

MULTIMODAL:

Dow Jones Transportation Index	Dow Jones Transportation index increased 1.18% during the month of January 2015. <i>(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of January 10th thru February 10th)</i>
NASDAQ Transportation Index	NASDAQ Transportation Index increased 1.24% in January 2015. <i>(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of January 10th thru February 10th)</i>
DOT Freight Transportation Index	The USDOT's freight transportation services index fell 0.4% in December 2015. The index's reading of 121.0 was 2.3% below the all-time high of 123.8 in November 2014. (Source: US DOT)
Cass Freight Index	The January shipments index decreased 1.3% from the previous month and decreased 0.2% year-over-year. The January expenditures index decreased 1.9% for the month, and decreased 1.4 year-over-year. The declines are not unusual for January. (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 December, the U.S. imported \$183.7 billion of cargo, increasing 0.3% from November 2015. (Source: US Census)
Export Volumes	In December, the U.S. exported \$121.2 billion of cargo, decreasing 0.6% from December 2015 and the lowest level since February 2011 . (Source: US Census)
Import & Export Price Index	U.S. import prices decreased 1.1% in January, the largest monthly decrease for the index since a 1.8% drop in August 2015. U.S. export prices decreased 0.8% in January, and have not recorded a monthly advance since the index rose 0.5% in May 2015. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
E-Commerce	E-Commerce revenue was up 5% in December 2015 compared to December 2014. Mobile shopping (phones and tablets) accounted for 30% of online shopping, up from 25% in December 2014. (Source: Custora E-Commerce Pulse)
Multimodal News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. light vehicle sales were a seasonally adjusted and annualized 17.5 million in January 2016, up 1.74% from December 2015 and higher than the actual 17.4 million in all of 2015 (a new annual record). (Source: AAR) Merger and acquisition activity in the transportation and logistics industry continued its strong run in the fourth quarter of 2015, capping off a year that saw total deal value in the industry nearly double as it was in 2014. At \$73.2 billion, fourth quarter deals accounted for 42 percent of the total deal value for 2015. (Source: American Shipper)

RAIL:

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic	Originations of carloads in January 2016 totaled 968,042, a decrease of 16.6% from January 2015. This is the biggest year-over-year decline for any month since July 2009 . Weekly average total carloads in January 2016 were 242,011, the lowest weekly average for any month since January 1988 . (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 totaled 1,039,621 units in January, 3.4% higher , year-over-year. This was the biggest monthly percentage gain in five 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 December 2015 was 248.8, down 17.9% from the previous month and 39.1% 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>
Class 1 Railroad Employment	Railroad employment in December 2015 decreased 2.09% from the previous month , to 160,795 employees total, the eighth straight month-to-month decline, and the biggest month-to-month decline since January 2001. (Source: U.S. STB)
Short Line Rail Traffic	In January 2016, short line railroad shipments across North America fell 4.8% compared to the same month last year. A sampling of about 431 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada loaded 518,654 railcars and intermodal units during the month of January. (Source: RailConnect Index GE Transportation)
Railroad News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk Southern unveiled more details of a previously announced strategic plan to streamline operations and drive profitability and growth. The company expects to achieve annual productivity savings of more than \$650 million per year, growing from an initial \$130 million in 2016. (Source: Progressive Railroading)

TRUCKING:

Trucking Volume	The ATA's seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage index increased 1.0% to 135.6 in December 2015. The index increased 1.1% from December 2014, and was 0.1% below the all-time high of 135.8 reached in January 2015. (Source: American Trucking Association Trucking.org)
Truckload Freight	The spot market for truckload freight in January decreased 7.2% compared to the previous month, and was 33% lower year-over-year. Truck capacity decreased 4.2% for the month, and increased 6.5% year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines www.dat.com)
Diesel Prices	U.S. average diesel prices fell to \$2.00 per gallon last week. The U.S. average diesel price was \$0.82 lower than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the lower Atlantic states was \$1.95 per gallon . (Source: U.S. DOE) <i>(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)</i>
Trucking Employment	The trucking industry workforce increased by 1,500 employees to 1,465,700 employees total in January. The trucking workforce increased 1.22% over the previous year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Trucking Earnings and Hours	The average earnings of truck transportation employees were \$22.67/hour in December 2015, up 0.48% from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 42.1 in December, up 0.23% from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Truck Orders	Preliminary data for heavy-duty Class 8 trucks net orders in North America decreased to 18,062 units in January 2016. January orders were 35% lower than the previous month and 48% lower than a year ago. Since September order activity has been unusually volatile with the minimum monthly swing more than 6,500 units. (Source: FTR Associates ftrassociates.com)
NAFTA Trade	Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico totaled \$88.2 billion in November 2015, decreasing 8.4% year-over-year. Large decreases in the value of commodities moved by pipeline and vessel in November were due to the reduced unit price of crude oil. (Source: US DOT)
Trucking News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> XPO Logistics Inc. has decided to keep the full truckload shipping arm of recently acquired Con-way Inc. The company received final bids for Con-way Truckload from three trucking companies last week, but chose to retain the business instead. That business had been for sale since the middle of 2015, following XPO's \$3 billion acquisition of Con-way Inc.. (Source: The Wall Street Journal) A first relevant date in the compliance timeline for ELDs is just around the corner. As of Feb. 16, two months after the ELD final rule's publication date in the Federal Register, manufacturers will be able to register and self-certify their ELD products. Most commercial drivers will need to be using ELDs by Dec. 16, 2017, two years following the rule's publication. Fleets and trucking companies that are using devices compatible with older automatic onboard recording device, or AOB RD, standards have another two years beyond that through Dec. 16, 2019 to have ELD-compliant devices in trucks (Source: Fleet Owner)

AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic	Global air freight traffic in December increased 0.8% from one year ago, and increased 0.1% from the previous month. (Source: IATA.org) <i>(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.)</i>
Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic	In December, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported 55,772 metric tons of cargo, a 3.5% increase from the previous month and a 9.36% increase year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)
Air Freight Price Index	The latest Drewry East-West Airfreight Price Index shows that airfreight rates decreased to \$2.96 in December from \$3.22 in November. It is the second monthly decline in a row . (Source: Drewry) <i>(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.)</i>
Jet Fuel Prices	As of February 5, 2016, the global average jet fuel price was \$42.9 per barrel; down 0.9% from the previous month, and 40.5% lower year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org, platts.com) <i>(The weekly index and price data shows the global average price paid at the refinery for aviation jet fuel)</i>
Air Freight News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worldwide sales of semiconductors reached \$27.6 billion during December 2015, a decrease of 4.4% from November 2015 and a 5.2% decrease from December 2014. (Source: Semiconductor Industry Association)

OCEAN FREIGHT:

Import Volumes

In December, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.43 million TEUs, a **3.4% decrease** from the previous month and a **0.8% decrease** from the same month last year. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index

The February 5th SCFI comprehensive reading was **\$566.92 per FEU**; **down 23.9%** from last month. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was **\$2,341 per FEU**, **down 7.9%** from the previous month. (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 **fell 32.9%** in January, ending at 317. The BDI has **decreased 39.3%** year-to-date. (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 January 1 and March 31 2016, the bunker fuel surcharge will total **\$276 per FEU** for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and **\$525 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

Port of Savannah moved 285,297 TEUs in January 2016, a **2.8% decrease** compared to January 2015 and an **9.6% increase** from the previous month. (Source: GPA)

Port of Brunswick

International Auto Processing, Inc is the 2015 winner of the International Trade Award Category of the Governor's International Awards. In February, IAP handled its 5 millionth vehicle at the Port of Brunswick. (Source: GPA)

Ocean Freight Business News:

- The Safety of Life at Sea, or SOLAS, amendment, will go into effect July 1, 2016. The amendment states that any container leaving from any port in the world must be accompanied by a shipping document signed by the shipper on the bill of lading listing the verified gross mass (VGM) of a container in order to be loaded onto a ship. If a container arrives at a terminal without a VGM after July 1, the Coast Guard will declare the box "manifestly unsafe" and the agency would put a hold on the container until a gross mass is known and documented. The mandate comes after misdeclared weights contributed to maritime casualties. (Source: JOC)

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

Industrial Vacancy

U.S. industrial vacancy declined to 6.5% in Q4, compared to 6.7% in Q3 and 7.2% year-over-year. This is the lowest level since Q4-2000, during the tech-bubble era. (Source: NGKF)

Warehouse Rent Rates

In Q4 2015, warehouse and distribution rental rates in the U.S ended at \$5.68/SF triple net, up 0.9% from the prior quarter and up 4.5% for the year. This represents the eighth quarter in the past nine in which rents increased at a pace of 4-5% year-over-year, a rate of increase that is solid but not in "spike" territory. (Source: NGKF)

Industrial Absorption

Net absorption in the US during Q4 2015 totaled 55.9 million square feet, a **31% increase** from the previous quarter, and the **fourth time in the past five quarters that absorption has exceeded 50.0 million square feet**. (Source: NGKF) *(Absorption is the net change in occupied space between two points in time. Positive absorption means that previously unoccupied space is being occupied.)*

Warehouse Employment

The warehousing industry workforce **decreased by 400 employees** to 841,000 employees total in January. The warehouse workforce **decreased 0.04%** from the previous month and **increased 7.62%** year-over-year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Warehouse Earnings and Hours

The average earnings of warehousing & storage employees were \$18.44/hour in December 2015, **unchanged** from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 43.1 in December, **up 3.60%** from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Purchasing Managers Index

The National PMI **increased to 48.2%** in January 2016, an **increase of 0.2%** over the previous month. New orders **increased 2.7%** to 51.1%. Production **increased 0.3%** to 50.2%. (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 **decreased 0.5 points** to 52.0 in January. New orders in Georgia **decreased 0.5 points** to 52.0 and production **decreased 2.5 points** to 50.0. Georgia's PMI is now **3.8 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:

- Anthem, Inc., a leading provider of health benefit solutions, will expand the existing Customer Care Center in Columbus, Georgia. The expansion will create 450 new jobs and represents a capital investment of more than \$3 million. (Source: Georgia.org)
- Valmiera Glass Group, a Latvian-based fiberglass manufacturer, will expand their U.S.-based headquarters operation in Dublin, Georgia. This project will create 425 jobs and generate an overall investment of \$90 million through 2022. (Source: Georgia.org)

U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product

The U.S. GDP **increased 0.7%** in the fourth quarter of 2015 according to the first preliminary estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late January. (Source: US BEA)

U.S. Trade Deficit

The U.S. trade deficit **increased 2.84%** in December to \$43.4 billion. Exports **decreased 0.28%** to \$181.5 billion and imports **increased 0.26%** to \$224.9 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)

Consumer Confidence

The Consumer Confidence Index **increased to 98.1** in January 2016, **up 1.6%** from December. (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 4.9%** in January 2016, **the lowest level since February 2008**. A preliminary 151,000 net new jobs were created in January 2016, down 42.3% from December 2015. (Source: US DOL)

Workforce Participation Rate

The workforce participation rate **increased 0.15% to 62.7** in January. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(The Workforce Participation Rate measures the share of Americans at least 16 years old who are either employed or actively looking for work)

Leading Economic Index

The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. **decreased 0.2%** in December to 123.7 (2004=100). The Index increased 0.5% in November and October. (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 **increased** in January to \$449.9 billion, **up 0.2%** from the previous month, and **up 3.4%** above January 2015. Non-store retailer sales were **up 8.7%** from last year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Sales

Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled nearly **\$1.302 trillion** in December 2015, **down 0.6% from November and down 2.7% from December** of the previous year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Inventory

Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at **\$1.813 trillion** in December, **up 0.1% from November and up 1.7% from December of the previous year**. (Source: US Census)

Housing Starts

In December 2015, housing starts **decreased 2.54%** from the previous month to an annual rate of 1,149,000 units, but the ninth straight month above 1 million. Starts for single-family homes were an annualized 768,000 in December 2015. The index of pending home sales (sales that haven't closed yet but contracts have been signed) was **106.8 in December 2015, up 0.1% from the previous month**. (Source: U.S. DOC)

Consumer & Producer Price Index

The consumer price index for all urban consumers **was unchanged** in January on a seasonally adjusted basis from the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the all items index **increased 1.4% before seasonal adjustment**. The producer price index for final demand **increased 0.1%** in January from the previous month. Prices for final demand goods **decreased 0.7%** from the previous month. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

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