

MULTIMODAL:

Dow Jones Transportation Index	Dow Jones Transportation index fell 2.3% during the month of November. <i>(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of Nov. 10th thru Dec. 10th)</i>
NASDAQ Transportation Index	NASDAQ Transportation Index increased 3.1% in November. <i>(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of Nov. 10th thru Dec. 10th)</i>
DOT Freight Transportation Index	The USDOT's freight transportation services index rose 0.3% in October 2014. The index's reading of 121.8 was up 4.6% from October 2013. (Source: US DOT)
Cass Freight Index	The November shipments index fell 0.2% from the previous month and rose 4.2% year-over-year. The November expenditures index fell 0.7% for the month, and increased 5.0% year-over-year. <i>(Source: Cass Information Systems Cassinfo.com)</i> <i>(Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)</i>
Import Volumes	In October, the U.S. imported about \$241 billion of cargo. October U.S. imports rose 0.9% over September, and rose 3.4% year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
Export Volumes	In October, the U.S. exported nearly \$197.5 billion of cargo. October U.S. exports have increased 1.2% in terms of value over the previous month and rose 1.8% year-over-year. (Source: US Census)
Import & Export Price Index	U.S. import prices fell 1.5% in November. Import prices fell 2.3% over the past year. The price index for U.S. exports fell 1.0% in November, and decreased 1.9% year-over-year. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
E-Commerce	E-Commerce revenue in November 2014 is up 14% year-over-year, with e-commerce orders up 15% over the same period. Mobile orders (phone & tablet) accounted for 24% of all e-commerce orders in November, up from 18% during the same month last year. (Source: Custora E-Commerce Pulse)
Multimodal News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online sales are predicted to be about \$300 billion this year. Next year, online sales are expected to total \$335 billion with online sales continuing to rise to \$512 billion by 2020. (Source: FTI Consulting Inc.) U.S. imports of artificial Christmas trees are 48% higher through the month of September than the same period for 2013, totaling \$189 million. Approximately 97% of artificial Christmas trees originate in China. The Port of Savannah imports 17% of the nation's Christmas trees. (Source: Zepol)

RAIL:

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic	Railroad bulk carload freight in November 2014 fell 1.1% from October 2014. Freight traffic in November rose 1.4% from November 2013. Carloads excluding coal increased 4.7% 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>
U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic	Intermodal rail traffic in November 2014 was 2.7% higher , year-over-year, and fell 1.1% from the previous month. Intermodal loadings have experienced year-over-year gains for 60 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 October was 529.4, down 6.8% from the previous month and 12.4% 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 ending November 24, average intermodal rates totaled \$2,362 per 53-foot container, 13.8% higher year-over-year. (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 October 2014 increased by 521 employees to 169,224 employees, the highest since February 2007. Total Class 1 rail employment in October increased 3.8% , year-over-year. (Source: U.S. STB)
Short Line Rail Traffic	In November 2014, short line railroad shipments across North America fell 1.8% compared to the same month last year. A sampling of about 431 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada loaded 558,749 railcars and intermodal units during the month of November. (Source: RMI RailConnect Index rmiindemand.com)
Railroad News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenbrier received new orders of 14,100 railcar units valued at \$1.24 billion in its first fiscal quarter that ended November 30. The orders include 11,400 units valued at nearly \$1 billion that were received in September and October 2014. U.S. Class I railroads originated a record 132,257 carloads of crude oil in Q3 2014, up 10.6% over the previous quarter and up 41.7% over the same quarter last year. Railroads accounted for about 11% of U.S. crude oil production in the first nine months of 2014.

TRUCKING:

Trucking Volume	The ATA's seasonally adjusted cargo index increased 0.5% in October. The for-hire truck tonnage index rose 4.5% from October 2013. (Source: American Trucking Association Trucking.org)
Truckload Freight	The spot market for truckload freight in November fell 14% compared to the previous month, and was 28% higher year-over-year. Truck capacity fell 20% for the month, and decreased 1.6% year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines www.dat.com)
Diesel Prices	U.S. average diesel prices fell to \$3.54 per gallon last week. The U.S. average diesel price was 34¢ lower than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the lower Atlantic states was \$3.39 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 3,000 employees in November. The trucking workforce increased 2.5% 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 40,560 units in November 2014. November orders were 11.4% lower than the previous month and 94% higher year-over-year. Class 8 truck orders have now had 23 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 8.1% in September 2014 year-over-year, totaling more than \$84.7 billion . (Source: US DOT)
Trucking News Clips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. trailer orders in October totaled 46,267 units, an all-time high shattering the previous record by 9%. Trailer orders have now totaled 327,000 units during the past 12 months. The largest U.S. freight broker, C.H. Robinson Worldwide is buying on of the largest Internet-based truck freight brokers, Freightquote.com. The \$365 million deal will expand C.H. Robinson's reach in LTL and e-commerce markets. Freightquote is expected to have \$623 million in gross revenue this year.

AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic	Global air freight traffic in October increased 5.4% from one year ago, and rose 0.7% from the previous month. North American air freight in October rose 3.1% year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org) <i>(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.)</i>
Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic	In September, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported 49,977 metric tons of cargo, a 4.2% decrease from the previous month and a 1.8% decrease year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)
Air Freight Price Index	In September, the index of East-West air cargo rates rose 0.7% over the previous month, and was 3.8% higher year-over-year. The average price of air cargo leaving the United States in September stood at \$3.36 per kilogram . (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 December 5, 2014, the global average jet fuel price was \$85.8 per barrel; down 15.2% from the previous month, and 32.9% 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"> Global air cargo revenue will increase to \$63 billion in 2015 from an estimated \$60 billion this year. Freight volume is expected to increase by 4.5% next year to 53.5 million metric tons, slightly ahead of the 4.1% growth this year. Lower oil prices and economic growth will improve the industry's net profit to \$25 billion in 2015, the highest in more than 5 years, from an estimated \$19.9 billion this year. (Source: IATA.org)

OCEAN FREIGHT:

Import Volumes	Import volume through major U.S. container ports is expected to total 1.37 million containers in December. In October, the latest month for which numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.56 million TEUs, a 2.0% decrease from the previous month and an 8.5% increase from the same month last year. Total U.S. containerized imports are expected to increase 3.6% in 2014. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)
Shanghai Containerized Freight Index	The December 5 th SCFI comprehensive reading was \$919 per FEU ; down 5.3% year-over-year. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was \$4,020 per FEU , up 36% from the previous year. (Source: Shanghai Shipping Exchange www1.chineseshipping.com.cn/en) <i>(The Shanghai Containerized Freight Index is a weekly reported average export spot rate from Shanghai for 15 different trade lanes.)</i>

Ocean Bulk Freight Rates

The Baltic Dry Index **fell 22%** in November, ending at 1,137. The BDI has **fallen an additional 14%** during the first half of December. (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, 2015, the bunker fuel surcharge will total **\$444 per FEU** for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and **\$861 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

Georgia Ports moved a **record 2.79 million tons** of freight in October 2014. For the Fiscal YTD, the GPA has moved 10.28 million tons (**up 7.2%**) and 1.2 million TEUs (**up 13.1%**). Shipments at Savannah's Garden City Terminal **increased 13.6%** to a record **311,759 TEUs** in October. (Source: GPA)

Port of Brunswick

The Port of Brunswick moved 224,197 roll-on/roll-off units, a **3.4% increase** for the fiscal year. Total Ro/Ro volumes for October equaled 63,218 units, a **1.4% increase** year-over-year. (Source: GPA)

Ocean Freight Business News:

- Maersk Line and Hamburg Sud were the **most reliable container carriers** in the 3Q 2014. Maersk Line ships were on time **80%** of the time during the 3Q while Hamburg Sud vessels arrived on time **78.5%** of the time. Reliability for the industry improved during the month of October with ships arriving on time **64%** of the time, up from 63% in September and 55% in August.
- CMA CGM's net income almost **tripled** in the 3Q 2014 as the carrier's container volume surged to an all-time high. Net income for the company jumped to **\$201 million** in the quarter from \$70 million in the same period in 2013. Revenue **grew 6.4%** to \$4.3 billion. Traffic was **8.3% higher** at 3.2 million TEUs.

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

Industrial Vacancy

The U.S. average industrial vacancy rate was **7.4%** during Q3 2014, down from 7.7% in the previous quarter. Overall vacancy was **10.4%** in Atlanta during the third quarter. (Source: Newmark Grubb Knight Frank)

Warehouse Rent Rates

In Q3 2014, warehouse and distribution rental rates in the US averaged **\$5.43 per square foot**, up from \$5.36 per square foot in the previous quarter. Rental rates for warehouse space averaged **\$4.06 per square foot** in Atlanta. (Source: Newmark Grubb Knight Frank)

Industrial Absorption

Net absorption in the US during Q3 2014 totaled more than **+52.4 million square feet**. Overall absorption totaled **+1.6 million square feet** in Atlanta. (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 **fell 0.3 of a point** to 58.7 in November 2014. New orders **rose 0.2 of a point** to 66.0 and production **decreased 0.4 of a point** to 64.4. (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 2.0 points** to 56.5 in November. New orders in Georgia **fell 5.5 points** to 65.0 and production **rose 6.1 points** to 67.5. Georgia's PMI is now **3.2 points** below 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:

- Häring, a Germany-based automotive components manufacturer will locate its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Hartwell, Georgia. The company will invest **\$54 million** into the project over the next five years, creating **800 new jobs** by 2025.
- JCB, the third-largest construction equipment maker in the world, is adding a line of backhoe loaders to its North American manufacturing headquarters in Savannah, Georgia. The company will add **100 new jobs** to its current workforce to support the new production line.
- Castellini Group, one of the largest fresh produce distributors in the U.S., will **create 300 new jobs** and invest **\$52 million** into a new facility in Clayton County, Georgia. The **180,000 square-foot processing and distribution facility** will enable the company to reach 80% of the U.S. market within a single day's truck drive.

U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product

The U.S. GDP **increased 3.9%** in the third 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 0.4%** in October to \$43.4 billion. Exports **rose 1.2%** to \$197.5 billion and imports **rose 0.9%** to \$241.0 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)

Consumer Confidence

The Consumer Confidence Index **decreased to 88.7** in November 2014, **down 5.4 points** from the previous month. (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 remained at **5.8%** in November 2014 as there were **321,000 net new jobs**. (Source: US DOL)

Leading Economic Index

The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. **increased 0.9%** in October to 105.2 (2004=100), following a 0.7% increase September, and no change in August. (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 November to **\$449.3 billion, up 0.7%** from the previous month, and **increased 5.1%** above November 2013. Non-store retailer sales were **up 8.7%** from last year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Sales

Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled more than **\$1.35 Trillion** in October 2014, **down 0.1%** from September and **up 3.4%** from the previous year. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Inventory

Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at **\$1.76 Trillion** in October 2014, **up 0.2%** from September and **up 4.8%** from October 2013. (Source: US Census)

Housing Starts

In October, housing starts **fell 2.8%** to an annual rate of 1,009,000 units. Building permits (an indicator of future housing starts) **rose 4.8%** to an annual rate of 1,080,000. Year-over-year, housing starts and building permits in October **increased 7.8%** and **1.2%**, respectively. (Source: U.S. DOC)

Consumer & Producer Price Index

The consumer price index for all urban consumers was unchanged in October from the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the all items index **increased 1.7%**. The producer price index for finished goods **fell 0.2%** in November from the previous month. Prices for finished goods **rose 1.4%** over the previous year. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

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