

## MULTIMODAL:

<b>Dow Jones Transportation Index</b>	Dow Jones Transportation index <b>rose 0.6%</b> during the month of March. <i>(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of March 10<sup>th</sup> thru April 10<sup>th</sup>)</i>
<b>NASDAQ Transportation Index</b>	NASDAQ Transportation Index <b>increased 3.2%</b> in March. <i>(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of March 10<sup>th</sup> thru April 10<sup>th</sup>)</i>
<b>DOT Freight Transportation Index</b>	The USDOT's freight transportation services index <b>rose 1.2%</b> in February 2013. The index's reading of 113.9 was <b>up 2.7%</b> from February 2012. (Source: US DOT)
<b>Cass Freight Index</b>	The March shipments index <b>rose 5.8%</b> over the previous month and <b>rose 4.2%</b> year-over-year. The March expenditures index <b>increased 6.5%</b> for the month, and <b>increased 4.4%</b> year-over-year. <i>(Source: Cass Information Systems   Cassinfo.com) (Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)</i>
<b>Import Volumes</b>	In February, the U.S. <b>imported</b> about <b>\$228.9 billion</b> of cargo. February U.S. imports remained the same in terms of value from January, and <b>rose 1.9%</b> year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
<b>Export Volumes</b>	In February, the U.S. <b>exported</b> more than <b>\$186 billion</b> of cargo. February U.S. exports have <b>increased 0.8%</b> in terms of value over the previous month and <b>grew 3.2%</b> year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
<b>Import &amp; Export Price Index</b>	U.S. import prices <b>fell 0.5%</b> in March. Import prices <b>fell 2.7%</b> over the past year. The price index for U.S. exports <b>fell 0.4%</b> in March. Export prices <b>increased 0.3%</b> year-over-year. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
<b>Multimodal News Clips:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global steel use will rise an estimated 2.9% in 2013, to 1,454 metric tons. World steel demand is expected to increase an additional 3.2% in 2014. (Source: World Steel Association)</li> <li>Contracts for new nonresidential construction in metro Atlanta jumped 58% to \$267 million in February. Residential contracts for future construction in metro Atlanta rose 48% to \$307.5 million during the same month. Total building contracts in metro Atlanta were up 53% in February. (Source: McGraw-Hill Construction)</li> </ul>

## RAIL:

<b>U.S. Freight Rail Traffic</b>	Railroad bulk carload freight in March 2013 <b>fell 1.4%</b> from February 2013. Freight traffic in March <b>fell 0.5%</b> from March 2012. Carloads excluding coal and grain <b>increased 3.4%</b> over the previous year. <i>(Source: AAR.org) (Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
<b>U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic</b>	Intermodal rail traffic in March 2013 was <b>0.5% higher</b> than in March 2012 and <b>4.9% lower</b> than February 2013 totals. Intermodal loadings have experienced year-over-year gains for <b>40 straight months</b> . <i>(Source: AAR.org) (Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i>
<b>Railroad Fuel Price Index</b>	The index of average railroad fuel prices in January was 646.8, <b>up 5.8%</b> from the previous month and <b>2.1% higher</b> 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>
<b>Freight Cars in Storage</b>	The number of freight cars in storage has <b>decreased to 311,449</b> (20.3% of the fleet) on April 1, down 290 cars from a month earlier. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(A freight car is "in storage" if it has had a loaded revenue move since 2005, but not in the past 60 days. Decrease here = more demand)</i>
<b>Class 1 Railroad Employment</b>	Railroad employment in February 2013 <b>increased by 185 employees</b> to 162,228 employees. Total Class 1 rail employment in February was <b>0.9% higher</b> than it was in February 2012. (Source: U.S. STB)
<b>Short Line Rail Traffic</b>	In March 2013, short line railroad shipments across North America <b>rose 7.7%</b> compared to the same month last year. A sampling of about 429 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada <b>loaded 566,124 railcars</b> and intermodal units during the month of March. (Source: RMI RailConnect Index   rmiindemand.com)
<b>Railroad News Clips:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norfolk Southern reported its <b>second-best year ever</b> for revenue, operating income, net income, and earnings per share in 2012. The company reported profit in 2012 was <b>\$1.75 billion</b>, down 8.7% from 2011, but 16.9% higher than 2010. Annual railway operating revenue totaled <b>\$11.04 billion</b>, down 1.2% from 2011 and 16% above 2010. Intermodal volume <b>increased 5%</b> year-over-year and general merchandise volume was up 2%.</li> <li>Greenbrier Companies reported its net earnings in the second quarter of FY2013 <b>were \$13.8 million, increasing 33%</b> from the 1Q of FY2013. New railcar deliveries totaled <b>2,700 units</b> in the second quarter. The new railcar manufacturing backlog in the second quarter was <b>11,700 units</b> with an estimated value of <b>\$1.3 billion</b>.</li> </ul>

## TRUCKING:

### Trucking Volume

The ATA's seasonally adjusted cargo index **rose 0.6%** in February after rising 1% in January. The for-hire truck tonnage index **rose 4.2%** year-over-year. (Source: American Trucking Association | [Trucking.org](#))

### Truckload Freight

The spot market for truckload freight in March **rose 37%** compared to the previous month, and was **4.1% lower** year-over-year. Truck capacity **fell 1.3%** for the month, and was **up 19%** year-over-year. (Source: TransCore Freight Index | [www.transcorefreightsolutions.com](#))

### Diesel Prices

U.S. average diesel prices fell to **\$3.98 per gallon**, down 1.6¢ since last week. The U.S. average diesel price was **17¢ lower** than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the lower Atlantic states was \$3.95 per gallon. (Source: U.S. DOE) *(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)*

### Trucking Employment

The trucking industry **lost 6,900 jobs** in March. The trucking workforce **decreased 0.5%** over the previous month and **increased 2.6%** 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 **21,817 units** in March 2013. March orders were **4% lower** than the previous month, and **11% higher** year-over-year. (Source: FTR Associates | [ftrassociates.com](#))

### NAFTA Trade

Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico, **increased 3.6%** in 2012 compared to the previous year, totaling **\$556.2 billion**. (Source: US DOT)

### Trucking News Clips:

- Class 8 Truck manufacturing is expected to grow in 2014. Truck production will rise from about 263,000 units in 2013 to more than **300,000 units** in 2014. Truck production for 2012 totaled 278,000 vehicles. Fueling the predicted increase is the high number of trucks being replaced in the current fleet.
- The U.S. Energy Department predicts diesel fuel prices, which averaged \$3.95 per gallon last summer, to fall slightly to an average of **\$3.94 per gallon** this summer. For the entire year, the EIA is forecasting diesel will average **\$3.90 per gallon**, and in 2014 it's expected to average \$3.80 per gallon. (Source: U.S. DOE)

## AIR FREIGHT:

### Air Cargo Traffic

Global air freight traffic in February **decreased 6.2%** from one year ago. North American air freight in February **fell 3.1%** year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org)  
*(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic. North American traffic includes only domestic freight traffic.)*

### Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic

In February, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported **48,073 metric tons** of cargo, a **4.5% decrease** from the previous month and a **7.4% decrease** year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)

### Air Freight Price Index

In February, the index of average international air cargo rates **rose 1.9 points** from January. The average price of air cargo leaving the United States in February stood at **\$3.32 per kilogram**. (Source: Drewry)  
*(The Drewry Air Freight Price Index is based on the average of rates (\$US per kg) for cargoes of 100+kg to 1,000+kg cargoes from Shanghai to London, Moscow, Prague, New York, and Los Angeles.)*

### Jet Fuel Prices

As of April 5, 2013, the global average jet fuel price was \$121.30 per barrel; **down 5.4%** from the previous month, and **11.4% 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:

- Worldwide semiconductor sales **rose 1.4%** year-over-year in February, the **fourth consecutive month** of rising sales after a 12 month run of declines. Sales of semiconductors totaled **\$23.25 billion**. (Source: Semiconductor Industry Association)
- Boeing has completed the final certification test for its new **787 battery system**, successfully finishing a demonstration flight on a production plane. The demonstration, according to Boeing, proved that the battery system performs as expected during both normal and abnormal stress. The data from the flight will now be analyzed and will be delivered to the FAA. The manufacturer has redesigned internal battery components, and added a new venting system and better cell insulation.

## OCEAN FREIGHT:

### Import Volumes

Import shipment volume, in TEUs, at U.S. ports **decreased 15%** in March from the previous month and **fell 12.5%** year-over-year. Imports in March were the **lowest since 2009** due to the Chinese New Year falling later this year compared to last year. (Source: Zepol Corporation | [zepol.com](#))

### Shanghai Containerized Freight Index

The April 3<sup>rd</sup> SCFI comprehensive reading was **\$1,141 per FEU**; **down 17%** year-over-year. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was **\$3,454 per FEU**, **up 7.7%** over 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.)*

<b>Ocean Bulk Freight Rates</b>	The Baltic Dry Index <b>rose 20.2%</b> in March, ending at <b>910</b> . The BDI has <b>decreased 3.8%</b> during the first half of April. (Source: <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND">www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND</a> ) <i>(The Baltic Dry Index is an index that tracks and averages worldwide international shipping prices of various dry bulk cargoes.)</i>
<b>TSA Bunker Surcharges</b>	Between April 1 and June 30, 2013, the bunker fuel surcharge will total <b>\$536 per FEU</b> for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and <b>\$1,015 per FEU</b> for shipments to the East coast and Gulf ports. (Source: Transpacific Stabilization Agreement) <i>(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.)</i>
<b>Port of Savannah</b>	The Port of Savannah moved <b>2 million tons</b> of cargo in February 2013, a <b>2.3% increase</b> year-over-year. February performance was <b>up 4.9%</b> compared to January 2013. (Source: GPA)
<b>Port of Brunswick</b>	The Port of Brunswick moved <b>50,622 auto/machinery units</b> in February, a <b>30.4% increase</b> year-over-year. The port also moved <b>124,028 tons</b> of bulk cargo during the month, an <b>increase of 282%</b> over the same month last year. For FY2013, Brunswick has experienced <b>21% growth</b> in auto/machinery units and <b>550% growth</b> in bulk tonnage. (Source: GPA)
<b>Ocean Freight Business News:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import volume through major U.S. container ports is expected to <b>increase 2.7%</b> in April. In February, the latest month for which numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.29 million TEUs, a <b>17.5% increase</b> over the same month last year. Total U.S. containerized imports are expected to <b>increase 4.7%</b> during the first half of 2013. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)</li> <li>• The <b>\$50 million</b> in additional port deepening funds proposed by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has been approved by the state legislature. Georgia has allocated <b>\$231.1 million</b> toward the state's portion of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. Overall cost of the deepening project is anticipated to be <b>\$652 million</b>.</li> <li>• The cost of Somali piracy to the global economy in 2012 <b>fell 13%</b> year-over-year to about <b>\$6 billion</b>. Hijackings <b>dropped 50%</b> and attempted attacks <b>decreased more than 70%</b>. Private security proved to be the biggest source of costs, accounting for 29%. About half of ships in the region used armed guards in 2012, up from 30% in 2011. (Source: One Earth Future Foundation)</li> </ul>

## WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

<b>Industrial Vacancy</b>	The U.S. average industrial vacancy rate was <b>8.7%</b> during Q4 2012, down from 9% in the previous quarter. Overall vacancy was <b>9.6%</b> in the Atlanta and <b>11.7%</b> in Savannah during the fourth quarter. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield)
<b>Warehouse Rent Rates</b>	In Q4 2012, warehouse and distribution rental rates in the US averaged <b>\$4.30 per square foot</b> . Rental rates for warehouse space averaged <b>\$3.33/square foot</b> in the South and <b>\$3.57/square foot</b> in Savannah. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield)
<b>Industrial Absorption</b>	Net absorption in the US during Q4 2012 totaled more than <b>+53.7 million square feet</b> . Absorption during the 4Q totaled <b>+1.3 million square feet</b> in Atlanta and <b>+390,000 square feet</b> in Savannah. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield) <i>(Absorption is the net change in occupied space between two points in time. Positive absorption means that previously unoccupied space is being occupied.)</i>
<b>Purchasing Managers Index</b>	The National PMI <b>fell 2.9 points</b> to 51.3 in March 2013. New orders <b>fell 6.4 points</b> to 51.4 and production <b>decreased 5.4 points</b> to 52.2. (Source: Institute for Supply Management) <i>(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.)</i>
<b>Purchasing Managers Index in Georgia</b>	Georgia's PMI <b>rose 6.6 points</b> to 61.8 in March. New orders in Georgia <b>rose 15.7 points</b> to 70.5 and production <b>fell 0.4 of a point</b> to 59.1. Georgia's PMI is <b>10.5 points higher</b> than the national PMI. (Source: Kennesaw State University) <i>(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.)</i>
<b>W&amp;D Business News:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kubota Corp. has opened its new <b>\$73 million manufacturing facility</b> in Jefferson, Georgia. The <b>522,000 square-foot plant</b> will add hundreds of new jobs to support the production capacity of 22,000 tractor units annually. The recent expansion brings Kubota's total footprint of manufacturing and assembly space in Georgia to <b>2.2 million square feet</b>.</li> <li>• Koch Foods will expand its poultry processing facility in Hamilton, Georgia, creating <b>750 new jobs</b> and investing <b>\$49 million</b>. Koch purchased an existing Cagle's facility in 2012, retaining 350 jobs. During a two-phase expansion, the company <b>added 350 jobs</b> last year. This second phase, incorporating two new processing lines, will create an additional 750 new jobs.</li> <li>• Investment real estate volume in the Atlanta industrial market topped <b>\$1 billion</b> in 2012. Compared to last year, overall volume is <b>up 59%</b>, the third consecutive year with an increase in volume. The amount of industrial square feet sold <b>increased 65% to 26.7 million square feet</b>. (Source: Colliers International)</li> </ul>

## U.S. MARKET:

<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>	The U.S. GDP <b>increased 0.4%</b> in the fourth quarter of 2012 according to the final estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. (Source: US BEA)
<b>U.S. Trade Deficit</b>	The U.S. trade deficit <b>decreased by 3.4%</b> in February to \$43 billion. <b>Exports rose 0.8%</b> to \$186 billion and <b>imports</b> remained the same at \$228.9 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)
<b>Consumer Confidence</b>	The Consumer Confidence Index <b>decreased to 59.7</b> in March 2013 from 68.0 in February 2013. (Source: The Conference Board) <i>(The consumer confidence index is based on a monthly survey of 5,000 U.S. households. It is designed to gauge the financial health, spending power, and confidence of the average U.S. consumer.)</i>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	The unemployment rate in America <b>decreased to 7.6%</b> in March 2013 as there were <b>88,000 net new jobs</b> . (Source: US DOL)
<b>Leading Economic Index</b>	The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. <b>increased 0.5%</b> in February to 94.8 (2004=100), following a 0.5% increase in January and a 0.4% increase in December. (Source: Conference Board) <i>(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.)</i>
<b>Retail Sales</b>	Retail and food service sales rose in March to <b>\$418.3 billion, down 0.4%</b> from the previous month, and <b>up 2.8%</b> above March 2012. Non-store retailer sales were <b>up 13.5%</b> from last year. (Source: US Census)
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Trade Sales</b>	Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled nearly <b>\$1.29 Trillion</b> in February 2013, <b>up 1.2%</b> from January and <b>up 3.7%</b> from the previous year. (Source: US Census)
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Trade Inventory</b>	Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at <b>\$1.64 Trillion</b> in February 2013, <b>up 0.1%</b> from January and <b>up 4.9%</b> from February 2012. (Source: US Census)
<b>Housing Starts</b>	In February, housing starts <b>rose 0.8%</b> to an annual rate of 917,000 units. Building permits (an indicator of future housing starts) <b>rose 4.6%</b> to an annual rate of 946,000. Year-over-year, housing starts and building permits in February have <b>increased 27.7% and 33.8%</b> , respectively. (Source: U.S. DOC)
<b>Consumer &amp; Producer Price Index</b>	The consumer price index for all urban consumers <b>increased 0.7</b> in February from the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the all items index <b>increased 2%</b> . The producer price index for finished goods <b>decreased 0.6%</b> in March from the previous month. Prices for finished goods <b>rose 1.1%</b> over the previous year. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

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