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Port Congestion & Current US Issues



The question remains – when will prices stabilize? As the world is trying to recover from the all-consuming effects of the Corona Virus, shipping industries across the board are struggling to regain normalcy. A global gridlock is in full effect as equipment is imbalanced and the usual import / export demand is shifted. Ports are left with unfounded congestion, with no space, equipment, or manpower to efficiently restore order. Asia has a huge demand for exports, but

rates to enter the U.S. and Europe are astronomically high, as equipment and space is vastly unavailable. Additional upheavals made restoration attempts come to a halt, as the already crippled industry faced even harsher hardships such as the Suez Canal closure, India's second lockdown, the Colonial pipeline hack, and many other localized industry issues. Stretching from vessels to trucking, the logistics process is in vicious cycle of congestion that is further delaying the return of pre-covid shipping.

In the U.S., one of the biggest hurdles is re-structuring terminals to handle in influx in imported loads. The ability to efficiently move cargo has become increasingly challenging as space, equipment and manpower are all scarce and creating inefficiencies.





U.S. East Coast Major Concerns:

Due to an uptick in demand for imports, a lack of available truckers, and limited yard space, USEC terminals are experiencing heavy congestion and longer than usual dwell times.

- NY / NJ: 3 - 4 days vessel wait time; lines at the gate and congestion inside the terminal
- Savannah: 2 – 3 days vessel wait time
- Norfolk: 2 – 3 days vessel wait time

U.S West Coast Major Concerns:

Due to record breaking import volume, labor shortages and massive yard congestion, the USWC is experiencing server delays and long dwell times.

- LA / Long Beach: 10 – 18 days vessel wait time
- Seattle: 4 – 6 days vessel wait time
- Oakland: 18 – 22 days vessel wait time

Congestion at the ports can be attributed to more than just an increase in imported goods, as the system works un tandem with trucking and rails, as well as equipment availability and manpower. When one link in the chain is disrupted, it creates a ripple effect further disturbing the other industries.

Rail Terminal Major Concerns:

Chassis shortages and rail congestion are creating longer wait times from both import and export loads. The need for drayage to and from the rails also creates delays as space becomes limited and a lack of available workers changes efficiencies.

- BNSF / Chicago: up to 6 hours wait time
- Charleston Terminal: increased delay time expected
- BNSF & UP/LAX/LGB: Increased delay time expected; limited gate capacity and reservations available



Navigating the World

Equipment Shortages:

The following locations are experiencing continued chassis shortage impacting timelines for both import and export cargo:

- LAX/Long Beach: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- NY: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- Philadelphia: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- Columbus: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- Atlanta: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- Nashville: increased delay time expected, limited chassis
- Louisville: increased delay time expected, limited chassis

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