

GLOBAL APERTURE

Global airfreight capacity is forecast to grow 5-7% in 2027, but aviation consultancies Aevean and Rotate warn that much of the increase will reflect the restoration of capacity lost during the Gulf conflict rather than new supply. Market conditions could therefore remain tight, particularly on Asia-North America routes, where demand is expected to continue outpacing available capacity.

REGIONAL FOCUS – AMERICAS

United States: U.S. air cargo operations have largely recovered following a four-hour nationwide ground stop on November 13, which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) imposed after an outdated air traffic control communications system failed. Flights resumed that evening, and while some backlogs, missed connections and shipment delays continued through the weekend, major carriers had largely restored normal cargo operations by November 15.

Port security workers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach reached a tentative labor agreement on November 21, averting a strike that could have disrupted operations at the nation's busiest port complex. The agreement between International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 26, representing about 250 security workers, and port employers still requires union ratification, but removes the immediate threat of disruptions at terminals handling roughly 85% of Long Beach cargo and 33% of Los Angeles cargo.

Mexico: The environmental authority in Mexico has conditionally approved the first phase of a major expansion of the Port of Manzanillo, the country's largest container port, with construction expected to begin in January 2027. The $6.26 billion USD project would expand the port from

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450 to 1,880 hectares and ultimately add four container terminals, navigation channels and expanded rail infrastructure, significantly increasing capacity for Mexico's growing transpacific trade.

REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

Thailand: Air cargo congestion at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport continues to delay import and export shipments as handlers work through backlogs caused by September flooding and related staffing shortages. More than 1,000 cargo lots reportedly remain outstanding as the Thai Airfreight Forwarders Association (TAFA) calls for better shipment visibility and coordination to help accelerate cargo clearance.

South Korea/China: A new direct container shipping service between South Korea's Port of Incheon and Rizhao Port in China's Shandong Province began operations in November, strengthening connections between the Seoul metropolitan area and eastern China. The twice-weekly service is expected to generate approximately 120,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in annual cargo volume and support trade in industries including steel, petrochemicals and paper.

REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Belgium: On November 23, A nationwide air traffic control strike disrupted air cargo operations at Liège and Brussels airports, forcing airlines to reschedule flights and divert aircraft to neighboring countries. About 70 flights were affected at Liège, one of Europe's major cargo airports, while Brussels suspended arrivals and departures for much of the day, with carriers and logistics providers warning of potential shipment delays as operations recover.

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom launched a consultation on November 16 for new maritime fuel regulations that would require ships calling at UK ports to progressively reduce the emissions intensity of their fuels beginning in 2030. The proposed rules would initially cover vessels of 5,000 gross tonnage and above, with potential implications for fuel choices and operating requirements on UK shipping routes.