

### Cargo Facts Symposium 2023: Session Three

### Navigating the Future of Air Cargo: Trends, Forecasts, and Strategies

October 26, 2023 San Diego

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### Agenda

- E-commerce & Express
- Air Freight Indicators
- 20-Year Freighter Forecast
- Summary & 2024 Outlook



### **E-commerce & Express**

#### Global e-commerce market is projected to grow by 38% over the next 5 years.



- E-commerce and air freight growth go hand in hand.
- CFC estimates that 20% of global air cargo volumes are linked to ecommerce.
- Increased cross border e-commerce activity is also benefiting air cargo.



## China, the United States, the European Union, Japan and the United Kingdom are the largest domestic e-commerce markets.



E-Commerce Revenue by Market 2023\*



## Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Latin America registered the highest growth in terms of e-commerce sales, overtaking the more established markets.



High internet and smartphone

adoption rates in

SEA have led to

significant growth

in the region's ecommerce

market.

Largest E-commerce Revenue Growth Markets, 2023\*

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### These emerging markets will continue to display the highest growth rates over the next years but off a much smaller base.



E-Commerce Market Revenue by Region, 2023\*

### US e-commerce sales activity during the second and third quarters saw a rebound in e-commerce as a percentage of retail trade sales.



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## There are no signs of a significant downturn in consumer spending; sales volumes for this holiday season are expected to be similar to last year.



- U.S. consumer spending has remained strong in 2023 despite inflation.
- Retail sales surged post-COVID but have been flat since July 2021.
- Our forecast for Q4 2023 suggests stable, inflationadjusted sales, possibly down 1-2% due to economic uncertainties and higher interest rates.

#### With e-commerce volumes down, how is Amazon responding to this shift?



- Amazon has been growing the number of flights it operates since the beginning of the summer vs. first half of 2023.
- Increase in hub efficiency, leading to higher utilization of fleet.
- Amazon also focusing on other regions worldwide.



#### Amazon Air's Hub Strategy: Boosting Efficiency and Utilization

- Amazon's keeps shifting more traffic to its Cincinnati hub and three regional bases (Fort-Worth, San Bernardino and Lakeland), moving away from traditional point-to-point flying.
- The shift has allowed for a nearly 9% YTD increase in aircraft utilization, despite economic headwinds. The new hub-and-spoke arrangement resembles traditional carriers like FedEx and UPS, enabling potential nextday coast-to-coast service.
- By clustering departures into tight windows, Amazon has created efficient plane-to-plane transfers that support next-day delivery and increased fleet utilization.
- Amazon is closing its Leipzig air freight facility in Germany. In recent years, Amazon has expanded its logistics network in Germany and Europe, thereby reducing the necessity for flights from LEJ.



## The operator mix varies substantially across segments. The large widebody segment is home to a diverse set of operators, but everything else is all about express.



**Freighter Fleet by Carrier Business Model** 

Two thirds of the world's freighter fleet are operated by or on behalf of 5 companies – FedEx, UPS, DHL, Amazon and SF Express.

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### International express traffic is expected to grow faster than air cargo, even though 2022 saw global volumes drop for the first time since 2009.



- CFC estimates that international express traffic between 2024 and 2027 will grow at an average of 4.5%/year
- This rate is higher than the 3.3% air cargo traffic growth CFC is projecting.
- Express growth has been driven by higher overnight shipping activity globally.

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### **Economic & Air Freight Indicators**

## Air freight rates started rising in September and continued in October, showing optimistic signs for remaining of the year.



- Have air freight rates reached their lowest point?
- Rates in the market signal a time for optimism.
- As we approach the potential turning point, key players adaptability and resilience will be key to seizing opportunities and navigating the path to recovery.

## US Industry RTMs in 2023: despite overall downtrend, numbers in Q3 point to a slight uptick, showing levels of normalization.



- 2023YTD Data is still around 9% above pre-COVID-19 levels.
- RTMs in 2023YTD have shown a volatile market and factors beyond seasonal adjustments are at play.
- Stakeholders in the industry should expect some level of stabilization through the end of the year.

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CTKs increased by 1.5% vs. 2022 in August, the first annual growth since Feb 2022 while capacity was up by over 12%, driven by high belly capacity over the summer.



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#### Freight Forwarders keep seeking longer term contracts to secure volumes.

Longer term

signal 'more

contracts between

forwarders may

shippers and freight

common ground' in

a stabilizing global

air cargo market.



Share of Air Freight Contract Terms for Shippers



#### Special cargo displays a bright spot in overall market declines



- The transport of special air cargo products has been the bright spot in a depressed air cargo market over the first eight months of 2023.
- However, improvements in special cargo were not enough to stop an overall decline as the market dropped by over 7% over the first nine months.
- This drop narrowed down to 3% in the third quarter.



## Jet Fuel Cost is down 16% from October 2022 but has been increasing since the beginning of the third quarter.

U.S. Gulf Coast Kerosene-Type Jet Fuel Spot Price FOB (USD/Gallon)



### Yields have remained stable in 2023 for the transpacific lane but volumes have dropped significantly westbound.



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### **20-Year Freighter Forecast Highlights**



## In the long term we expect global air cargo traffic to grow at around 3.3% per annum.





# Over the next 20 years we expect the world's freighter fleet to grow by 2.4% per year from about 2,430 aircraft today to around 3,900 in 2042.





# The CFC forecast reflects our assessment of future product strategies to determine which specific aircraft types will be offered as jet freighters.

	Narrowbodies	Medium Widebodies	Large Widebodies
Facing near-term extinction	DC-9, 727, Bae 146, 737-200	A300B4, A310	747 Classics, DC/MD- 10-30/40
At peak use, or with little future growth potential	MD-80, 737-300/400, 757-200	767-200, A300-600, A330-200F	747-400F/ERF, 747-400SF/BCF, MD-11F/CF, 747-8F
Expanding role going forward	737-700/800, A321/320	767-300F/BDSF/BCF, A330-200/300P2F	777-200F
Planned or Potential Future aircraft ?	737-900P2F	787-XF? A330-900F?	777-300P2F, 777-200P2F, A350F, 777-8F



# About half of freighter fleet additions are expected to replace retiring aircraft, the remainder is to cater for growth.



Freighter Fleet Forecast 2023-2042 Growth vs Retirements

# Our 20-year forecast estimates that about 72% of freighter fleet additions will be converted aircraft, but this varies substantially across segments.

**Freighter Fleet Forecast 2023-2042 Conversions vs Production Freighters** 





### Summary & 2024 Outlook



### Key takeaways and global air freight outlook through the end of 2023.

- In the global air freight sector, results for Q3 2023 show a positive outlook for the end of the year.
- Rate Improvements and Seasonal Uptick: After a period of stagnation, airfreight rates have started to rise. The industry is entering its busy season, and rate increases are expected to continue, providing a much-needed boost to revenues.
- Capacity and Demand Dynamics: Capacity should remain stable or increase slightly through the end of the year, while demand will see a slight rebound.
- Peak Season: Expectation of higher shipping volumes vs. 2023YTD but flat vs. 2022 (2-3 % higher).

#### Navigating the 2024 Air Cargo Landscape: What's Ahead?





### Exclusive analysis, updates, dashboards and interactive maps





Analysis of recent developments and trends across the feeder, narrowbody, medium and large widebody freighter segments.

#### View Dashboard

FREIGHTER FORECAST The rise of the Airbus A321 conversion program

OCTOBER 16, 2023





Historical overview and five-year growth forecast of key international and domestic air express markets.

#### View Dashboard

EXPRESS

Analyzing current yields: Unveiling financial strategies in the express cargo industry © SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

#### View Dashboard

key segments.

E-COMMERCE Amazon network grows amid layoffs Ø APRIL 17, 2023

E-commerce Market

Examination of domestic and cross-

border e-commerce, and its effect on





Market FutureWatch

Analysis of the latest air cargo trends

and insights, including market forecasts,

sustainable practices, and updates from

carriers, lessors and freight forwarders.

The diverse landscape of cargo

operating systems: trends and

View Dashboard

MARKET FUTUREWATCH

outlook

OCTOBER 11, 2023

Drones

#### DASHBOARD COMING SOON!

#### DRONES

Beyond visual line of sight drone operations

O AUGUST 4, 2023



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Air Express Map	E-commerce	Freighter Forecast	Freighter Feedstock
	Dashboard	Tool	Tool
Lessor Freighter	Cargo Traffic and	Conversion Center	Company Profiles
Market Shares	Growth by Airport	Locations	
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