

REGIONAL LOGISTICS UPDATES – NORTH AMERICA

Last update: 7 May 2021 at 22:00pm GMT+1

DOMESTIC TRUCKING



- A year after the global pandemic nearly zeroed out Class 8 truck orders, the reopening of the economy is stressing supply chains, making it unlikely that any of April's 33,500 orders will be produced this year. The situation is practically a repeat of 2018, when manufacturers produced 325,000 trucks for the year. The build rate through the first quarter was the same as that year. But the backlog is bigger and supply constraints are unrelenting, Kenny Vieth, senior analyst and president of ACT Research, told FreightWaves. "It's not too much of a stretch to say that for all intents and purposes there are no open build slots remaining in 2021," Vieth said.
- Economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is putting pressure on the freight-hauling sector, and an industry expert said changes brought on by virus-related cutbacks are contributing to a tightening market that could rival earlier periods of growth. "The strength of the COVID post-shutdown economic recovery has been pretty remarkable to be sure," said John Woodcock, director of market development at railcar pooling specialist TTX Company, during the Intermodal Association of North America's 2021 Virtual Intermodal Operations, Safety & Maintenance Business Meeting. "But actual freight demand has been distorted in some respects by changes in employment and productivity slowdowns across the manufacturing sector and throughout the supply chain."

BERTLING USA AIRFREIGHT UPDATE



- IL-76 and An-124 May charter aircraft slots have openings and the sector continues trending towards a normal demand pattern.
- Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) Aviation Group is planning to open a new B777 freighter conversion line at Incheon International Airport in South Korea to meet demand. The conversion firm signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Incheon International Airport and MRO firm Sharp Technics to establish the facility, which will convert six B777-300ER and B777-200LR per year, starting in 2024. The company said that establishing more aircraft conversion facilities around the world is necessary in order to meet the expected rise in demand for wide body freighter aircraft with capacity for long flights.
- Air cargo volumes in March reached an all-time high for the month, according to IATA in its latest air cargo analysis. The association said that global air cargo demand, measured in cargo-tonne kilometres (CTKs) was 4.4% higher in March 2021 than in March 2019, which was used for comparison to avoid the "distorted" results in 2020 that reflect the unprecedented impact of Covid-19. Compared with a year ago, demand is up by 22.1%. IATA said the underlying drivers of air cargo demand remain positive: "The latest monthly PMI surveys indicate that the global demand for exports has been recovering as countries emerge from lockdowns and business activity restarts."

- Caribbean Airlines Cargo is increasing its weekly freighter capacity to meet growing demand on its Miami-Kingston-Miami and Miami-Trinidad-Miami routes. From May 2, the carrier is adding 200,000 lb of airfreight capacity each week with additional flights. The updated schedule includes four weekly flights between Miami and Trinidad, as the carrier launches a new Monday flight. The carrier is also increasing its capacity between Miami and Kingston on Tuesdays by upgrading the aircraft that is used for the service. Additionally, the carrier will move its Monday flight between Miami, Kingston and Montego Bay to Sunday.
- As part of its expansion strategy, Mexican freighter operator MasAir is leasing two Airbus A330-200P2F (passenger-to-freighter) aircraft from Altavair. The agreement covers the leasing of two converted aircraft that will be delivered to MasAir early next year. The A330-200P2F has a payload of up to 61 tonnes and has a range of up to 4,200 nautical miles, making it possible for MasAir to expand into new markets including China, where it obtained certification to fly last year.
- Virgin Atlantic, which traditionally operates long-haul flights, is continuing to expand its all-cargo short haul network in response to demand. The carrier yesterday announced that from April 25 it would begin flying a twice-weekly service between Frankfurt and its London Heathrow hub. The carrier said the flights would utilise 55 tonne capacity B787 aircraft and offer same day connections to and from the US to support machinery parts and healthcare products. Virgin Atlantic said that it planned to increase the frequency of the service to three times per week from May 1.
- Airfreight rates are expected to remain at an elevated level in the long term while freighters are expected to gain market share, according to a new whitepaper from Transport Intelligence (Ti). The whitepaper predicts that there is a high likelihood of structural change in the airfreight market as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report cites recent predictions from Boeing that the air fleet will grow by 3.2% annually over the coming 20 years, while cargo demand is expected to increase by around 4% each year over that same time frame. "The logic of these numbers is that available belly freight capacity will fall. This suggests that the low freight rates seen in the ten years previous to 2020 have come to an end," Ti states in the paper.
- Other airlines continue to offer cargo only transport via passenger aircraft
- Freighter services continue to be affected by ground handling/country specific issues on a case by case basis.
- Air freight rates and space availability continue to be volatile and need to be checked on a case by case basis.

OCEAN FREIGHT – TEXAS PORTS

Texas ports: No known closures due to COVID-19. All ports are continuing normal operations.

- [Port Houston](#) (public docks)
- [Galveston Wharves at the Port of Galveston](#)
- [Port of Corpus Christi](#)
- [Port of Brownsville](#)
- [Port Freeport](#)
- [Port of Port Arthur](#)
- [Port of Beaumont](#)



OCEAN FREIGHT – OTHER PORTS



Other ports: No known closures due to COVID-19. All ports are continuing normal operations.

- [Port of New York & New Jersey](#)
- [Port of Los Angeles](#)
- [Port of Long Beach](#)
- [South Carolina Ports](#)
- [Georgia Ports Authority](#)
- [Port of New Orleans \(Port NOLA\)](#)
- [Port of South Louisiana](#)
- [Port of Mobile](#)
- [Port of Virginia](#)
- [Port of Baltimore](#)
- [Jacksonville Port Authority \(JAXPORT\)](#)

FEDERAL/STATE/AGENCY UPDATES



TSA Extends Face Mask Requirement Through 13 September ***Transportation Security Agency***

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is extending the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems through 13 September.

TSA's initial face mask requirement went into effect on 1 February with an expiration date of May 11.

“The federal mask requirement throughout the transportation system seeks to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on public transportation,” said Darby LaJoye, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the TSA Administrator. “Right now, about half of all adults have at least one vaccination shot and masks remain an important tool in defeating this pandemic. We will continue to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to evaluate the need for these directives and recognize the significant level of compliance thus far.”

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