforts to hire additional employees will address the capacity constraints, NS President Alan Shaw said at the Citi industrial tech and mobility conference this week. “We are going to get this fixed. We’re going to get the resources right. We’re going to get the plan right, and then we’re going to be able to grow efficiently and take advantage of what’s there in the market,” Shaw said. To boost capacity, NS has streamlined hiring, including collapsing the timeline for preemployment screening. The company has also increased trainee pay and hiring and retention bonuses, Shaw said. NS said last week that it is offering starting bonuses of up to \$5,000 for conductor trainees in priority locations and \$2,500 for other locations. Priority locations include Binghamton and Buffalo, New York; Cincinnati; Louisville, Kentucky; Manassas and Roanoke, Virginia; Harrisburg and Conway,

Pennsylvania; Birmingham and Sheffield, Alabama; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Linwood, North Carolina. NS also announced recent changes at the executive level, available [here](#) and [here](#).

20. STB Issues Annual Rail Rate Index Study: 1985-2020

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Economics (OE) has published the Annual Rail Rate Index Study: 1985-2020, summarizing trends in freight railroad rates. The OE periodically distills its data and analysis of freight rail rates into formal reports to share with the STB and the public. It uses STB's Confidential Carload Waybill Sample data for all traffic to calculate a "Tornqvist index" that shows how rates are changing over time across the entire rail industry, while controlling for shifts among different traffic characteristics from year to year, according to the agency. The most recent report covers 1985 through 2020. It provides user-friendly graphs to represent real and nominal levels of revenue per ton-mile, and separates rail rates by commodity groups.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. Truckers blocking U.S. border must go, Kenney says

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney says a truck convoy that's blockaded a highway at a busy U.S. border crossing as part of a protest against vaccine mandates violates the province's *Traffic Safety Act* and must end immediately. The Canada Border Services Agency said the U.S. border crossing at Coutts, Alta., has remained open despite the blockade on Highway 4, but RCMP say only foot traffic is able to get through. "As I said last week, Canadians have a democratic right to engage in lawful protests. I urge those involved in this truck convoy protest to do so as safely as possible, and not to create road hazards which could lead to accidents or unsafe conditions for other drivers," Kenney said on January 30, 2022 in a statement from Washington, D.C., where he is attending a National Governors Association meeting.

2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November and December, 2021

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (2003=100) is now available for November and December 2021. The index for December 2021 was 237.7 compared to 236.3 for November 2021.

3. Ontario Advances Major Improvements to Bradford GO Station

The Ontario government is moving forward with construction at Bradford GO Station that will enhance station features and amenities while supporting future two-way, all-day service along the Barrie GO line.

4. Pride Group buys U.S.-based Arnold Transportation

Pride Group Logistics has expanded its U.S. presence with the purchase of Arnold Transportation in Grand Prairie, Texas. The fleet includes 414 tractors and 1,400 dry van trailers. "The acquisition of Arnold Transportation Services will allow us to expand our U.S. domestic transportation offering to new and existing customers. We look forward to providing Arnold with many additional resources that will help grow the fleet and continue to provide safe and high-quality transportation services to customers," said Aman Johal, vice-president of Pride Group.

5. JBT Transport buys Heritage Transportation as it accelerates growth

Denis Medeiros, CEO of JBT Transport in Ayr, Ont., went from contemplating retirement to entering growth mode with the acquisition of nearby Heritage Transportation Group on Feb. 2, 2022. "My son's gotten more involved [in the business] and my idea of retiring came to an end when he wanted it to become part of his life," he says of 33-year-old son Kyle. "I do enjoy the building process, and this gives me something to do

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION Canada

1. Truckers blocking U.S. border must go, Kenney says, January 31, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
2. Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, November and December, 2021, January 31, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca
3. Ontario Advances Major Improvements to Bradford GO Station, January 31, 2022, www.mto.gov.on.ca
4. Pride Group buys U.S.-based Arnold Transportation, February 1, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
5. JBT Transport buys Heritage Transportation as it accelerates growth, February 2, 2022, www.todystrucking.ca
6. Premier Bulk partners with KIK Carrier for Quebec expansion, February 3, 2022, www.todaystrucking.com
7. Groupe Guilbault hires seven thanks to Trucking HR Canada's wage subsidy program, February 7, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
8. Statement by OTA President Stephen Laskowski on GTA Protests, February 5, 2022, www.cantruck.ca
9. TFI International earnings boosted by UPS Freight acquisition, February 7, 2022, www.todaystrucking.com
10. December 2021 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), February 9, 2022, www.bts.gov
11. Bigger fines coming to Ottawa protesters, city explores options to towing, February 9, 2022, www.todaystrucking.com
12. Ontario Continues with Progress on Scarborough Subway Extension, February 9, 2022, www.mto.gov.on.ca
13. Mullen Group Ltd. Reports 2021 Financial Results including Record Revenue, February 9, 2022, www.mullengroup.com
14. Auto industry crippled by border blockades, February 11, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
15. Border blockades may sour US feelings towards Canada, February 11, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca
16. ODTA accuses Ford government of double standards during protests, February 11, 2022,

as long as I'm healthy enough to grow it." The younger Medeiros has been actively running the company's operations and his father, now 60, and business partner decided growth through acquisition was the right path forward for the company. The company is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

6. Premier Bulk partners with KIK Carrier for Quebec expansion

Premier Bulk Systems is expanding into the Quebec market through a partnership with KIK Carrier to open a terminal in Boucherville, Que. The trucks there will operate under the Premier banner, adding to Premier and parent company Heniff's network of about 2,000 tractors, 5,000 trailers and 100 facilities. The new partnership will be led by Karl Fillion, as Quebec regional manager. "This transaction enhances our customers' ability to leverage the resources and services of our organizations across the North American liquid chemical supply chain," says Premier president Kevin Berry.

7. Groupe Guilbault hires seven thanks to Trucking HR Canada's wage subsidy program

Camille Pitt is senior human resources advisor for Groupe Guilbault, a large fleet headquartered in Quebec City. She takes a keen interest in the organization's activities, Guilbault being one of Trucking HR Canada's (THRC) Top Fleet Employers. That's how she found out about the Career ExpressWay initiative. "I saw that there was a wage subsidy that could apply to us," Pitt says about the program that provides financial support for hiring people under the age of 30 into various positions in the trucking industry. In Guilbault's case, this program has helped recruit seven forklift operators and truck drivers. "For example, when we hired a forklift operator, the first \$15,000 he received was reimbursed by Trucking HR Canada," she explains.

8. Statement by OTA President Stephen Laskowski on GTA Protests

The vast majority of the Ontario trucking industry is vaccinated and the overall vaccination rate among commercial drivers closely mirrors that of the general public. Some of the people protesting at Queen's Park are voicing their concern over the bilateral mandate introduced by the Governments of Canada and the United States that requires all essential workers, including truck drivers, to be vaccinated. As of January 22, 2022, the only way to cross the border, in a commercial truck or any other vehicle, is to get vaccinated. As an industry we must adapt and comply with this mandate and the vast majority have. The Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) does not support and strongly disapproves of any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges.

9. TFI International earnings boosted by UPS Freight acquisition

TFI International saw earnings soar in the fourth quarter, thanks in part to its "transformational acquisition" of UPS Ground Freight, the company announced Feb. 7, 2022. "During the fourth quarter, our operating income grew 84% and our adjusted diluted EPS (earnings per share) grew 60%," said Alain Bedard, chairman, president and CEO. "It is gratifying to see all our business segments delivering year over year growth in revenues and operating income, on the tremendous efforts of our thousands of talented team members. By focusing through the pandemic on our longstanding operating principles that emphasize efficiency, strong cash flow, and the strategic allocation of capital, we have entered the new year stronger than ever." Total revenue for the fourth quarter was US\$2.14 billion, up from \$1.12 billion in Q4 2020 (a 91% jump). Net income was \$144.1 million, up from \$86.3 million (year over year – a 67% increase). By segment, on the year, total revenue grew: 21% for package and courier; 378% for LTL; 24% for truckload; and 76% for logistics.

10. December 2021 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, fell 0.2% in December 2021 from November 2021, falling for the first month after three consecutive months of growth, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). From pre-pandemic December 2019, the index fell 0.3%, but is up 1.0% from December 2020

www.todaystrucking.ca

17. Acquisitions drove Mullen Group to record revenue, Feb. 11 2022, www.todaystrucking.com

18. Ambassador Bridge reopens, Coutts remains closed, Feb. 14, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca

19. Ambassador Bridge reopens as protests block other US-Canada border crossings, February 14,

2022, www.freightwaves.com

20. Windsor limits access to bridge as blockade cleared, Feb. 15, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca

21. CTA Statement on Government of Canada Invoking of Emergencies Act, February 15, 2022,

www.cantruck.ca

22. 2021 North American Trade Value Reaches \$1.3 Trillion, up 8% from Pre-pandemic 2019, up 25% from 2020, February 15, 2022,

www.bts.gov

23. Rhino Truck Lube Centre opens second location, February 16, 2022,

www.todaystrucking.com

24. Flying cabs steal thunder at airshow as clean future beckons, February 16, 2022,

www.ajot.com

25. Ontario Moving Forward to Expand Highway 6 South, February 17, 2022, www.mto.gov.on.ca

26. Truckload rates continue upward trajectory with new highs, February 18, 2022,

www.insidelogistics.ca

27. Carriers cut insurance coverage as premiums soar, ATRI report reveals, February 17, 2022,

www.todaystrucking.com

28. BTS Updates National Transportation Statistics with Inbound Freight Crossings from Canada and Mexico, Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption, Weekly Earnings of Transportation Workers, and Other Historical Tables, February 17, 2022, www.bts.gov

29. Ontario to remove tolls on Hwy. 412 and 418, 18 Feb. 2022, www.todaystrucking.com

30. Truck traffic plunged during Canada-U.S. border blockades, February 22, 2022,

www.todaystrucking.com

31. US LTL revenue jumped 20 percent to \$51 billion in 2021, February 23, 2022, www.joc.com

compared to a decline of 1.3% from December 2019 to December 2020. For-hire freight does not include the operations of fleets owned by retailers or other non-transportation companies referred to as private fleets.

11. Bigger fines coming to Ottawa protesters, city explores options to towing

Ottawa bylaw enforcement teams now have a series of \$1,000 fines at their disposal as they look to apply additional pressure on Freedom Convoy protesters occupying the downtown core since Jan. 29, 2022. The Ontario Court of Justice has set the higher fines for infractions linked to noise bylaws, traditionally capped at \$490; idling, that was at \$100; the use and care of roads, usually at \$350; and open-air fires that were at \$100.

12. Ontario Continues with Progress on Scarborough Subway Extension

The Ontario government is advancing a major works contract for the three-stop Scarborough Subway Extension, one of Ontario's four priority subway projects in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). This is part of the government's plan to build Ontario by getting shovels in the ground on key infrastructure projects.

13. Mullen Group Ltd. Reports 2021 Financial Results including Record Revenue

Mullen Group Ltd. one of North America's largest logistics providers with a wide range of service offerings including less-than-truckload, truckload, warehousing, logistics, transload, oversized, third-party logistics and specialized hauling transportation, on February 9, 2021 reported its financial and operating results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2021, with comparisons to the same period last year. Mr. Murray K. Mullen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer said "This is the second consecutive quarter that we achieved record revenue. Earlier this year we acquired six quality companies. They have driven, not only, revenue growth, we have expanded into new markets that we believe there is the potential for continued growth, gained access to an expanded customer base and added to our workforce at a time when recruiting new employees has turned into a real challenge. Suffice to say, I am most pleased with these investments. "Aside from our strong financial performance, which could not have been attained without the commitment of a dedicated workforce, I was so impressed with how our entire team of logistics professionals handled the ongoing challenges associated with COVID-19. Our people responded in ways that I could not have imagined even a year ago. There were so many stress points, so much uncertainty and challenges, yet they still persevered to get the freight moved to customers. I am so proud to represent these hardworking essential workers." Key financial highlights for the fourth quarter of 2021 with comparison to 2020 are as follows: 1) generated record quarterly revenue of \$441.9 million, an increase of \$144.2 million, or 48.4 percent, as compared to \$297.7 million in 2020. 2) earned adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization ("Adjusted OIBDA") of \$60.6 million, an increase of \$13.7 million as compared to \$46.9 million in 2020.

14. Auto industry crippled by border blockades

Automakers in Canada are scaling back production and bracing for continued disruptions as trucker blockades at U.S. border crossings worsen an industry-wide parts shortage. Shipping delays are rippling through the economy amid the ongoing protests that have idled Canada-bound traffic on the Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, Ont. Thousands of workers have seen their hours cut back as carmakers curb capacity, a situation having a knock-on effect on local suppliers and the broader economy. "It's not only an automotive problem, it's a huge economic problem for Canada as a whole," said Dino Chiodo, auto director with Unifor, the largest auto sector union in the country, on February 10, 2022.

15. Border blockades may sour US feelings towards Canada

Escalating blockades at the Canada-U.S. border are weakening one of the most fragile links in the vital North American supply chain – a link that has nothing to do with transport trucks, highways or bridges. Rather, it's the mood in the United States, particularly when it comes to issues like globalization, international trade and making things in America, that may pose the biggest danger over the long term. Michigan Rep. Elissa Slotkin complained on February 9, 2022 about a General Motors plant outside Lansing that's being starved of parts from Canada by the ongoing closure of the border crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Ont.

16. ODTA accuses Ford government of double standards during protests

The Ontario Dump Truck Association (ODTA) is accusing the provincial government of double standards during protests. The ODTA released an email sent by the Ministry of Transportation in April 2021, where protesters in dump trucks parked at four Greater Toronto Area MTO inspection sites were asked to leave the properties or face action. The ODTA held a series of protests in 2021. The ODTA claims the Ford government is handling the protesters in Ottawa and those blockading the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor differently. "We were treated unfairly. It looks like this group is being extended certain ministry favors," said Bob Punia, advisor to the ODTA. "Why were we forced to move and threatened with CVOR revocation when these groups in Ottawa and Windsor continue to occupy and cause major disruptions?"

17. Acquisitions drove Mullen Group to record revenue

Mullen Group achieved record revenue in the fourth quarter of 2021, thanks largely to the contributions of six companies acquired in the year. Total revenue climbed 48% to a record \$442 million, and net income doubled to \$20.2

million in the fourth quarter. Murray Mullen, chairman and CEO of the company, said the six businesses acquired last year will collectively drive \$500 million in revenue per year. “They’re all great companies, giving us immediate access to new customers, new markets, excellent leadership teams and a quality workforce,” said Mullen. And that’s how future growth will have to come, he added, given the tight labour market and supply chain bottlenecks.

18. Ambassador Bridge reopens, Coutts remains closed

One of the nation’s busiest border crossings reopened late February 13, 2022 following a days-long protest against COVID-19 measures some characterized as an “illegal occupation” at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge. Traffic was flowing normally across the bridge between Windsor, Ont., and Detroit for the first time in nearly a week, the Canada Border Services Agency confirmed just before midnight February 13, 2022. “The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) can confirm that travellers and commercial carriers are now being processed entering Canada at the Ambassador Bridge port of entry,” said Judith Gadbois-St-Cyr, a spokeswoman for the agency.

19. Ambassador Bridge reopens as protests block other US-Canada border crossings

The busiest commercial crossing between the U.S. and Canada, the Ambassador Bridge, reopened late Sunday (February 13, 2022) after police in Windsor, Ontario, cleared out a protest over COVID-19 restrictions that squeezed the cross-border supply chain for a week. U.S. Customs and Border Protection processed the first truck to reach the U.S side of the border in Detroit at 12:30 a.m. Monday (February 14, 2022), the agency said in a tweet. As of 8:30 a.m, CBP and the Canada Border Service Agency reported normal operations on both sides of the border. The protest disrupted millions of dollars of trade and led multiple auto plants to slow production because of delays in receiving parts. Trucks used alternate crossings and at times faced hours long delays, while some shippers turned to expedited airfreight and cargo van services. Police began an operation to clear the protest on Saturday (February 12, 2022) with a force that included heavily armed police officers, including snipers, backed by tactical units and armoured cars. Many protesters, including the few remaining heavy trucks, left. Around 20 people were arrested.

20. Windsor limits access to bridge as blockade cleared

Commercial trucks and other vehicles flowed steadily over the reopened Ambassador Bridge on Monday (February 14, 2022) as the City of Windsor took steps to ensure unimpeded access to the busy border crossing following nearly a week of protests that disrupted operations. Mayor Drew Dilkens signed a declaration of emergency that he said would help keep traffic flowing to and from the bridge, which reopened just before midnight. “It will allow us to deal in real time should something happen in the very near future that we’re all hoping doesn’t happen, with respect to a repeat of what we saw in the last seven days,” Dilkens said, noting the measure was temporary. The city will effectively turn the main road connecting to the bridge into a thoroughfare from Highway 401, with no vehicular access from side roads.

21. CTA Statement on Government of Canada Invoking of Emergencies Act

The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) applauds the Government of Canada’s use of the Emergencies Act to help end the blockades and make it very clear what the consequences are for blocking and impeding the movement of goods, people, and services along critical infrastructure (ports of entry) in Canada from a federal perspective. With the implementation of the Emergencies Act, those consequences will include fines/imprisonment as well as the towing of vehicles off the roads. CTA will also be clarifying with federal officials regarding other legal consequences/penalties facing those engaged in illegal blockades utilizing personal and commercial vehicles.

22. North American Trade Value Reaches \$1.3 Trillion, up 8% from Pre-pandemic 2019, up 25% from 2020

For the Full-year of 2021, transborder freight between the U.S. and North American countries (Canada and Mexico) was as follows: 1) Total transborder freight: \$1.33 trillion of transborder freight moved by all modes of transportation, up 8% compared to pre-pandemic 2019, up 24.6% compared to 2020. 2) Freight between the U.S. and Canada totaled \$664.2B. Freight between the U.S. and Mexico totaled \$661.2B. 3) Trucks moved \$827.9 billion of freight, up 7.2% from 2019 and 19.2% from 2020. 4) Railways moved \$186.5 billion of freight, up 4.4% from 2019 and 25.6% from 2020. 5) The port of Laredo, TX, saw the most freight value moved between the U.S. and Mexico (\$242.9 billion). Detroit, MI, saw the most freight moved between the U.S. and Canada (\$131.3 billion). 6) The top export to Canada was Computer-Related Parts and Machinery (\$44.2 billion) followed closely by Vehicles. 7) Other than Railway (also \$44.2 billion), and the top import from Canada was Mineral Fuels, Oils, and Waxes (\$103.2 billion). 8) The top export to Mexico was Electrical Machinery Equipment and Parts (\$43.4 billion), and the top import from Mexico was Vehicles Other than Railway (\$93.7 billion). For December 2021, North American Trade was valued at \$117.5 Billion, up 22% from Pre-Pandemic December 2019. U.S.-Canada trade (both directions) for December 2021 was as follows: Truck: \$30.8b.; Rail: \$8.9b; Pipeline: \$9.8b; Air: \$3.4b; and Vessel: \$3.1b.

23. Rhino Truck Lube Centre opens second location

Rhino Truck Lube Centre has opened a new location in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, building on an inaugural site that opened in Moncton in August 2021. The Dartmouth location at 90 Higney Ave. is located in the Burnside Industrial Park. In addition to two lube bays, it also features a pair of wash bays.

24. Flying cabs steal thunder at airshow as clean future beckons

Electric flying taxis took center stage at the Singapore Airshow this week as pressure to cut emissions and rebound from the pandemic leads airlines to invest in short, battery-powered hops to spur future growth. While conventional aircraft sales at the show were modest, Malaysian tycoon Tony Fernandes's AirAsia reached a non-binding agreement with aircraft-leasing firm Avolon Holdings Ltd. to rent at least 100 of Vertical Aerospace Ltd.'s flying taxis, confirming an earlier *Bloomberg News* report. Avolon, an investor in Vertical, has ordered 500 of the U.K. startup's VX4 aircraft, conditioned on milestones including certification. Separately, Embraer SA unit Eve Urban Air Mobility and Microflite, an Australian helicopter operator, announced an order of as many as 40 electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, or eVTOLs, to support the start of operations in Australia in 2026. Eve also struck a deal with Aviair and HeliSpirit, which serve some of Western Australia's most popular tourist attractions, for as many as 50 eVTOLs.

25. Ontario Moving Forward to Expand Highway 6 South

The Ontario government has procured AECOM as the successful engineering consultant to undertake a Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Update Study for the widening of Highway 6 South in the City of Hamilton. The project will increase lane capacity from two lanes to four over a nine kilometre segment between Highway 403 and Upper James Street, as part of the government's plan to build Ontario.

26. Truckload rates continue upward trajectory with new highs

Spot truckload freight rates extended their run to new highs in January 2022, said DAT Freight & Analytics, which operates the industry's largest truckload freight marketplace and the DAT iQ data analytics service. The prices to move dry and refrigerated (reefer) freight on the spot market increased for the eighth straight month as a national average, and are nearly US\$1 a mile higher year over year. The van rate averaged \$3.11 per mile in January 2022, a 11-cent increase over December 2021, while the average reefer rate was \$3.59 per mile, up 12 cents month over month. Spot truckload rates are negotiated on a per-load basis and paid to the carrier by a freight broker. DAT's rate analysis is based on \$116 billion in annualized freight transactions.

27. Carriers cut insurance coverage as premiums soar, ATRI report reveals

Carriers have been decreasing insurance coverage levels, raising deductibles and self-insurance retention levels, and decreasing investments in other cost centers, a new report revealed. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) on February 17, 2022 released a report analyzing trucking industry impacts from the rising costs of insurance. ATRI found that despite increased liability exposure, out-of-pocket incident costs and carrier crash involvement remained stable or decreased among a majority of respondents.

28. BTS Updates National Transportation Statistics with Inbound Freight Crossings from Canada and Mexico, Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption, Weekly Earnings of Transportation Workers, and Other Historical Tables

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on February 17, 2022 released its monthly update to National Transportation Statistics (NTS), a collection of annual transportation measures at the national level. This month's featured table, U.S.-Canadian Border Land-Freight Gateways: Number of Incoming Truck or Rail Container Crossings, looks at inbound freight activity along the Canadian border, the site of several recent truck blockades. The lines in the chart below show how the number of truck freight containers and rail freight containers coming into the U.S. from Canada has changed in the first two decades of this century. The February release also features tables on the condition of U.S. roadways; transportation-related occupational safety; the earnings of transportation workers; and vehicle fuel consumption in the U.S.

29. Ontario to remove tolls on Hwy. 412 and 418

Ontario is eliminating tolls on highways 412 and 418 that run between highways 401 and 407 in Durham Region. "Some things don't happen overnight but at the end of the day these tolls are gone," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said when announcing the change to be effective April 5, 2022.

30. Truck traffic plunged during Canada-U.S. border blockades

Overall cross-border truck traffic plunged in early February 2022 as a series of border blockades emerged in the fight against pandemic-related restrictions. While the number of truck drivers was relatively flat in the first two weeks of the month — with just under 99,000 truck drivers crossing the Canada-U.S. border each week — that was down from more than 106,000 truck drivers who made the journey from Jan. 24-30. It was also down from more than 110,000 who crossed the border during each of those three weeks in 2021.

31. US LTL revenue jumped 20 percent to \$51 billion in 2021

Higher rates and accessorial charges helped the largest US less-than-truckload carriers add revenue at an unprecedented pace last year, with the five fastest-growing companies increasing their top line between 30 and 40 percent.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. BTS Updates Datasets to National Transportation Atlas Database

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics on January 28, 2022 released its winter 2022 update to the National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD), a set of nationwide geographic databases of transportation facilities, networks, and associated infrastructure.

2. Government of Canada provides update about Canada's border measures

On January 28, 2022, the Government of Canada is providing an update on its border measures. It is: 1) Removing, effective January 28, 2022, the modified pre-departure test requirements for travellers coming to Canada on direct or indirect flights from India or Morocco. Travellers from these countries will no longer be required to obtain a valid negative pre-departure COVID-19 test from a third country. All travellers entering Canada are now subject to the same pre-entry test requirements, regardless of their departure country. 2) Ending the temporary exemption from pre-entry, arrival, and Day-8 testing and quarantine requirements for residents and essential workers of British Columbia who have to travel by land to or through the United States for essential food and supplies. This will end on January 31, 2022, at 20:59 PST.

3. Ministers Alghabra, Bibeau, Champagne, Ng, O'Regan and Qualtrough hosted a National Summit to strengthen Canada's supply chain

On January 31, 2022, Government ministers, hosted a National Supply Chain Summit. This Summit brought together business and industry leaders and associations to discuss the challenges facing Canada's supply chain and to identify potential solutions to ensure that what Canadians need reach their households as quickly as possible. A well-functioning supply chain supports good, middle-class jobs and keeps goods moving to Canadians. Participants for this initial event included a broad representation of Canadian organizations including business associations, manufacturers, exporters associations, as well as chief executive officers of railway, marine, air, trucking and retail companies. Ministers also announced that over the coming weeks, this Summit will be followed by a series of regional and industry sessions to continue the dialogue.

4. Economy seen growing 6.3%, beating Bank of Canada forecast

Canada's economy grew more than expected in November 2021 to bring real gross domestic product above its pre-pandemic levels, but the Omicron variant could throw a wrench in those gains. Real GDP in November 2021 grew 0.6 per cent, beating Statistics Canada's preliminary estimate of 0.3 per cent, the agency reported on February 1, 2022.

5. President Biden, U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Toolkit to Help Rural Communities Build Out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Transportation on February 2, 2022 released a new, free resource to help rural communities across the country take full advantage of federal funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The guide, titled *Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure*, can help connect community members, towns, businesses, planning agencies, and others with partners needed for these projects. President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a total of \$7.5 billion to build out a nationwide network of 500,000 electric vehicle chargers.

6. Record number of robots sold in 2021

Propelled by a surge in non-automotive sectors, the number of robots sold in North America set a new record in 2021, with 39,708 units sold at a value of US\$2 billion, a 14 percent increase over the previous high in 2017. According to

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Canada

1. BTS Updates Datasets to National Transportation Atlas Database, January 28, 2022, www.bts.gov

2. Government of Canada provides update about Canada's border measures, January 28, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca

3. Ministers Alghabra, Bibeau, Champagne, Ng, O'Regan and Qualtrough hosted a National Summit to strengthen Canada's supply chain, January 31, 2022, www.tc.gc.ca

4. Economy seen growing 6.3%, beating Bank of Canada forecast, February 2, 2022, www.financialpost.ca

5. President Biden, U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Toolkit to Help Rural Communities Build Out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, February 2, 2022, www.dot.gov

6. Record number of robots sold in 2021, February 4, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca

7. U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.7% in January 2022; Remains Above Pre-Pandemic Level of 3.4% in January 2020, February 4, 2022, www.bts.gov

8. COVID-19 Associated with Largest Year-Over-Year Decline of GDP Attributed to the Final Demand for Transportation, February 7, 2022, www.bts.gov

9. Canadian Tourism Activity Tracker, November 2021, February 8, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

10. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, January 2022, February 11, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

11. Trade panel agrees with Canada on solar equipment dispute, February 15, 2021, www.insidelogistics.ca

12. Global supply chain probe launched by 'five eyes' nations, February 18, 2022, www.joc.com

13. Canada joins international group investigating freight competition, February 21, 2022, www.insidelogistics.ca

14. Three countries provided almost 70% of liquefied natural gas received in Europe in 2021, February 22, 2022, www.ajot.com

15. DOT Lays Out Actions to Strengthen Supply Chains and Revitalize the Economy, February 24, 2022, www.dot.gov

16. Travel between Canada and other countries, December 2021, February 23, 2022, www.statcan.gc.ca

17. Canada keen to boost cross-border cooperation with U.S., Mexico, February 23, 2022, www.todaystrucking.com

new industry statistics released this week by the Association for Advancing Automation (A3), the number of robots sold in 2021 rose 28 percent over 2020. Record robot sales in the fourth quarter of the year — up nine percent over Q4 2020 — demonstrated the strong momentum already realized through the previous nine months as more industries look to automation to increase productivity and alleviate ongoing labour shortages. “More industries recognized that robotics could help reverse productivity declines and fill repetitive jobs human workers don’t want. It is no longer a choice whether to deploy robots and automation,” said Jeff Burnstein, president of A3.

7. U.S. Transportation Sector Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.7% in January 2022; Remains Above Pre-Pandemic Level of 3.4% in January 2020

The unemployment rate in the U.S. transportation sector was 4.7% (not seasonally adjusted) in January 2022 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data recently updated on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Unemployment in Transportation dashboard. The January 2022 rate fell 4.3 percentage points from 9.0% in January 2021, but remains above the pre-pandemic rate of 3.4% in January 2020. Unemployment in the transportation sector reached its highest level during the COVID-19 pandemic (15.7%) in May and July 2020. The unemployment rate in the transportation sector is slightly above the overall unemployment rate. BLS reports that the U.S. unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, in January 2022 was 4.4% or 0.3 percentage points below the transportation sector rate. Seasonally adjusted, the U.S. unemployment rate in January 2022 was 4.0%.

8. COVID-19 Associated with Largest Year-Over-Year Decline of GDP Attributed to the Final Demand for Transportation

The final demand for transportation declined 15.4% (\$295.2 billion) from 2019 to 2020 (adjusted for inflation) according to an analysis by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics of data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The drop during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic was the largest year-over-year decrease since the start of the current data series in 2002. The second largest decline (7.4%) occurred in 2009 at the end of the Great Recession. Transportation's relative contribution to GDP in 2020 was less than any year on record and private investment in new transportation structures and equipment decreased most among transportation demand components.

9. Canadian Tourism Activity Tracker, November 2021

In November 2021, overall tourism activity in Canada was 31.6% below the level reached in November 2019, before the pandemic. This was the sixth consecutive month of improvement since such activity hit a lull in May 2021, and the highest level since the pandemic started in March 2020. With the continued easing of travel restrictions over the summer and into the fall, along with the further re-opening in many provinces, including more stores, restaurants, and arts and entertainment venues, it appeared that tourism was on track for recovery in November. Visit the Canadian Tourism Activity Tracker tool to interact with the data.

10. Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada, January 2022

In January 2022, the number of international visitors to Canada rose from January 2021, but remained well below pre-pandemic levels in January 2020. The number of non-resident visitors arriving from abroad at Canadian airports equipped with electronic kiosks was more than five times the number recorded in the same month a year earlier. At the same time, the number of Canadian residents returning from a visit abroad via the same airports in January 2022 was almost five times higher than in January 2021. US residents made 126,300 tourism-related trips to Canada through land ports with electronic sensors in January 2022, almost 75,000 more than in January 2021. Similarly, compared with the same month in 2021, there were over 200,000 more Canadians—for a total of 370,700—who returned from visits to the United States through the same land ports.

11. Trade panel agrees with Canada on solar equipment dispute

When it comes to trade dispute victories in the post-NAFTA era, Canada just tied it up, 1-1. A dispute resolution panel has agreed that tariffs on Canadian-made solar products imposed in 2018 by former president Donald Trump violated the terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The panel’s final report, released February 15, 2022, found that by keeping Canadian exports subject to its so-called “safeguard measures,” the U.S. was in violation of its obligations under the deal. The agreement includes language that allows partners to escape such unilateral measures, provided that the levels of their imports are neither a significant share of total imports or contributing to the “serious injury” the measures are meant to prevent.

12. Global supply chain probe launched by ‘five eyes’ nations

Severe supply chain disruption in the world’s key markets has led to a joint effort among international competition authorities to investigate potential collusion.

13. Canada joins international group investigating freight competition

Canada’s Competition Bureau has joined the competition authorities of the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in a new working group focused on sharing information to identify and prevent potentially anti-competitive conduct in the global supply and distribution of goods. The working group brings together the bureau, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), the New Zealand

Commerce Commission and the U.K. Competition and Markets Authority. In light of pandemic-related disruptions to global markets, the five competition authorities will share information on potentially anti-competitive conduct affecting global and domestic supply chains. The purpose of the working group is to help identify attempts by businesses to use supply chain disruptions as a cover for price-fixing or other collusive activities that involve competitors cooperating instead of competing with each other.

14. Three countries provided almost 70% of liquefied natural gas received in Europe in 2021

In 2021, a large share of Europe's supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) originated in the United States, Qatar, and Russia. Combined, these three countries accounted for almost 70% of Europe's total LNG imports, according to data by CEDIGAZ. The United States became Europe's largest source of LNG in 2021, accounting for 26% of all LNG imported by European Union member countries (EU-27) and the United Kingdom (UK), followed by Qatar with 24%, and Russia with 20%. In January 2022, the United States supplied more than half of all LNG imports into Europe for the month.

15. DOT Lays Out Actions to Strengthen Supply Chains and Revitalize the Economy

On February 24, 2022, on the one-year anniversary of President's Executive Order on Supply Chains, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is publishing a report that lays out vulnerabilities in our freight and logistics supply chain and clear-cut actions needed to speed up the movement of goods from ships to shelves. Building a resilient and efficient supply chain that can withstand the shocks of future large-scale weather, health or other events that will spur economic growth, lower costs for Americans, and create good-paying jobs in the process. The Biden-Harris Administration has made this work a top priority-- including passing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that makes the largest investment in ports in American history, reversing decades of underinvestment in our country's critical infrastructure. DOT has already taken both immediate and long-term actions to bolster our supply chains and cut costs for the American people and this report provides a path forward to continue that work, including announcing the availability of \$450 million for American ports from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law this week, by far the Department's largest investment ever, informed by the report's recommendations.

16. Travel between Canada and other countries, December 2021

In December 2021, the number of international visitors to Canada continued to increase, but remained well below levels before the pandemic. While residents from overseas countries made more than five times the trips in December 2021 than in the same month in 2020, it was under half (42.7%) of December 2019. Likewise, US residents made almost five times more trips than in December 2020, yet less than one-third (32.4%) of those in the same month in 2019. Compared with the same month in 2020, Canadians made more than four times the return trips home from visiting abroad in December 2021, but this was over one-third (37.1%) of the December 2019 trips. After a record 96.8 million international arrivals—non-residents and returning Canadians as well as other travellers—to Canada in 2019, the number declined to 25.9 million in 2020, but had begun to recover in 2021.

17. Canada keen to boost cross-border cooperation with U.S., Mexico

Canada is committed to working closely with the U.S. and Mexico to increase cross-border coordination and cooperation. Michael Grant, assistant deputy minister for the Americas, Global Affairs Canada, said cooperation during the pandemic has showed the relationship's strength to deal with adversity. Speaking at the North American Transportation forum webinar Wednesday (February 23, 2020), Grant said Canada is committed to being a reliable, predictable, and secure trading partner. Given recent events in Canada, border crossings are open, and the government continues to monitor them closely to ensure there are no further disruptions, he said.