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MARKET UPDATE



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Import Demand

U.S. container imports in December are projected to reach their lowest level since mid-2023, with tariff uncertainty continuing to weigh on demand. Although China tariffs have been reduced and USTR Section 301 port fees remain paused, importers have not accelerated shipments, as earlier front-loading has already left inventories well-stocked.

Market recovery will depend on how quickly inventories normalize and whether carriers choose to resume services via the Suez Canal.

Capacity & Rates

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December cancellations

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- U.S. West Coast (PSW): 4 void sailings announced.
- Pacific Northwest (PNW): 2 void sailings announced.
- U.S. East Coast (USEC): 4 void sailings announced.



These cancellations may extend transit times by 7–10 days and increase the risk of rolled cargo.

January may show a modest recovery versus December, though NRF forecasts a 10.3% YoY decline.

Space is tightening from Shanghai and Ningbo, particularly with OA carriers. Blank sailings are being announced at short notice; we will continue to provide timely updates.

We would recommend that you arrange bookings early to secure equipment and space well in advance, especially ahead of the Chinese New Year.



Port Congestion in Asia

Ports in China and Southeast Asia are facing severe congestion in December 2025. Berth congestion continues in Qingdao (3 days), Manila (2–3 days), and Port Klang (2–3 days), partly due to weather-related closures.

Southeast Asian ports are resuming operations after recent floods, but regional backlogs are expected to persist. The Philippines reports stable yard utilization (~70%), though delays remain possible.




Airfreight

Global airfreight markets entered December with tightening capacity, rising rates, and strong peak-season movements across major trade lanes. E-commerce volumes from Asia to the United States remain near Q4 highs, continuing from mid-November following Black Friday and Thanksgiving promotions, filling key transit hubs and driving further rate increases. 🌐



THANK YOU



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