



Navigating the World

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## Delays at Savannah Port



Across the United States, the shipping industry has faced unprecedented delays due to the influx of imported cargo, congestion of various forms, equipment issues, labor shortages, and more. These issues are causing abnormal delays at inland terminals and ports alike. Savannah ports are especially feeling the impact of this

industry shift, as the number of imports has skyrocketed.

### Challenges Facing the Savannah Port

Savannah Port began confronting issues in 2020 with the increase of import vessels. The port has been under heavy congestion and trying to get up to date since the unexpected surplus hit.

Savannah is the second-fastest-growing port for Asian imports into the United States as of the year 2020. In January of 2021, import volumes to Savannah Georgia were at record-breaking numbers reaching a [20% increase](#) over the past year alone, which led to staggering container dwell times.

The surge of imports has been disrupting the supply chain for ports across the United States. Savannah has been crippled by congestion, and Georgia Port Authority and beneficial cargo owners have been called upon to help ease the delays of supply chains. The port of Savannah is one of the fastest-growing ports in North America, so they are left with the immense responsibility of catering to the increase of import vessels. These vessels are causing massive congestion for both port and trucking operations.



Trucking operations in the port of Savannah and the rail depot of Atlanta are almost at a standstill. With understanding all of the above-notated issues, trucking companies are struggling to keep up with volume and delays are spanning multiple weeks.

### **The Impact Across the US**

The burst in imports is directly correlated to insufficient labor across the trucking industry. Elongated wait times at ports across the US are leaving drivers frustrated as they are unable to make several turns in one day, increasing drayage costs across the US.

Port congestion is affecting the flow of the regulated supply chain daily. Some trucking companies have even doubled their staff over the last six months and are still unable to keep up with the increase in freight.

Rail operations are restricting weight and have become unreliable. The maximum weight that US railroads will accept is 48,000 lbs containers without special approvals. This weight must also be evenly spread throughout the freight. There has been rising concern regarding rail weight and restrictions due to concentrated heavy cargo that can fall through container floors causing a derailment. North American railroads have been emphasizing this rule in recent months, and although it's good practice - it's become difficult to determine rail shipment reliability and availability.

### **Brighter Days Ahead**



The port of Savannah has been preparing to expand for years. To accommodate the growing rate of imports and the size of international vessels, the port of Savannah introduced the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) back in 2015. This expansion project is hoped to ease the flow of international vessels into the harbor which in turn, is anticipated to help accommodate future import spikes and congestion. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project will deepen the harbor by five additional feet - from a depth of [42 feet to 47 feet](#). In addition to the entrance channel to the harbor will extend by 7 miles.



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While the expansion will benefit the port exponentially in the future, it will currently impact the already congested and delayed port. The longevity of the port of Savannah will eventually grow and help ease the supply chain, but it will face some hurdles along the way.

### **Stay up-to-date with Rose**

The team at Rose is here to help our partners stay ahead. We are committed to educating ourselves on current global and national shipping events to create lasting relationships and trust. As the port of Savannah tackles its congestion issue, we will keep you updated and connect you with the best ports for your business. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any further information.