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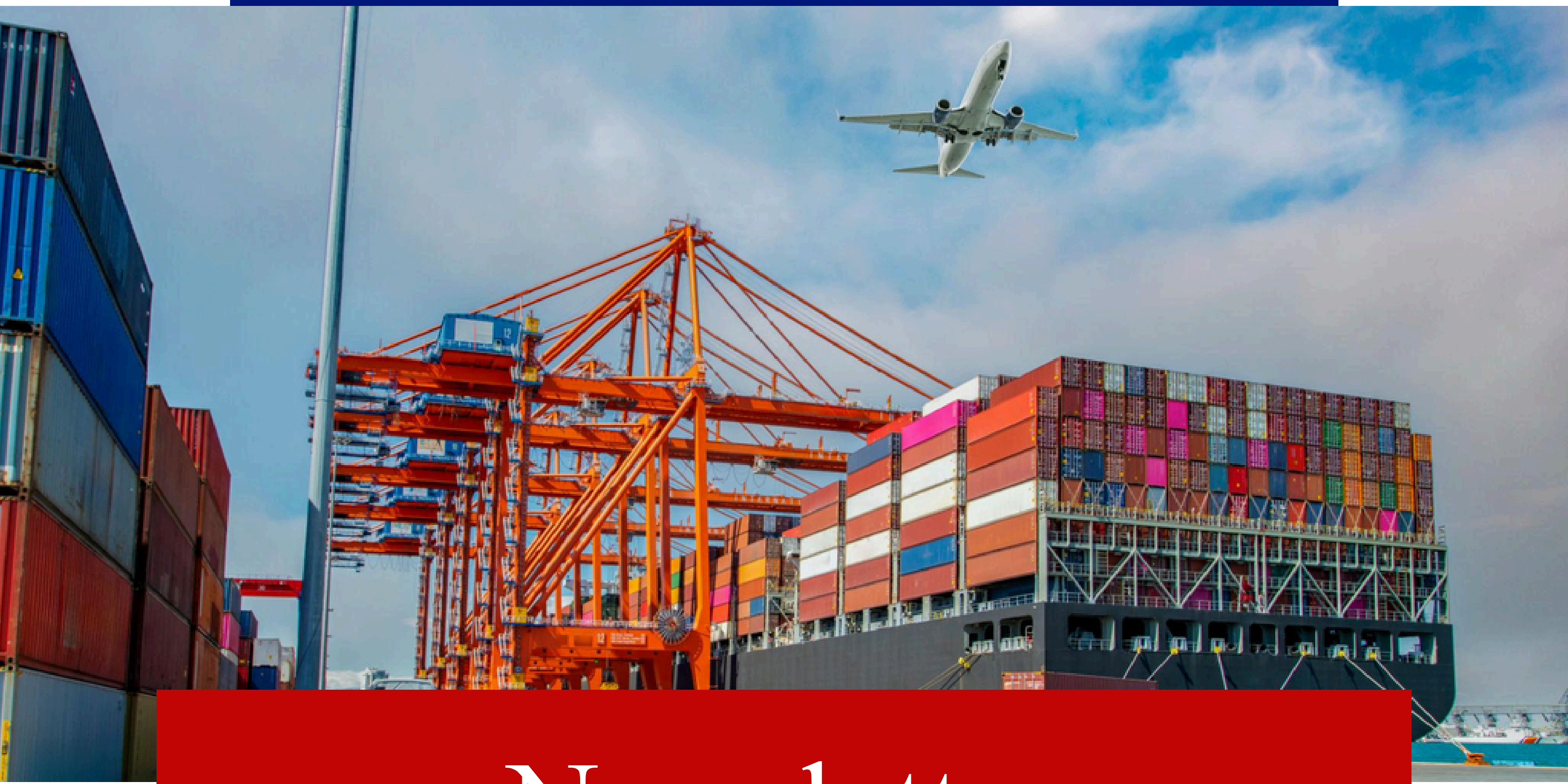

Newsletter

JULY 2026

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Premiere was honored to receive the China Airlines Award during the Grand Event - Million Awards Banquet, recognizing the company's continued partnership and contribution to the airline throughout the past year. The award was presented during a special gathering attended by industry professionals, business partners, and representatives from across the logistics and air cargo sector, celebrating outstanding achievements and long-term collaboration.

Representing Premiere at the event, our management team had the opportunity to connect with industry peers, exchange insights on the evolving air freight market, and strengthen relationships with valued partners. The occasion also highlighted the importance of close cooperation between airlines and freight forwarders in delivering reliable and efficient logistics solutions.

Receiving this recognition reflects Premiere's ongoing commitment to service excellence and trusted partnerships. We sincerely appreciate the continued support from China Airlines, our customers, and our global partners, and we look forward to building even stronger collaborations and creating new opportunities for mutual success in the years ahead.

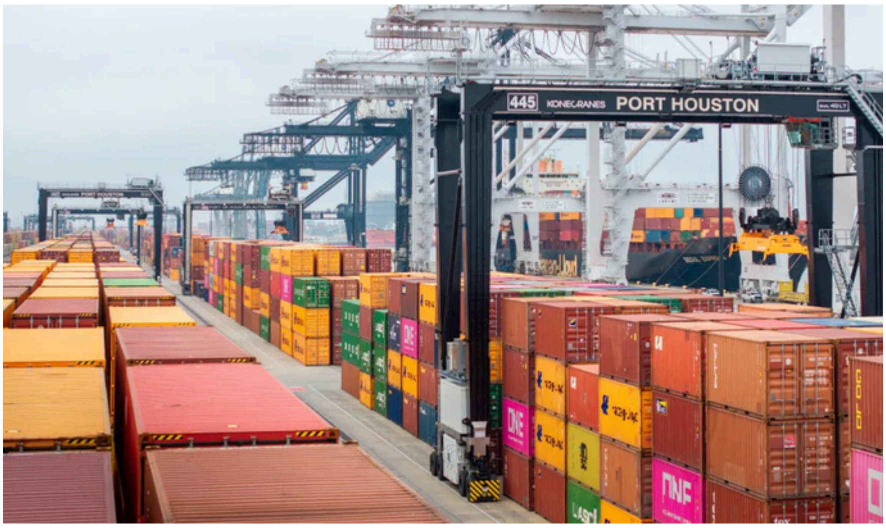
Dragon Boat Festival Brings Members Together

The Dragon Boat Festival was recently celebrated across many countries and regions in Asia, bringing together families, communities, and businesses to mark one of the region's most meaningful traditional festivals. The occasion featured exciting dragon boat races, the sharing of zongzi (traditional sticky rice dumplings), and a variety of cultural activities that celebrate unity, resilience, and prosperity.

As this year's celebrations concluded, Premiere would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our valued customers, business partners, colleagues, and friends for your continued trust and support. The values celebrated during the Dragon Boat Festival, including teamwork, collaboration, and perseverance, reflect the strong relationships that continue to drive success throughout the global logistics industry.

We sincerely thank everyone who has been part of our journey and look forward to strengthening existing partnerships, building new connections, and delivering reliable logistics solutions in the months ahead.

Transpacific Ocean Rates Fueled by Early Peak, Frontloading



According to a June 30 Freightos update, transpacific ocean rates are climbing as shippers rush to frontload cargo ahead of expected July bunker fuel surcharge hikes, manufacturer price increases, and an approaching U.S. tariff deadline. Spot rates from Asia to the U.S. West Coast reached $6,200 per FEU, up 120% since mid-May, while the Asia-East Coast lane hit $8,000 per FEU, an 85% jump over six weeks.

This early peak season is being driven more by demand than fuel costs. Xeneta reported that offered capacity from Asia to the U.S. West Coast has hit an all-time high, with the four-week rolling average of containers nearing 350,000 TEUs, matching last year's record set during the 90-day U.S. tariff pause.

Carriers are scrambling to keep up. MSC reinstated its Pearl service in June, while Yang Ming and ONE are running extra-loader vessels to handle the surge.

Analysts caution the rush could trigger an early unwind of peak season later in July. Still, with carriers planning further rate hikes and capacity additions not yet enough to reverse the upward trend, the market shows no signs of turning a corner in the near term.

AI, Semiconductors Drive June Air Cargo Demand

According to Xeneta, surging demand for artificial intelligence (AI) hardware and semiconductors pushed global air cargo volumes up 7% year-over-year in June. This AI-driven boom is effectively offsetting a slowdown in e-commerce traffic, which had been the industry's primary growth driver over the past few years.

The Transpacific route has emerged as 2026's strongest corridor. Driven by Taiwan's record GDP growth and a doubling of global semiconductor sales, average spot rates from Northeast and Southeast Asia to North America spiked over 40% by late June compared to February.

Conversely, the Europe-to-North America lane saw a 25% decline. Xeneta emphasized that air freight rates strictly follow supply and demand rather than jet fuel prices, advising shippers to utilize floating rate mechanisms based on actual freight forwarder costs.

While global spot rates rose 38% in June, the market is beginning to cool down as Middle East capacity restores. However, experts note there are no immediate signs of the AI-driven demand plateauing.

South Carolina Ports Closing Terminal Temporarily to Rein In Costs

The South Carolina Ports Authority (SC Ports) will temporarily suspend container operations at its Leatherman Terminal beginning Aug. 1, consolidating cargo activities at its North Charleston and Wando Welch terminals. According to a June 25 statement, the decision was driven by ongoing market headwinds, an uncertain trade outlook, and lower cargo volumes.

SC Ports described the move as a cost-control measure, noting that shipping lines continue to face higher fuel and operating expenses. With sufficient capacity available at its other two terminals, consolidating operations is expected to improve efficiency and generate meaningful cost savings. Leatherman currently handles approximately 5% of the port's container volume and serves MSC as its sole carrier, with most services transferring to North Charleston and the remainder to Wando Welch.

The transition will begin in July and conclude in August. SC Ports has not announced a reopening date, stating that future operations at Leatherman will depend on cargo demand, market conditions, and capacity requirements. The terminal, which opened in 2021, was previously closed in 2023 during a labor dispute before resuming operations in 2024.

CONTACT US

Tel: +86-21-32506989

E-mail: marketing@sha.premiere-logistics.com

Website: https://www.premiere-logistics.info/

Address: RM.903/904, Building B, No. 28 Xuanhua Rd. Changning District, Shanghai, 200050, China