

CANADA Daily News and Updates April 8th 2024

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Ocean Updates

Box Logjam at Port of Vancouver as Import Surge Meets Rail Shortages

A surge of imports meeting strained rail capacity has pushed up container dwell times at North American west coast ports, especially in Vancouver.

And importers face further disruption with Canadian rail workers set to vote on industrial action in their contract negotiations with the railways.

On Thursday, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's dashboard for rail flows showed container dwell times of more than seven days at the Centerm container facility, while Vanterm and Deltaport registered dwells of five-to-seven days.

Average dwell times climbed from 4.3 days in December to 5.2 in January, 6.7 in February and 7.3 in March.

The congestion was caused by a double-digit surge in imports. For March, the port posted a 10% rise in boxes over February, 51.7% higher than 12 months earlier. Terminal utilization reached 91% at Deltaport and 96% at Centerm.

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

Port of Montreal Labour Negotiations Update

In a statement on April 5, the Maritime Employers Association said that mediation meetings have been scheduled by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for April 8 and 9.

The MEA noted that there has been no strike vote and the union has not planned a meeting to set that in motion. For any pressure tactics to be applied, a vote and 72 hours' notice is necessary.

"While the situation at the Port of Montreal and at the MEA is critical, our priority remains the conclusion of a negotiated collective agreement as soon as possible," the MEA stated.

International Business/Government

Taiwan Earthquake's Impact on Chip Industry Likely to Be 'Moderate,' Experts Say

As Taiwan continues to assess the damage of last week's earthquake, the chip industry is weighing how severely the disaster could impact the global semiconductor supply chain.

The epicentre of the 7.4-magnitude earthquake was on Taiwan's east coast, killing a reported 10 people and injuring at least 1,050 others as of Thursday.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, which operates 14 sites on the island and several construction developments, evacuated some areas as a precautionary measure and paused production at some of its plants on the west coast. The company is currently evaluating the impact of the earthquake and, while some production lines have been affected, "equipment in Taiwan fabs have largely been fully recovered," the company said in a statement Friday morning.

Read more in an [article from Supply Chain Dive](#).