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# APERTURE & FOCUS

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## GLOBAL APERTURE

[Cargo airlines and trade analysts drop hints that fall-winter air demand](#) may drop, attributed to recent earning reports from major transport operators and the oft-reported cargo disruptions and volatile fuel markets. But some global airlines [remain optimistic](#), citing year-over-year recovering passenger traffic in key regions such as [Middle East, Americas, and Asia-Pacific](#).

[More steamship lines blank sailings in the coming weeks due](#) to low container utilization rates, particularly in Transpacific Eastbound lanes. [China's manufacturing output wanes](#) on a combination of Covid-19 lockdowns and a dual [water-energy crisis](#) as factories re-shore their efforts to Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. But specialized vessels are in high demand: automotive companies are on the lookout for [off-season ro-ro capacity](#), while reefer containerships field a [demand uptick from agricultural producers](#).

## REGIONAL FOCUS - AMERICAS

[Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are](#) reeling from the recent landfall of Hurricane Fiona, shutting down power and water for both nations—[San Juan's port operations were suspended](#) between September 17-19. As projected, new data from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach shows [import volumes dipping through August](#)—down 17% and 6% year-over-year, respectively. Now, [US container yards are brimming](#) with empties and fewer ways to return them due to gloomy outbound demand. The disparity might resolve itself in coming weeks as officials are growing with confidence that [West Coast port labor negotiations may conclude without work stoppage](#).

Operations at the Port of Manzanillo closed September 18-21 in preparation for Tropical Storm Madeline, but was further impacted by [a 7.7-magnitude earthquake](#) that erupted 40 miles inland on September 19. [Mexican government officials double efforts](#) to unify coastal and inland port infrastructures in Guanajuato, Ciudad Juárez, Laredo, Altamira, and Michoacán for cross-border efficiencies.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

On September 19, manufacturing hub Chengdu [lifted lockdown restrictions](#) after effectively controlling the outbreak with no new cases reported, continuing mass testing and requiring negative tests within 48 hours for indoor venues.

Typhoon Nanmadol [made landfall in Southern Japan on September 18](#), causing power blackouts and disruptions to ground and air transport as thousands were evacuated throughout the island of Kyushu. [Container vessels delayed their arrivals](#) to the region's ports.

Indian Prime Minister launched a new [National Logistics Policy \(NPL\) on September 17](#), improving on last-mile delivery by improving infrastructure, including roads and waterways, and launching a new consolidated digital platform through which all transportation related services can be accessed through a single portal.

1.4 million kilograms of fresh and dry produce [were detained at three different ports in Indonesia](#) on September 19 when newly required importing documents were absent during surprise inspections.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Dockworkers at the port of Liverpool [began an 8-day work strike on September 20](#) in protest of wages, coinciding with a strike at the port of Felixstowe set to begin September 25. The ensuing fallout compounds [a worsening energy crisis in the Schengen Region](#), as liquid tanker vessels dwindle in seasonal availability and [bunker fuel runs grow in time and distance](#).

[Port and bunker operations in Gibraltar were suspended](#) again on September 20 due to continued oil leakage from a wrecked bulker—services were previously downed on September 1 for clean-up.