

MatchBack Systems COVID-19 Impact & Response

Updates – 4/15/2020 through 4/28/2020

4/28/2020 - Imports Plummet in Week 19

Absolute volume forecast - The forecasts we have published to date (see under Analysis section) have been indexed to January 2019; this forecast is volume based. Naturally, it follows much of the same trends as the Index forecast.

Here are a few insights.

Imports bottoming out? Week 19 forecast to be 50% of peak and 2019 volumes. Imports have been tracking below 2019 volumes for most of the year, but we forecast week 19 is a dramatic drop off a mini peak in week 17.

Exports fare better. We forecast a peak in week 18 that exceeds not only 2020, but also all of 2019! Some of that volume may push into week 19 as equipment availability and fluidity is an issue due to slow/no container unloading at warehouses and significant drop in import deliveries for container supply.

4/27/2020 - MatchBack Systems Import and Export Index

Forecast falling. After realizing the Import surge we forecast in week 17, we are seeing the significant volume downturn in weeks 18 and 19 versus last year. Although Exports continue to maintain ahead of 2019, they are coming back toward par with 2019 in week 19.

4/22/2020 - 'Not Enough Freight to Go Around': Trucking Carriers Report Dirt Cheap Rates as Freight Fallout Worsens [CCJ](#)

4/17/2020 - MatchBack Systems Import Index

We predict strong import volumes for Weeks 16-18. This will be the highest volume for the year and approaching pre Lunar New Year volumes. This is good news for carriers, truckers and freight handlers, and will create future supply for continued strong exports.

4/15/2020 - Street-turn Best Practices

With the marine container networks in flux, standing street-turns have likely been impacted. This affects the container availability, drayage rates and driver productivity. Truckers have shared that traditional street-turns have morphed into 1-way rates are being revisited because of the lack of fluidity.

With imports and exports down and forecast to remain below historical levels, cost savings for carriers, 3PLs, truckers and shippers are front and center. So are street-turns. There is no silver bullet, but there are some best practices:

- Pre-orchestrate container matches systematically, if possible
- Involve ocean carriers early to understand IF they allow your containers to be street-turned
- Since this is not a normal scenario, be open to unconventional options to keep containers, trucks and freight flowing
- Ask us about customized reporting and actionable insights to help mitigate the impact on your operations