

PEAK SEASON 2026 STARTS EARLY: IS YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN READY?

As we enter June, global logistics markets are already displaying the characteristics typically associated with the traditional peak shipping season. Freight rates are rising, vessel capacity is tightening, port congestion is increasing, and inland transportation networks are coming under pressure. For importers, exporters, and logistics partners, the challenge is no longer anticipating peak season—it is managing it effectively before disruptions impact supply chain performance. At Berkman Forwarding, we are closely monitoring market developments to help our customers and partners stay ahead of rapidly changing conditions.

An Unusually Early Peak Season

Historically, peak season activity accelerates in late July and reaches its highest levels during August and September. In 2026, however, market momentum has arrived significantly earlier. Several factors are driving this trend:

Front-Loaded Shipping Demand

Many importers across Europe and North America are advancing shipments to secure inventory earlier and reduce exposure to potential supply chain disruptions during the second half of the year.

Capacity Management by Carriers

Ocean carriers continue to carefully manage capacity through blank sailings, service adjustments, and network optimization, limiting available space across key trade lanes.

Geopolitical and Trade Route Uncertainty

Ongoing geopolitical developments continue to create uncertainty across global shipping networks, encouraging shippers to move cargo sooner rather than later.

Inventory Replenishment Cycles

Following a period of cautious purchasing, many businesses have resumed inventory replenishment programs, resulting in stronger transportation demand than originally forecast.

The 2026 peak season is no longer a future event—it has already begun. As demand accelerates, pressure on global logistics infrastructure is expected to intensify throughout the coming months.

Key Challenges Impacting Global Supply Chains



Port Congestion
Returns



Inland Transportation
Constraints



Schedule Reliability
Remains Under Pressure



Growing Expectations for
Visibility

What This Means for Freight Forwarders



Dynamic Freight
Pricing



Space Security Becomes
Critical



From Service Provider to
Supply Chain Advisor



Margin Protection

Four Strategies to Stay Ahead

01

Diversify Routing Options

Develop alternative port, carrier, and routing strategies to improve resilience and reduce dependency on a single supply chain solution.

02

Secure Capacity Early

Advance booking remains one of the most effective methods to mitigate risk during periods of constrained capacity.

03

Communicate Proactively

Regular market updates and transparent discussions regarding potential delays help customers make informed planning decisions.

04

Build Contingency Plans

Every shipment should be supported by backup options, including alternative ports, carriers, or transport modes when circumstances require rapid adjustments.



How Berkman Forwarding Supports Customers During Peak Season

Backed by a global network, strong carrier partnerships, and real-time market intelligence, Berkman Forwarding helps customers navigate peak season with confidence.



As market conditions evolve, Berkman Forwarding remains committed to delivering agile, reliable logistics solutions that keep customers ahead.

THE SPIRIT OF JUNE: GROWING TOWARD THE SUN

NO DRAGGING
NO DODGING
NO DRAINING
JUST GROWTH



Lewis Hu
Trans Pacific
Trade Lane Manager

June has always been my favorite month.

Or perhaps it is the season leading up to June that resonates with me most, the journey from early spring to the summer solstice. It is a time when daylight stretches a little longer, warmth steadily returns, and nature quietly comes to life. Everything seems to be moving forward, building momentum toward its fullest expression.

To me, June represents a rare and inspiring moment: not a finish line, but a point of possibility. A season of growth before maturity, of energy before decline, of opportunity before certainty.

Looking back, my own career has followed similar rhythms. From my early years at OOCL's UK Center, to developing expertise in Trans-Pacific trade at De Well, each stage built the foundation for what came next. One milestone I still value is leading a team that reached 1,300 TEU weekly volume—not for the number itself, but for the trust and collaboration behind it.

Joining Berkman in late 2022 marked a new phase, where uncertainty was high but momentum was essential. I've always believed midyear is not a pause, but an acceleration point: the first half builds, the second half delivers.

Growth, however, is never passive. It requires stepping forward, contributing, and staying aligned with others moving in the same direction. At Berkman, I've seen how shared purpose and diverse perspectives turn effort into progress.

Of course, growth also comes with storms. Markets shift, plans change, decisions are made with imperfect information. Progress depends not on avoiding challenges, but on facing them directly and adapting with clarity.

June reminds us to embrace imperfection. Light and shadow coexist, and steady focus matters more than certainty. Like the gardenia, quiet but unmistakable, professionalism is often expressed through consistency and care in small things.

Looking back across my journey, one truth stands out: growth is never individual. It is built through trust, collaboration, and shared momentum.

If there is one idea I hope to carry forward, it is this spirit of June:
No dragging.
No dodging.
No draining.

Stay proactive. Stay resilient. Keep growing toward the sun.