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TRUCKLOAD AND LTL

ATA Opens Nomination Process for "Good Stuff' Award
American Trucking Associations said it has started accepting nominations for its annual Mike Russell "Good Stuff" Trucking Image Award. The award recognizes trucking companies, state trucking associations and other related companies that work to improve the image of the trucking industry, ATA said.

Hours-of-Service Ruling: Research on 34-Hour Restart, Action on Capitol Hill
Even as a federal court was recently upholding most of the hours of service rules, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has been working on a field study of the 34-hour restart that could influence that provision in the future, and there's a move on Capitol Hill to force the agency to return to the old rules.

The Driver Shortage
Truck drivers are the basic unit of transportation capacity and the glue that holds supply chains together. No container or straight truck or trailer moves without, at some point, a truck driver. Even so, trucking companies, especially truckload carriers, often have great difficulty finding, hiring and keeping drivers. Nearly every period of economic growth is accompanied by a driver "shortage," including the recovery that began in 2009.

July Truck Tonnage Rises 4.7%
Truck tonnage rose 4.7% in July from the same month last year, American Trucking Associations said. The index's 125.4 reading is below June's 125.9, which is the highest on record. ATA uses the year 2000 as a 100-reading baseline. July's 0.4% month-to-month dip is the first decline since May and followed June's 0.1% gain. The not seasonally adjusted index, which represents tonnage actually hauled by fleets, rose 3% from June.

Spot Market Freight Rates Remain Strong despite Weekly Drop
Freight rates on one leading spot market have declined over the past week, but they remain stronger than usual for this time a year, especially in two sectors. DAT reports they declined 0.5% for vans August 7 through 11 compared to the previous seven days for an average of $1.85 per mile while the ratio of van loads-to-trucks increased 3.3%. Rates for flatbeds also fell 1.4% to $2.17 per mile while reefer rates were unchanged at $2.20 per mile.

**DAT Freight Index Sees First Recorded July Increase**

The DAT North American Freight Index edged up 0.4 percent in July when compared to June’s level. This was the first time that the level in July was higher than in June since the index was established in 1996. “Freight volume typically declines from June to July; the average month-to-month decline was 20 percent over the past ten years,” DAT said in its monthly release.
Court Will Hear Brokers’ CSA Challenge in September
Freight brokers will air their case against the CSA safety enforcement program in court next month. On September 10, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will hear arguments against CSA brought by the Alliance for Safe, Efficient and Competitive Truck Transportation. The Alliance contends that by posting a Power Point presentation on CSA on its website, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration put its safety credentialing responsibility into the hands of brokers and shippers.

Legislators Worry about Heavy Truck Impact on Local Roads
A bipartisan group of Representatives asked the Department of Transportation to consider the impact of heavier trucks on local roads and bridges as it studies national size and weight limits. The Federal Highway Administration is well into a comprehensive size and weight study that is intended to inform congressional debate over whether or not to raise national limits.

Truckers Shut Down Port of Oakland’s SSA Marine Terminal
Truckers shut down the SSA Marine terminal at the Port of Oakland on Monday, protesting chronic delays that have kept them in line for up to six hours to load their trucks. Most of the truckers are independent contractors that get paid by the load, and
long waits cut into their profits. In addition, once in line they can’t leave their trucks due to safety issues.

**Value of Cargo Theft Increases**
The level of cargo thefts from trucking is nearly unchanged over the past three months but the average value of the thefts has risen dramatically. The logistics security services provider, FreightWatch International, reports from May through July it recorded a total of 185 thefts in the United States. The average loss value per incident during this period was $147,260. Compared with the previous quarter, thefts increased by 1%, while the average loss value increased by 23%.

![Cargo Theft by Product Type](image)

**RAIL, INTERMODAL & INTERNATIONAL**

**AAR Reports Increased Weekly Rail Traffic**
The Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported increased weekly rail traffic for the week ending August 17, 2013, with total U.S. weekly carloads of 295,901 carloads, up 0.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Intermodal volume for the week totaled 256,458 units, up 3.7 percent compared with the same week last year. Total U.S. rail traffic for the week was 552,359 combined carloads and intermodal units, up 2 percent compared with the same week last year.

**Rail-Truck Shipments Reveal Holiday Sales Clues**
Holiday sales are poised to rise from last year, based on the current volume of goods transported primarily by both truck and rail. Total U.S. intermodal volume -- goods shipped by more than one means of transportation -- rose 4 percent for the four weeks
ended Aug. 10 compared with a year ago, according to figures from the Washington-based Association of American Railroads. That's the biggest increase since March.

**U.S. Intermodal Traffic Growth Accelerates**

U.S. intermodal volume for the week ending Aug. 10 saw a 6.1 percent increase year-over-year, according to the Association of American Railroads, up from 2.4 percent growth in the week of July 27. Combined North American carload volume for the three North American Free Trade Agreement partners rose 1.7 percent from the same week in 2012, to 380,719 carloads, but slipped 0.4 percent from the week before. Total North American carload volume for 2013 year-to-date, at 11,868,498 carloads, was 0.3 percent less than in the same period of 2012.

**Transloading's Upward Track**

Los Angeles-Long Beach handles some 40 percent of U.S. containerized imports, but what happens to that cargo once it lands is undergoing fundamental change, reflecting larger trends in U.S. freight transportation. The main point is rail's growth in popularity overall as a means of moving goods imported through LA-Long Beach, and other ports, to markets in the U.S. interior. But the nature of how goods move by rail is changing. Three numbers stand out.

**Import Tax Overhaul Bill Coming, Would Help U.S. Seaports**

A U.S. import tax collected only at shipping ports would be converted into a fee on goods brought into the United States by rail and highway from Canada and Mexico under legislation expected to be introduced next month in the U.S. Senate.

**FUEL UPDATES**

**Average Diesel Price Turns Higher Over Weekly Oil Gain**

Just as soon at it looked like diesel was starting to trend lower it has done an about-face. The average U.S. price has increased 0.4 cents per gallon over the past week, registering $3.90 per gallon, following two straight weeks of declines, according to the U.S. Energy Department. Despite the hike, the current price is 12.6 cents per gallon lower than the same time a year ago.
Diesel Rises 0.4¢ to $3.90 a Gallon, Gasoline Declines 1.1¢ to $3.550

Diesel rose modestly after two straight declines, rising 0.4 cent to $3.90 a gallon, while gasoline dropped 1.1 cents, the Department of Energy reported. Diesel, which dipped 1.3 cents last week and 0.6 cent the prior week, had gained almost 10 cents in four previous weeks of increases. Despite the downturn, the price is 12.6 cents above the same week last year.
## Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update

**Gasoline Release Date:** August 19, 2013  |  **Next Release Date:** August 26, 2013  
**Diesel Fuel Release Date:** August 19, 2013  |  **Next Release Date:** August 20, 2013

### U.S. Regular Gasoline Prices* (dollars per gallon)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>08/05/13</th>
<th>08/12/13</th>
<th>08/19/13</th>
<th>week ago</th>
<th>year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S.</strong></td>
<td>3.652</td>
<td>3.581</td>
<td>3.550</td>
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<td>-0.194</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Coast (PADD1)</td>
<td>3.628</td>
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<td>-0.157</td>
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<td>New England (PADD1A)</td>
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<td>3.757</td>
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<td>-0.070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Atlantic (PADD1B)</td>
<td>3.708</td>
<td>3.648</td>
<td>3.626</td>
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<td>-0.124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)</td>
<td>3.520</td>
<td>3.454</td>
<td>3.446</td>
<td>-0.008</td>
<td>-0.205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest (PADD2)</td>
<td>3.580</td>
<td>3.473</td>
<td>3.501</td>
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<td>Gulf Coast (PADD3)</td>
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<td>Rocky Mountain (PADD4)</td>
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<td>West Coast (PADD5)</td>
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<td>West Coast less California</td>
<td>3.777</td>
<td>3.745</td>
<td>3.688</td>
<td>-0.048</td>
<td>-0.095</td>
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### U.S. On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices* (dollars per gallon)

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>08/05/13</th>
<th>08/12/13</th>
<th>08/19/13</th>
<th>week ago</th>
<th>year ago</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S.</strong></td>
<td>3.909</td>
<td>3.896</td>
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<td>East Coast (PADD1)</td>
<td>3.919</td>
<td>3.908</td>
<td>3.912</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>-0.094</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England (PADD1A)</td>
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<td>4.036</td>
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<td>Central Atlantic (PADD1B)</td>
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<td>Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)</td>
<td>3.845</td>
<td>3.834</td>
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<td>Midwest (PADD2)</td>
<td>3.878</td>
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<td>Gulf Coast (PADD3)</td>
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<td>3.622</td>
<td>-0.002</td>
<td>-0.009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain (PADD4)</td>
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<td>West Coast (PADD5)</td>
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<td>4.057</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>-0.197</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Coast less California</td>
<td>3.961</td>
<td>3.946</td>
<td>3.955</td>
<td>0.019</td>
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<td>California</td>
<td>4.133</td>
<td>4.128</td>
<td>4.134</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>-0.170</td>
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*prices include all taxes

Source: Energy Information Administration

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**ECONOMIC HEADLINES**
U.S. Business Borrowing for Equipment Rises 9 Percent in July: ELFA
U.S. companies borrowed more last month to invest in everything from industrial equipment to aircraft, the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA) said on Thursday. Companies signed up for $7.2 billion in new loans, leases and lines of credit last month, up 9 percent from a year earlier. The borrowing fell 16 percent from June.

Initial Jobless Claims Rise by 13,000 for Week
Initial jobless claims rose by 13,000 last week, the Labor Department reported Thursday. Claims for the week ended Saturday rose to 336,000 from a revised 323,000 the prior week. The rise in claims matched economists forecast, Bloomberg News reported. The four-week moving average, a less volatile measure, fell 16,000 to 330,500, the lowest level since November 2007. Continuing jobless claims for the previous week ended Aug. 10 rose by 29,000 to 3 million.

Existing Home Sales Rise in July to Highest Since 2009
Existing home sales rose 6.5% in July to the fastest pace since November 2009, the National Association of Realtors said Wednesday. Sales rose to an annual rate of 5.39 million, following June’s 5.08 million. The July level was higher than economists’ median forecast of a 5.15 million rate, Bloomberg News reported. The rate rose in part as more buyers entered the market before further increases in mortgage rates, Bloomberg reported.

Biggest Banks Face Moody’s Cuts as U.S. Support Ebbs
Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS) and JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM) are among banks whose debt ratings may be cut by Moody's Investors Service as it examines whether the U.S. would be less likely to ensure creditors are repaid in a crisis. Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo & Co. (WFC) also may be downgraded, Moody's said yesterday in a report. Citigroup Inc. (C) and Bank of America Corp. (BAC) are under review, with the direction of any rating change uncertain, Moody's said. Bank of New York Mellon Corp. and State Street Corp. (STT) already were under review.

Consumers Skip Dining for Cars as Sales Slow
Restaurant sales contracted in June and July, even as spending on other discretionary categories such as automobiles and homes grew, a sign some Americans remain budget conscious. Results at casual-dining establishments fell 3.5 percent last month, following a 2 percent drop in June, according to the Knapp-Track Index. This marked the first two consecutive declines in the monthly index of restaurant sales after the industry was rocked by its worst streak in almost three years between December and February.

WORLD HEADLINES
In U.S., China, Europe, Data Points to Global Rebound
Business surveys on Thursday suggested the world economy was on the mend, with U.S. and Chinese manufacturing activity at multi-month highs and better-than-
expected growth in the euro zone. The data should bolster the case for the Federal Reserve to start withdrawing support for the U.S. economy this year - possibly as soon as next month - and enhance the appeal for investors of developed economies in North America and Europe.

**Canadian Dollar Slides to Lowest in 6 Weeks as Retail Sales Drop**
Canada's dollar fell to its lowest level in six weeks as a report showed retail sales shrank more than forecast in June, adding to evidence that economic growth is slowing. The currency slid versus its U.S. peer for a fifth day, the longest slump in two months. The drop in sales, which rose in May the most since 2010, followed declines in Canadian wholesale and manufacturing sales in June and a surprise loss of jobs last month, along with the first contraction this year in the Ivey purchasing-managers index.

**Needy EU Nations Woo Chinese Home Buyers to Ease Slump**
Southern Europe's cash-strapped governments are courting wealthy Chinese homebuyers, seeking to bolster their battered real estate markets by offering visas to those who purchase prime properties. Cyprus, Greece and Portugal are providing resident permits to foreign buyers, while Spain is about to adopt a similar measure. The chance to purchase a home at depressed prices in southern Europe and gain what's known as a golden visa is mostly being sold to Chinese investors, according to brokers.

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