### **Economic & Trucking Industry Update**

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### **General Economic Themes**

- 1. Economy is quite fragmented, which translates into a uneven trucking volumes. Probability of a recession has increased (25% chance over next six months), but remains fairly low.
- 2. Current inventory correction is significant and taking longer than anticipated.
- 3. Manufacturing output is very soft. Still bullish on US factories longer-term.
- 4. Solid job growth, modest acceleration in wages, and drop in gasoline prices will support consumer spending in 2016.
- 5. Housing is one of the better sectors of the economy, supported by household formation.
- 6. Bottom line: GDP growth remains the same in 2016 (2.4%) as in 2015, then accelerates slightly in 2017 (2.8%) on strength in consumer spending and housing.

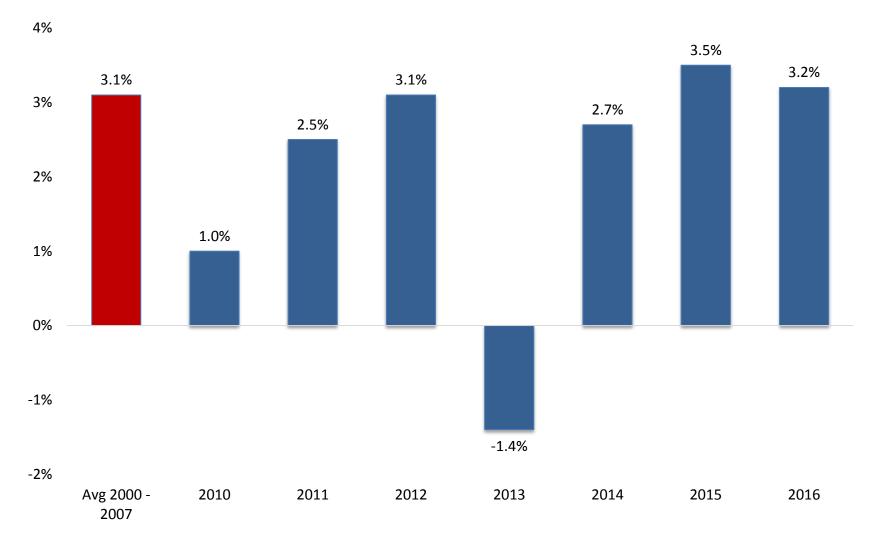
## **Quarterly Real GDP & Forecasts**



**Sources: BEA & ATA** 



## **Real Personal Disposable Income Growth**

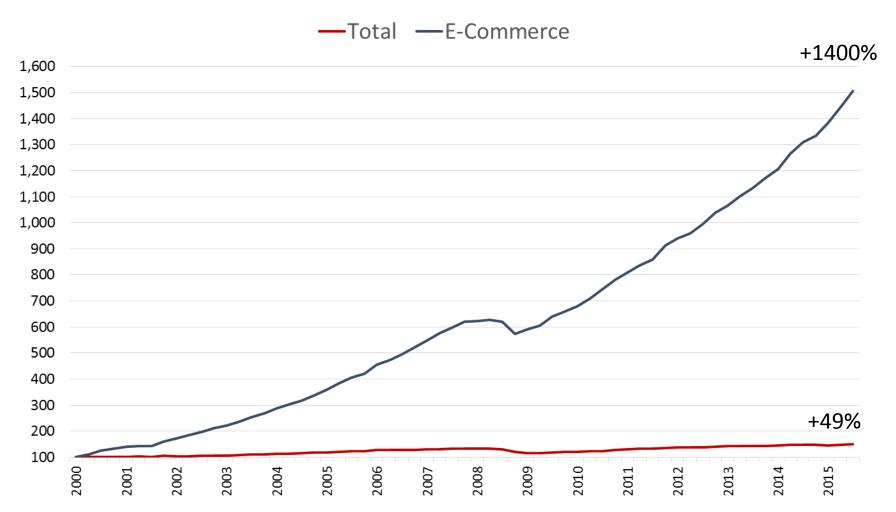


**Sources: BEA & ATA** 



### **Retail Sales**

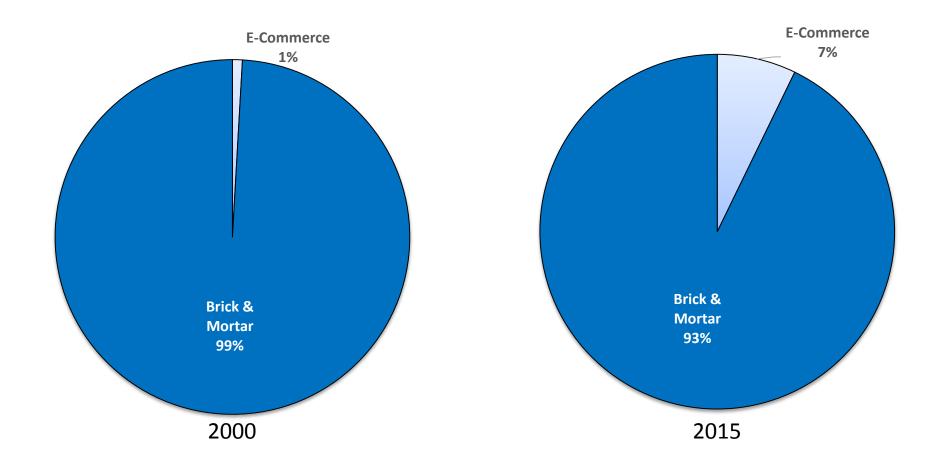
 $(Q1\ 2000 = 100)$ 





**Source: Census Bureau** 

### **Retail Sales**

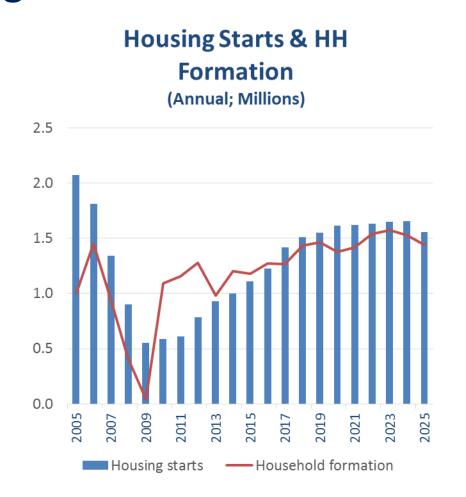




**Source: Census Bureau** 

# Household Formation will Support Further Gains in Housing Starts







Sources: Census, IHS & ATA

## **ISM Indexes**

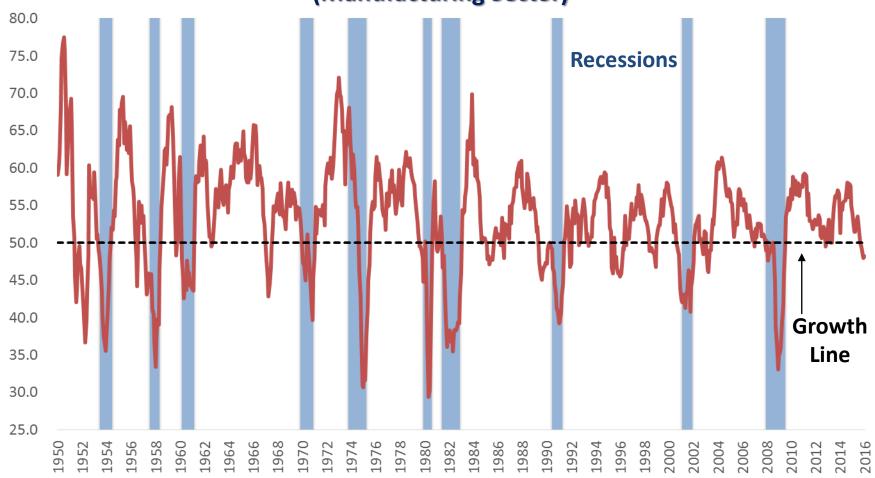
(Manufacturing vs Service Sector)

65.0 Through January 2016 60.0 55.0 50.0 45.0 2012 2013 2014 2015 Services ——Manufacturing ---- Growth Line



### ISM Index

(Manufacturing Sector)

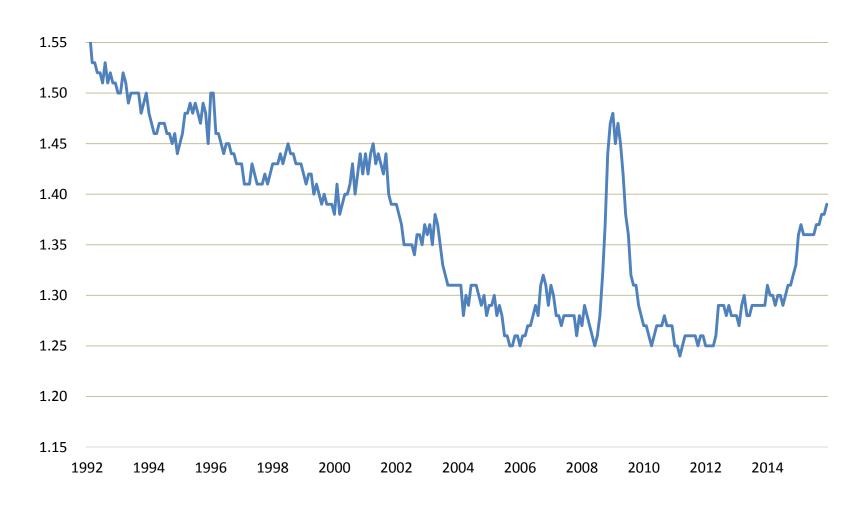


The ISM index has predicted all 10 recessions since 1950, plus 14 more.



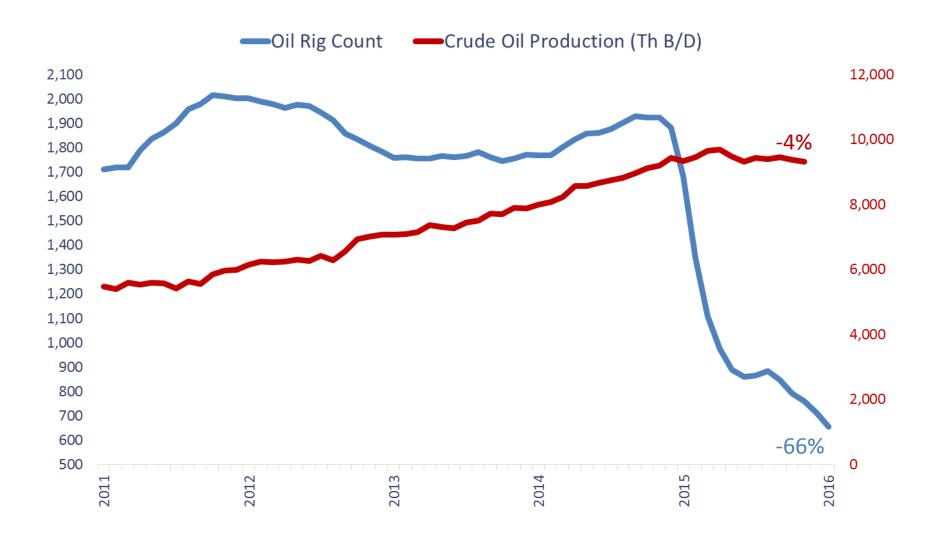
## **Total Business Inventory-to-Sales Ratio**

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not price changes)





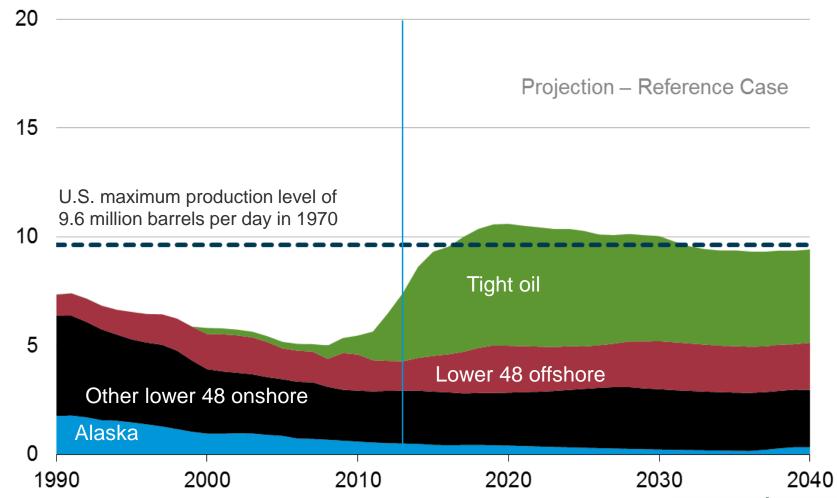
### **US Crude Oil Data**





## **U.S. Energy Revolution**

U.S. crude oil production million barrels per day





## **General Trucking Themes**

- 1. Truck freight volumes weakened considerably through 2015. Growth this year will remain uneven by sector.
- 2. The industry is now adding a little OTR capacity (mainly small TLs and LTLs), but tractor counts remain well below all-time highs. Fleets are adding trailers to boost trailer to tractor ratio. Expect capacity to tighten through 2016 and into 2017 as volumes improve and ELD mandate gets closer.
- 3. Revenue per mile continues to grow for contract freight, but weakening. Spot market is very soft.
- 4. Driver shortage is remains bad, but combination of pay hikes and oil field weakness helped.
- 5. Fleets continue to see rising costs x fuel. Fleets using fuel savings to pay drivers more and replace trucks.
- 6. Many small fleets were thrown 2 life lines in 2014: Drop in fuel prices and surge in spot market rates, which means they can pay drivers more and replace tractors. However, this group will come under pressure from ELDs and weaker spot market.

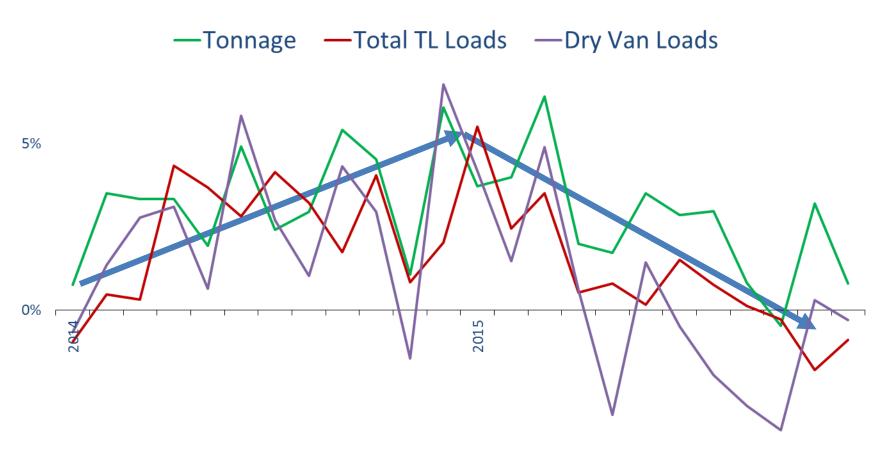


#### **Uneven Economy = Uneven Truck Freight Volumes**



#### **Growth in Various Trucking Volume Measures**

(Year-over-Year Percent Change)





-5%

### **For-Hire TL Volumes**

(All data is a 3-month moving average; Includes all types of TL freight)

Total TL Loads (Year-over-Year Growth)



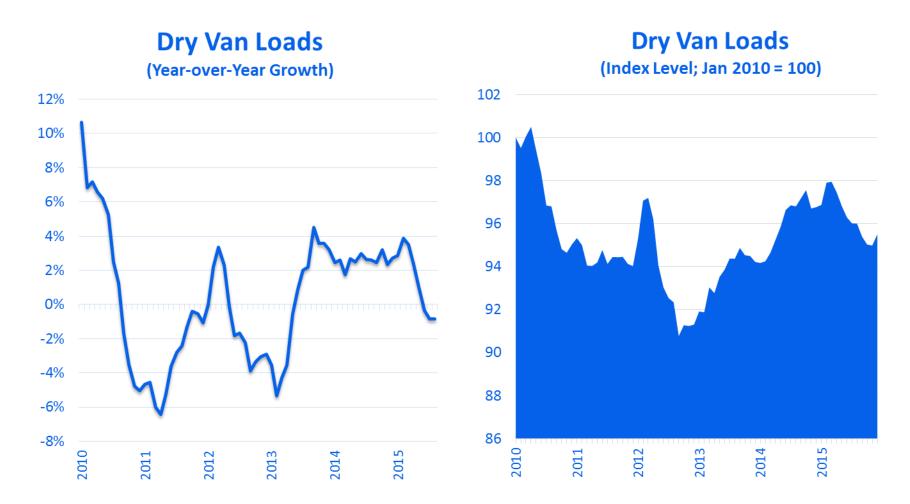
Total TL Loads (Index Level; Jan 2010 = 100)





## For-Hire Dry Van TL Volumes

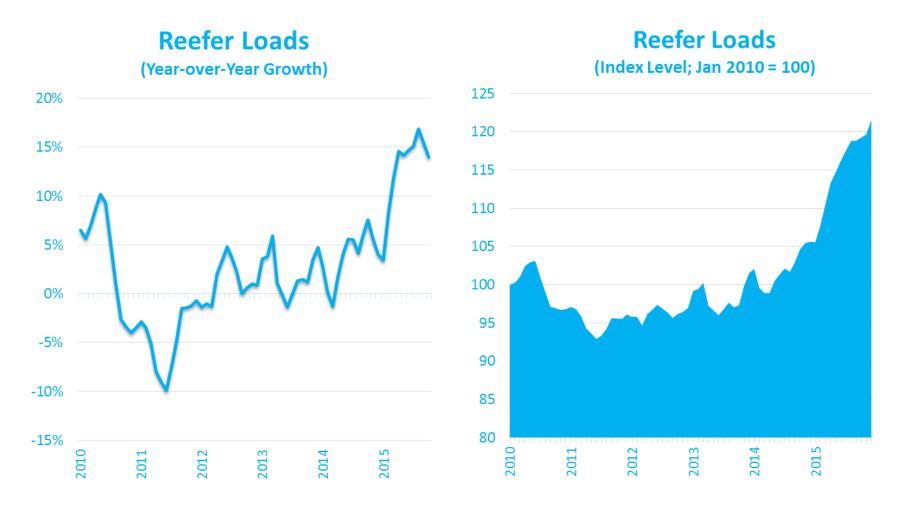
(All data is a 3-month moving average)





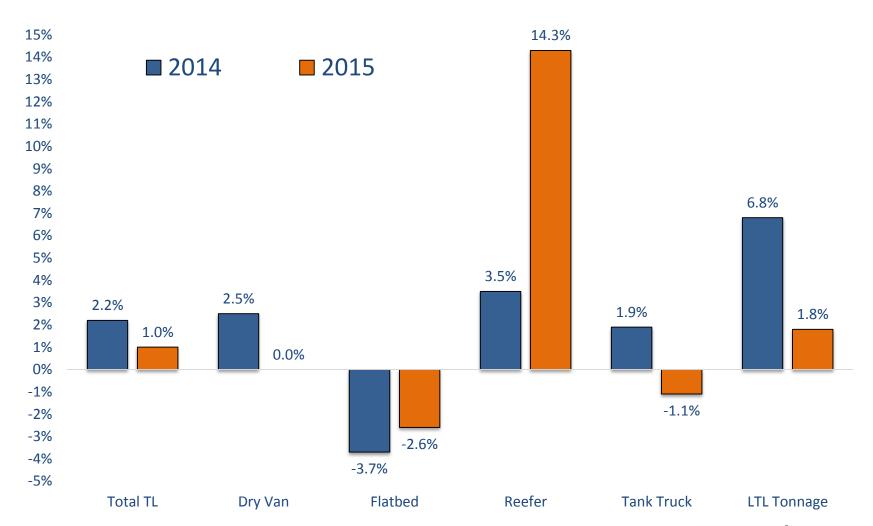
## For-Hire Refrigerated TL Volumes

(All data is a 3-month moving average)





## TL Loads and LTL Tonnage Growth

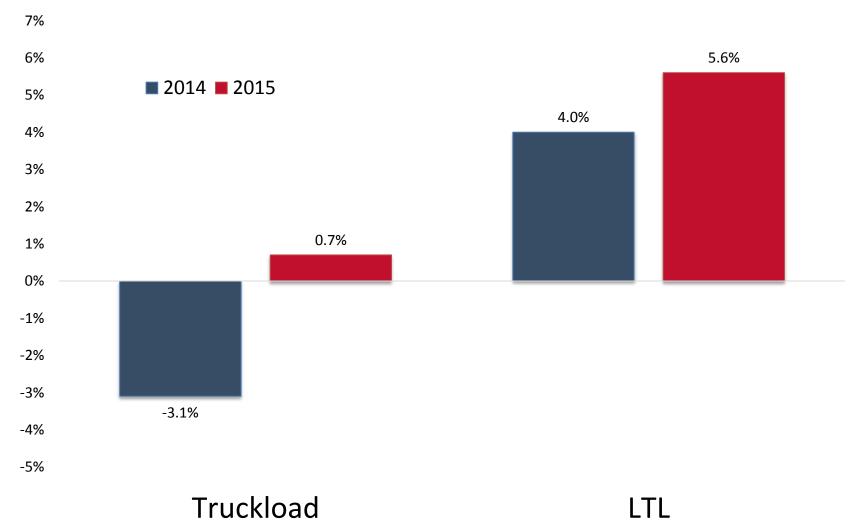




## **Truck Capacity Trends**



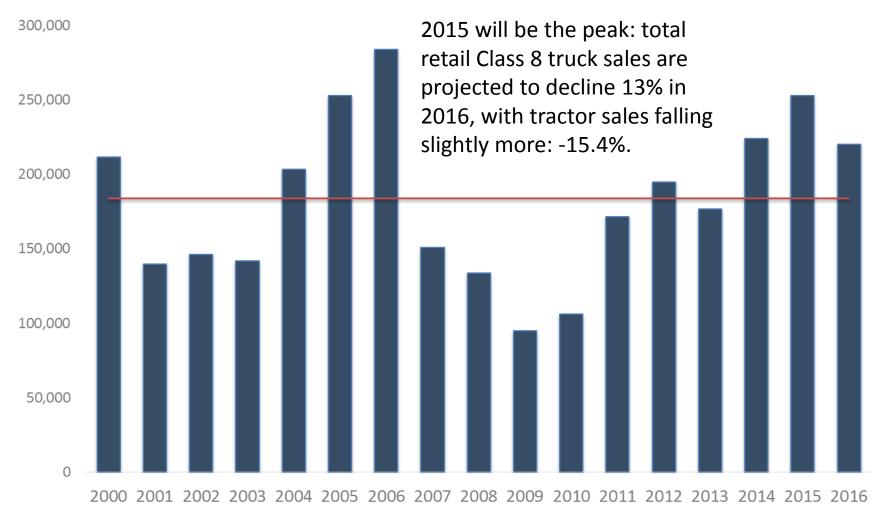
## **Tractor Count Changes**







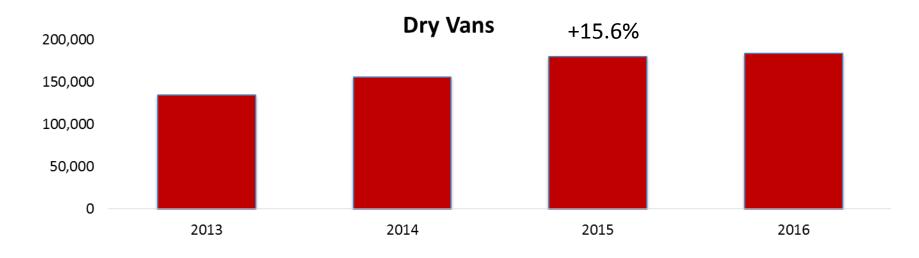
### **U.S. Class 8 Truck Retail Sales**

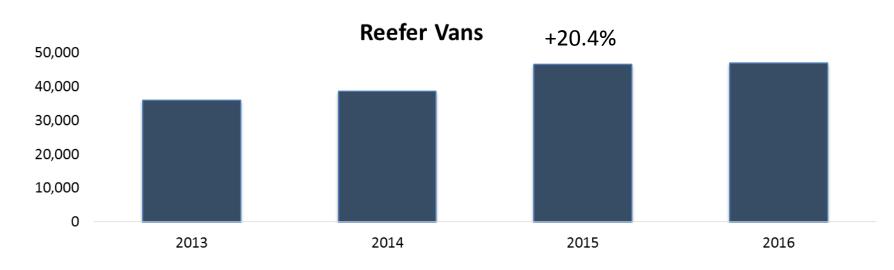






### **US Trailer Sales**





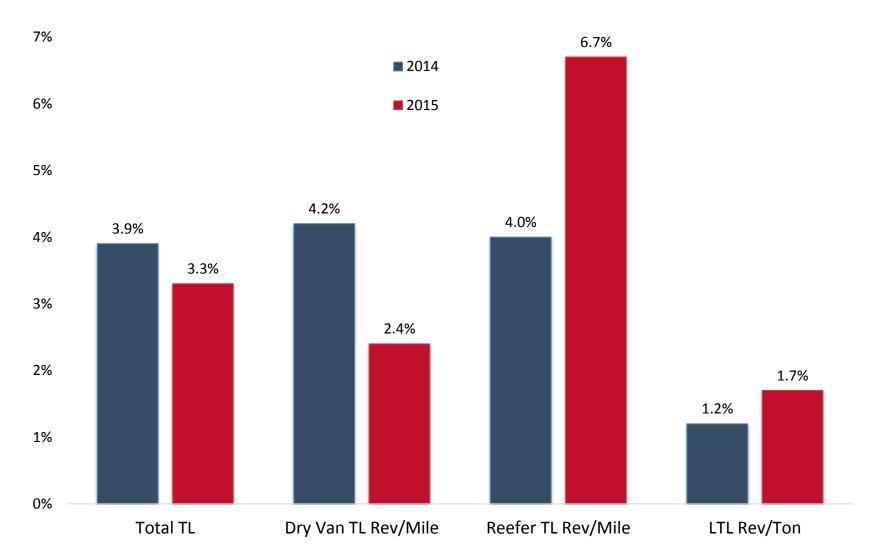
**Source: ATA & ACT Research** 



## **Revenue Trends**



### **Pricing Proxy Changes by Carrier Type**



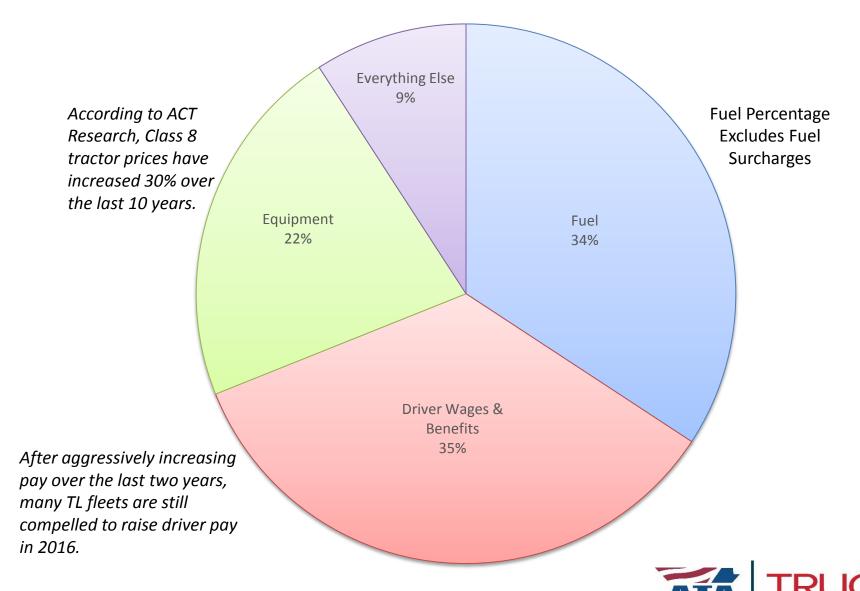
Includes contract freight and spot market loads; excludes FSC Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report



## **Cost Trends**

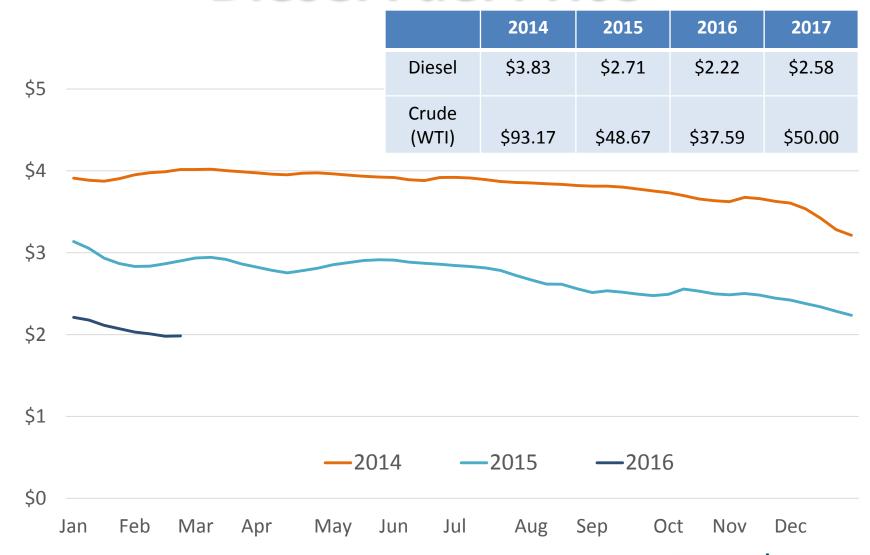


#### Operational per Mile Costs of Trucking: 2014





## **Diesel Fuel Price**

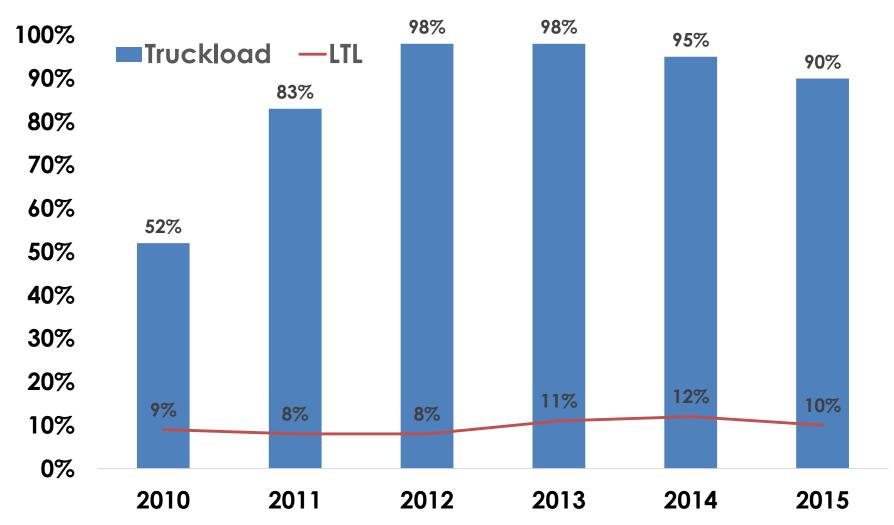




## **Drivers**



#### **Annualized Line-haul Driver Turnover Rates**

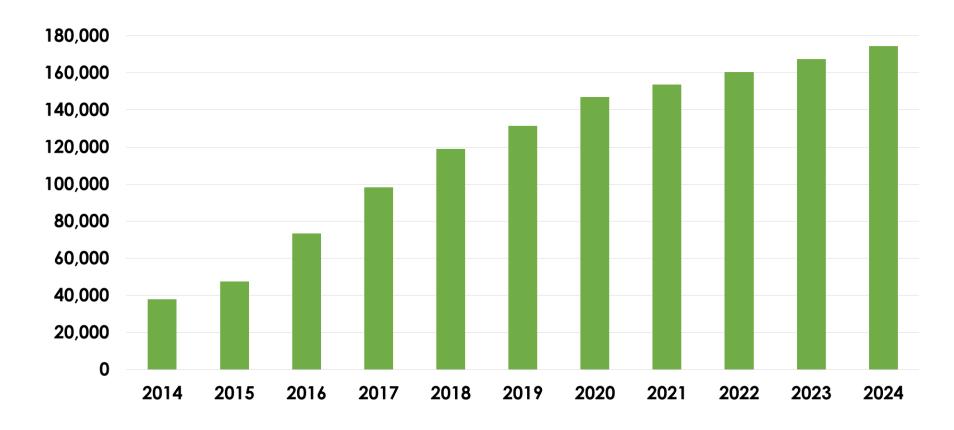


2015 is for the first three quarters of the year. Source: ATA's *Trucking Activity Report* 



## The Driver Shortage

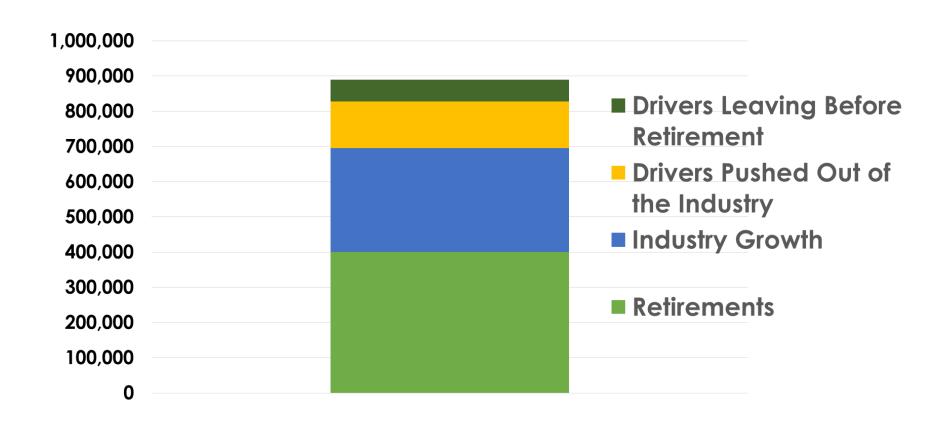
Shortage was 48,000 in 2015. At current trends, it would balloon to 175,000 in 2024.





Source: ATA's *Truck Driver Shortage Analysis 2015* 

### **New Drivers Needed by Reason 2015-2024**







For more information, see ATA's recent study at:

www.trucking.org





### **Driver Shortage: Causes**

- 1. Demographics
  - Age
  - Women
- 2. Lifestyle
- 3. More alternatives today with equal or more pay and home every night
- 4. Regulations
- 5. It's a big responsibility and some people don't want it
- 6. Overall many, many reasons So no one solution

### **Driver Shortage: Solutions/Market Reactions**

- 1. Pay is increasing
  - 1. Base pay
  - 2. Many fleets are changing pay models where possible
  - 3. Sign-on bonuses
  - 4. Benefits
- 2. Everyone needs to treat drivers better
  - 1. Don't hold up drivers at docks
  - 2. Shippers: delivery windows are better than appointments
  - 3. Shippers need to work with their customers



### **Driver Shortage: Solutions/Market Reactions**

- 3. Lower interstate driving age/graduated CDL
- 4. More at-home time where possible
- 5. Fix congestion/infrastructure Yes, it adds to the problem as drivers are sick of sitting in traffic
- 6. Improved driver image: TMAF
- 7. Former Military Hiring Our Heroes
- 8. Autonomous trucks?

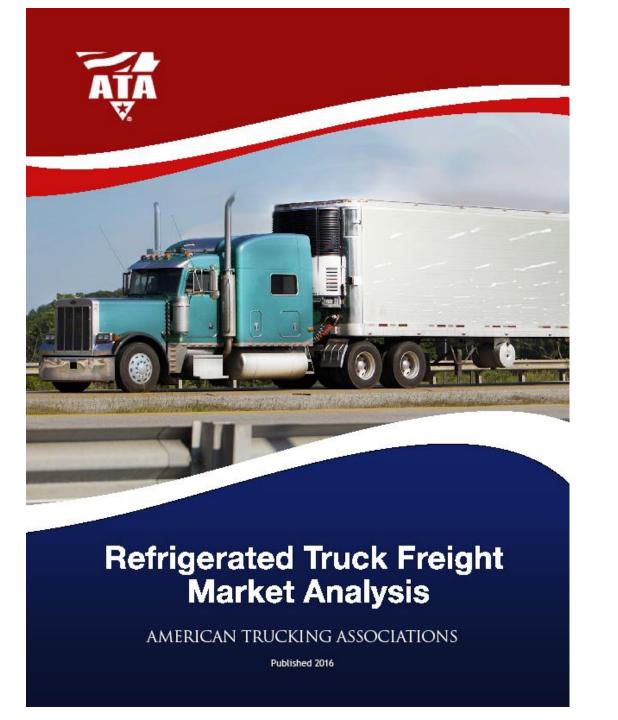


### **Driver Shortage: ELDs**

- 1. Rough estimate: only 20% of tractors are equipped with ELDs today.
- 2. TL fleets that have already adopted are generally larger and more sophisticated than most of those that haven't. So, productivity impact could be larger than fleets have seen so far.
- 3. What if just 1% to 3% of drivers leave the market for a host of reasons, including cheaters, anti-technology, anti-big government, or just don't want to change?

  4. Some carriers are likely to exit the industry.





**Coming Soon....** 

