

This Issue

EXTERNAL NEWS

AIRLINE NEW SERVICE

SHIPPING LINE UPDATES

SHIPPING LINE NEW SERVICE

CONTINUED PORT CONGESTION

AIR CARGO RATES

CONTAINER RATES

INTERNAL NEWS

CHINA CONTAINERIZED

FREIGHT INDEX

CHINA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

ZIM REVERSES US\$147M NET LOSS INTO \$563M PROFIT

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd (ZIM) has announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ending December 31, 2024, reports London's Port Technology International. For Q4 2024, ZIM reported a net income of US\$563 million, a sharp turnaround from the \$147 million net loss in Q4 2023. Diluted earnings per share stood at \$4.664, compared to a diluted loss per share of \$1.23 in the same quarter the previous year. Operating income (EBIT) surged to \$658 million, reversing a \$54 million operating loss in Q4 2023. Adjusted EBITDA for the quarter reached \$967 million. Revenue for the period was \$2.17 billion, reflecting a 409 per cent increase year-over-year. For 2024, adjusted EBITDA totalled \$3.69 billion, marking a 252 per cent year-on-year rise. Operating income was \$2.53 billion, a significant rebound from the \$2.51 billion operating loss in 2023, representing an 80 per cent improvement. Annual revenue climbed to \$8.43 billion, up 63 per cent.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

OOCL PROFIT UP 88PC TO US\$2.5B AS SALES RISE 28PC

HONG KONG's Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), now a Cosco unit, posted a year-on-year 88 per cent net profit increase in 2024 to US\$2.5 billion, drawn on revenues of \$10.7 billion, up 28 per cent. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 60 per cent to \$3.5 billion. Total volumes handled by the carrier increased four per cent to 7.6 million TEU. The carrier attributed gains to strong import demand in developed economies and rapid trade growth in emerging markets. But the Hong Kong-listed subsidiary of Cosco Shipping Holdings was quick to highlight the growing geopolitical uncertainties and industry-specific challenges that threaten to reshape global supply chains and test container shipping in the year ahead. "Potential overcapacity may arise as new vessels are delivered, especially when the Suez Canal reopens," OOCL said in its earnings statement.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

SHIPPING PROFIT BOOM EVAPORATES ON US TARIFFS

MAJOR global shipping companies, including Maersk and Cosco, which enjoyed windfall earnings last year, may face a reversal of fortunes in 2025 due to a potential reopening of the Red Sea route and looming US tariffs, reports Bloomberg News. Proposed import levies by US president Donald Trump are adding pressure on trade, while a possible long-term ceasefire in the Middle East could restore traffic through the Suez Canal, pushing freight rates lower. Global liner rates declined 5.9 per cent sequentially in the week ending Feb 27, after dropping below US\$3,000 per FEU for the first time since early May, according to World Container Index data. Meanwhile, the Shanghai Containerized Freight Index has fallen 57 per cent from its peak in July. "The liner industry is a volatile industry, vulnerable to booms and busts," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Lee Klaskow.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

DREWRY SEES NEW NORMAL FOR GLOBAL CONTAINER RATES

THE Drewry World Container Index shows a seven per cent decrease in the composite index, which now stands at US\$2,368 per FEU. Drewry expects a continued decline in rates in the coming weeks, attributed to an expected increase in container shipping capacity. That includes new vessels entering service, and a possible return by major carriers to the Red Sea and Suez Canal. This marks the lowest point since January 2024 and represents a dramatic 77 per cent decline from the pandemic-era peak of \$10,377 recorded in September 2021. Despite this substantial drop, current rates remain 67 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic average of \$1,420 in 2019. The average year-to-date composite index closed at \$3,205 per FEU. This figure exceeds the 10-year average of \$2,884 by \$321, though it's important to consider that this long-term average was significantly inflated by the exceptional circumstances of the 2020-2022 Covid period.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD	THIS PERIOD
	2025/3/14	2025/3/21
CCFI	1191.69	1147.76
(JAPAN SERVICE)	970.45	970.34
(EUROPE SERVICE)	1622.61	1586.66
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	923.48	859.97
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	1040.09	1001.42
(KOREA SERVICE)	480.83	466.34
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	961.96	946.81
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	2075.75	2028.37
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	841.79	809.08
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	1123.62	1027.44
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	742.44	684.58
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	845.93	833.55
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	1138.3	1046.13

TAC RATES FROM CHINA INCREASE ON EU, AMERICA LANES

GLOBAL air freight rates rising on the TAC Index out of China on lanes to Europe and North America, reports Mumbai's Stat Trade Times. "The global Baltic Air Freight Index calculated by TAC was up 2.3 per cent over the week to March 17, leaving it ahead by 4.3 per cent over the past 12 months. Sources said rates were generally being pulled up by rising spot prices, particularly on Transpacific routes. Rates out of China were rising in the last week on lanes to Europe and North America, leaving them at similar levels to 12 months ago, the update added. "The index of outbound routes from Hong Kong was up 1.2 per cent, but higher on nearly all major lanes, leaving it up by some 7.9 per cent." Elsewhere from Asia, rates were more mixed with falls on lanes to Europe from Vietnam, Bangkok and Seoul and gains on lanes from India to Europe and the US as well as from Vietnam to the US.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CARGO GIANT CMA CGM TO OPEN IN CHICAGO O'HARE

GLOBAL transport and logistics leader CMA CGM has announced a US\$20 billion investment to strengthen the US maritime economy and modernise the nation's supply chain over the next four years, reports Montreal's Simple Flying. With a 35-year presence in the US, the company now operates in 40 states and employs 15,000 Americans. CMA CGM Air Cargo will establish a new freight hub in Chicago as part of this expansion. To enhance trade connectivity and ensure the efficient transport of critical goods, the company will introduce five new Boeing 777F freighters, operated by American pilots. CMA CGM launched its dedicated air freight division in February 2021, beginning commercial operations in March with routes between Liege and Chicago, later expanding to New York, Atlanta and Dubai. In September 2021, the company further bolstered its air freight capabilities by acquiring two Boeing 777F freighters, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and integrated logistics solutions.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

UPSURGE IN TARIFFS WILL CAUSE 'PROFOUND' TRADE PATTERN CHANGES: COSCO

CHINA's COSCO Shipping Holdings said last week the shipping industry will experience "profound changes in global cargo flow patterns" due to tariff- and trade-related policies after reporting strong profits in 2024. COSCO said it will accelerate the scaled development of its dual-brand fleet, consisting of COSCO Shipping Lines and Hong Kong subsidiary Orient Overseas Container Line. Container shipping demand growth is set to moderate this year, the carrier said, thanks to the combined effects of an easing of "global inflationary pressures and accommodative monetary policies in Europe and the United States." The carrier, the fourth largest by tonnage, according to Alphaliner, said changes among the major container shipping alliances are expected to trigger increased competition this year. Meanwhile, COSCO Shipping Ports said its 2024 net profit dropped by 4.8 per cent to US\$309 million amid a challenging ports industry worldwide.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

GDANSK SEES 24PC PROFIT HIKE TO US\$66 MILLION IN 0224

POLAND's Port of Gdansk posted a record 24 per cent year-on-year net profit increase in 2024 to PLN264 million (US\$68.9 million), drawn on revenues that rose six per cent. The port handled 77.4 million tonnes of cargo, serving 3,559 commercial seagoing vessels, a decrease of 43 vessels compared to 2023, with the average gross tonnage rising 1.6 per cent to 25,025 tonnes. Cargo volumes excluding coal reached 69.5 million tonnes, up 2.8 per cent or nearly two million tonnes from the previous year, while total cargo handling across Polish ports of primary importance was 136 million tonnes, or 126 million tonnes excluding coal, a 0.67 per cent change from 2023. Liquid fuels dominated at 40 million tonnes, accounting for 51 per cent of total cargo, followed by general cargo at 30.2 per cent with 23.4 million tonnes, including 21 million tonnes (2.25 million TEU) handled by the Baltic Hub Container Terminal.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

China offices will be closed from April 4th to April 6th, 2025 for Tomb Sweeping Day, and resume work from April 7th, 2025.

(Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen, Shenzhen)

Hong Kong will be closed from April 4th to April 6th, 2025 for Tomb Sweeping Day, and resume work from April 7th, 2025; will be closed from April 18th to April 21st, 2025 for Good Friday & Easter, and resume work from April 22nd, 2025.