

Peak Season Unease

Peak season is always challenging for ecommerce shippers and their service providers. But this year is shaping up to be exceptionally so, as tough economic conditions bump up against new regulatory hurdles. U.S. consumers are bracing for impact.

Diesel at highest levels since COVID

Diesel prices are up 77 percent in the past year, hitting a record of \$6.53 per gallon on September 22, according to AAA ([WSJ article](#)). Prices have also surged to record highs internationally ([Reuters article](#)).



Shortage of truck drivers

Tighter enforcement of U.S. commercial driver's license rules and a purge of unqualified trucking schools are contributing to fewer drivers and higher trucking costs.

Container shipping rates spike

Ocean container shipping rates have jumped to levels nearing the pandemic highs ([Reuters report](#)). Heavy traffic at some U.S. ports and a recent decline in global container schedule reliability add to the pain.



Weather effects

This is a perennial challenge during peak season but a Super El Niño weather pattern this fall/winter indicates a high likelihood for extreme weather events in many parts of the world.

Parcel companies raise prices

Higher fuel surcharges this holiday season, along with the annual price increases, add up to ground package delivery prices up 5.2% on average in Q3 compared to SPLY ([WSJ article](#)).



New regulatory rules loom

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will require the new Entry Type 13 (or formal entry) for imported merchandise by mail subject to Partner Government Agency requirements on Oct. 22. Outbound shipments to the European Union will be subject to €2/item handling fee and must include Product Identifiers in customs data, effective November 1.