

CANADA Daily News and Updates October 2nd 2024

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Ocean Updates

Impacts Apparent After One Day of Three-Day Strike Action at Port of Montreal

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has revealed the operational impacts of Day 1 (September 30) of the partial strike at the Port of Montreal.

While the ongoing work stoppage at the Viau and Maisonneuve terminals is paralyzing 40% of total container handling capacity, MPA is seeing an accumulation of containers on the ground, including temperature-controlled containers for food, pharmaceutical and medical products. In addition, goods scheduled to transit through the Viau and Maisonneuve terminals are being held up at forwarding agents, and five container ships due to arrive at the Port of Montreal in the next few days have been delayed.

Read more – and find statistics related to affected cargo – in a [press release from the Port of Montreal](#).

East and Gulf Coast Ports Strike, with ILA Longshoremen Walking Off Job from New England to Texas, Stranding Billions in Trade

Approximately 50,000 ILA union longshoremen walked off the job at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports from New England to Texas starting at 12:01 am ET on Tuesday after failing to reach an agreement with ports ownership on a new contract, the union's first strike since 1977.

Between 43% and 49% of all U.S. imports and billions of dollars in trade monthly move through the U.S. East Coast and Gulf ports.

The International Longshoremen's Association, the largest maritime union in North America, said in a Tuesday statement from ILA president Harold Daggett that it wants a \$5 an hour per year increase over six years, all royalties for containers handled, and strict language against automation. The union rejected an offer from the port management group USMX on Monday that included a wage hike over six years near 50%.

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

'Scaremongering' Port Workers' Union Issues Misleading Claim of \$30,000 Ocean Freight Container Shipping Rates as Strike Action Begins

On Monday, the ILA claimed in a statement that ocean container carriers are now charging US\$30,000 per container in a "whopping increase from US\$6,000 just a few weeks ago."

Xeneta data – which is based on more than 450 million crowdsourced datapoints – shows the ILA claim is misleading. Average spot rates on the major fronthaul from the Far East to U.S. East Coast were at around US\$7,000 per FEU (40ft container) on October 1. While average spot rates from North Europe to the U.S. East Coast have increased 50% since the end of August, they are still only US\$2,800 per FEU.

Peter Sand, Xeneta Chief Analyst, said "The union is representing its members and clearly has grievances to raise, but muddying the waters with misinformation does nothing to help resolve the situation.

"More than 40% of containerized goods enter the U.S. through the East and Gulf Coast so this strike will cause carnage across supply chains and damage the U.S. economy. Now is the time for cool heads and diplomacy rather than scaremongering and fake news."

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

Truck Updates

Hurricane Helene Update: Highways Closed; Truck Stop Services Interrupted

Recovery efforts continue in the U.S. south following the severe damage wrought by Hurricane Helene.

Key takeaways from the aftermath of what may well be the most destructive storm to ever strike the region:

- hundreds of roads and highways remain closed, especially in North and South Carolina
- numerous truck stops and travel centres are closed or have reduced services
- the path of destruction stretches 800 miles from the Florida panhandle to Tennessee and Kentucky

Many highways in western North Carolina remain closed. NCDOT posted to its website: "I-40 is impassable in multiple locations. I-26 is closed at the Tennessee state line. There are many closed roads that are not listed on this site as many areas are not able to report at this time. All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed and non-emergency travel is prohibited."

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

Customs Regulatory

CBP 'Open for Business' in East-Gulf Coast Ports Impacted by Port Strike

The National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America, Inc. (NCBFAA) issued an update on Tuesday based on information from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

CBP said on a call with the trade that its operations in the ports of entry impacted by the ILA East-Gulf Coast port work stoppage are "open for business."

While some regulatory flexibility will be considered by the agency, CBP expects carriers, customs brokers, freight forwarders, NVOCCs, importers and exporters to maintain compliance with import and export regulations, such as diversion data for their goods before and during a strike.

Read the [full NCBFAA update](#).