# Intermodal **Connects**





# Intermodal Analyzed

August 23, 2022 2:00 PM EDT



# Housekeeping





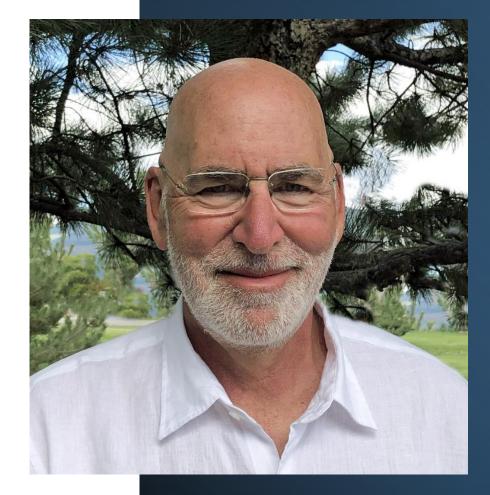
- Audience will be muted
- A question & answer session will follow the presentation
- Submit questions by clicking the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen
- A recording of this webinar, including the slides, will be available in the near future

# Today's Presenter

Larry Gross

**President & Founder** 

Gross Transportation Consulting





# Hello!

# Larry Gross:

President Gross Transportation Consulting

516-455-8988 lgross@intermodalindepth.com

@Intermodalist

# INTERMODAL ANALYZED

For: IANA

August 23, 2022

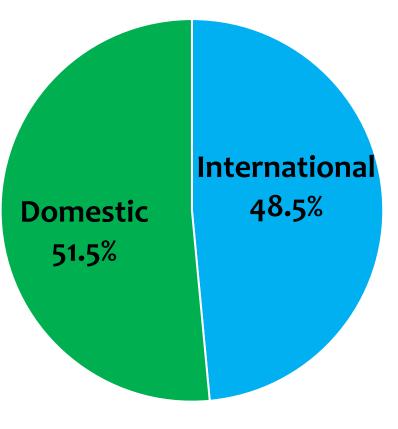
# THE TWO WORLDS OF INTERMODAL

#### Includes:

- Domestic Containers (53', a few 48')
- Trailers
- Transload Cargo

#### Affected by:

- Competitive economics with truck
- Truck capacity
- Fuel Prices
- Transload trends



#### North America Last 12 Months

Includes:

ISO Containers (20', 40', 45')

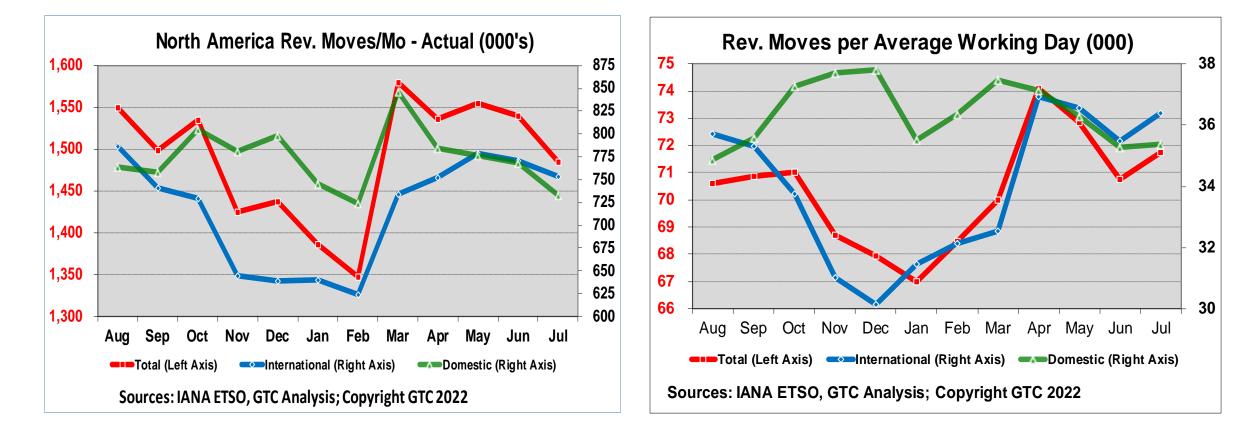
#### Affected by:

- Trade stats
- Port routings/Import strategies
- Steamship line policies
- Truck competitiveness
- Transload trends





# RECENT INTERMODAL PERFORMANCE HAS NOT BEEN INSPIRING

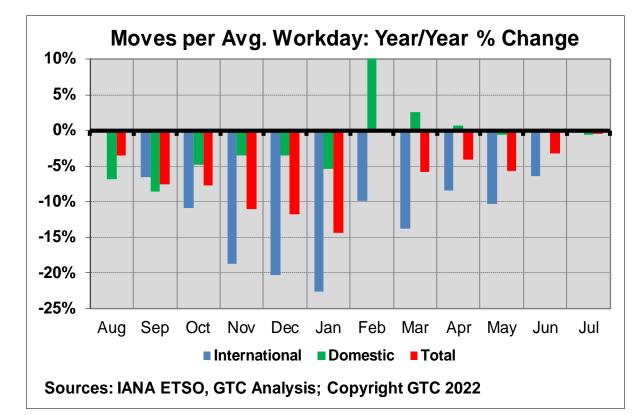




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# IPI HAS BEEN CAPACITY CONSTRAINED DOMESTIC LOOKS MORE MARKET-BASED



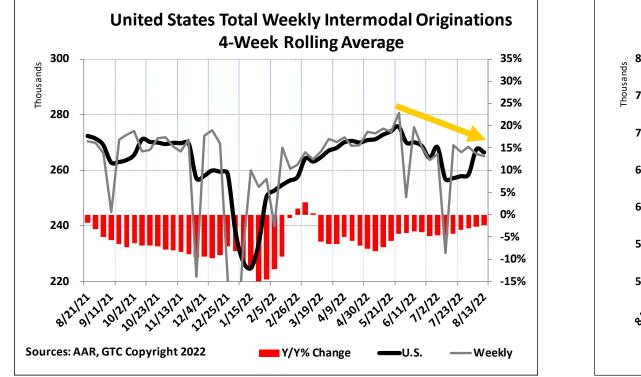
July 2022	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
International	-2.3%	-3.9%	-10.7%
Short Trailer	-12.4%	-15.8%	-8.5%
53' Trailer	-2.6%	-33.7%	-24.6%
Total Trailer	-5.9%	-29.0%	-20.4%
Private Domestic Container	-4.0%	6.7%	8.7%
Rail Domestic Container	-6.5%	-12.0%	-7.3%
Total Domestic Container	-4.6%	1.6%	4.2%
Domestic	-4.7%	-2.4%	0.9%
Grand Total	-3.5%	-3.2%	-5.1%



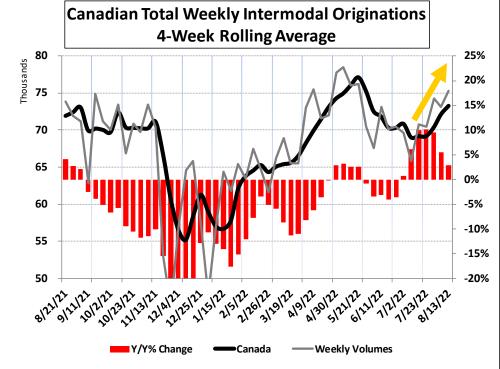
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# U.S. INTERMODAL HAS BEEN SLOWLY DECLINING WHILE CANADA HAS GAINED



4-Week Average down 3.3% since 5/28



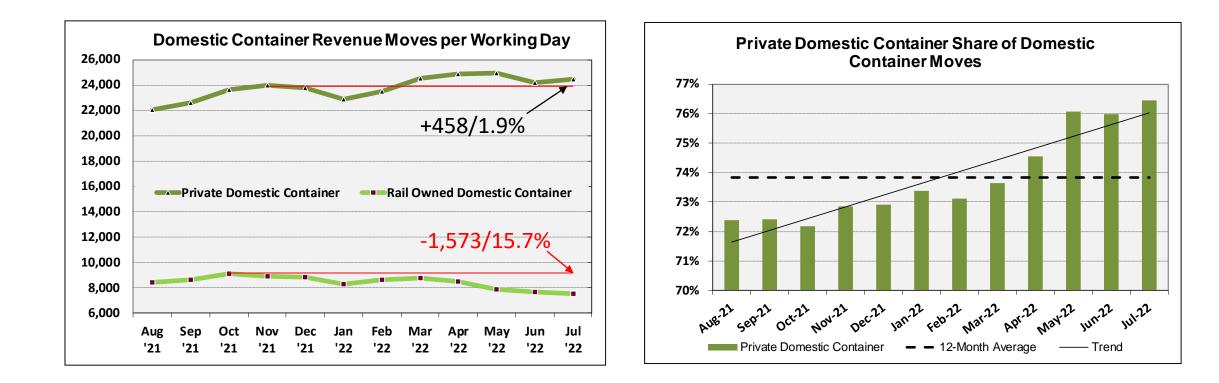
4-Week Average up 6.2% since 7/9



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# THE PRIVATELY OWNED DOMESTIC CONTAINER FLEETS ARE GAINING

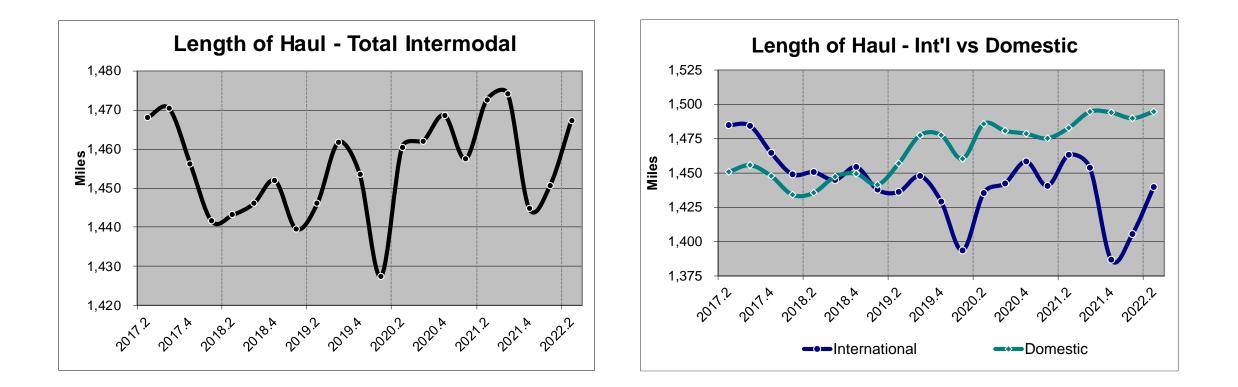




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# LENGTH OF HAUL ANALYSIS SHOW THINGS ARE NORMALIZING

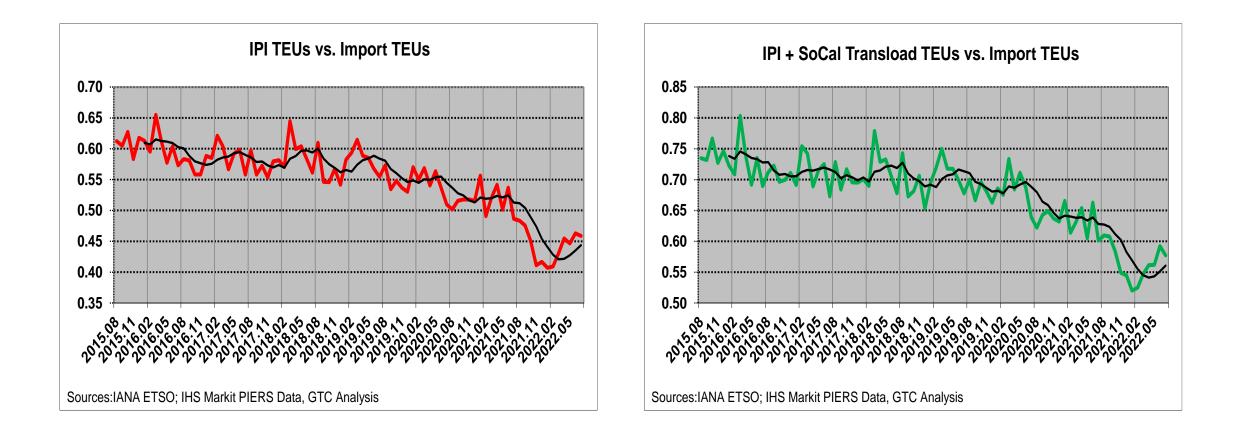




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## INTERMODAL PARTICIPATION IN IMPORTS HAS DECLINED BUT A REBOUND IS UNDERWAY

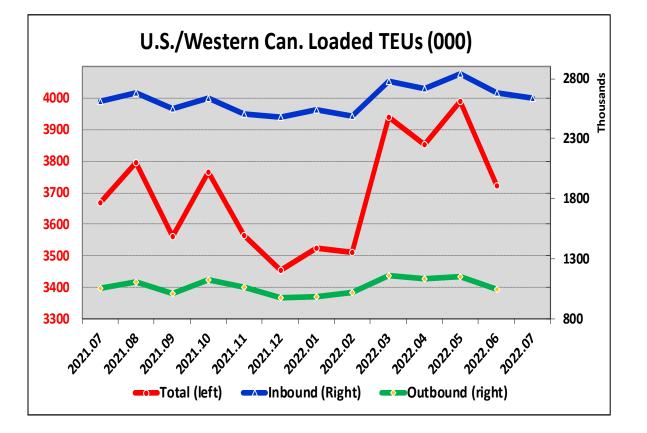


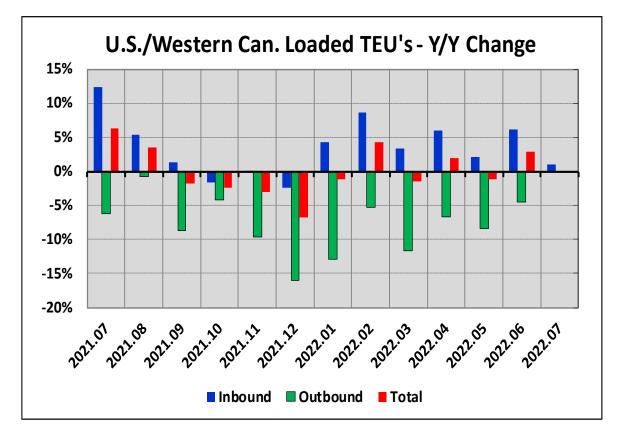


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#### JULY N.A. IMPORT TEUS WERE THE LOWEST SINCE FEBRUARY, BUT STILL AHEAD OF PRIOR YEAR





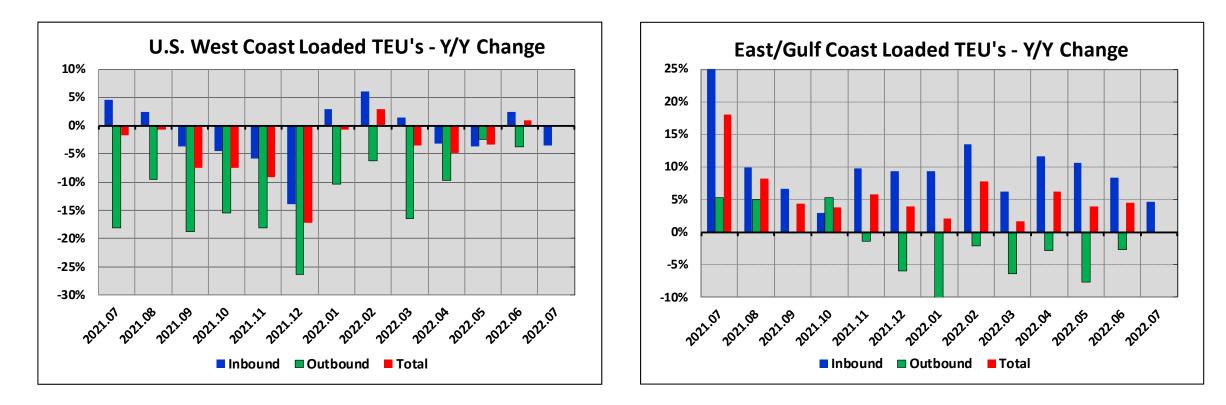
Source: Port Reports, IHS PIERS, GTC Analysis



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#### WEST COAST PORTS HAVE BEEN RUNNING FULL TILT BUT EAST/GULF COAST PORTS HAVE MANAGED TO INCREASE

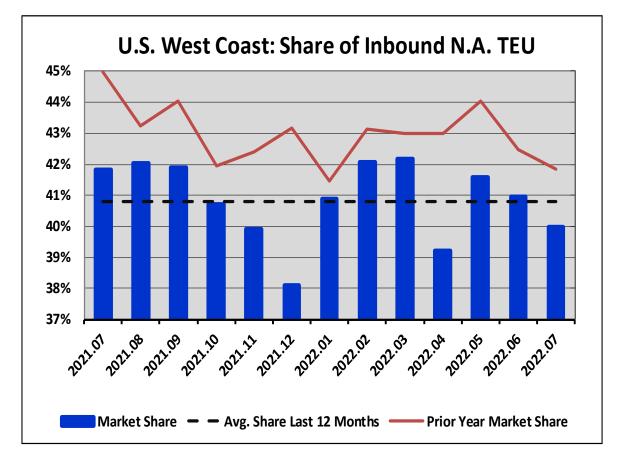


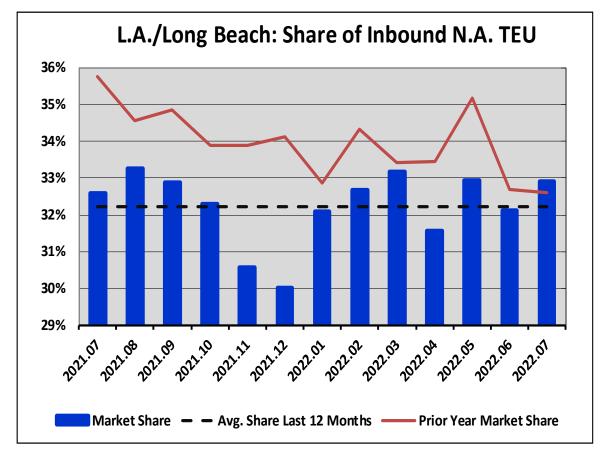
#### Imports YTD (July) +0.2% Exports YTD (June) -8.4%

Imports YTD (July) +9.8% Exports YTD (June) -5.6%



#### WEST COAST IMPORT SHARE HAS DROPPED BUT THE PROBLEM WASN'T L.A./LONG BEACH





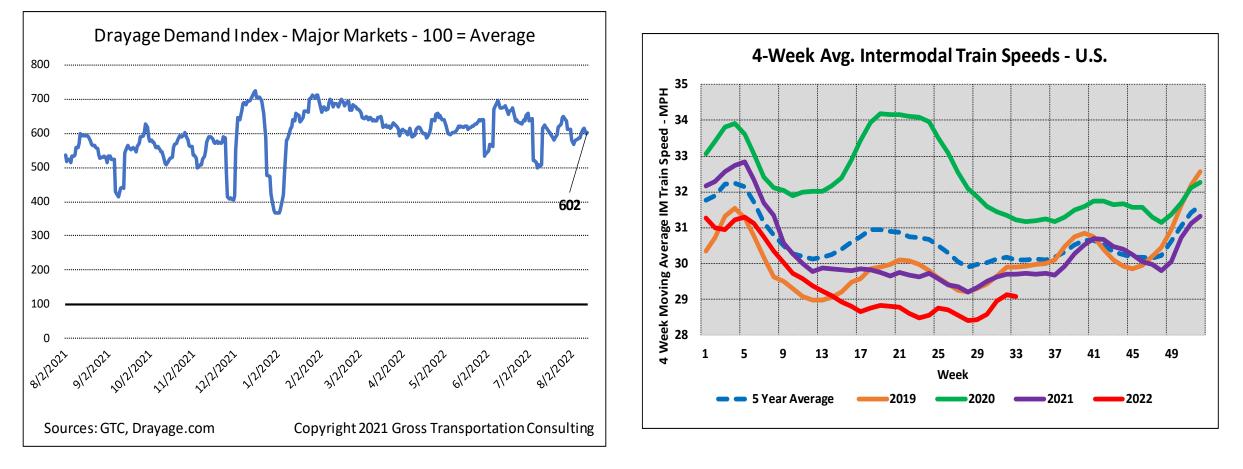
#### Source: Port Reports, IHS PIERS, GTC Analysis



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## THE DRAYAGE SITUATION IS CHANGING RAIL SERVICE CONTINUES TO SUFFER



#### Source: Drayage.com, GTC Analysis

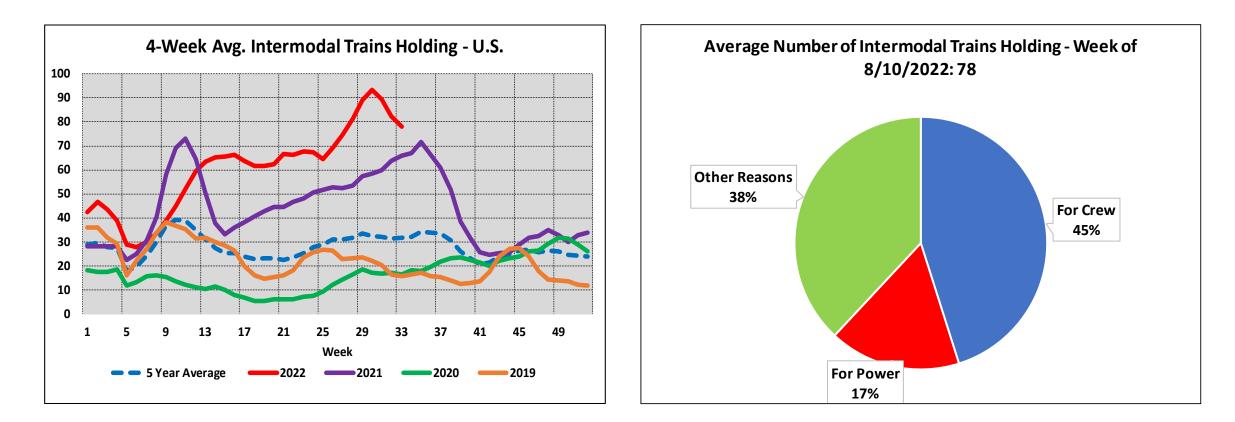
#### Source: STB Rail Service Data



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## RAIL PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN PROBLEMATIC (CONT'D)



#### Total Intermodal Trains Holding: 62



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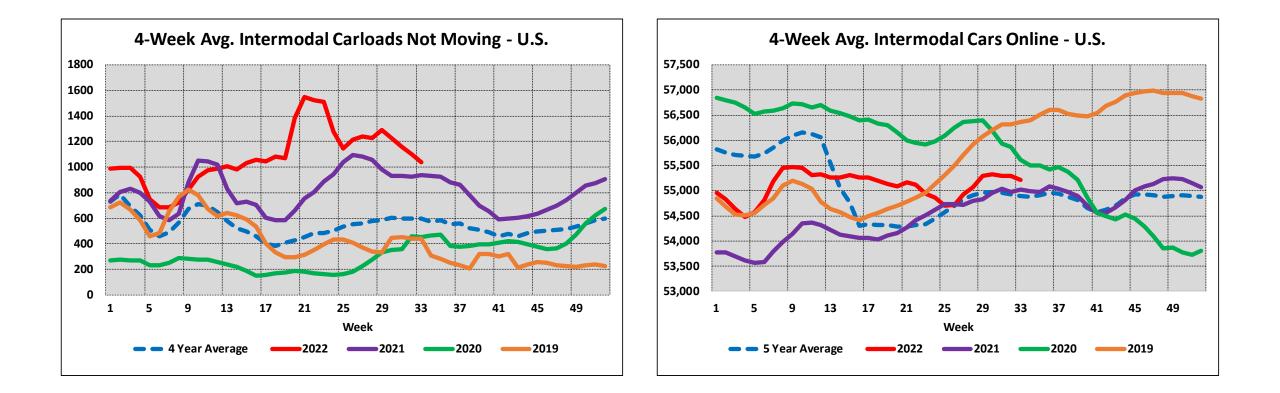
INTERMODAL

IN-DEPTH





## RAIL PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN PROBLEMATIC (CONT'D)



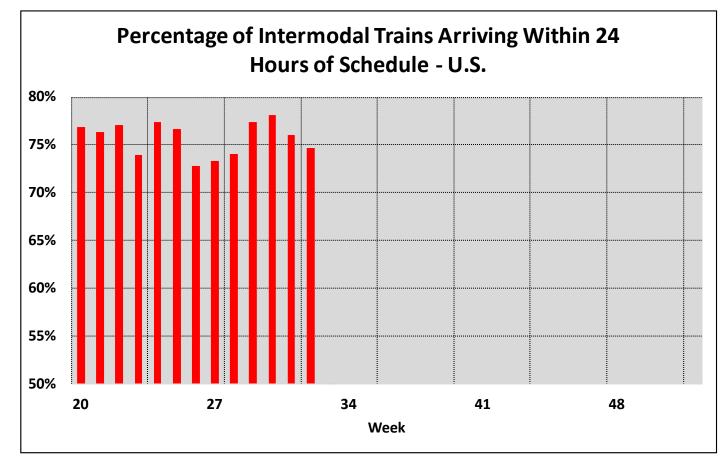
#### Source: STB Rail Service Data



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# NEW STB ON-TIME ARRIVAL DATA



The Eastern Railroads have higher percentages of on-time arrivals than the Western Railroads

#### Source: STB Rail Service Data





# **MAJOR THEMES - MARKETS**

- The demand for freight is cooling, particularly in domestic markets. Imports will lag the trend but not for long.
- The long-awaited (dreaded) economic move from goods to services is well underway. Freight will therefore be weaker than overall GDP numbers would indicate.
- Peak season will be muted with small gains from current levels.
- High inventory levels, in many cases of the wrong goods, continue to clog every step of the supply chain
- (Obviously) 2023 is a big question mark.





# **MAJOR THEMES - INTERNATIONAL**

- The key metric to watch isn't the number of TEUs being imported. It's what's happening to ship backlogs.
- The system will begin to get some relief in late Q4 or Q1.
- West to east migration is causing congestion on the east coast. This will reverse to some extent once the ILWU situation is settled. This will help intermodal.
- Empty containers are clogging terminals and we've only seen the tip of the iceberg so far.
- Chassis disfunction will be a continuing challenge.





# MAJOR THEMES - DOMESTIC

- Growth in Private Domestic Container activity is being mostly offset by losses in Rail Box and TOFC. Topline growth has been minimal.
- A good chunk of Domestic Container growth has been TOFC conversion. But the clock is ticking toward the final curtain.
- Cycle times remain elevated. When (not if) the system begins to normalize the transition could be quite abrupt.
- Aggressive equipment purchases + waning demand + improving cycle times = equipment glut?
- Keep those seat belts fastened!





# Thanks! Questions?

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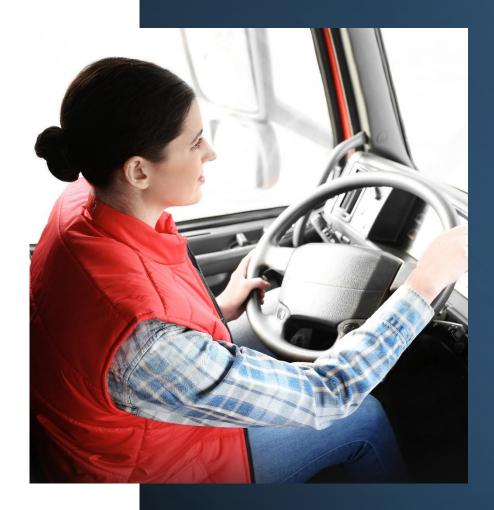
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# Q&A

# Enter your questions using the Q&A button





For more information about IANA data, including the Volume Analyzer & ETSO Database

> Visit: intermodal.org/data-statistics or e-mail us at: info@intermodal.org





# IANA ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

#### THE CONNECTING FORCE BEHIND INTERMODAL FREIGHT



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