

THE COLD FRONT

By RLS LOGISTICS

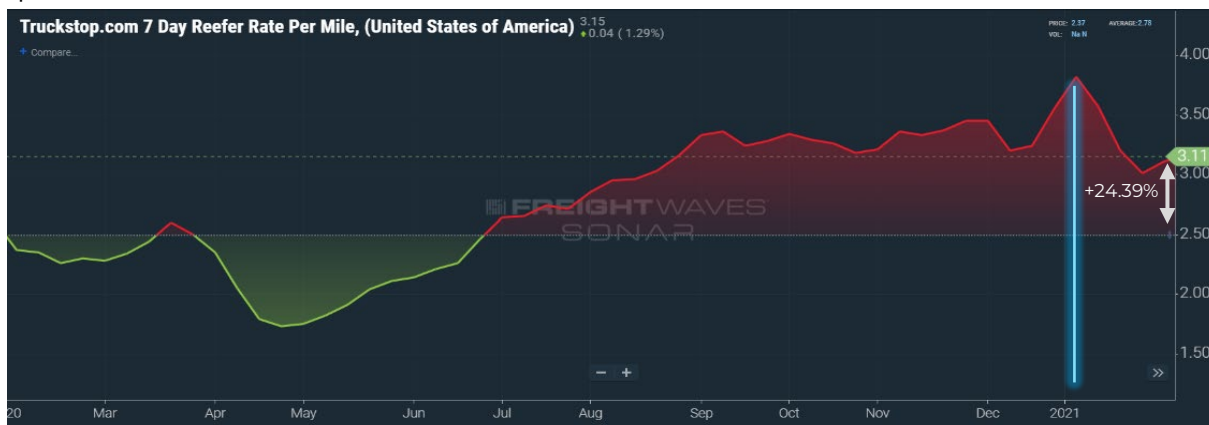


January Summary

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Cold Front*, presented by RLS Logistics, the Cold Chain Experts! *The Cold Front* is a monthly summary highlighting pertinent cold chain market data in one concise location. As cold chain experts, we want to ensure that you have the data you need to make better decisions to fuel your growth. We hope you find this information useful! **If you would like data on your specific market, click [here](#).**

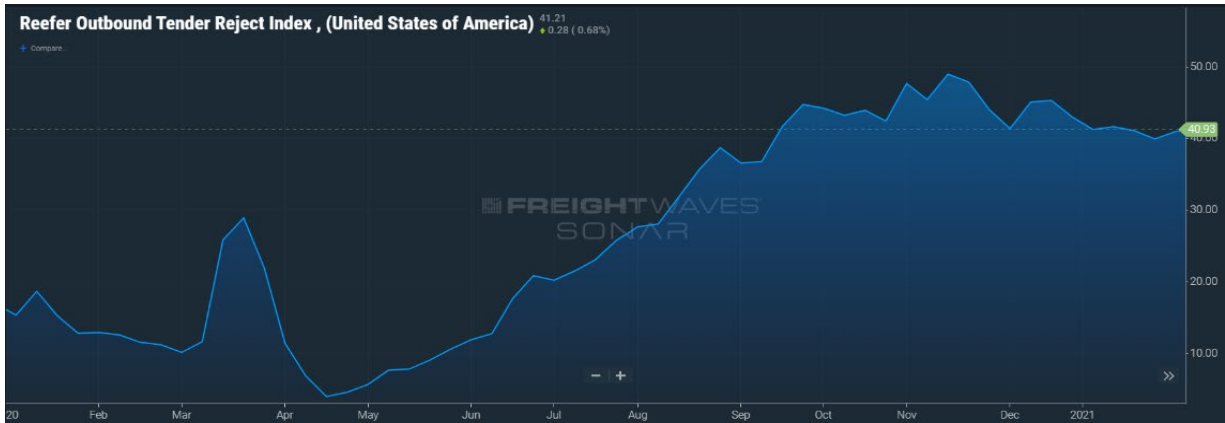
Reefer Spot Rates

Although the 7-day reefer rate per mile has declined since its peak in January 2021, rate pressure is still holding steady as capacity remains tight and the country prepares for reopening. Driver shortages, new equipment delays, port activity, and volume increases will continue to create upward pressure on rates for the foreseeable future. Rates are still 24.4% higher than where they were this time last year. Green shaded areas indicate relatively loose reefer capacity where shippers realize lower rates. The red shaded areas indicate tight capacity and substantially higher transportation rates.



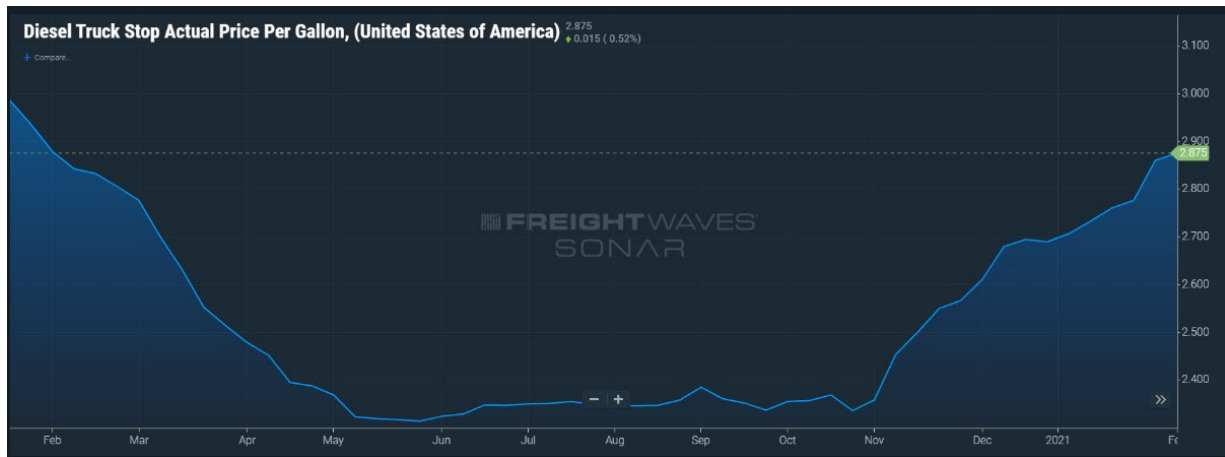
Reefer Outbound Tender Rejects

Reefer tender rejections may have also plateaued; however, they remain significantly higher regardless. The below graph depicts a robust spot market where trucks can demand higher rates than what they have in contracted rates. If we see this graph decline in the coming months, shippers in both markets should see some relief. Year over year, rejections are significantly high regardless of the plateau currently.



Diesel Outlook

Shippers and carriers may be feeling the sting of increased fuel surcharges, and costs as the price for diesel fuel continues a steady climb. Diesel fuel prices have increased for the past 15 weeks, since November 2, 2020. Diesel fuel prices are nearing pre-pandemic levels, and demand continues to be healthy. The current Department of Energy’s national average for diesel is \$2.801, an increase of 21% from the beginning of November. Some experts believe that diesel prices could exceed \$3.00 per gallon this summer, where others think it should level off at current levels. In a global economy laced with many “what if’s,” the price for diesel fuel should remain top of mind as we navigate through 2021.



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