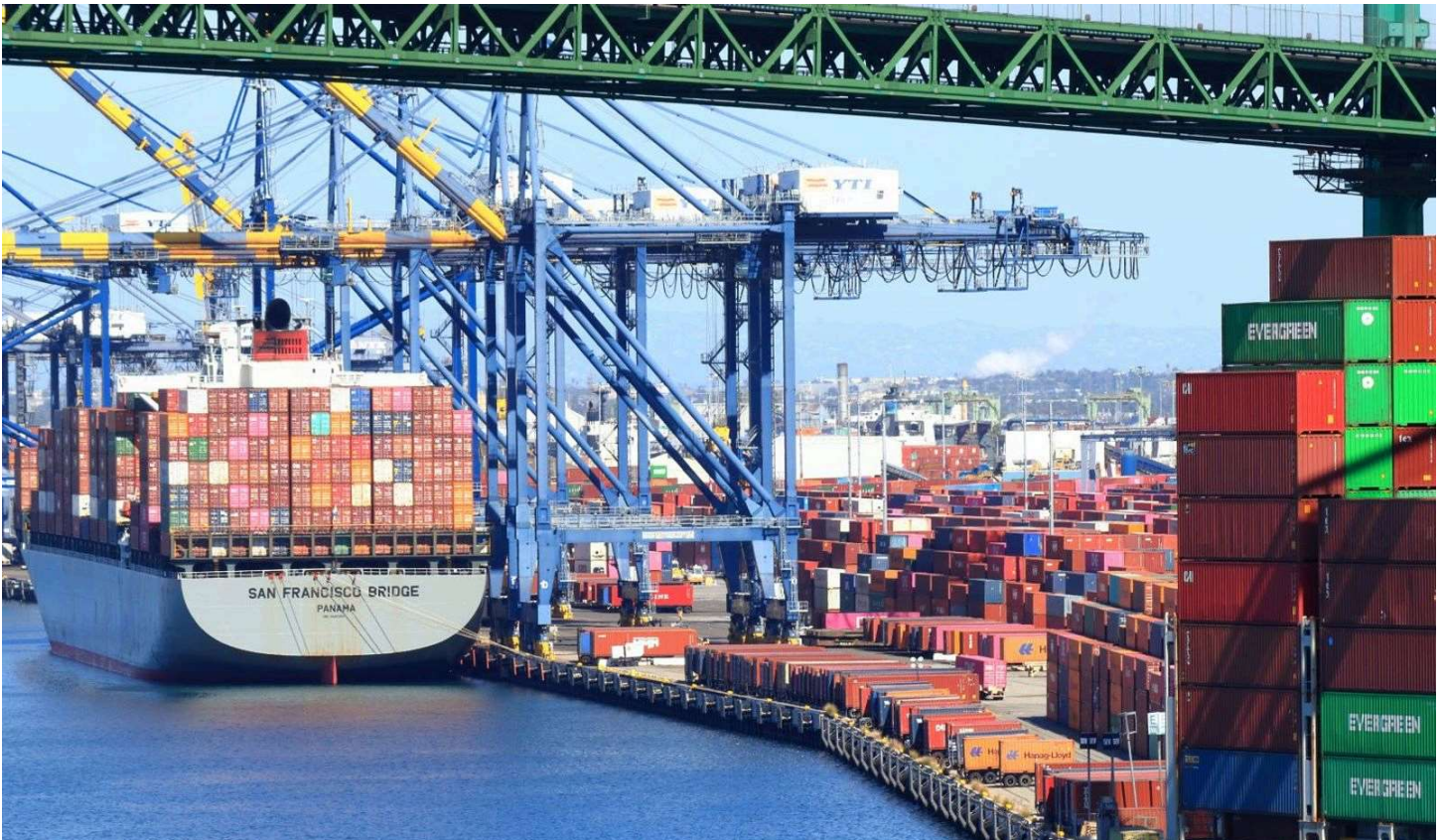


# Ocean carriers still have cards to play despite weakening container market



*Spot rates in the eastbound trans-Pacific have fallen sharply since early June. Photo credit: Wayne Via / Shutterstock.com.*

**Peter Tirschwell, Vice President | Aug 4, 2025, 12:46 PM EDT**

Trans-Pacific spot rates are plunging — a bellwether indicator informing analysts' negative view of container shipping as it heads into the final stretch of the year and begins to look out into 2026.

Translation: Pressure on the market is growing despite a multi-level capacity squeeze due to ongoing diversions around southern Africa, port congestion in Asia and Europe, whiplash US tariff policy, blank sailings, and carrier network adjustments and alliance reshuffling.

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