



TOMAX
NEWS

Issue 159
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PLUS:

MARKET SUMMARY

- Despite conflicting domestic market data and sentiment, including a stronger than expected employment figure and interest rates being left on hold in light of a still strong housing market, international freight rates are continuing to fall. Consumer sentiment, confidence, and spending remain lower globally with many importers and exporters feeling the effects. A protracted downturn is still expected for Australian imports which will cause pain for many businesses in the industry.

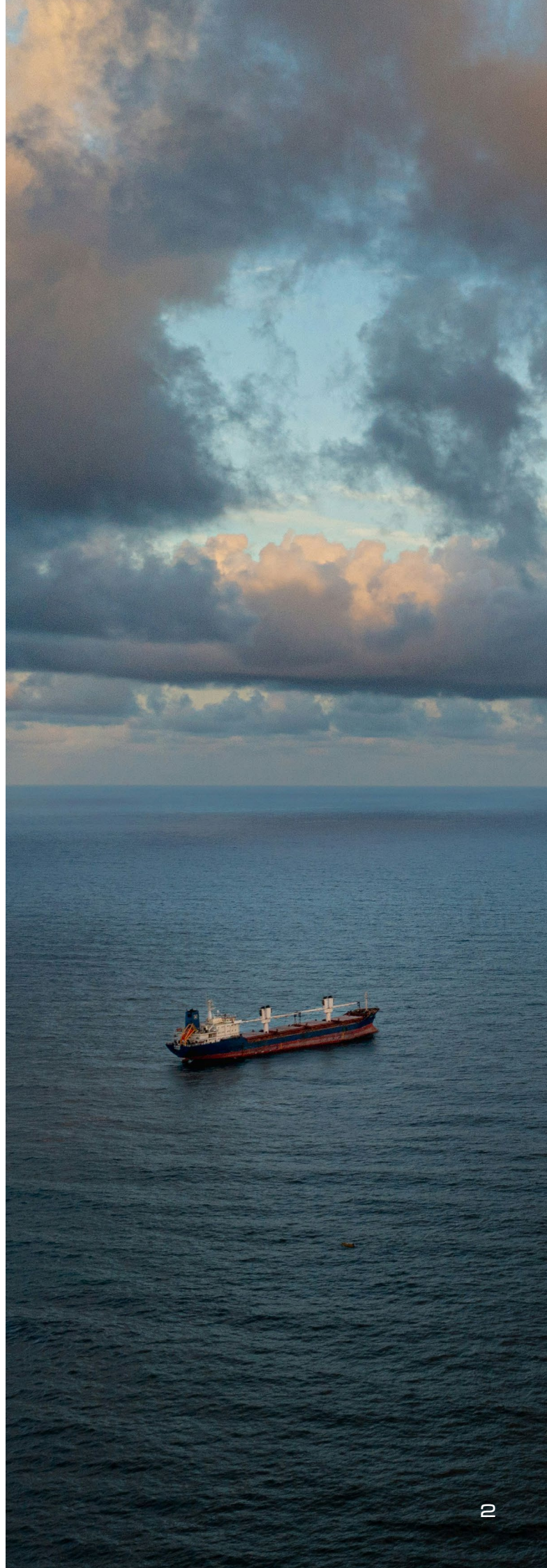
- Do you need warehousing services in Melbourne or Perth?
Ask one of the friendly Tomax team today about how we can help you with your 3PL requirements. See more about our services via this video link. [VIDEO](#)

TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE (TC)

Tariff Concession Orders (TCOs) are an Australian Government revenue concession that exists where there are no known Australian manufacturers of goods that are substitutable for imported goods. When a new TCO is made, it is published in the Gazette by the Australian Border Force.

The weekly Tomax Client Newsletter will contain a link to the latest Gazette document so that you can stay updated.

[CLICK TO VIEW LATEST GAZETTE](#)



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST TARIFF REFORM

The Australian Government is delivering the largest unilateral tariff reform in two decades by setting to 'Free' the rate of duty on around 500 tariff lines. These tariffs have been identified as a nuisance to Australian businesses, imposing unnecessary administrative costs and compliance burdens. Removing these tariffs will save Australian businesses both time and money, boost economic productivity, reduce red tape, help simplify Australia's trade system and ease the cost of living for Australian families by over \$120 million over the next four years.

From 1 July 2024, tariffs will be abolished on a range of imported goods including household necessities such as toothbrushes, tools, fridges, dishwashers and clothing. These tariffs do nothing to protect Australian businesses because they apply to goods that often arrive under a concessional rate. This is an important step in simplifying Australia's trade system and removing compliance burdens for Australian firms. After successive trade agreements, most goods are now imported duty-free. This means that businesses spend time and money proving

their imports are eligible for existing tariff preferences and concessions. Removing tariffs on menstrual and sanitary items will align tariff policy settings with changes made to the GST and put further downward pressure on the price of these goods.

The Government welcomes views from all interested parties to provide feedback on the proposed tariff reform. Submissions can be made on the Treasury website and will close on 1 April 2024. Please contact NuisanceTariffs@Treasury.gov.au if you have any questions or require more information on this reform. While submissions may be lodged electronically or by post, electronic lodgement is preferred. For accessibility reasons, please submit responses sent via email in a Word or RTF format. An additional PDF version may also be submitted.

To view the list of nuisance tariff list, visit:
<https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2024-506306>

Australian Government Treasury (2024). Tariff reform: removal of nuisance tariffs. Retrieved from <https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2024-506306> on 19th March, 2024.



IMPORT OCEAN FREIGHT RATES UPDATE

As of 15th March, there have been some significant rate reductions from North East Asia ports to Australia, following on from some smaller rate reductions on 1st March 2024.

Over the last 3-4 day period, rates from these ports were reviewed several times as lines jockey for as many bookings as they can get, swiftly changing the market.

More savings are expected from 1st April during the traditional “quiet period” with the financial year end fast approaching.

Meanwhile, rates from Europe and the United States have remained stable for the last couple of months, with some minor downwards rate corrections and no rate increases.

There is no change to the current practice of shipping lines avoiding the Red Sea and Suez Canal. All carriers are now transiting north and southbound via Cape of Good Hope and scheduling starting to adjust to the increased transit times.





TRENDS SHAPING THE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA

Australia's transportation and logistics sector stands as a vital artery for global commerce, seamlessly bridging the realms of online and offline business. With projections pointing towards substantial growth, estimated to reach USD 94.10 billion in 2024 and projected to climb further to USD 113.94 billion by 2029, the industry is poised for significant expansion. Highlighted below are four key trends shaping the industry's trajectory in this transformative period.

1) Data-Driven Decision-Making Propels Industry Advancement

In the dynamic realm of Australian business, digital innovation remains a driving force for continual evolution. A notable trend is the increasing recognition among companies of the pivotal role played by data and digital technologies in propelling operations forward. A milestone was reached in early 2023, with 53 per cent of Australian organisations planning to elevate technology spending from 10 to 20 per cent. This upsurge in investment emphasises a strategic pivot towards leveraging technology as a catalyst for growth and competitiveness. Businesses

are increasingly harnessing advanced analytics and technologies to foster innovation, enhance supply chain visibility and forecasting, and even mitigate emissions. The application of advanced technologies to harness the power of data is becoming ingrained in how transportation and logistics providers empower SMEs to fuel their business expansion.

2) Leveraging Data for Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability has emerged not only as a business imperative but also as an avenue to cultivate customer trust. In response to heightened consumer demand for sustainable products and services, businesses are leveraging digital solutions to monitor and achieve their sustainability goals. Advanced data analytics enable businesses to assess emissions across their supply chains, facilitating informed reporting and future planning. By embracing such solutions, businesses can align with customer expectations for sustainability while advancing their environmental initiatives.

3) Facilitating Market Expansion

With the support of adept transportation and logistics partners, e-commerce businesses are increasingly poised to expand into the global market. For Australian enterprises, venturing into the New Zealand market presents a promising avenue. With its status as Australia's natural ally and a robust Trans-Tasman trade partner, New Zealand offers fertile ground for small and medium businesses. Leveraging agreements like the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement and Single Economic Market enhances connectivity, providing an optimal environment for businesses to capitalise on the thriving cross-border trade partnership.

4) Integration of E-commerce with Transportation and Logistics

In today's digital landscape, the synergy between e-commerce and transportation and logistics is driving businesses to transcend conventional boundaries. Success now hinges on the seamless and expedient delivery of products to customers worldwide. Embracing

this integration enables businesses to seize opportunities and navigate challenges in the dynamic marketplace of 2024. Supply chains are swiftly evolving into intelligent, technology-driven ecosystems, revolutionising operations and paving the way for unprecedented transformation in the transportation and logistics domain.

As we navigate the landscape of 2024, the transportation and logistics industry confronts a myriad of challenges and opportunities. Supply chains are undergoing a paradigm shift towards smarter, tech-enabled ecosystems, signalling a profound transformation in operations. With the acceleration of digital innovation, businesses must prioritise efficiency, transparency, and global reach to maintain a competitive edge and achieve sustained growth and success in this evolving landscape.

Langley, P. (2024). Trends shaping Australia's transportation and logistics industry. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2024/03/22/trends-shaping-australias-transportation-and-logistics-industry/> on 22nd March, 2024.





ADDRESSING ONGOING FREIGHT DISRUPTIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Two transport associations have reiterated concerns over ongoing freight closures across Australia due to weather events, resulting in delays to goods and services.

The Western Roads Federation (WRF) and the Northern Territory Road Transport Association (NTRTA) are urging for an immediate and unified response to Australia's freight system challenges.

Calling for a national meeting to tackle the escalating trans-national freight disruptions exacerbated by floods impacting freight routes in these regions, the associations highlight a lack of progress and ad hoc responses despite two federal parliament inquiries, adding pressure to the transport system.

In addition to these meetings, both associations urge the federal government to adopt an integrated approach and develop a robust National Freight Supply Chain (NFSC) strategy to ensure seamless freight flow and minimise vulnerabilities.

Expressing concerns over persistent freight delays in Western Australia (WA) and the Northern Territory (NT), WRF CEO Cam

Dumesny stresses the need for proactive measures to address infrastructure failures causing disruptions.

NTRTA executive officer Louise Bilato emphasises the urgency for specific actions and accountability measures in the absence of a National Freight Resilience plan, stressing the significant costs to businesses and communities.

Highlighting the critical importance of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to Australia's freight network, Bilato urges a shift from a 'just in time' to a 'just in case' mindset to mitigate rising trans-national freight disruptions.

Both leaders advocate for urgent attention from federal and state governments through a national meeting to address the issue, highlighting the imperative for enhanced collaboration and collective action to safeguard the resilience and stability of Australia's freight network.

Mortell, S. (2024). Road freight associations call for urgent action on closures and delays. Retrieved from <https://www.fullyloaded.com.au/road-freight-associations-call-for-urgent-action-on-closures-and-delays/> on 22nd March, 2024.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



MEET ZOONIE JACOB COURIER DRIVER TOMAX TRANSPORT QLD

What is your role at Tomax?

I am a Driver who does deliveries across Queensland.

Name your hobbies/interests?

Rugby union, NRL, NFL. I used to play Masters League but had to give it up.

Who is your biggest role model?

Unfortunately, he has passed away.

If flights were free, where would you go?

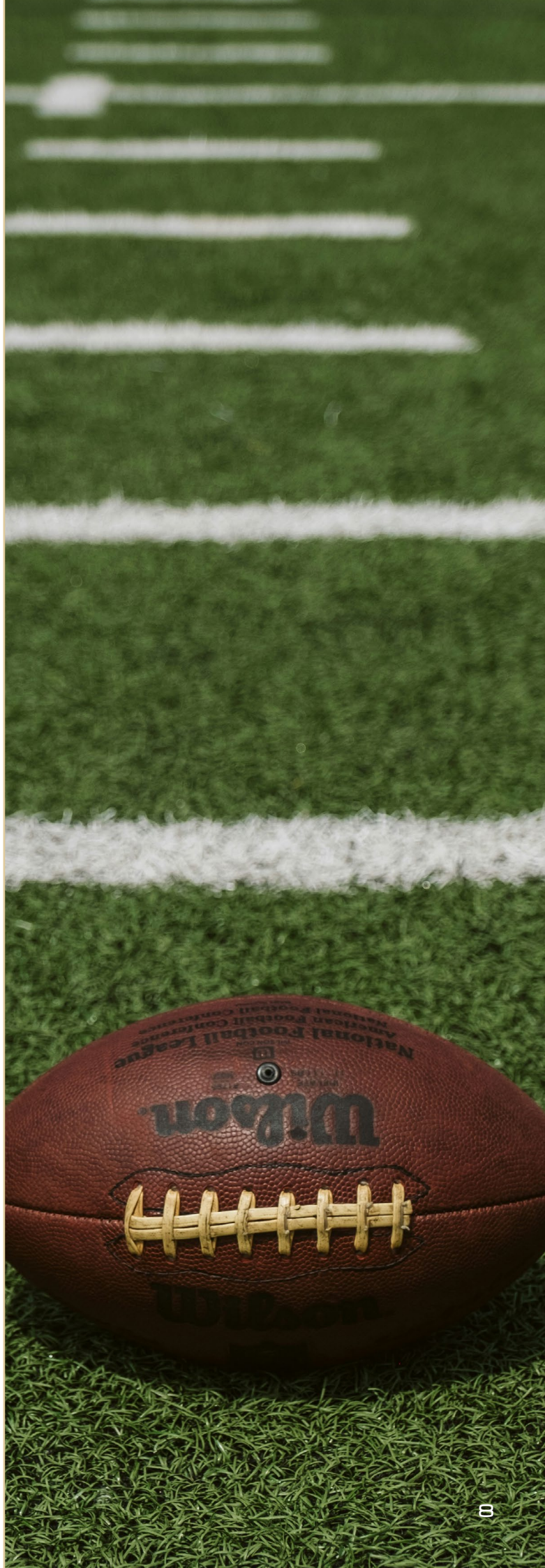
I would go anywhere - as long as it's a free return as well!

Do you have any hidden or not-so-hidden talents?

I've got plenty of talent which only comes out when needed lol!

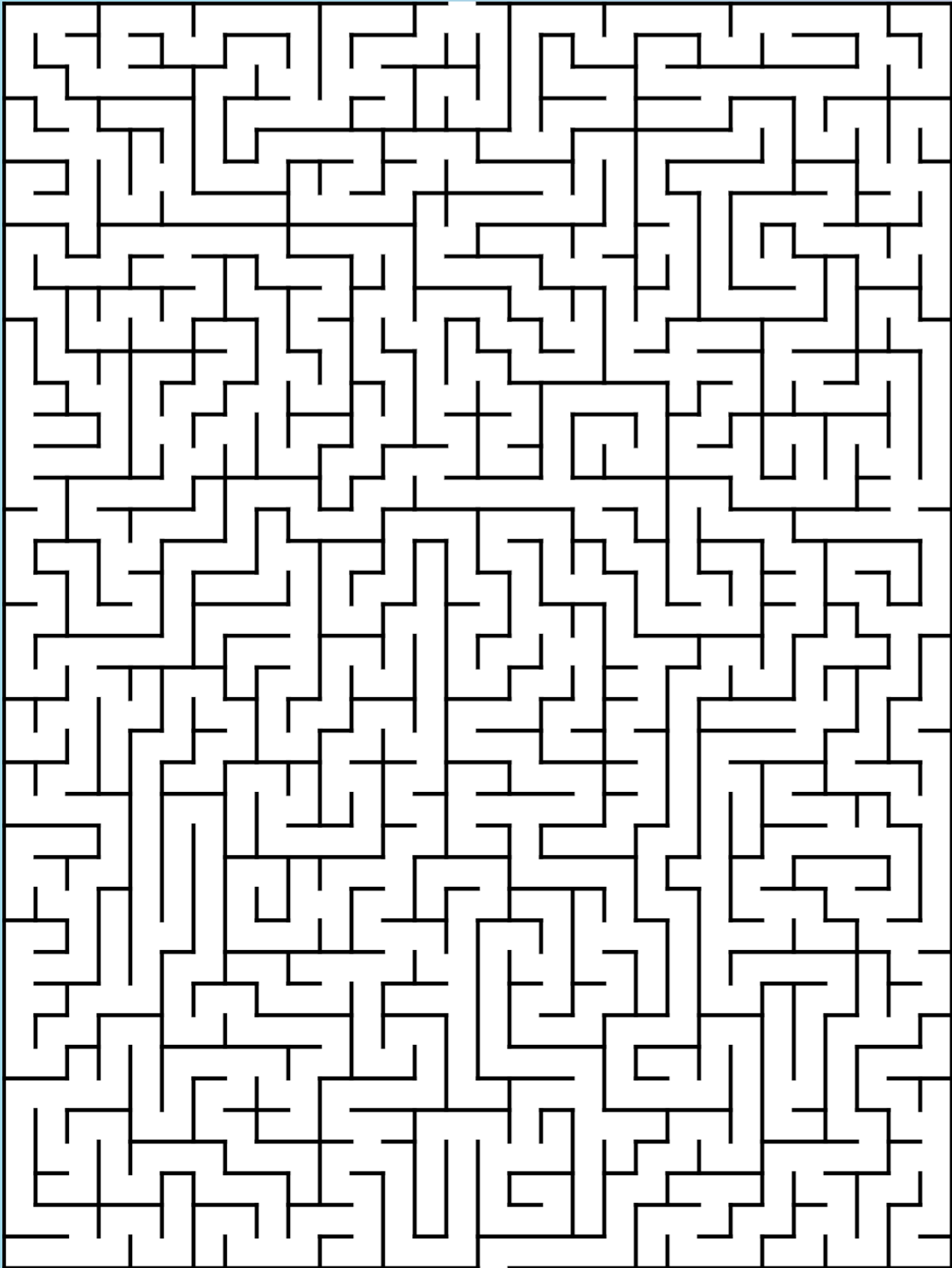
The last movie you watched?

The Beekeeper.



MAZE CRAZE

See if you can help the truck collect the parcel?!



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