Flexport Research

Making Global Trade Easy for Everyone

Ocean Timeliness Indicator Shows FEWB Slowing

Flexport's new Ocean Timeliness Indicator measures the amount of time taken to ship freight from the point at which cargo is ready to leave the exporter to when it is collected from its destination port. The ocean shipping world tends to run along "trade lanes." The two biggest carry goods from Asia to North America and from Asia to Europe. The OTI captures timeliness on each of these. In our latest update the Far East Westbound Measure slowed by one day and the Transpacific Eastbound (TPEB) held at its previously-set record.

The Methodology: The Flexport Ocean Timeliness Indicator (OTI) utilizes data from Flexport's ocean shipping operations for an expansive view of a container's journey. Updated on a weekly basis, it shows the time taken to transit from Cargo Ready Date at exporters' gate to the Destination Port Departure date when products are ready to leave port to go to importers. Measures are shown for Far East Westbound (eg China-to-Europe) and Transpacific Eastbound (eg China-to-US) routes.

Week to Dec. 5, 2021

The Ocean Timeliness Indicator (OTI) for both the FEWB and TPEB routes are at or close to their highest since our calculations started in March 2019.



The Severity of the Supply Chain Crisis: Oceans

TPEB held at a record **105 days** after a small reduction in handling times from cargo ready to origin port departure (Asia-side) was offset by a minor increase in destination arrival to destination departure (North American port-side) timings.

FEWB increased by one day to **108 days**, close to the record 109 days set at the end of October. By contrast to TPEB it was the handling time in Asia which increased.

Please direct questions about the Flexport OTI to economics@flexport.com.

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