

Transit Time Trends Report (April - September 2025)

This report translates transit time data into strategic guidance for logistics and supply chain leaders, enabling them to improve operational performance and boost reliability through predictive insights.



Executive Insight



Key transit time shifts in the last two quarters

- 1. North America → North/West Europe:** Transit delays peaked in May (+8 days above planned), driven by European port congestion and alliance schedule changes.
- 2. Asia (China-Korea-Japan) → North/West Europe:** Sustained 3–5 day delays in June–July despite stable schedules, impacted by Red Sea rerouting, port congestion, and blank sailings.
- 3. North America → South America:** Delays persisted throughout the quarter, widening to +4 days in September due to port bottlenecks, tropical storms, and regulatory unpredictability.
- 4. Asia → North America:** Transit times improved late summer, reflecting relief at Chinese export ports and reduced US import volumes.

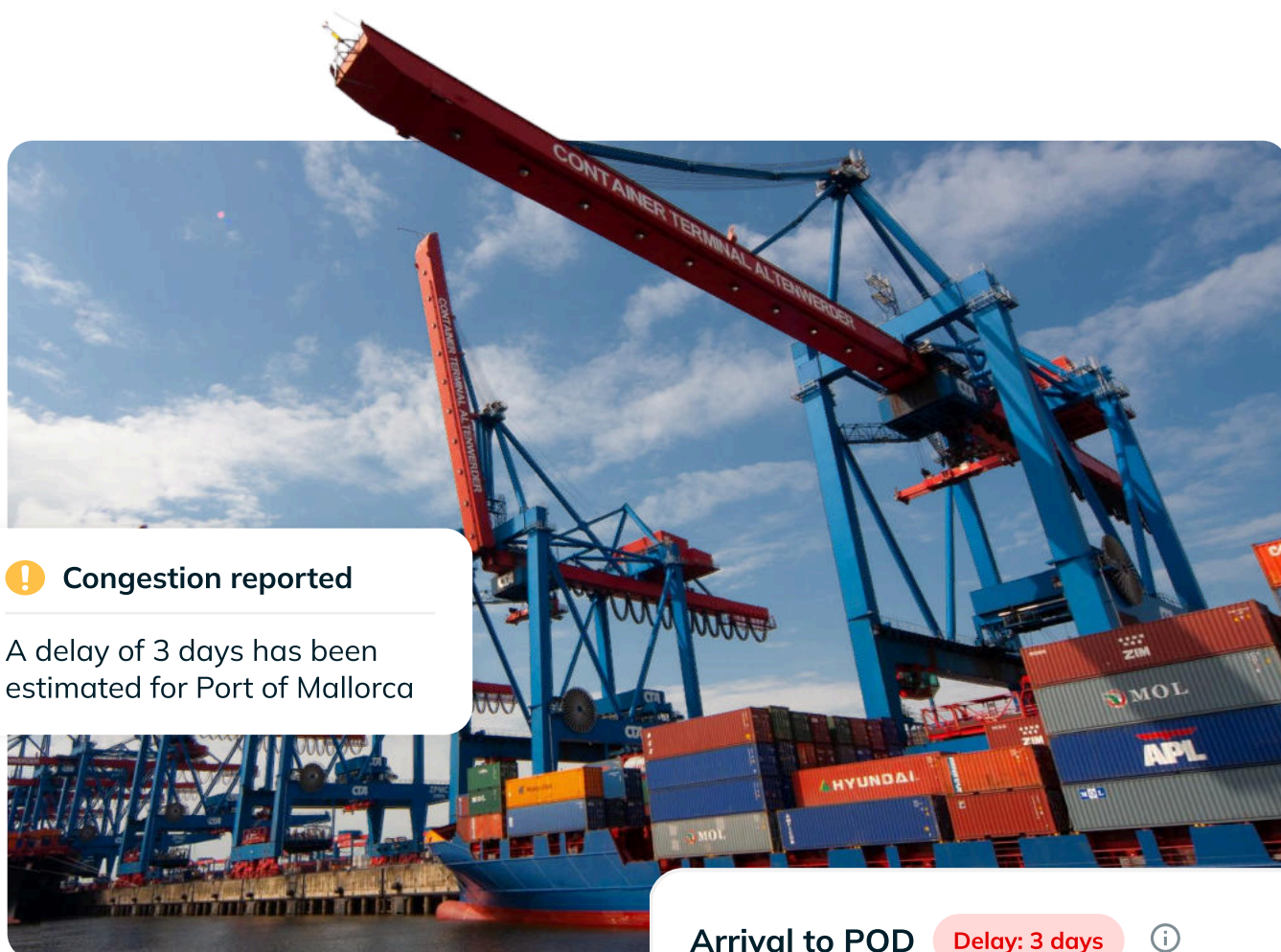


Immediate operational implications

1. Reassess lead times and contract commitments, especially for Europe-bound shipments.
2. Monitor port-level congestion to anticipate cascading schedule deviations
3. Consider carrier diversification or port alternates where feasible.

Macro Disruptions Driving Delays

- **Port Congestion:** Severe bottlenecks in Europe (Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg) and South America (Santos, Paranaguá).
- **Labor & Strikes:** Dockworker shortages, warehouse staff gaps, and union actions caused multi-day delays.
- **Geopolitical & Routing Shifts:** Red Sea security concerns forced Cape of Good Hope detours; alliance schedule changes impacted port calls.
- **Seasonal Peaks:** Tariff-driven frontloading, summer demand spikes, and Golden Week export dips altered lane flows.
- **Weather & Infrastructure:** Tropical storms, hurricanes, and inland congestion amplified delays.



! Congestion reported

A delay of 3 days has been estimated for Port of Mallorca

Arrival to POD

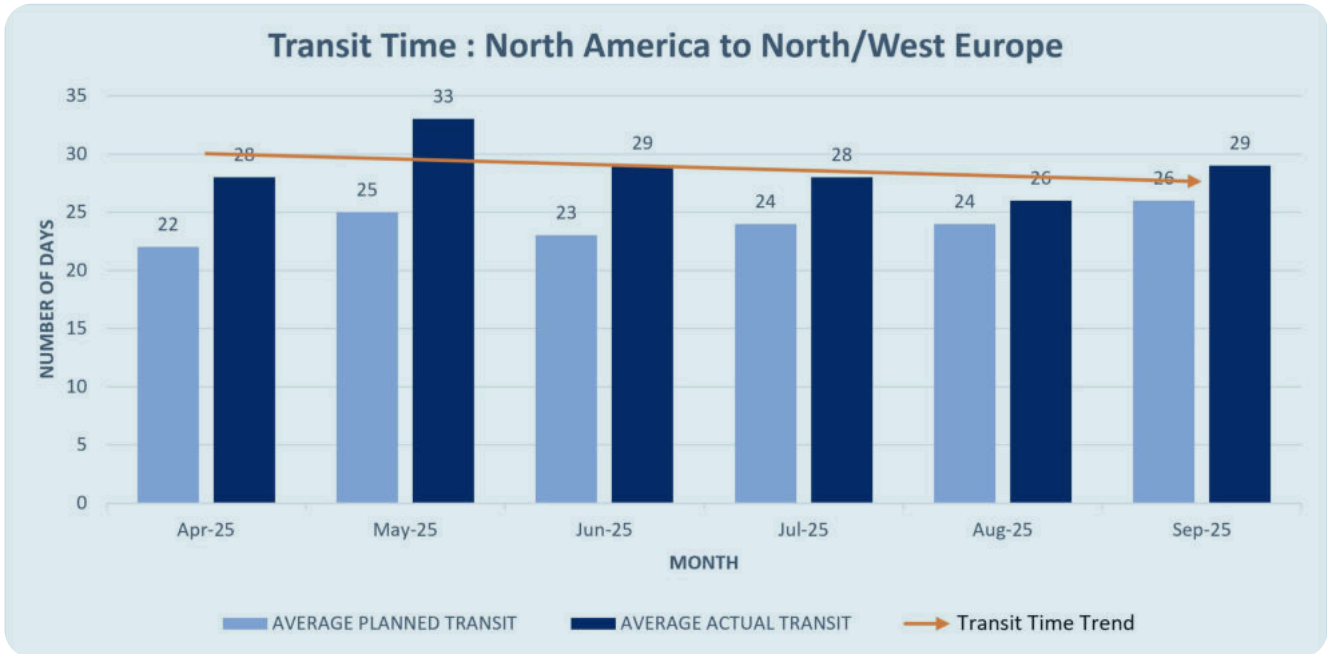
Delay: 3 days



📍 At Mallorca 🚢 On Vessel 🌩️ 7 Nov

1. North America → North/West Europe

Trend: Actual transit consistently exceeded planned. **Peak gap: +8 days in May (25 planned vs 33 actual)**. Minor improvement in July–September, but still delayed vs planned transit times.



Disruption Drivers:

- European port congestion (Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg) due to labor shortages, strikes, and technical outages.
- Carrier alliance changes (e.g., Maersk omitting Rotterdam from TA5 service in June).
- Seasonal demand spikes driven by US election-related frontloading.
- Red Sea rerouting for security threats added transit days.

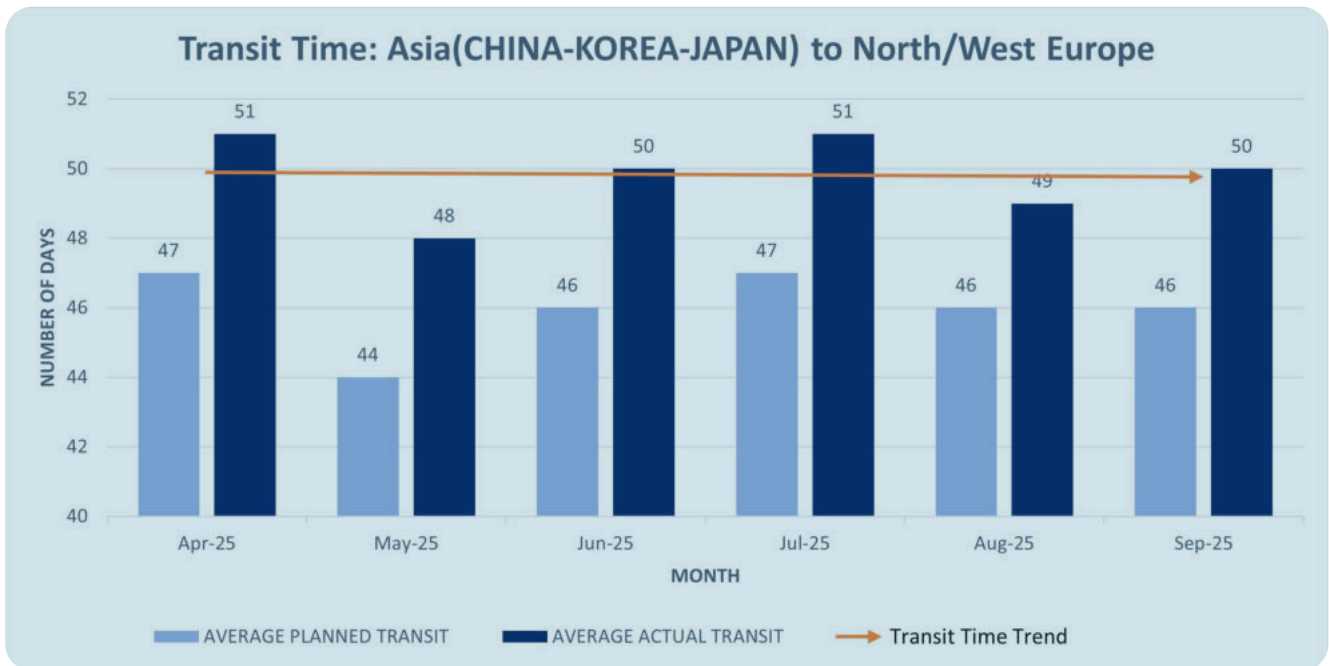


Operational Recommendations:

- Increase lead time buffers for shipments bound for Europe.
- Diversify carriers and service options to mitigate schedule instability.
- Monitor real-time port congestion via predictive dashboards.

2. Asia (China-Korea-Japan) → North/West Europe

Trend: Actual transit exceeded planned by 3–5 days, with relative month-to-month stability. Delays narrowed in May but widened June onwards.



Disruption Drivers:

- Red Sea avoidance due to security threats.
- European port congestion amplified by labor shortages, strikes, and technical bottlenecks.
- Blank sailings and capacity adjustments reduced schedule reliability.
- Strong Asia-Europe demand and inland infrastructure strain (rail/barges, Rhine water levels).

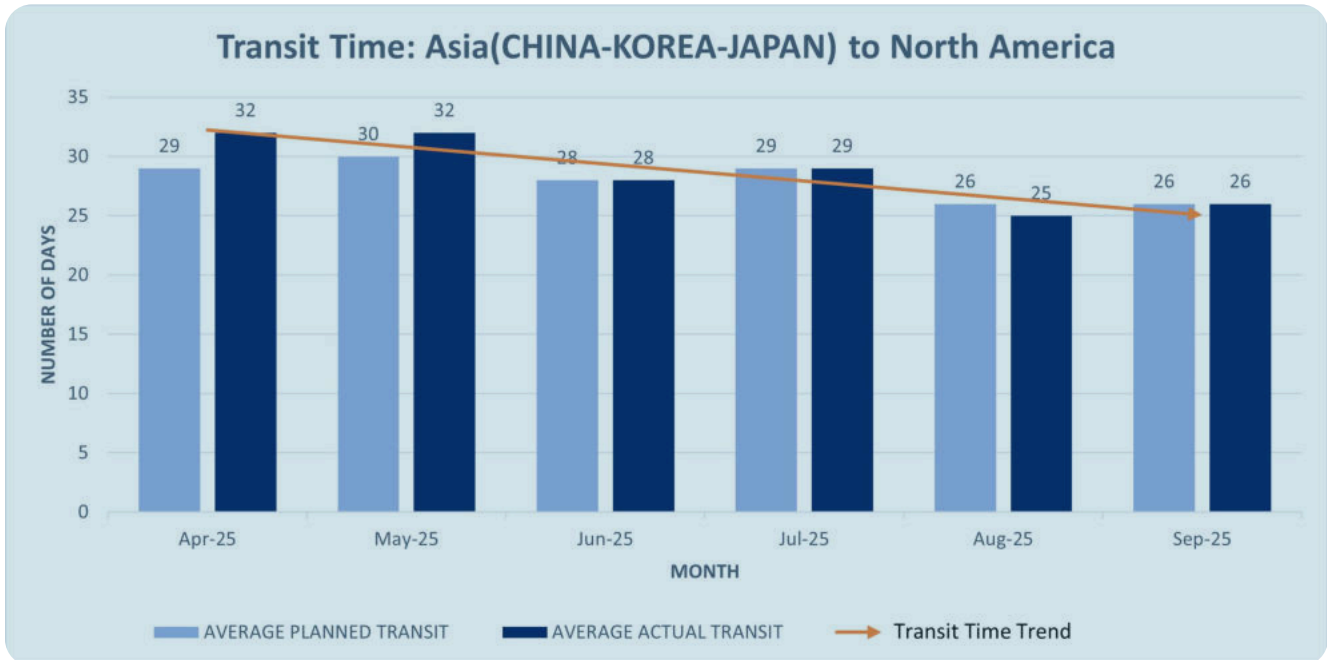


Operational Recommendations:

- Plan for longer transit during high-demand months; consider alternate routing or ports.
- Coordinate shipments with carriers' blank sailing schedules to avoid bottlenecks.
- Use predictive ETA tools to anticipate deviations and adjust inventory positioning.

3. Asia (China-Korea-Japan) → North America

Trend: Early summer (April–May) delays of 2–3 days; mid-year stabilization in June–July; late summer (August–September) matched or slightly improved over planned.



Disruption Drivers:

- Q1–Q2 port bottlenecks in China causing vessel bunching.
- Golden Week slowdown allowed better scheduling control.
- Reduced US import volumes eased port congestion.
- Tariff uncertainty moderated frontloading surges.

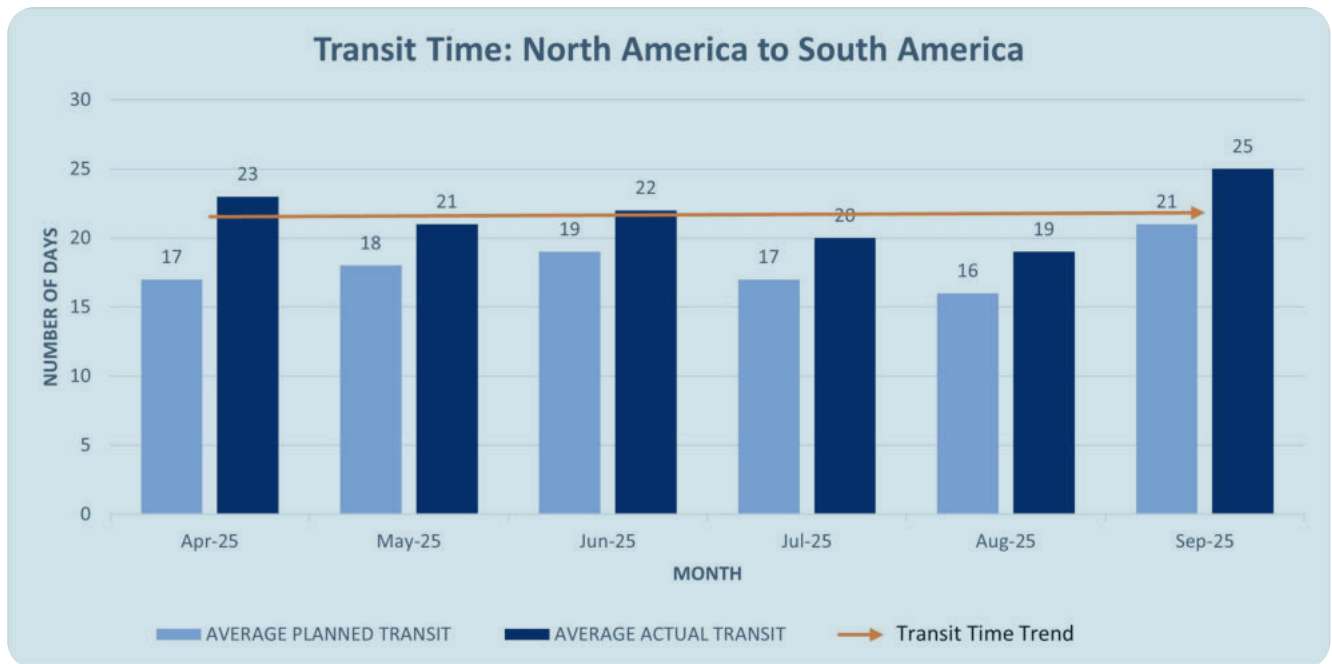


Operational Recommendations:

- Continue monitoring vessel bunching at origin ports.
- Coordinate shipments around known export slowdowns, such as Golden Week.
- Leverage predictive alerts to pre-position inventory and avoid inland congestion.

4. North America → South America

Trend: Persistent delays each month; gap peaked at +6 days in April, narrowing to 2–3 days, then widening to +4 in September



Disruption Drivers:

- Port congestion in Brazil and the US Gulf due to infrastructure work, labor shortages, and seasonal harvest exports.
- Tropical storms and Atlantic hurricanes causing vessel schedule disruptions.
- Capacity shifts and blank sailings reduced available sailings.
- Regulatory delays from customs strikes and inspections in Brazil and Argentina.

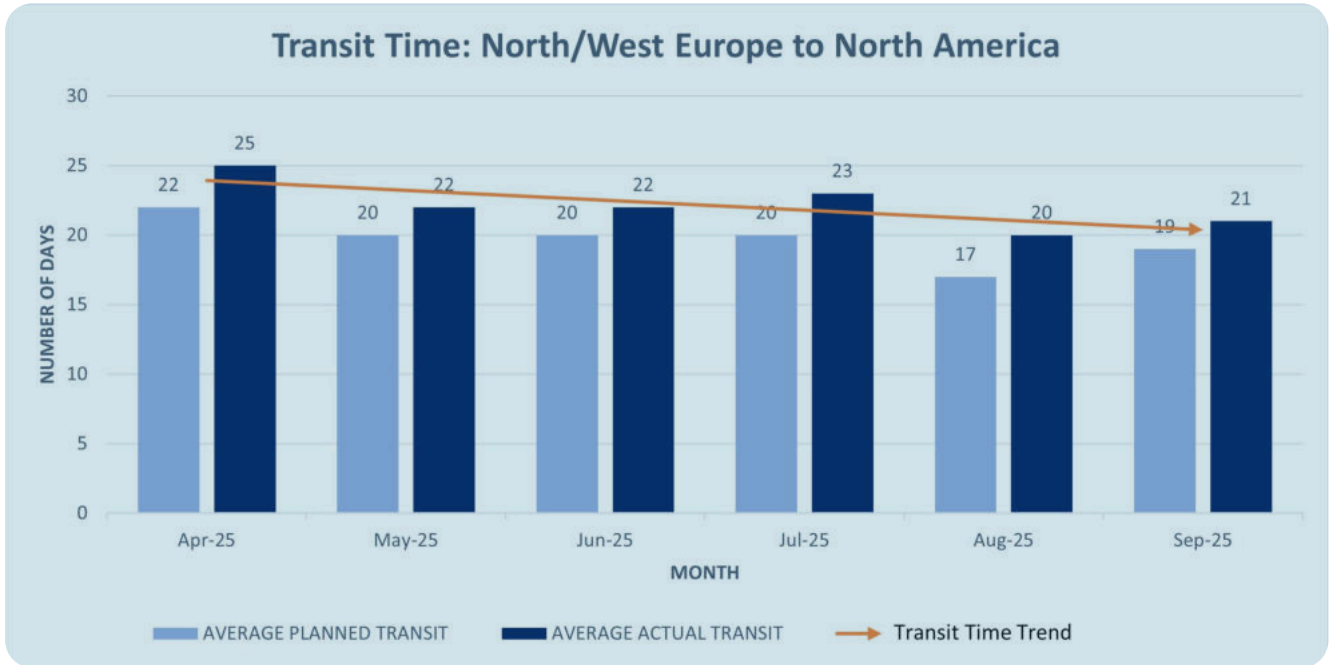


Operational Recommendations:

- Monitor port congestion reports closely and adjust shipment schedules.
- Plan for potential storm-related delays in late summer.
- Explore alternative ports or transshipment options when feasible.

5. North/West Europe → North America

Trend: Transit consistently exceeded the planned schedule by 2–3 days, with April and July experiencing delays of +3 days. Minor mid-year improvement but slight deterioration in September.



Disruption Drivers:

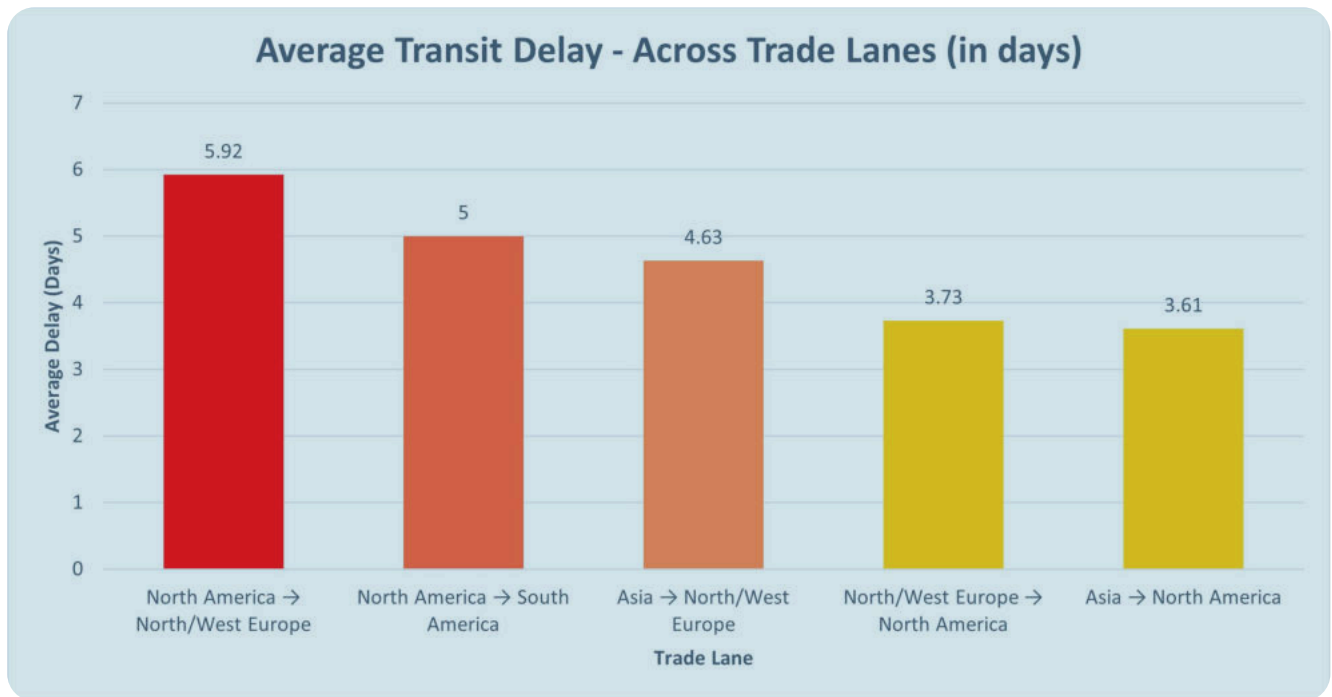
- East Coast US port congestion (New York/New Jersey, Savannah, Norfolk) from labor negotiations and infrastructure constraints.
- North Atlantic weather and hurricane season causing route adjustments.
- Strategic blank sailings and container imbalances increasing wait times.



Operational Recommendations:

- Incorporate a 2–3 day buffer in planning for European exports to North America.
- Track container availability and schedule sailings accordingly.
- Use predictive visibility to flag shipments at risk of port dwell delays.

Predictive Outlook



Europe Lanes:

Continued congestion at Rotterdam and Antwerp may extend NA–Europe transit +10–15% through Q4 if unresolved.

Asia–Europe:

Red Sea security risks and blank sailings may result in transit deviations of 3–5 days above planned.

Transpacific:

Stable recovery projected if US import volumes remain moderate; late summer improvements likely to persist.

South America:

Weather and regulatory factors may continue to cause variability; early alerts are critical for effective route planning.

Actionable Insights for Shippers & Forwarders

- Adjust lead times proactively using predictive intelligence.
- Monitor transit variance and port congestion KPIs for early warning.
- Diversify carriers and routing options to mitigate high-risk lanes.
- Preposition inventory or adjust distribution to reduce operational friction.



Global reliability is increasingly determined by micro-disruptions at port and route levels rather than broad capacity shortages. Predictive visibility empowers logistics teams to act before delays cascade, ensuring service reliability and cost efficiency.

- **Portcast Data Science**

Picture this: Detecting a vessel delay before it even sets sail. That's predictive visibility in action. Check out Portcast's solution to sharpen your planning, accelerate your response, and keep disruptions at bay.

Real-time & predictive visibility for global freight

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