Economic & Trucking Update

March 5, 2019

Bob Costello

Chief Economist &

Senior Vice President of International Trade Policy & Cross-Border Operations

American Trucking Associations

@ATAEconBob



2019 Economic Forecast:

Recession or Moving Back to Trend?

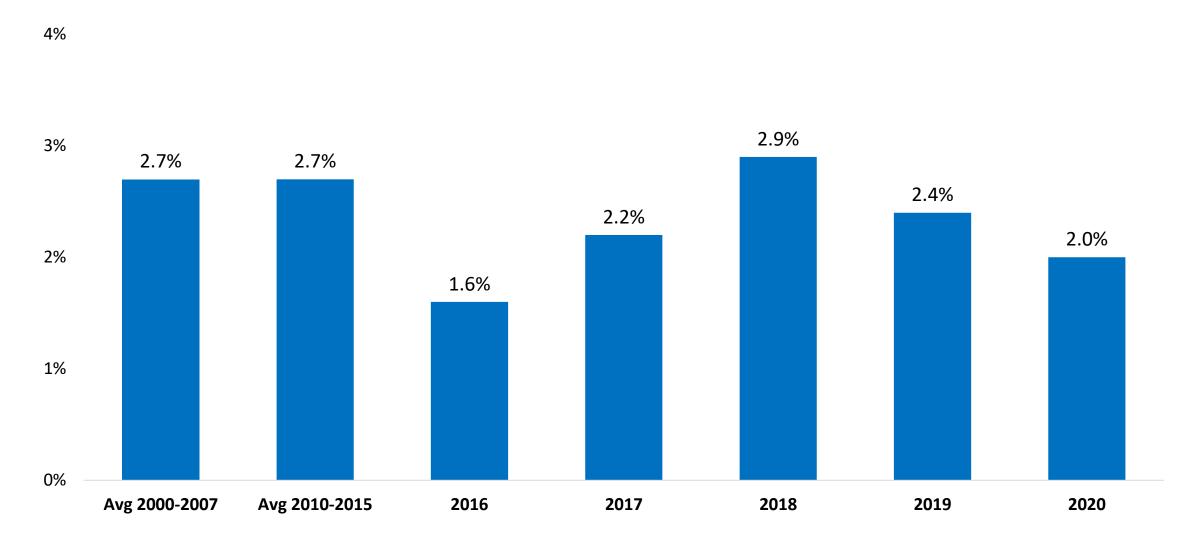


Economic Forecast Highlights:

- BACK TO TREND
- GDP growth in Q2 (4.2%) and Q3 (3.4%) 2018 were two best consecutive quarters since Q2 (5.1%) and Q3 (4.9%) 2014.
- Expect reduced momentum in 2019, but still low prospects of a recession (25%) in 2019.
- That puts GDP growth slightly above trend growth in 2019 for the year, but then slightly below trend growth in 2020, but still growth at this point.
- Consumer fundamentals remain good, including a strong job market. Spending on goods slows slightly this year, but remains at or better than average this cycle.
- Housing starts, while growing, continues to disappoint.
- Inflation to remain subdued.
- Moderating GDP growth and modest inflation have the Fed on pause for the moment perhaps no rate hikes this year depending on data.



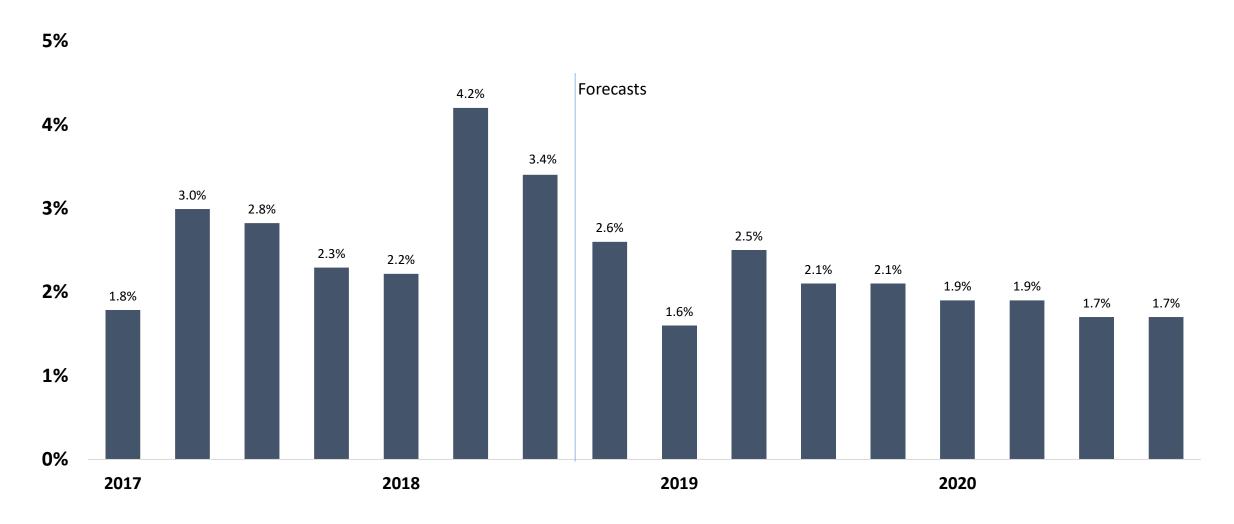
Real Gross Domestic Product Growth





Real Gross Domestic Product Growth

Annualized Rates



Sources: BEA & ATA

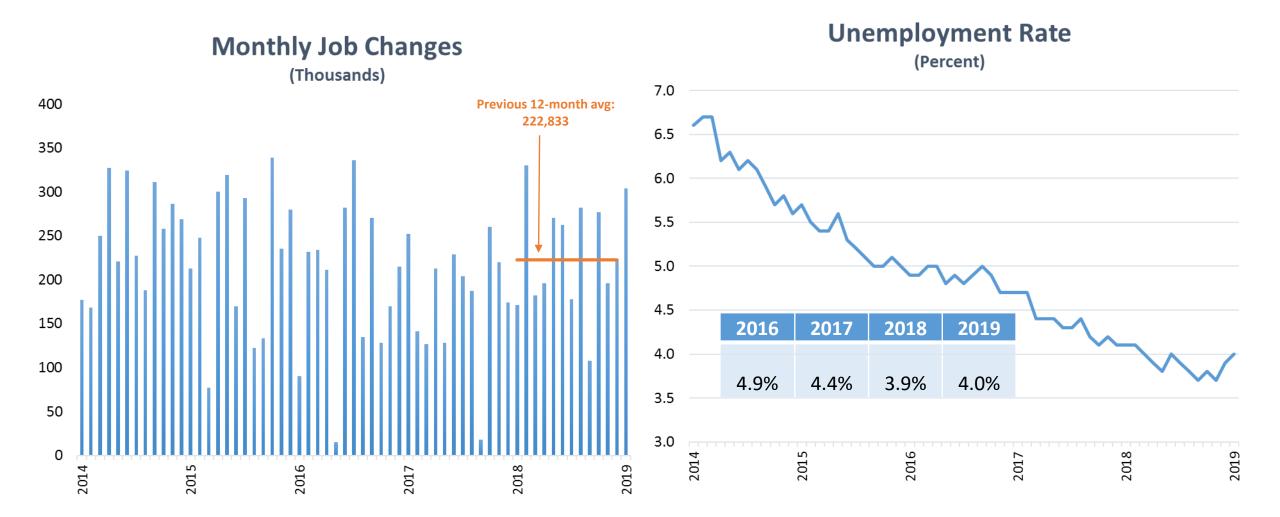
Cannot average to get annual number.



Drivers of Truck Freight

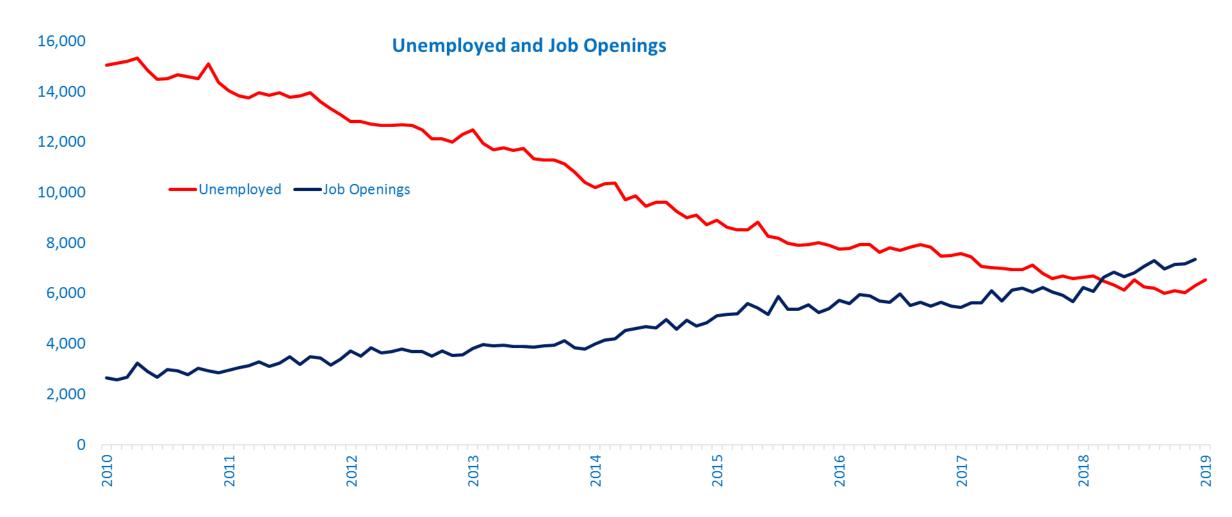


Job Market





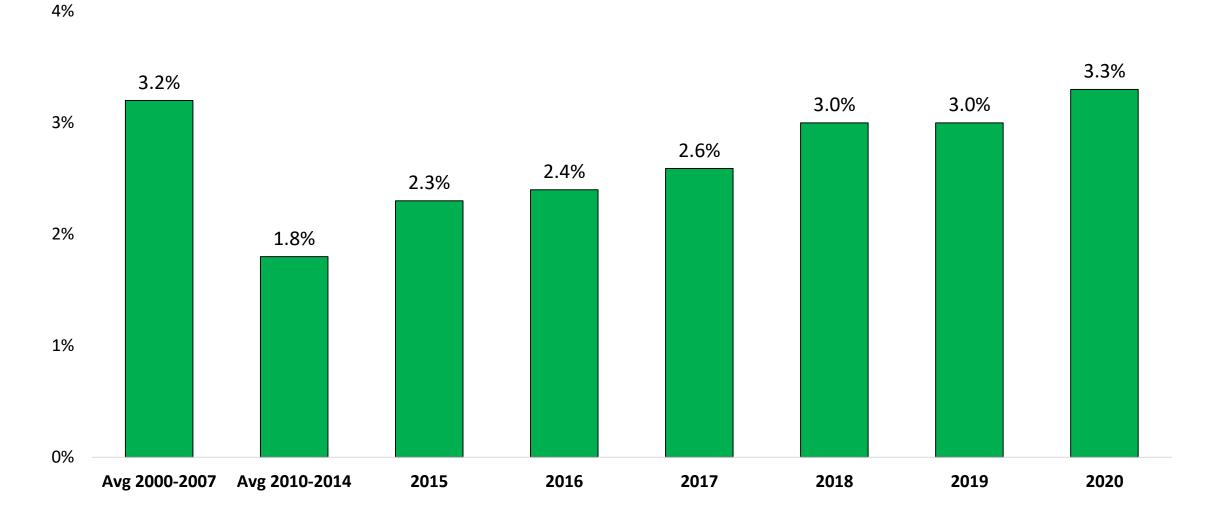
U.S. Economy is at Full-Employment



Sources: Department of Labor

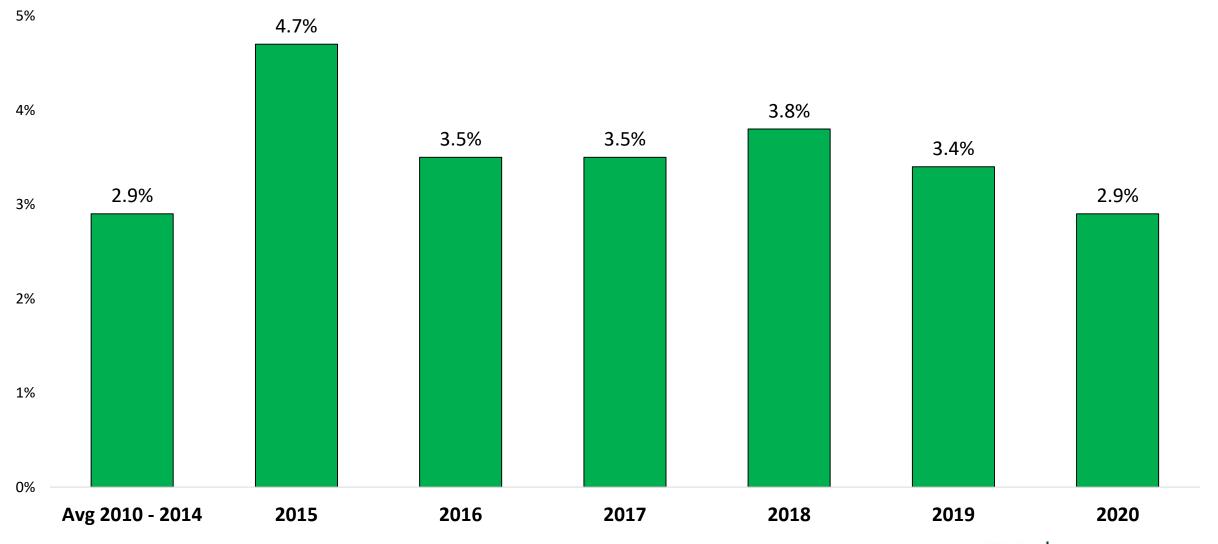


Employment Costs: Wages & Salaries





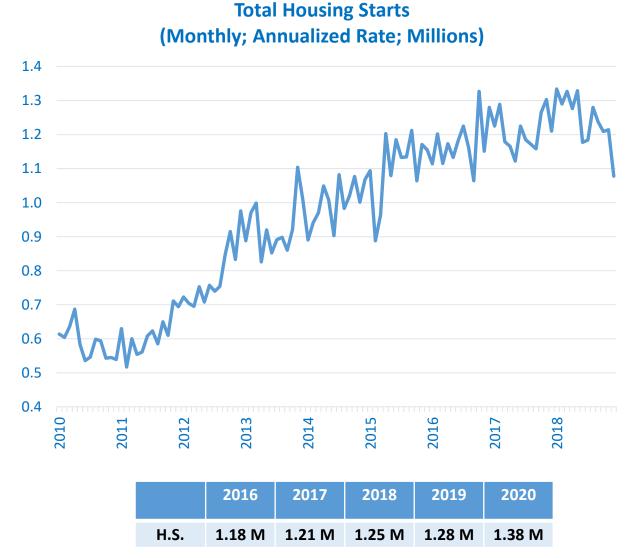
Real Personal Consumption Growth (Goods Only)



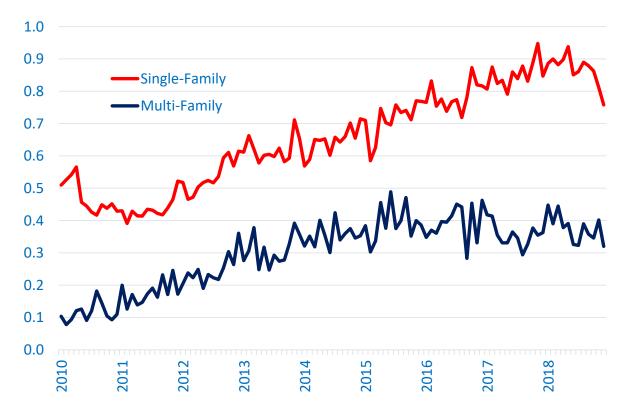


Sources: BEA & ATA

Housing Starts are Growing, but at a Disappointing, Slow Rate



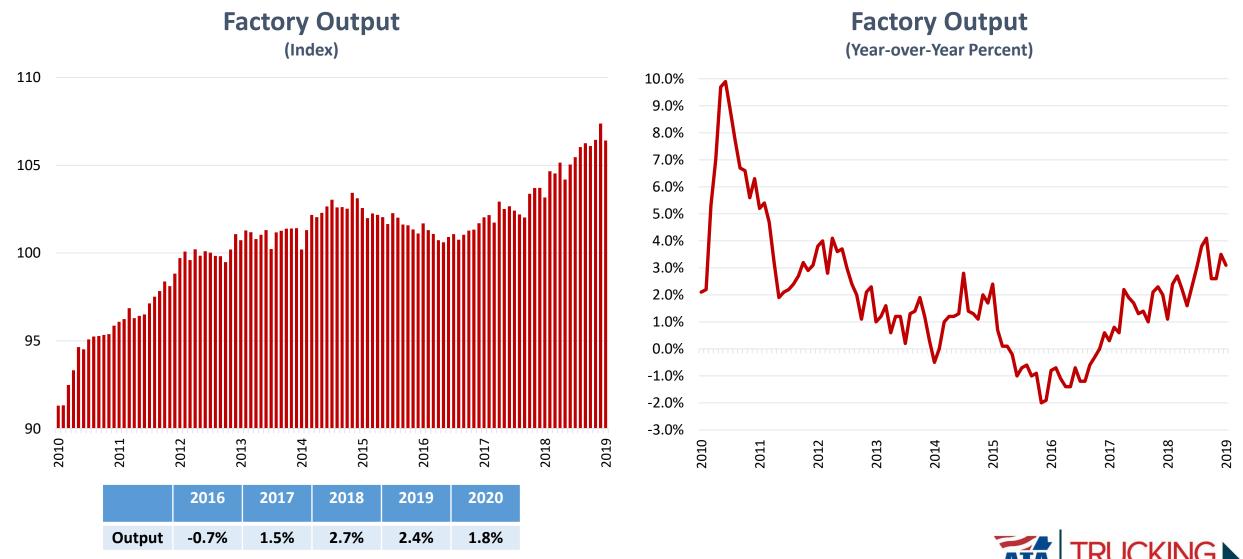
Single-Family vs Multi-Family Units (Monthly; Annualized Rate; Millions)





Sources: Census & ATA

Factory Output Outlook

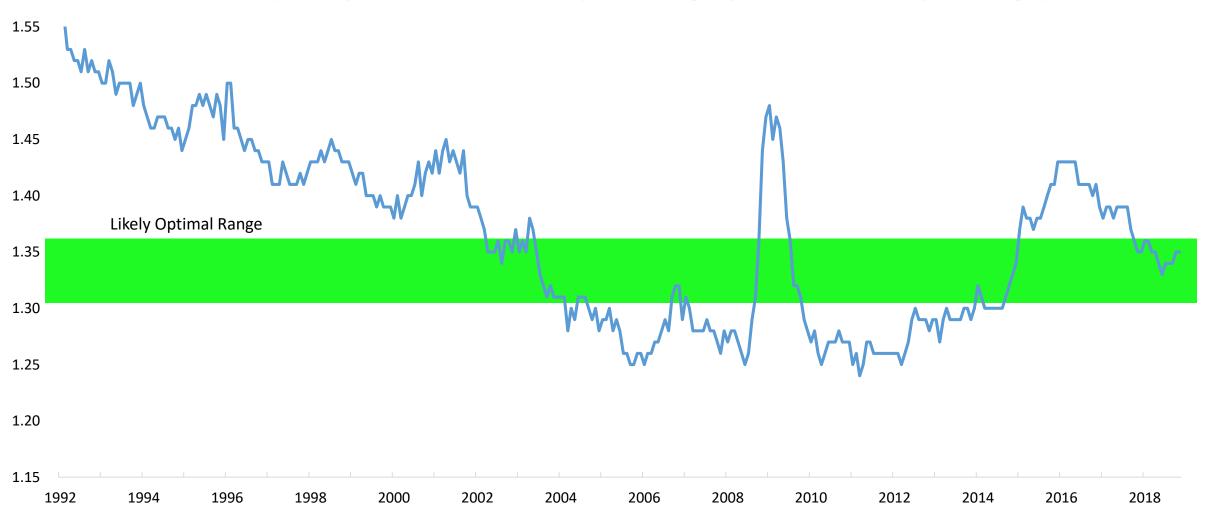


\$7

Sources: Federal Reserve & ATA

Total Business Inventory-to-Sales Ratio

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





Source: Census Bureau

Freight Market



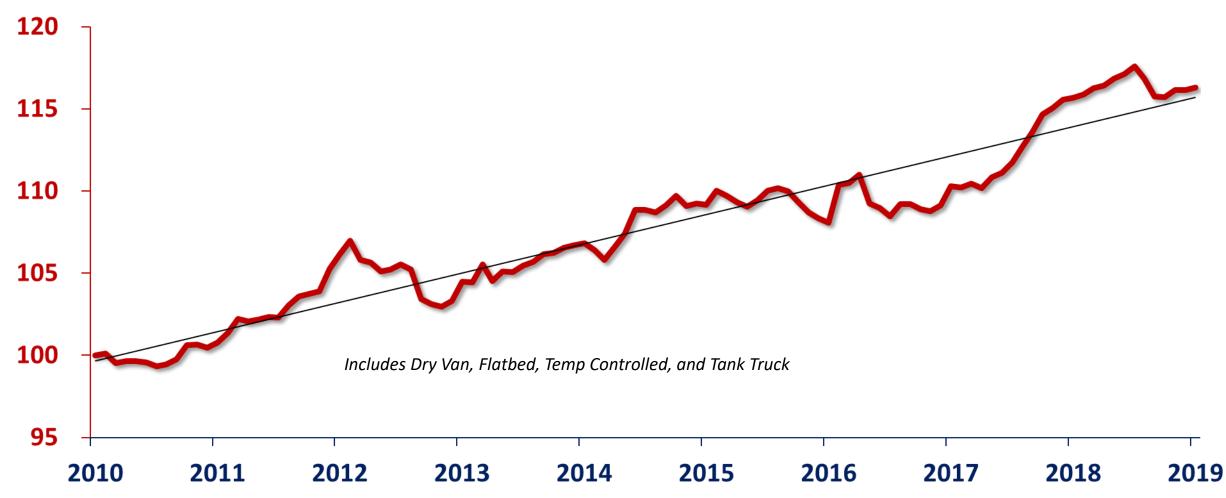
Trucking Trends:

- Freight fundamentals are good, not great.
- Expect slower growth rates in 2019 than in 2018, but still growth.
- Trade policy is making it difficult to read near-term tea leaves for freight volumes.
- Capacity growth remains difficult, but the large reductions have stopped.
- And, some efficiencies may have added effective capacity.
- Likely some new, small entrants into the industry Credit freight based apps?
- Drivers market remains tight, but large pay increases seem to be helping.



Total For-Hire TL Loads

Index: January 2010=100; Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month Moving Average

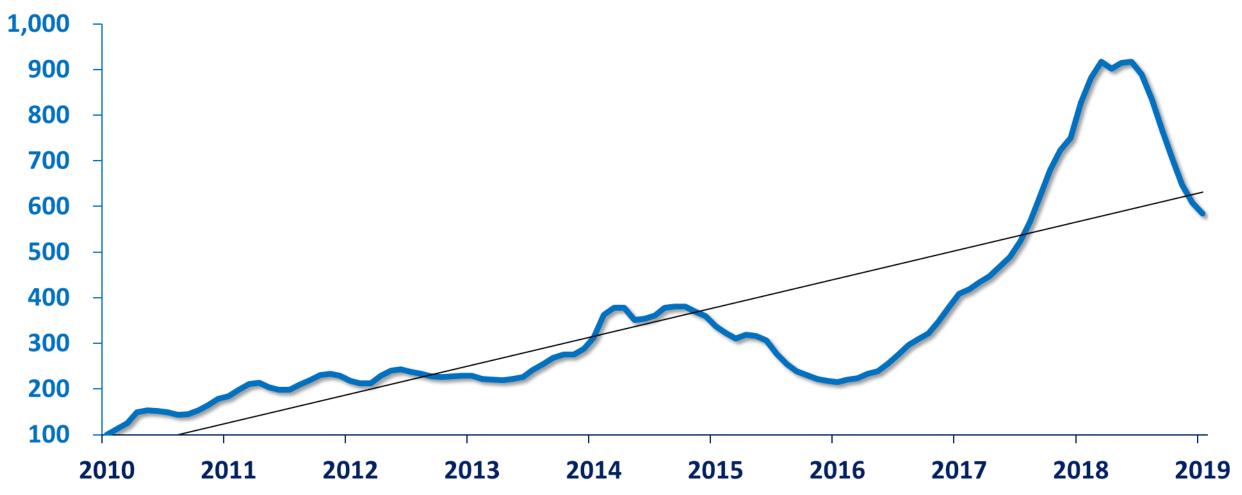




Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report

Spot Market Loads

Index: January 2010=100; Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month Moving Average



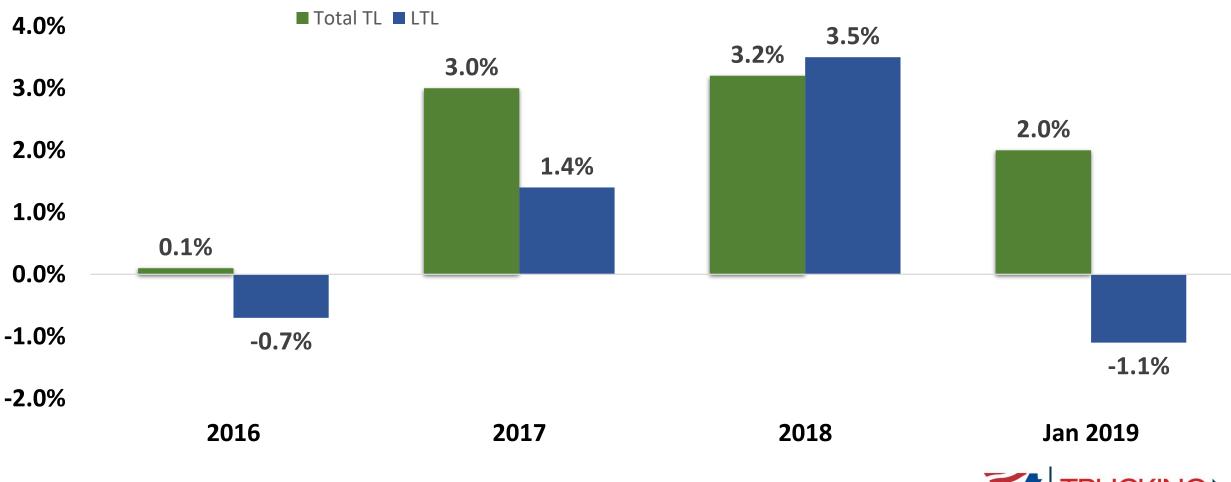


Source: DAT and ATA

For-Hire Carrier Volume Measures

Year-over-Year Changes

5.0%



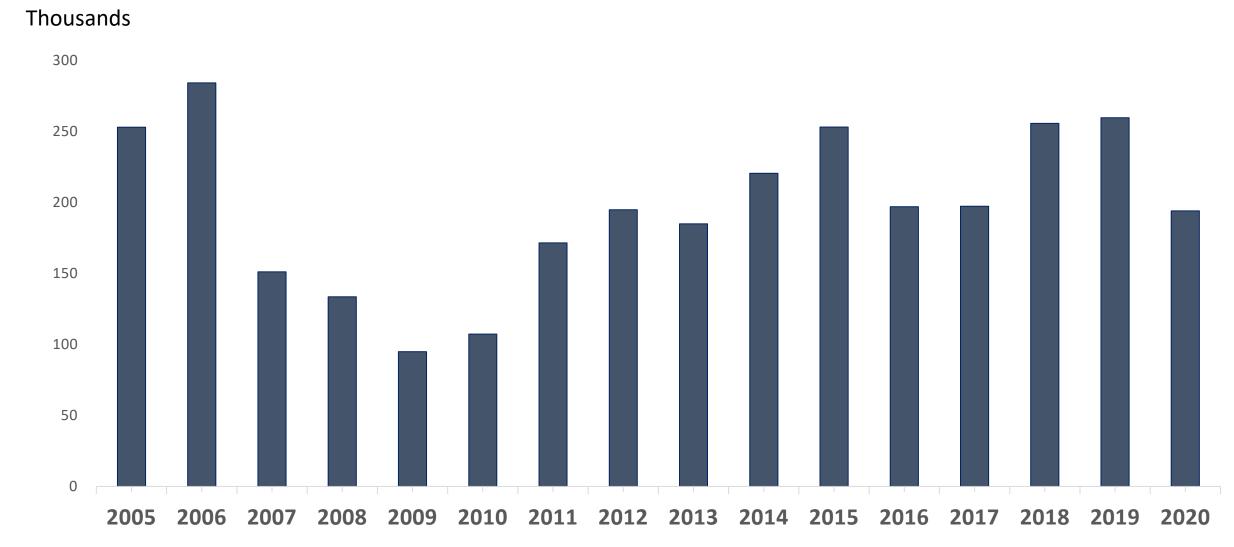
TL data is loads; LTL data is tonnage



Industry Capacity Trends



US Retail Class 8 Truck Sales

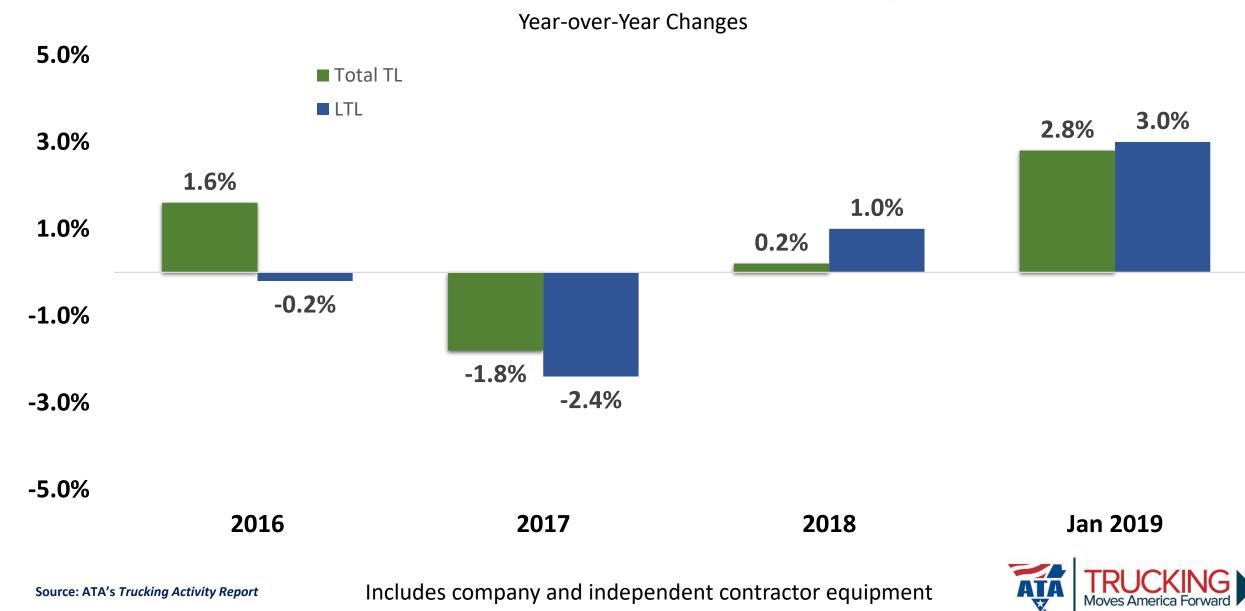


Includes Tractors & Straight Trucks

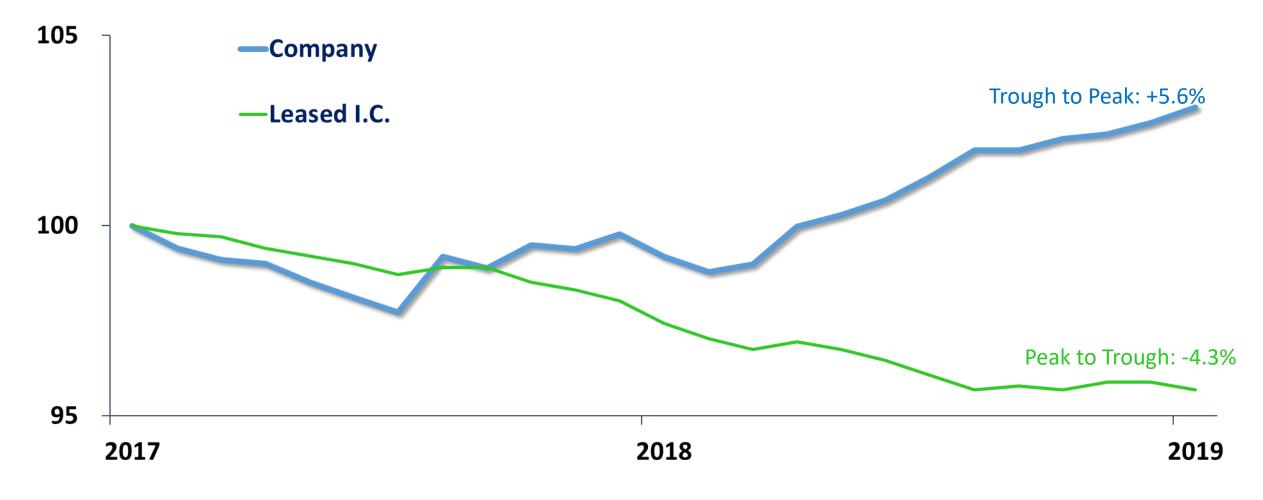


Source: ATA's American Trucking Trends 2018 & ACT Research

For-Hire Net Tractor Changes



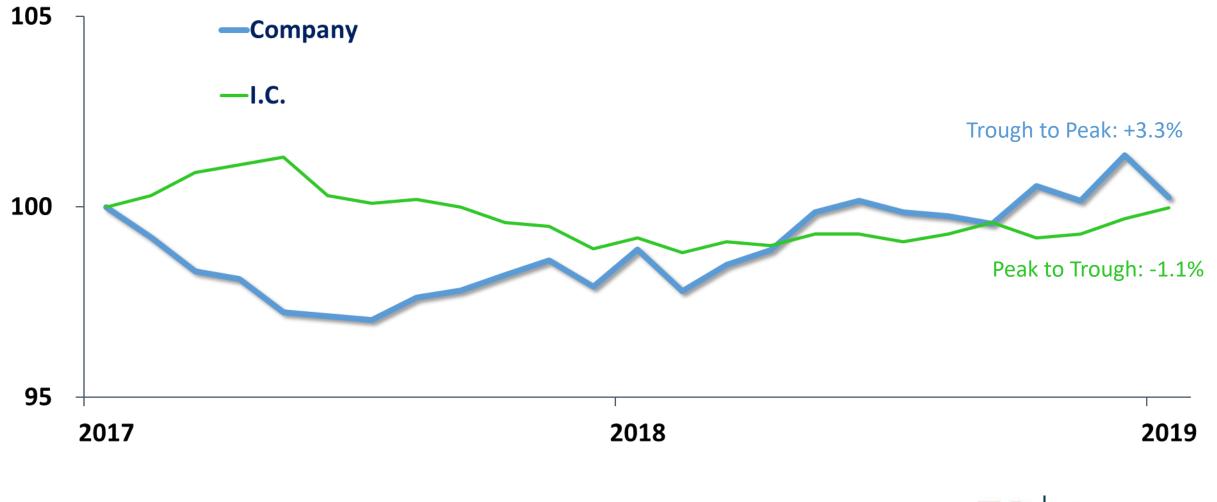
Large TLs: Company Tractors vs Independent Contractor Equipment Index: January 2017=100





Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report

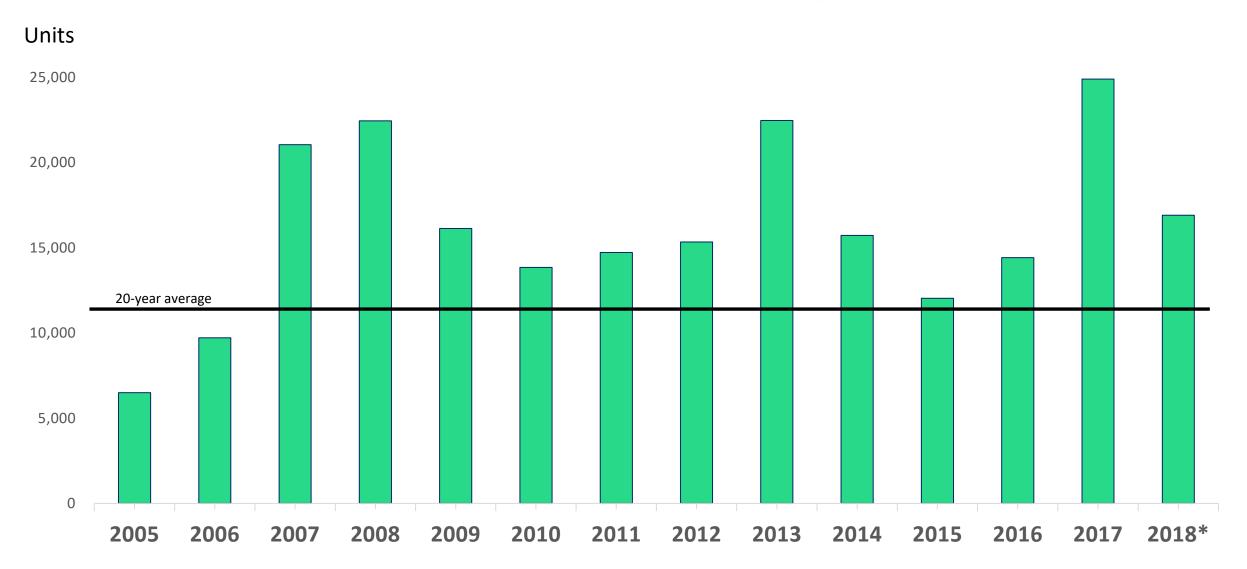
Small TLs: Company Tractors vs Independent Contractor Equipment Index: January 2017=100



Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report



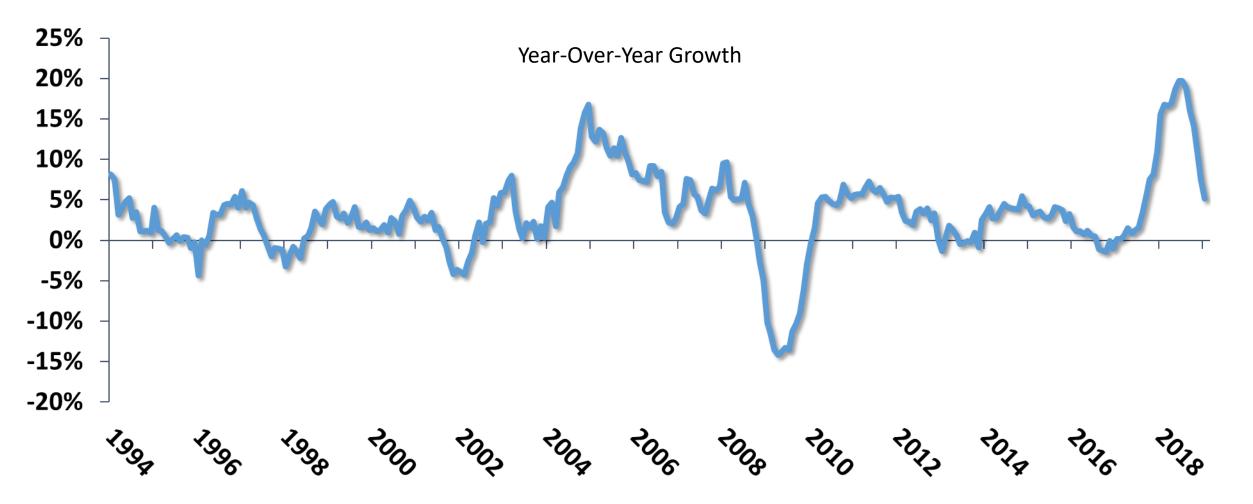
US Class 8 Tractor Exports



* 2018 is a YTD annualized rate



For-Hire Truckload Revenue per Mile



Includes Dry Van, Flatbed, Temp Controlled, and Tank Truck Excludes Fuel Surcharges

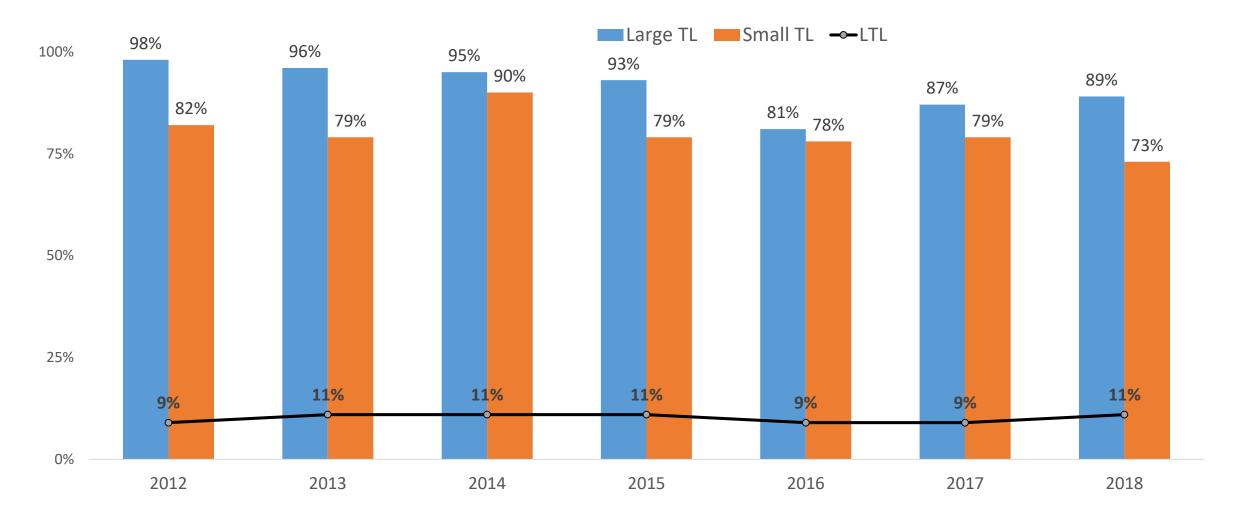


Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report

The Driver Market



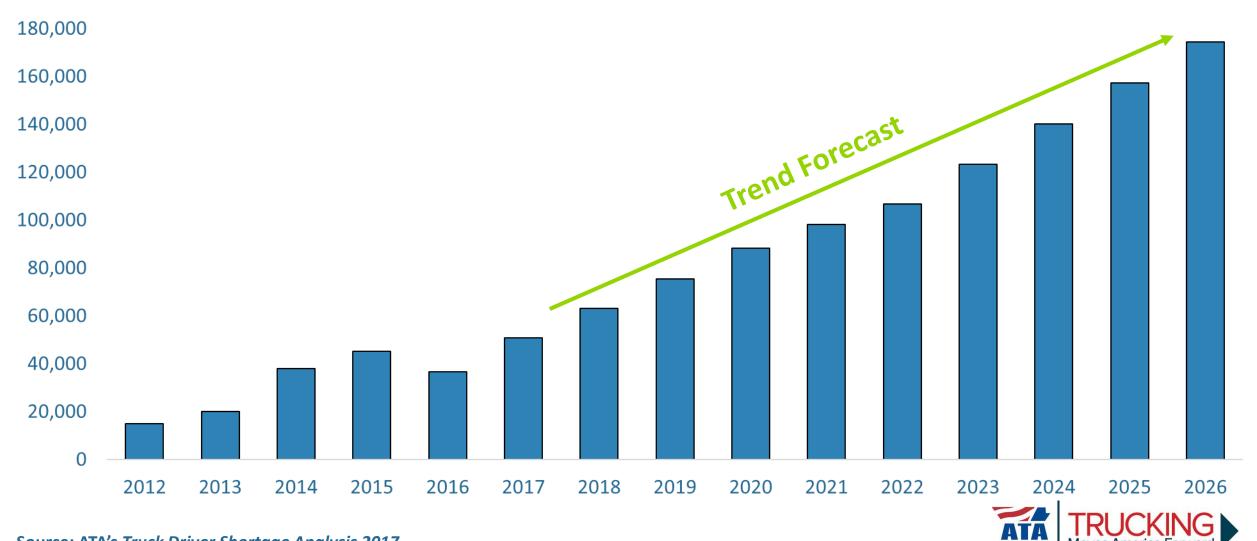
Truck Driver Turnover Rates





Source: ATA

Driver Shortage



Moves Amer

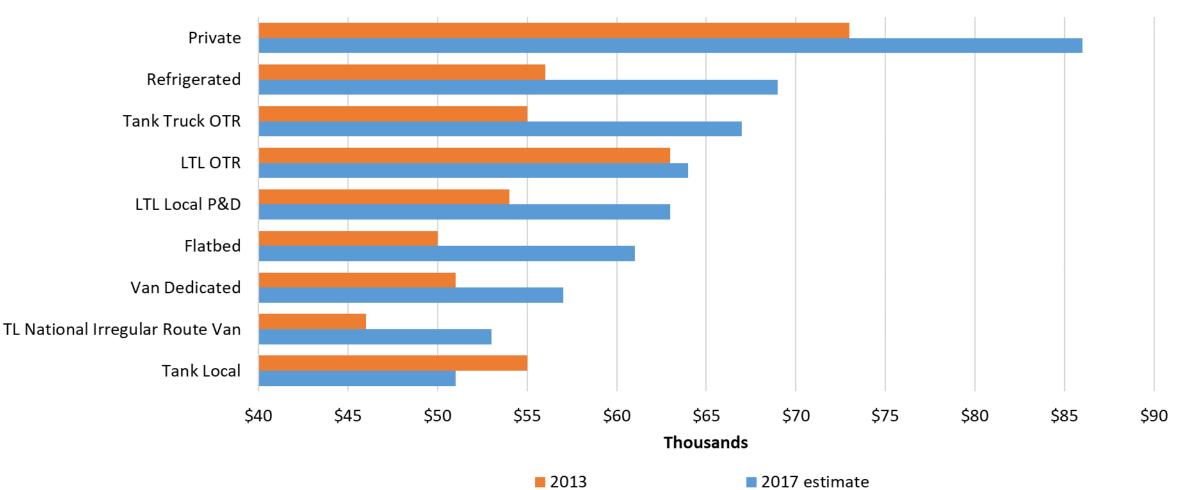
V

Source: ATA's Truck Driver Shortage Analysis 2017

200,000

ATA Driver Compensation Study

2017 and 2013 Median Pay (Solo Company Drivers)





WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

- DRIVE-Safe Act
- Some improvement in driver efficiency/driving time – But more can be done to reduce driver waiting times
 - 8,500/month to 9,000 = 5.9%
 - 8,500/month to 9,500 = 11.8%
- Female Drivers



Final Prediction:

Next economic recession will be mild, but expect large number of motor carriers go out of business.

