

INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MARKET UPDATE

AUGUST 2023



After two long weeks of strike action, a tentative agreement between ILWU Canada and BCMEA was reached. However, more disruptions started on July 18th when ILWU Canada released a statement that they had voted down the settlement terms. This resulted in more port closures on July 18th and 19th. ILWU Canada also issued another strike action scheduled for July 22nd, then shortly retracted it. ILWU Canada membership must still ratify the agreement before it is finalized.

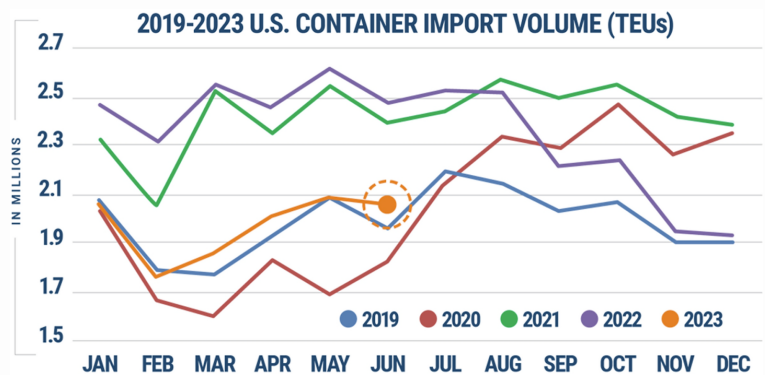
China:

- Current demand for the Pacific Southwest remains strong, with the Gulf and US East Coast allocations starting to soften. Average wait times at China base ports are one to two days. Due to blank sailings, some carriers are experiencing equipment shortages for 20GPs and 45HQ. Current space issues vary by origin, and we suggest booking at least three weeks out to confirm equipment and space.
- Container terminals in Hong Kong and Guangdong province were suspended on July 17th as Typhoon Talim made landfall. This was the first typhoon of the season, and weather authorities assessed the storm as a T8, the severest of typhoon ratings. Train services stopped, flights were canceled, and carriers issued warnings that their schedules would be affected.

Imports:

- The House of Representatives approved a provision limiting China's ability to monitor the flow of ocean containers into and out of the United States. The provision states that any US ports that take federal grant money are prohibited from using China's state-supported National Public Information Platform for Transportation and Logistics. This platform is known as LOGINK. The provision was an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

- Descartes reported that all US Imports are up over 6% from 2019 pre-pandemic numbers. The first half of 2023 shows a 2% increase over 2019, and June was up 20% over the recent low in February.



Source: [FreightWaves](#)

Port News

A new chapter unfolds for the Port of New Jersey. After a five-year battle that received a unanimous decision from the United States Supreme Court, the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Port Security Section (PSS) has officially taken over the port's regulatory and law enforcement duties, which were previously held by the Water Commission of New York Harbor within New Jersey. Governor Phil Murphy stated a new era of commerce and security of the state's waterfront has begun, putting in place a structure suitable for the 21st century. The transition has accelerated between the two states, maintaining the safety and integrity of the port, along with no disruption.

Air Freight

Ocean carrier Maersk opened a 123,000-square-foot air freight station in Atlanta to help support quicker international shipping for customers. The location will also serve as a staging point for Maersk's dedicated freighter hub at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. The new gateway is two miles from Atlanta in the Tradeport Foreign Trade Zone, which offers reduced processing fees and duties and access to two major interstates for quicker delivery times.



A Boeing 767-300 freighter operated by Amerijet for Maersk Air Cargo stops at Incheon airport in Seoul, South Korea, to load up with exports for the U.S. market. (Photo: Maersk)

Source: [FreightWaves](#)

Customs:

- WCO and ICAO released a revised brochure to assist air transport regulators and operators in mitigating security threats associated with air cargo transport. The brochure emphasizes effective collaboration within the regulatory framework to ensure air cargo security. It also stresses the importance of digitalizing the cargo processes to better align with the modern multimodal supply chains.
- US CBP has awarded Altana, a startup that uses AI technology, permission to use AI to map global supply chains to prevent goods produced using forced labor from entering the country. The contract is \$2.85 million for the rest of this year and nearly \$10 million over three years.
- US CBP Acting Commissioner Troy Miller is starting to take steps to implement the Green Trade Strategy that was announced a year ago.

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Sources: Maersk, Sinpex, Container News, BNN, FreightWaves, Insider NJ, WCO, CBP