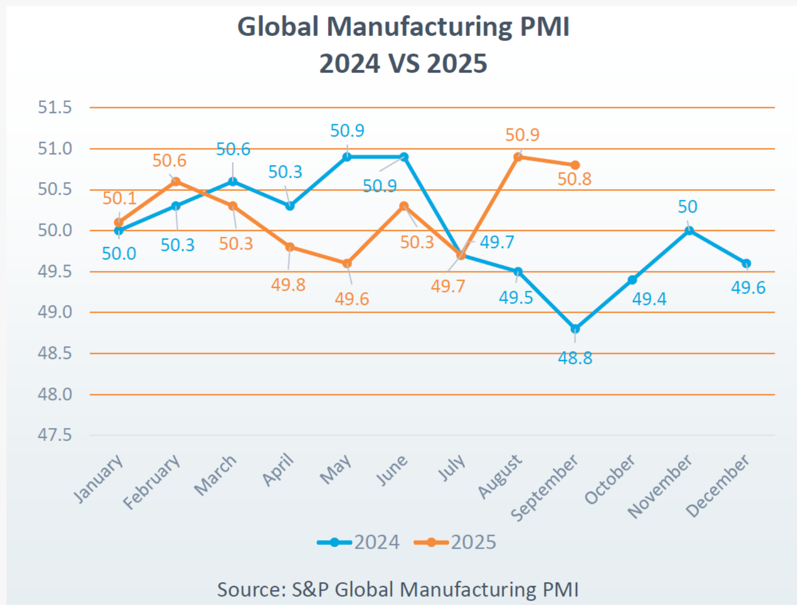
EINPRESSWIRE

Asia-Pacific Freight Market Faces Capacity Challenges Amid Rising Demand and Geopolitical Tensions

Dimerco's Nov report reveals tightening freight capacity, tariff uncertainty, and rising demand across Asia-Pacific as peak season and trade tensions collide.



TAIPEI, TAIWAN, November 3, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The latest Asia-Pacific Freight Report from global logistics provider Dimerco highlights ongoing shifts in the freight market driven by manufacturing fluctuations, geopolitical developments, and capacity constraints as the holiday season approaches.

According to Dimerco's analysis, the global manufacturing PMI edged slightly downward to 50.8 in September, signifying modest growth amidst subdued overall demand. The USA and India showed robust manufacturing activity, whereas markets such as Taiwan and South Korea indicated contraction due to varying regional economic conditions.

> "
> Tariff shifts and carrier discipline will decide how long this rebound lasts. Importers are cautious now, expecting a slower year-end before restocking in early 2026."
>
> *Ted Chen, Director of Ocean Freight, Global Sales and Marketing, Dimerco*

[Transpacific air freight] demand surged notably ahead of year-end, propelled by high-tech and consumer electronics launches, e-commerce promotions ahead of Black Friday, and the U.S. market's aluminum coil shortage. Shippers are advised to anticipate tight capacity, especially given the temporary pause on US-China tariffs expiring mid-November, which has led to significant front-loading of shipments.

Ocean freight carriers have implemented substantial capacity adjustments, with approximately 7% of scheduled sailings canceled to stabilize freight rates. Notably, the introduction of the General Rate Increase (GRI) has begun showing positive impacts on rates. However, uncertainty remains high due to new USTR 301 Port Charges on Chinese vessels and reciprocal tariffs, which are forecasted to impact trade patterns significantly.

Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)	2024				2025								
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Global	48.7	49.4	50.0	49.6	50.1	50.6	50.3	49.8	49.6	50.3	49.7	50.9	50.8
USA	47.3	48.5	49.7	49.6	51.2	52.7	50.2	50.2	52.0	52.9	49.8	53.0	52.0
China	49.3	50.3	51.5	50.5	50.1	50.8	51.2	50.4	48.3	50.4	49.6	50.5	51.2
Taiwan	50.8	50.2	51.5	52.7	51.1	51.5	49.8	47.8	48.6	47.2	46.2	47.4	46.8
Hong Kong	50.0	52.2	51.2	51.1	51.0	49.0	48.3	48.3	49.0	47.8	49.2	50.7	50.4
Japan	49.7	49.2	49.0	49.6	48.7	49.0	48.4	48.7	49.4	50.1	48.9	49.7	48.5
S. Korea	48.3	48.3	50.6	49.0	50.3	49.9	49.1	47.5	47.7	48.7	48.0	48.3	50.7
Singapore	51.0	50.8	51.0	51.1	50.9	50.7	50.6	49.6	49.7	50.0	49.9	50.0	50.1
Vietnam	47.3	51.2	50.8	49.8	48.9	49.2	50.5	45.6	49.8	48.9	52.4	50.4	50.4
Malaysia	49.5	49.5	49.2	48.6	48.7	49.7	48.8	48.6	48.8	49.3	49.7	49.9	49.8
Philippines	53.7	52.9	53.8	54.3	52.3	51.0	49.4	53.0	50.1	50.7	50.9	50.8	49.9
Indonesia	49.2	49.2	49.6	51.2	51.9	53.6	52.4	46.7	47.4	46.9	49.2	51.5	50.4
Thailand	50.4	50.0	50.2	51.4	49.6	50.6	49.9	49.5	51.2	51.7	51.9	52.7	54.6
India	56.5	57.5	56.5	56.4	57.7	56.3	58.1	58.2	57.6	58.4	59.1	59.3	57.7
Australia	46.7	47.3	49.4	47.8	50.2	50.4	51.2	51.7	51.0	50.6	51.3	53.0	51.4

Items	Status	Tariff Rate
Automobile and Auto Parts	Effective May 3rd, 2025	25%
Steel and Aluminum (All countries except UK)	Effective June 4th, 2025	50%
Copper	Effective August 1st, 2025	50%
*Softwood Timber & Lumber (rising to 30% on January 1, 2026)	Effective October 14th, 2025	10%
*Certain Upholstered wooden products (rising to 50% on January 1, 2026)	Effective October 14th, 2025	25%
Kitchen Cabinets & Vanities (including parts)	Effective October 14th, 2025	25%
Semiconductors and Chip Making Equipment	Investigation since April 1st	-
Pharmaceuticals and Ingredients	Investigation since April 1st	-
Heavy Trucks | Processed Critical Minerals	Investigation since April 22nd	-
Commercial Aircraft and Jet Engines	Investigation since May 1st	-
Furniture *(Complete probe in 50 Days)*	Investigation since August 22nd	-

US Tariff Update

"Whether this rebound holds will depend on how [tariff policies](), geopolitical risks, and carrier discipline evolve in the coming weeks," said Ted Chen, Director of Ocean Freight, Global Sales and Marketing at Dimerco Express Group. "For now, many importers remain in observation mode after front-loading shipments earlier this year to build inventory. The remainder of 2025 is likely to stay subdued, though inventory replenishment could gradually resume in early 2026."

Regionally, freight capacity is tightening considerably in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, India, and Mexico, with air freight markets particularly strained. In China, strong e-commerce demand coupled with pre-tariff shipping has sharply raised air and ocean freight rates, particularly to the US West Coast (USWC). South China and Hong Kong face rising congestion and increased shipment volumes driven by seasonal demand. Australia's port congestion and equipment shortages are also constraining freight availability.

European air freight remains constrained due to disruptions from the Everest ransomware attack affecting major airports, while ocean freight carriers cautiously expand in the Red Sea region despite lingering security risks.
Dimerco advises shippers to plan ahead, book early, and monitor ongoing tariff negotiations and geopolitical developments closely to mitigate supply chain disruptions.

For comprehensive insights and detailed market forecasts, download the full November 2025 Asia-Pacific Freight Report.

For media enquiries, contact:

Gitte Willemsens

Pesti Group
gitte.w@pesti.io
Visit us on social media:
LinkedIn
Facebook
YouTube
X

This press release can be viewed online at: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/863303363