

Flexport Research

Making Global Trade Easy for Everyone

Transpacific Eastbound Routes Take Longer Than Ever

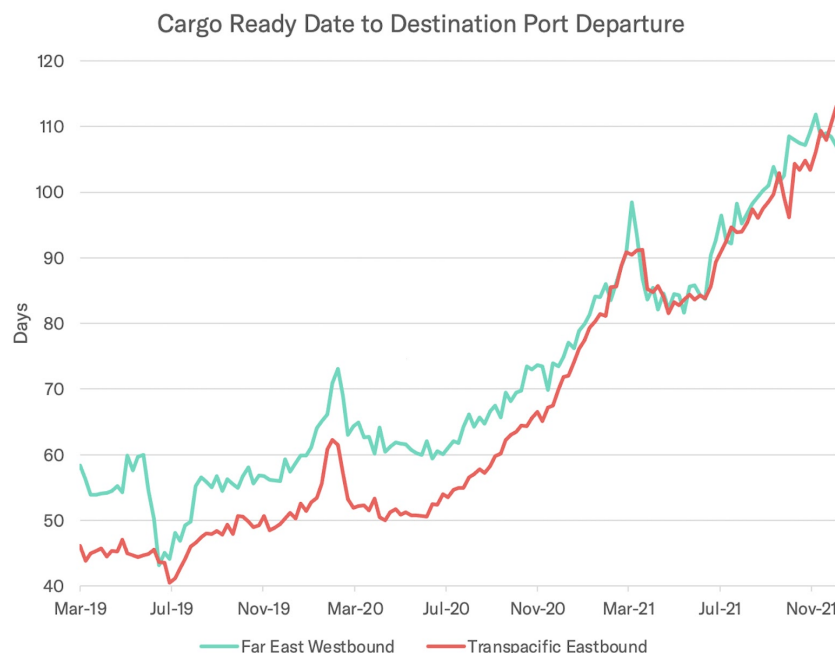
Flexport's Ocean Timeliness Indicator measures the amount of time taken to ship freight from the point at which cargo is ready to leave the exporter to when it is collected from its destination port. The ocean shipping world tends to run along "trade lanes." The two biggest trade lanes carry goods from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

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 (e.g., China-to-Europe) and Transpacific Eastbound (e.g., China-to-US) routes.

Week to Jan. 9, 2022

The OTI for both TPEB and FEWB took divergent paths with TPEB reaching yet another new record high while FEWB took a step downwards.

Ocean Timeliness Indicator for TPEB Sets Another Record



Sources: Flexport Research

TPEB reached a record high of **113 days**, up by three days from just a week earlier. All the major elements of the routing including Asia port handling, ocean-crossing time and North America port handling, increased.

FEWB dipped one day lower to **107 days**, the lowest level since mid-November. A reduction in handling times at Asian ports was offset by increased ocean-crossing times.

Some care is needed when considering week-to-week changes in the OTI as exogenous factors such as the Golden Week holiday or port closures can have an outsized impact on a given week's data.

Comparing the past four weeks' average to Jan. 9 with the prior four weeks (i.e., to Dec. 12) shows TPEB up by six days and FEWB down by one day.

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

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