

APRIL 2024

MONTHLY MONITOR



Market Update

India - The air capacity is under stress with a 20% increase in freight rates. We are seeing uplift and onward movement delays primarily due to peak season, ocean conversions to air, and transshipments from Bangladesh and China. Ocean space is tight due to an increase in cargo with rates increasing by 10%. Due to space constraints, rollovers are taking place, resulting in increased TT for the US, EU, and African sectors.

Bangladesh - Air freight market demand is high however capacity is tight; rates have gone up and are fluctuating. Ocean space is available and MSC, ONE, and CMA CGM are only taking bookings for MED ports. Equipment availability is carrier-specific for each port of loading, the overall situation is challenging. The Houthi attacks in the Red Sea are not only driving up sea freight — air freight will increase, as global trade flows get increasingly disrupted.

Sri Lanka – We forecast that rates for both modes of transport will increase during the coming weeks in April, especially after the 15th. Port congestion issues are hindering cargo movement at CMB. Air capacity is tight due to the Red Sea situation but we expect it to open up a bit more after April 20th.

*Happy Holidays
From Around The Globe!*

Date	Holiday	Origin
April 4th	Ching Ming Festival	All Chinese Origins
April 5th	Jumatul Bida	Bangladesh
April 6th-8th	Chakri Day	Thailand
April 7th	Shab-e-Quadr	Bangladesh
April 8th-15th	Eid Mubarak Holiday	Indonesia
April 9th	Local Festival	India
April 10th-12th	Eid-ul-Fitr	Bangladesh
April 10th-11th	Eid-ul-Fitr	Malaysia
April 11th	Eid-ul-Fitr	India
April 11th	Ramazan Festival Day	Sri Lanka
April 12th	New Year	Sri Lanka
April 12th-16th	New Year	Thailand
April 13th-16th	Khmer New Year	Cambodia
April 17th	Ram Navani	India
April 18th	King Hung Commemoration	Hanoi
April 23rd	Full Moon Poya Day	Sri Lanka
April 30th	Commeration	Hanoi

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Hong Kong – We forecast airfreight demand to remain very strong. Overall capacity is tight due to strong demand on all lanes to the US and EU. As most carriers have avoided the Suez Canal, demand has eased and operations have stabilized, with ocean freight rates remaining stable. Shipping lines face higher costs and longer routes; they will absorb the capacity, and rates will remain well above normal while shipping companies continue to circumnavigate the Cape of Good Hope.

Shanghai - For air, we will see demand and rates higher as the trend looks to continue. April may see a recovery albeit slow. Ocean rates may increase and capacity may be lacking due to blank sailings.

Shenzhen – It is expected that many airlines will increase flights, congestion will be eased, and rates will be steadily and slightly reduced. Rumors indicate that carriers will have a GRI of around USD1000 to USD2000 per 40HQ since the market is overbooked. Some consignees will request their suppliers to ship out more cargo and this will tighten space. If the carriers keep canceling vessels, the ocean freight rates will increase.

South East Asia

Cambodia – Air and ocean space from Cambodia for both modes is very tight and finding airlines with space to move cargo has been very challenging. Rates for both modes remain elevated and will change daily.

Malaysia - We forecast that airfreight demand and capacity will be strong and in demand this month. We anticipate the ocean freight demand and rates to increase this month, as the Red Sea situation continues to cause a lot of flux.

Indonesia – Rates for air and ocean remain elevated and demand during the month will be high for the upcoming extended holiday, possibly going into May. There is an ocean equipment issue for 40GP due to stock. Some delays are evident on feeder vessels due to port skips.

Philippines – Air space is very tight due to an increase in the volume bound to the US and EU. Ocean space is open but needs to be booked in advance. We are forecasting rates for both modes of transport to increase in April.

Thailand – Airfreight rates have increased weekly since mid-March. Demand for space is also high, along with a lot of transit cargo via BKK, causing congestion at BKK airport (mainly due to e-commerce cargo from China to EU and US). Ocean freight is rather stable and space manageable but sailing time increased due to the Red Sea crisis, causing longer turnaround time for vessels as well as returning of empty containers.

Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh) - The ocean market is stable and no movement hindrance affecting cargo. Rates might see a small increase in early April. Air space is a little tight and service is affected by hub backlogs.

Vietnam (Hanoi) – Air rates and space availability for April are unpredictable. However, the air rates and space would likely still be tight because of the pressure from e-commerce cargoes at HAN airport. It is expected that the space and rates will still be manageable. Ocean rates are generally stable.

United States - Most US ports and airports are stable, although there are some rail delays for shipments leaving West Coast Ports. The bridge collapse in Baltimore likely will put more pressure on East Coast ports, especially NY/NJ and Norfolk, but no major impact is expected, as both ports have available vessel capacity.