

Graphic detail

Daily chart

Container-shipping costs have surged in recent months

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CONTAINERS ARE the building blocks of global trade. And at the moment, shippers cannot get enough of them. Surging demand for goods and a shortage of empty containers at Asian ports have sent container-shipping costs rocketing. Since November the cost of shipping a 40-foot container from Asia to Europe has risen more than three-fold, from around \$2,200 to over \$7,900. The price of shipping goods from North America to Asia has doubled. The Freightos Baltic Index, a measure of container-freight rates in 12 important maritime lanes, has increased from \$2,200 to \$4,000 per container (see chart).



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