

Flexport Research

Making Global Trade Easy for Everyone

New Index Shows Ocean Shipping Taking Longer Than Ever

Flexport's new Ocean Timeliness Index measures the amount of time taken to ship freight from the point at which cargo is ready to leave the exporter to when it departs its destination port. The Transpacific Eastbound measure hit its longest on record in the last week of November while the Far East Westbound measure is still close to the high reached in October.

The Methodology: *The Flexport Ocean Timeliness Index (OTI) utilizes data from Flexport's ocean shipping operations to show 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 Nov. 28, 2021

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

Ocean Timeliness Index

Cargo Ready Date to Destination Port Departure



Sources: Flexport Research

TPEB reached a record 105 days, reflecting an increase in the time taken to get from Cargo Ready to Origin Departure. That would suggest increased challenges in moving products from exporters' locations to the Asian ports before shipping occurs. The time taken to leave the American arrival port after the shipping vessels' arrival has declined over the past two weeks, indicating some success in the debottlenecking projects and incentives provided by the port operators.

FEWB remained at 107 days, just below the record set at the end of October of 109 days. The dip from the earlier peak reflects reduced arrival port handling time offset in part by increased at-sea shipping duration.

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

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