

APERTURE & FOCUS

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GLOBAL APERTURE

A rise in China's e-commerce exports and disruptions in Red Sea shipping [are driving a surge in air cargo demand](#). The demand for airfreight, particularly driven by e-commerce giants and challenges in maritime shipping, is creating significant pressure to secure sufficient capacity, especially as the industry anticipates the peak season ahead.

REGIONAL FOCUS - AMERICAS

United States: According to new analysis, U.S. imports at the country's ten largest ports [increased by nearly 20% year-on-year](#) during the month of March, reflecting strong economic activity and resilience despite a less significant growth compared to February. The Port of Oakland experienced the highest growth rate with a 38.4% increase in volumes, while Los Angeles, maintaining its position as the most vital import gateway, saw a slight underperformance with an 18.6% rise in container throughput.

REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

Singapore: Singapore Maritime Week highlighted Singapore's prominence as a [leading maritime city due to its innovation, infrastructure, and commitment to advancement](#). Singapore's consistent investment in maritime infrastructure and technology, along with its strategic location as a global trade hub, reinforces its position as the world's leading maritime city, as recognized by the DNV-Menon Leading Maritime Cities report.

China: Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) [experienced significant growth in cargo traffic](#) in March 2024, with a notable year-on-year increase of 48.2%. The increase was especially notable due to a rise in exports, especially to North America, Europe, and the Middle East.

Bangladesh: Despite a slight decrease in ship arrivals, Chattogram Port in Bangladesh has experienced a [significant increase in container and cargo handling](#) due to the arrival of larger vessels. The port's decision to enhance navigation facilities and increase the draft limit has allowed for the handling of more goods, leading to expedited cargo delivery, reduced transit times, and lower transportation costs.

India: The Indian government has [issued guidelines to safeguard ship movements in the Persian Gulf](#) amidst escalating tensions. The goal of coordination efforts between the shipping ministry and the Indian Navy is to ensure the security of shipping lines in sensitive areas, with streamlined reporting processes and proactive security measures.

REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Netherlands: Both Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges [reported first quarter 2024 results reflecting ongoing geopolitical uncertainties](#) such as Red Sea disruptions and their impact on European economies. While Rotterdam experienced a slight decline in overall throughput due to economic issues, Antwerp-Bruges saw an increase in total cargo throughput and nearly caught up with Rotterdam in container volumes, with container throughput rising especially after February.
