

MULTIMODAL:

Dow Jones Transportation Index	Dow Jones Transportation index rose 5.3% during the month of September. <i>(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of August 10th thru September 10th)</i>
NASDAQ Transportation Index	NASDAQ Transportation Index increased 4.1% in September. <i>(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of August 10th thru September 10th)</i>
DOT Freight Transportation Index	The USDOT's freight transportation services index rose 0.9% in July 2014. The index's reading of 119.6 was up 3.2% from July 2013. (Source: US DOT)
Cass Freight Index	The August shipments index rose 2.3% over the previous month and rose 4.9% year-over-year. The August expenditures index fell 0.3% for the month, and increased 8.0% year-over-year. (Source: Cass Information Systems Cassinfo.com) <i>(Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)</i>
Import Volumes	In July, the U.S. imported about \$238.6 billion of cargo. July U.S. imports rose 0.7% in terms of value from June, and rose 4.0% year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
Export Volumes	In July, the U.S. exported nearly \$198 billion of cargo, the highest on record . July U.S. exports have increased 0.9% in terms of value over the previous month and rose 4.3% year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
Import & Export Price Index	U.S. import prices fell 0.9% in August. Import prices fell 0.4% over the past year. The price index for U.S. exports fell 0.5% in August. Export prices increased 0.4% year-over-year. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Multimodal News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Development magazine has ranked Georgia as the No. 1 place in the nation in which to do business. Area Development is a leading executive magazine cover corporate site selection and relocation. Georgia ranked first for labor climate and second for business environment, overall infrastructure, and global access. (Source: Area Development Magazine) Metro Atlanta had a record \$18.8 billion in goods exports in 2013, a 4% increase over the previous year. Atlanta accounted for 55% of Georgia's total merchandise exports, and was among 26 metropolitan areas ranking in the top 50 that achieved record export levels in 2013. Overall, Atlanta ranked 18th in the nation for exports in 2013. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce) Digital trade is responsible for an estimated 3.4% to 4.8% boost in U.S. GDP. Commerce that was conducted via the Internet resulted in an estimated \$517.1 billion to \$710.7 billion increase in U.S. GDP in 2012. (Source: U.S. International Trade Commission)

RAIL:

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic	Railroad bulk carload freight in August 2014 fell 2.6% from July 2014. Freight traffic in August rose 2.9% from August 2013. Carloads excluding coal increased 7.8% over the previous year. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic	Intermodal rail traffic in August 2014 was 4.3% higher than in August 2013, and rose 0.2% from July 2014. Intermodal loadings have experienced year-over-year gains for 57 straight months . (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
Railroad Fuel Price Index	The index of average railroad fuel prices in June was 591.3, down 0.5% from the previous month and 2.6% lower year-over-year. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Average monthly price for gallons purchased by freight railroads; Includes federal excise taxes, transportation, and handling expenses)</i>
U.S. Intermodal Rates	For the week of September 8, average intermodal rates totaled \$2,145 per 53-foot container, 1.3% higher than the previous month. (Source: IDS Transportation) <i>(The Intermodal Rate Index is a weekly reported average spot rate for 36 major U.S. intermodal lanes.)</i>
Class 1 Railroad Employment	Railroad employment in July 2014 increased by 999 employees to 167,138 employees. Total Class 1 rail employment in July increased 1.9% , year-over-year. (Source: U.S. STB)
Short Line Rail Traffic	In August 2014, short line railroad shipments across North America rose 6.4% compared to the same month last year. A sampling of about 427 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada loaded 611,792 railcars and intermodal units during the month of August. (Source: RMI RailConnect Index rmiondemand.com)
Railroad News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. carload gains were led by metallic ores, increasing 28% over the previous year. Other commodities showing carload growth in August included petroleum and petroleum products (+25.2%); grain (+16.0%); crushed stone, sand, and gravel (+14.4%); and lumber and wood products (+12.2%). (Source: AAR.org)

TRUCKING:

Trucking Volume

The ATA's seasonally adjusted cargo index **rose 1.3%** in July. The for-hire truck tonnage index **rose 3.6%** from July 2013. (Source: American Trucking Association | Trucking.org)

Truckload Freight

The spot market for truckload freight in August **rose 0.4%** compared to the previous month, and was **44% higher** year-over-year. Truck capacity **fell 4.7%** for the month, and **increased 1.9%** year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines | www.dat.com)

Diesel Prices

U.S. average diesel prices remained at **\$3.81 per gallon** last week. The U.S. average diesel price was **16.7¢ lower** than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the lower Atlantic states was \$3.76 per gallon. (Source: U.S. DOE) *(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)*

Trucking Employment

The trucking industry workforce **decreased by 800 employees** in August. The trucking workforce **increased 1.9%** over the previous year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Truck Orders

Orders for heavy-duty Class 8 trucks in North America are expected to total **24,947 units** in August 2014. August orders were **15.5% lower** than the previous month and **29% higher** year-over-year. Class 8 truck orders have now had **19 consecutive months** of year-over-year increases. (Source: FTR Associates | ftrassociates.com)

NAFTA Trade

Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico, **increased 9.3%** in June 2014 year-over-year, totaling nearly **\$84.8 billion**. (Source: US DOT)

Trucking News Clips:

- In a recent survey, **79% of truck drivers** agreed that salary was most important when choosing a job. Home time was ranked as the second-highest and sign-on bonus and training were ranked the lowest. With the new hours of service requirements, regional and long-haul truck drivers can't make as much money as they used to. Now, many drivers prefer to become **local drivers** instead, contributing to the current truck driver shortage. (Source: National Retail Systems, Inc.)

AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic

Global air freight traffic in July **increased 5.8%** from one year ago, and **rose 1.1%** from the previous month. North American air freight in July **rose 5.2%** year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org)
(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.)

Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic

In July, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported **51,553 metric tons** of cargo, a **3.6% increase** from the previous month and a **2.9% increase** year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)

Air Freight Price Index

In July, the index of East-West air cargo rates **rose 0.6%** over the previous month, and was **8.5% higher** year-over-year. The average price of air cargo leaving the United States in July stood at **\$3.32 per kilogram**. (Source: Drewry) *(The Drewry East-West Air Freight Price Index is based on the average of rates (\$US per kg) for air freight services on 21 major East-West routes.)*

Jet Fuel Prices

As of August 29, 2014, the global average jet fuel price was \$120.6 per barrel; **down 0.5%** from the previous month, and **8.4% lower** year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org, platts.com)
(The weekly index and price data shows the global average price paid at the refinery for aviation jet fuel)

Air Freight News Clips:

- Airports around the world posted the **strongest freight numbers in two years**, seeing a **6.7% increase** in volumes in July over the same month last year. North American airports experienced an **8.9% increase** in volumes during the month, while Middle Eastern airports saw the largest increase at **12%**. (Source: Airports Council International)

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OCEAN FREIGHT:

Import Volumes

Import volume through major U.S. container ports is expected to total **1.5 million containers** in September. In July, the latest month for which numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.5 million TEUs, a **1.1% increase** from the previous month and a **3.7% increase** from the same month last year. Total U.S. containerized imports are expected to **increase 5.3%** in 2014. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index

The September 5th SCFI comprehensive reading was **\$1,133 per FEU; up 5.8%** year-over-year. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was **\$4,636 per FEU, up 36.6%** from the previous year. (Source: Shanghai Shipping Exchange | www1.chineseshipping.com.cn/en)
(The Shanghai Containerized Freight Index is a weekly reported average export spot rate from Shanghai for 15 different trade lanes.)

Ocean Bulk Freight Rates

The Baltic Dry Index **rose 51.9%** in August, ending at 1,147. The BDI has **risen 3.4%** during the first half of September. (Source: www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND)
(The Baltic Dry Index is an index that tracks and averages worldwide international shipping prices of various dry bulk cargoes.)

TSA Bunker Surcharges

Between October 1 and December 31, 2014, the bunker fuel surcharge will total **\$519 per FEU** for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and **\$980 per FEU** for shipments to the East coast and Gulf ports. (Source: Transpacific Stabilization Agreement) *(The Transpacific Stabilization Agreement is a research and discussion forum of major ocean container shipping lines that carry cargo from Asia to ports in the U.S.)*

Port of Savannah

The Georgia Ports Authority reached an **all-time high** in container trade in July, moving **293,889 TEUs**, a **19.2% increase** year-over-year. Over **2.52 million tons** of cargo moved through Georgia Ports in July, **up 12.8%** over the same month last year. Break-bulk cargo **increased by 7%** to reach 226,493 tons. Roll-on/Roll-off traffic **rose 8.5%** during the same period. (Source: GPA)

Port of Brunswick

The Port of Brunswick's dedicated auto and machinery terminal moved 674,327 roll-on/roll-off units in FY2014. Savannah's Ocean Terminal added another 26,375 for a record total of 700,702 units, a 10% increase over the previous fiscal year. (Source: GPA)

Ocean Freight Business News:

- Maersk Line reported a profit of **\$547 million** for the second quarter. The container shipper increased its volume **6.6%** to 2.4 million FEUs during the quarter and **cut costs by 4.4%**. The shipper's parent company, Maersk Group increased its half-year earnings by 42%, totaling **\$1 billion**. Maersk expects its full-year profit to be around **\$4.5 billion** for 2014.
- U.S. steel imports in July **increased 6%** over the previous month and **rose 56%** year-over-year. July imports totaled **3.8 million net tons**. Steel imports from South Korea and Russia showed the largest growth, increasing **27.5%** and **135%**, respectively. During the first seven months of 2014, U.S. steel imports increased **36.6%** over the same period in 2013 to total **24.9 million net tons**. (Source: American Institute for International Steel)
- Containerized imports of auto parts into the United States **increased 5.2%** year-over-year in the first half of 2014 and were **up 11%** compared to the first half of 2012. Parts importers brought in a total of **452,098 TEUs** in the first and second quarters of 2014. The Port of Savannah moved **40,226 TEUs** of containerized auto parts, a **16.1% increase** over the first half of 2012. (Source: PIERS)

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

Industrial Vacancy

The U.S. average industrial vacancy rate was **7.7%** during Q2 2014, down from 7.9% in the previous quarter. Overall vacancy was **10.7%** in Atlanta during the second quarter. (Source: Newmark Grubb Knight Frank)

Warehouse Rent Rates

In Q2 2014, warehouse and distribution rental rates in the US averaged **\$5.36 per square foot**, down from \$5.40 per square foot in the previous quarter. Rental rates for warehouse space averaged **\$4.02 per square foot** in Atlanta. (Source: Newmark Grubb Knight Frank)

Industrial Absorption

Net absorption in the US during Q2 2014 totaled more than **+38.2 million square feet**. Atlanta's overall absorption during the 2Q was **the highest in the nation**, totaling **+3.38 million square feet**. (Source: Newmark Grubb Knight Frank) *(Absorption is the net change in occupied space between two points in time. Positive absorption means that previously unoccupied space is being occupied.)*

Purchasing Managers Index

The National PMI **rose 1.9 points** to 59.0 in August 2014. New orders **rose 3.3 points** to 66.7 and production **increased 3.3 points** to 64.5. (Source: Institute for Supply Management)
(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)

Purchasing Managers Index in Georgia

Georgia's PMI **rose 12.9 points** to 61.3 in August. New orders in Georgia **rose 21.4 points** to 60.9 and production rose 19.6 points to 69.6. Georgia's PMI is now **2.3 points** above the national PMI. (Source: Kennesaw State University) *(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)*

W&D Business News:

- Oilon, a Finnish energy and environment technology company, will open its first U.S.-based **office and warehouse** in Thomasville, Georgia. The new facility will take **create 50 jobs** over the next five years.
- Total Quality Logistics, a leading freight brokerage company, will **create 75 new jobs** and **invest \$1 million** into an Atlanta facility over the next three years. The freight brokerage firm will take advantage of Georgia's skilled labor force and infrastructure in expanding its presence in Georgia.

U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product

The U.S. GDP **increased 4.2%** in the second quarter of 2014 according to the second estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. (Source: US BEA)

U.S. Trade Deficit

The U.S. trade deficit **decreased by 0.6%** in July to \$40.5 billion. **Exports rose 0.9%** to \$198 billion and **imports rose 0.7%** to \$238.6 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)

Consumer Confidence

The Consumer Confidence Index **increased to 92.4** in August 2014, **up 2.1 points** from the previous month and the **highest since October 2007**. (Source: The Conference Board)
(The consumer confidence index is based on a monthly survey of 5,000 U.S. household. It is designed to gauge the financial health, spending power, and confidence of the average U.S. consumer.)

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in America **fell to 6.1%** in August 2014 as there were **142,000 net new jobs**. (Source: US DOL)

Leading Economic Index

The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. **increased 0.9%** in July to 103.3 (2004=100), following a 0.6% increase in June and a 0.6% increase in May. (Source: Conference Board)
(The LEI is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together create an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The LEI reveals patterns in economic data in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component alone.)

Retail Sales

Retail and food service sales rose in August to **\$444.4 billion**, **up 0.6%** from the previous month, and **increased 5%** above August 2013. Non-store retailer sales were **up 6.5%** from last year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Sales

Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled more than **\$1.36 Trillion** in July 2014, **up 0.8%** from June and **up 5.3%** from the previous year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Inventory

Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at **\$1.75 Trillion** in July 2014, **up 0.4%** from June and **up 5.9%** from July 2013. (Source: US Census)

Housing Starts

In July, housing starts **rose 15.7%** to an annual rate of 1,093,000 units. Building permits (an indicator of future housing starts) **rose 8.1%** to an annual rate of 1,052,000. Year-over-year, housing starts and building permits in July **increased 21.7%** and **0.9%**, respectively. (Source: U.S. DOC)

Consumer & Producer Price Index

The consumer price index for all urban consumers **increased 0.1%** in July from the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the all items index **increased 2.0%**. The producer price index for finished goods **rose 0.1%** in July from the previous month. Prices for finished goods **rose 1.7%** over the previous year. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)