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| **Ocean Shipping Rates Plunge; U.S. Targets Tariff Evasion; Manufacturing Contraction Slows** |

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| ***By Mark R. Long*** |

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| **Ocean shipping rates from China to the U.S. West Coast have fallen 68% from** [**their June high**](https://logistics.cmail20.com/t/d-l-gbjjky-dkjukldyku-k/)**,** a sign this year’s peak shipping season was earlier and shorter than usual.The rate slide also signals that [some U.S. retailers and manufacturers are taking a cautious approach to new orders](https://logistics.cmail20.com/t/d-l-gbjjky-dkjukldyku-u/) ahead of the year’s busy fall and winter shopping periods, the WSJ Logistics Report’s Paul Berger writes. Tariff uncertainties, shifting trade policies and concerns about consumer spending are all making importers wary.Worldwide, the average cost of shipping a 40-foot container has fallen for 11 consecutive weeks, to $2,119, according to London-based **Drewry Shipping Consultants**, down 40% from its mid-June high. The average short-term contract rate to ship a box from China to the U.S. West Coast on Sept. 1 was $1,802, down from a high of $5,553 in June, according to data firm **Xeneta**. |

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