# Economic & Trucking Update

February 2020

**Food Shippers of America** 

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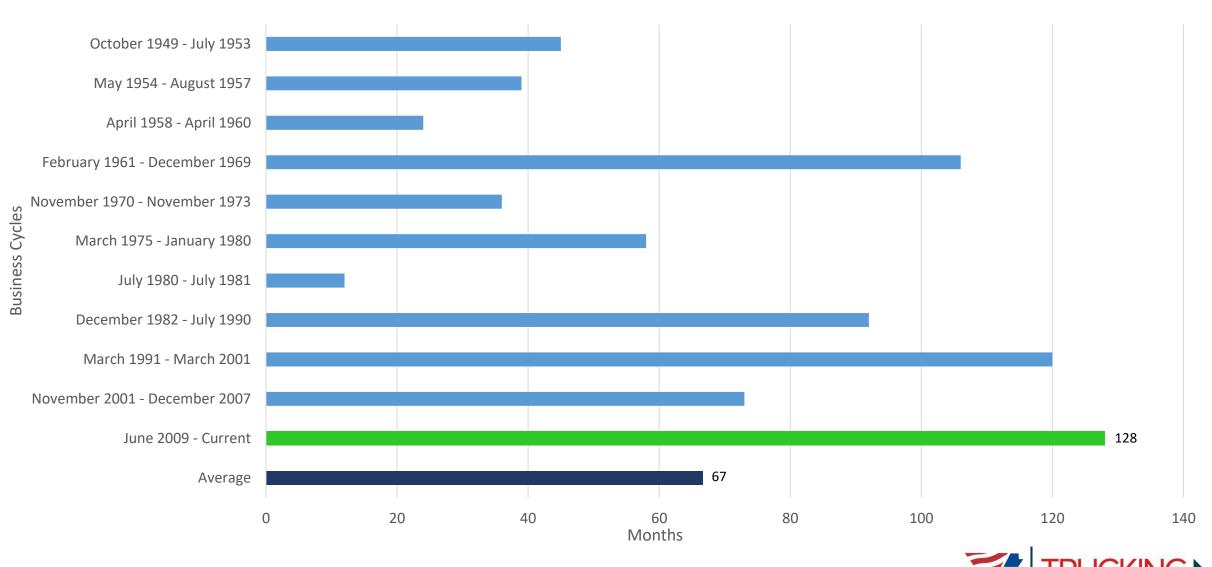


# **Economic Forecast Highlights**

- Economic expansion is the longest in history, but growth continues to moderate.
- GDP growth slows to 2.1% in 2020 from 2.9% in 2018 and 2.3% in 2019.
- Consumer fundamentals remain good, including a solid job market. Retail sales at high levels, but growth continues to slow this year.
- Housing starts are picking up and 2020 starts will reach the highest level in over a decade.
- Manufacturing sector is in a recession, but output will post some growth in the second half of the year <u>if</u> China meets their U.S. factory import commitments.
- After reducing interest rates three times in 2019, Federal Reserve will remain on pause in 2020 Unless growth weakens from external factors.
- Threats: Coronavirus and election year concerns.



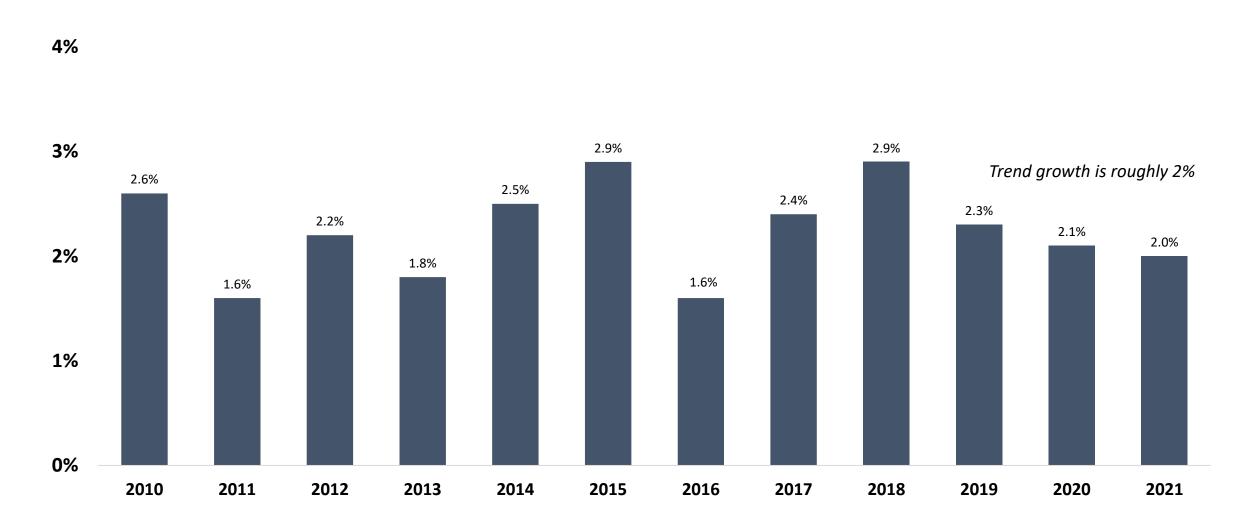
#### **U.S. Expansions Duration**



Moves

Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research and ATA

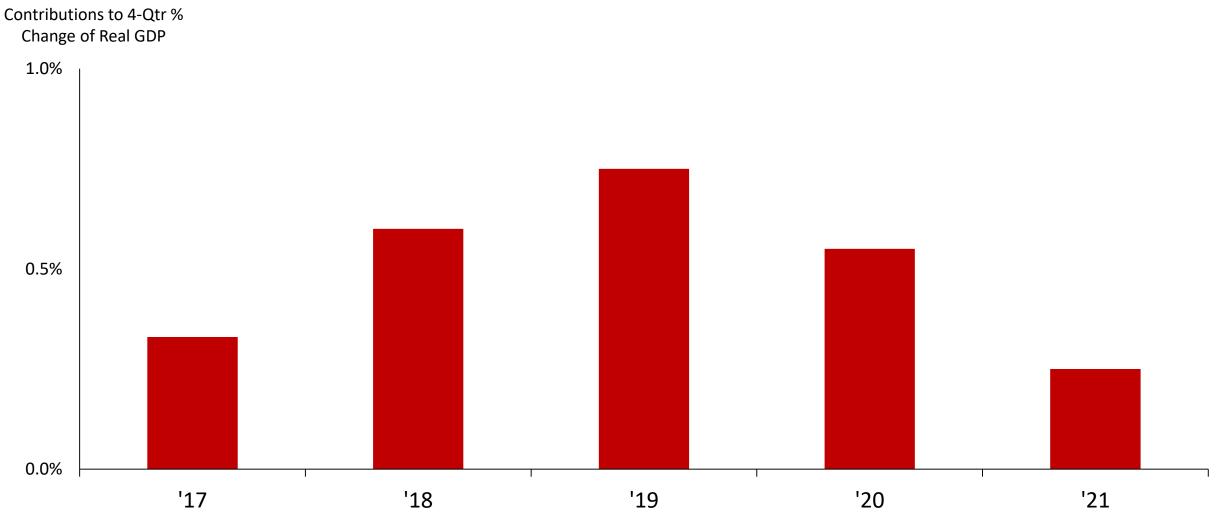
#### **Real Gross Domestic Product Growth**



Sources: BEA & ATA



### **Federal Fiscal Stimulus**



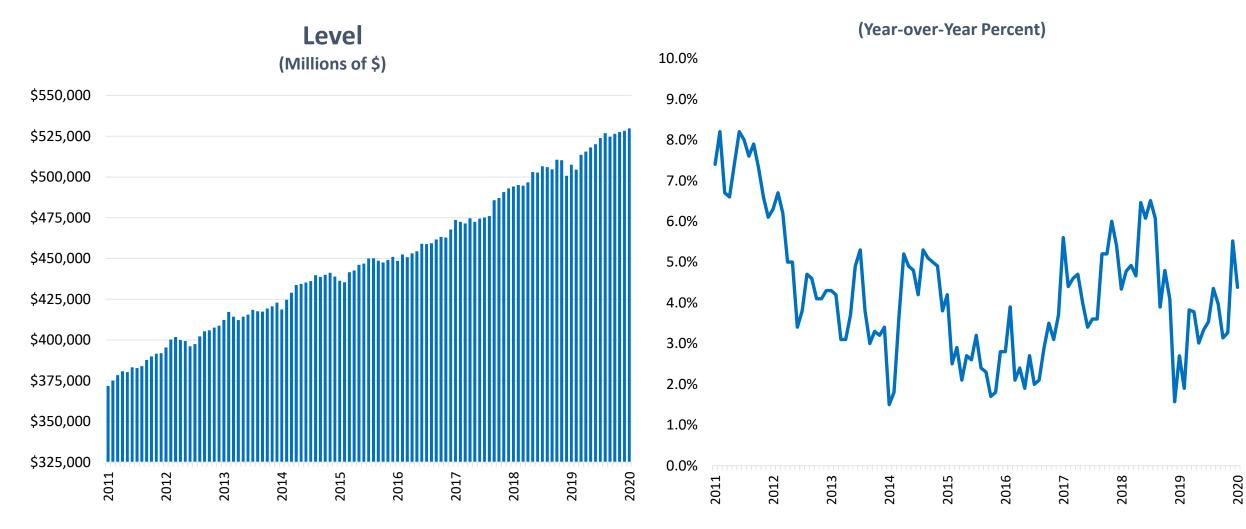


Source: IHS Markit

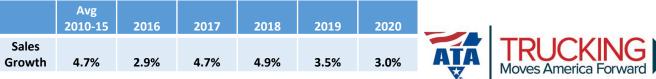
# **Drivers of Truck Freight**



#### **Retail Sales**

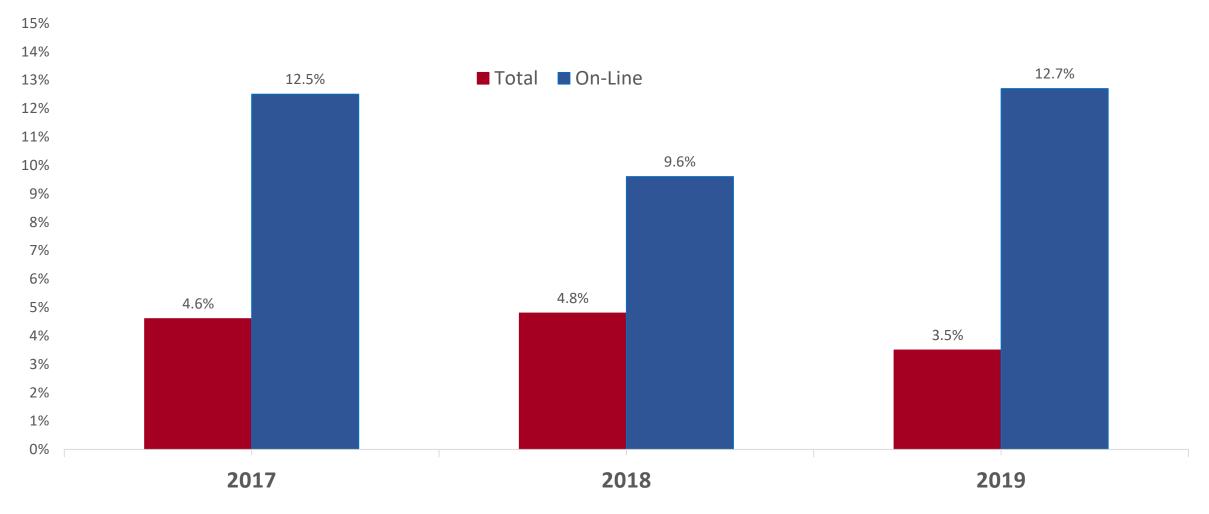


Sources: Census Bureau & ATA



### **Retail Sales Highlights**

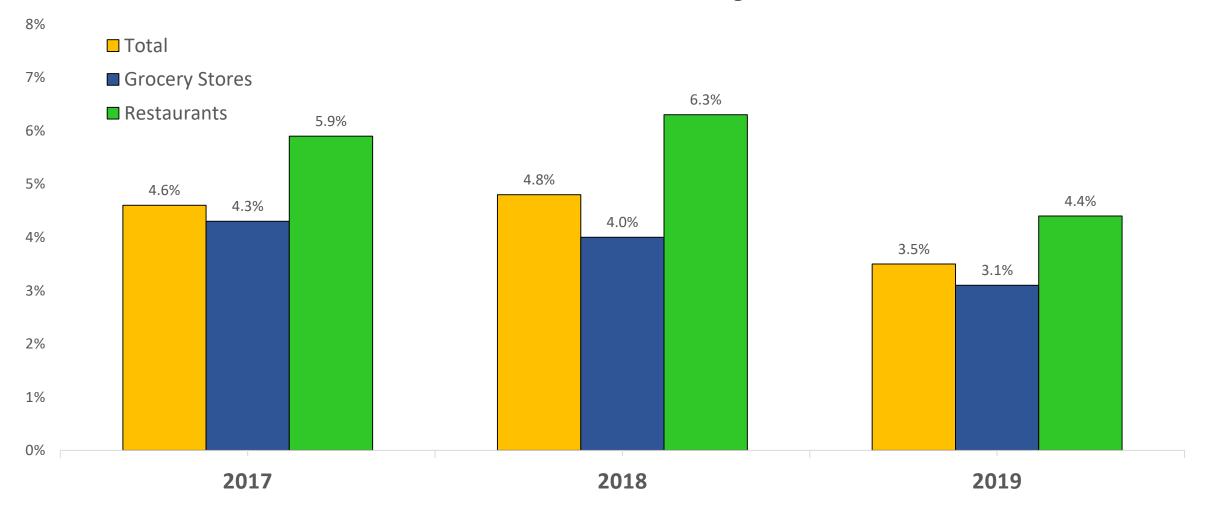
Year-over-Year Percent Change





### **Retail Sales Highlights**

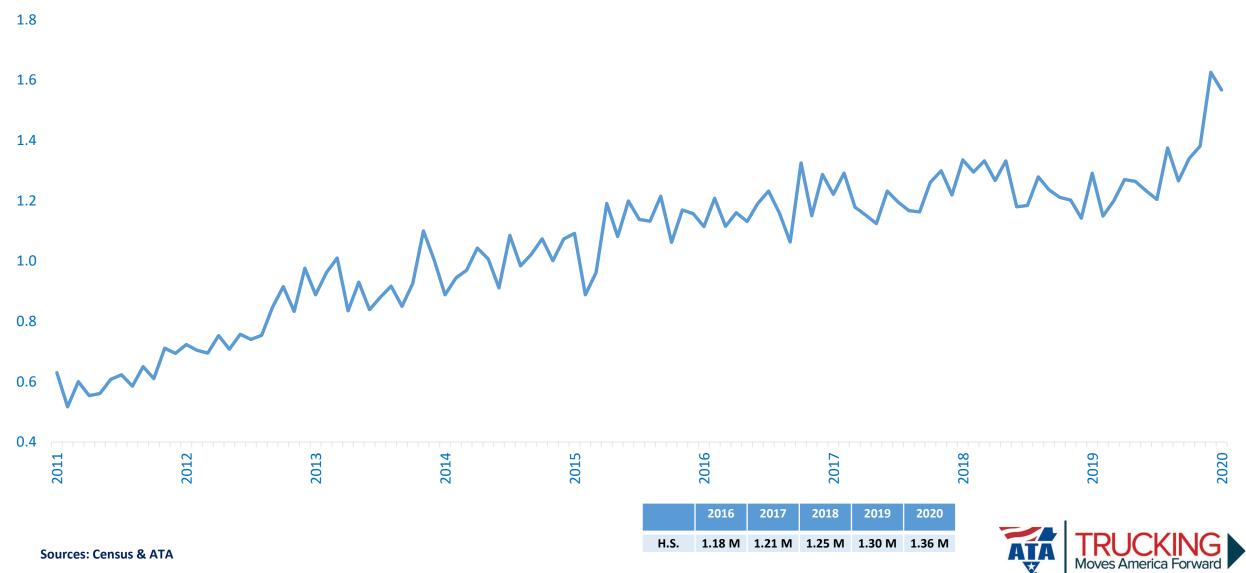
Year-over-Year Percent Change



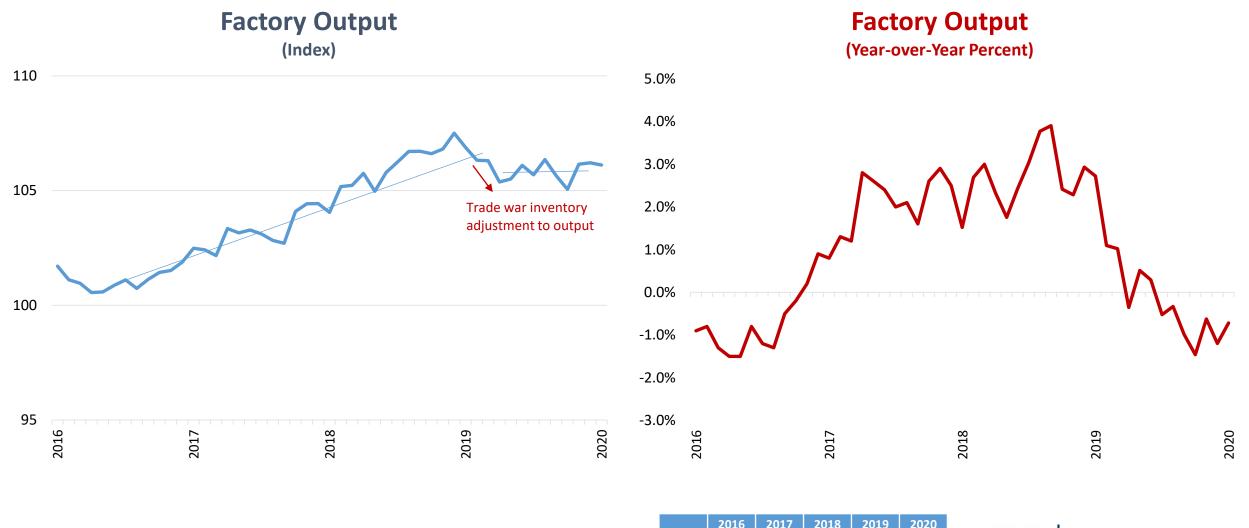


#### **Housing Starts**

(Monthly; Annualized Rate; Millions)



#### **Manufacturing Sector Highlights**



Sources: Federal Reserve & ATA

	2010	2017	2010	2019	2020
Output	-0.7%	2.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.1%



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

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

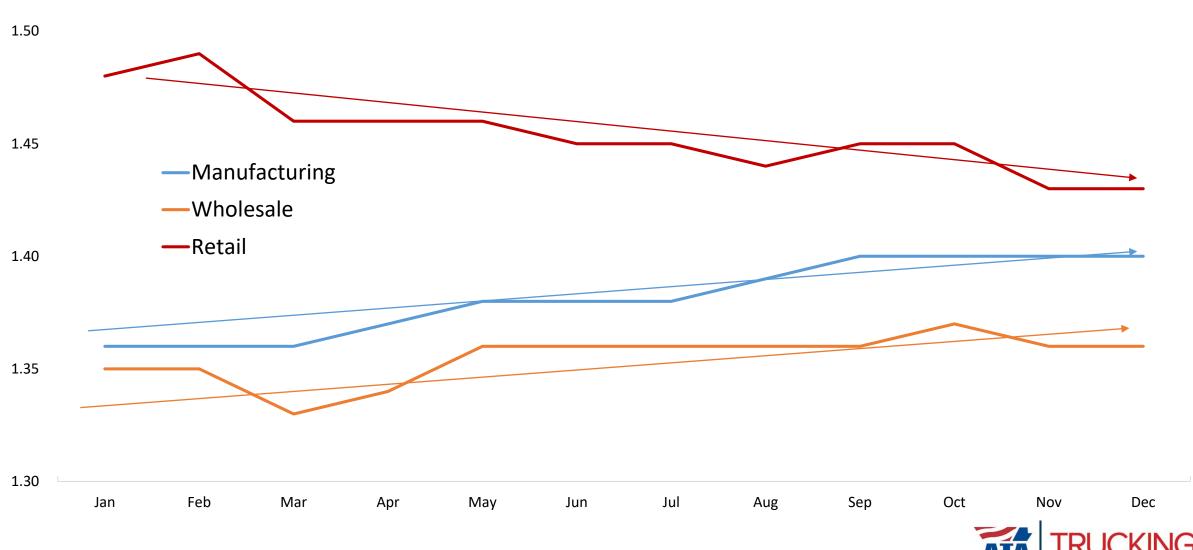




Source: Census Bureau

#### 2019 Inventory-to-Sales Ratio Trends

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



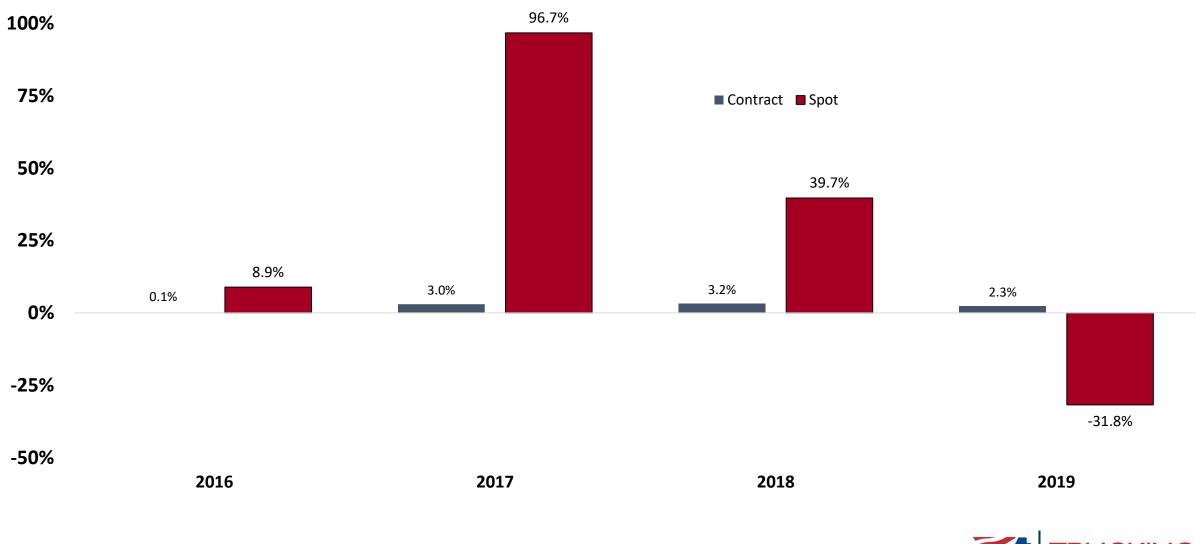
Source: Census Bureau

# **Trucking Trends**



#### Truckload Contract Loads vs Spot Market Loads

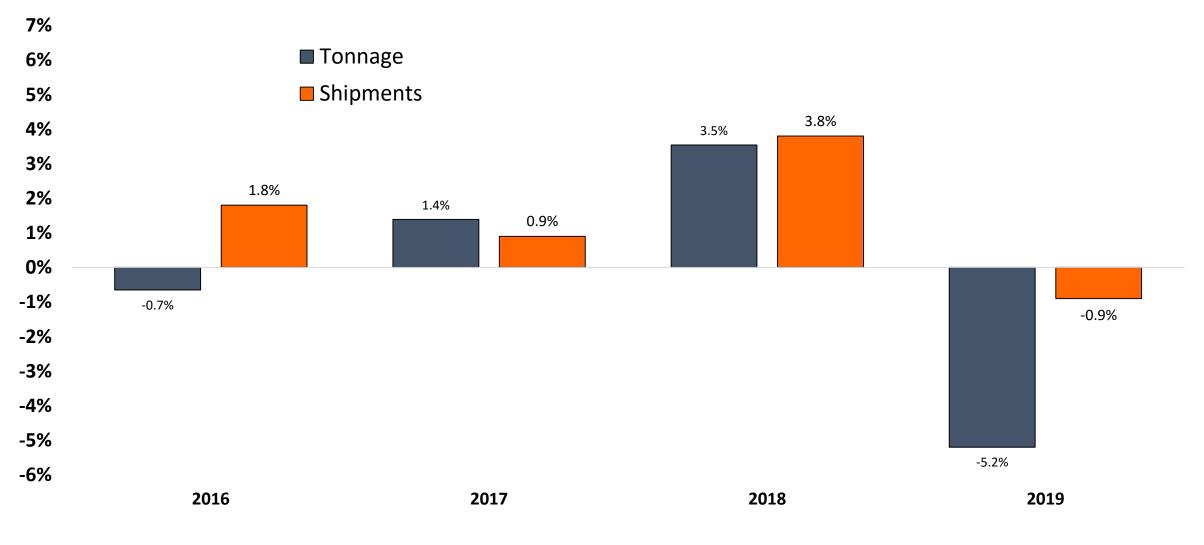
Includes Dry Van, Flatbed, Temp Controlled, and Tank Truck



Sources: ATA's Trucking Activity Report & DAT.com



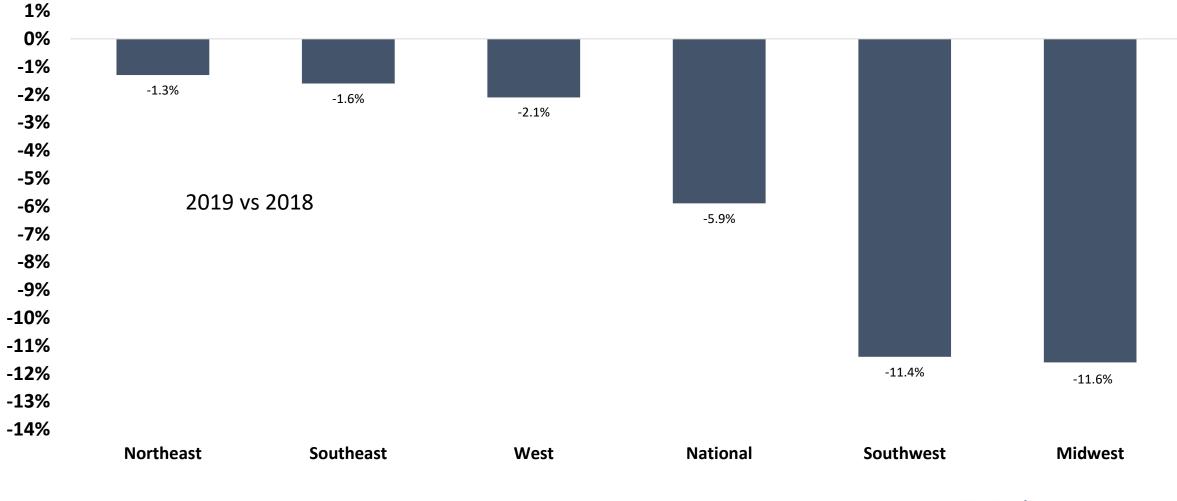
#### **LTL Metrics**





#### U.S. Bank Freight Shipments Index

#### Includes all types of TL and LTL freight

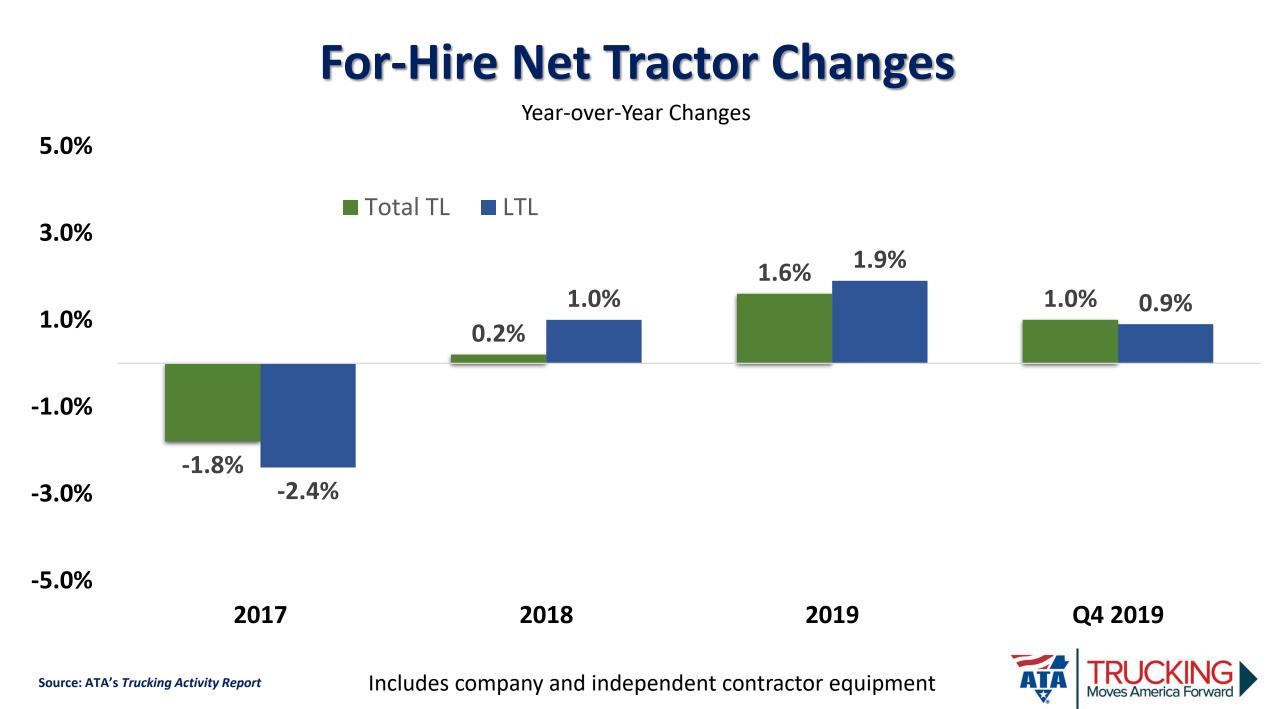




Source: U.S. Bank

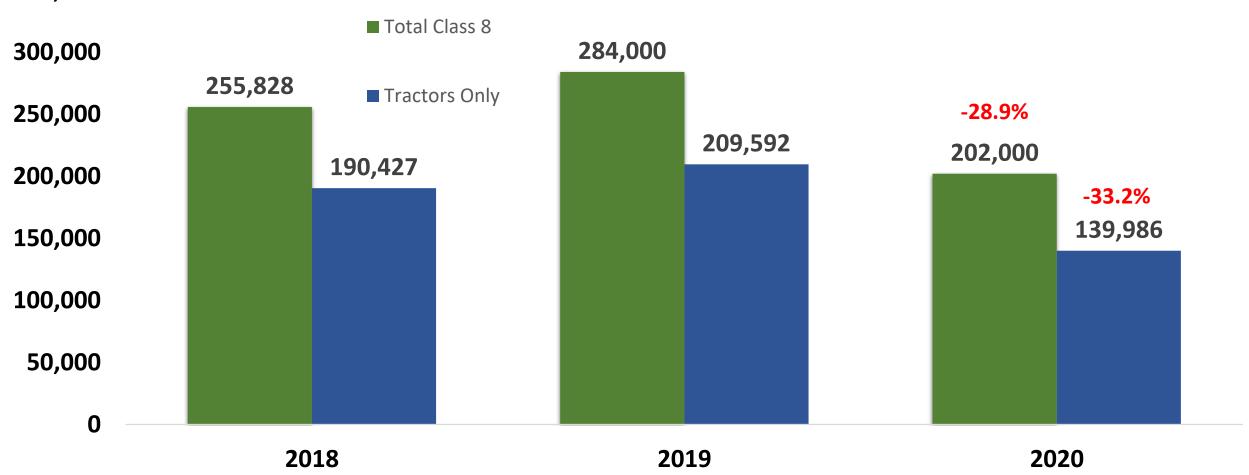
## Industry Capacity Trends





### **US Class 8 Tractor Sales**

350,000

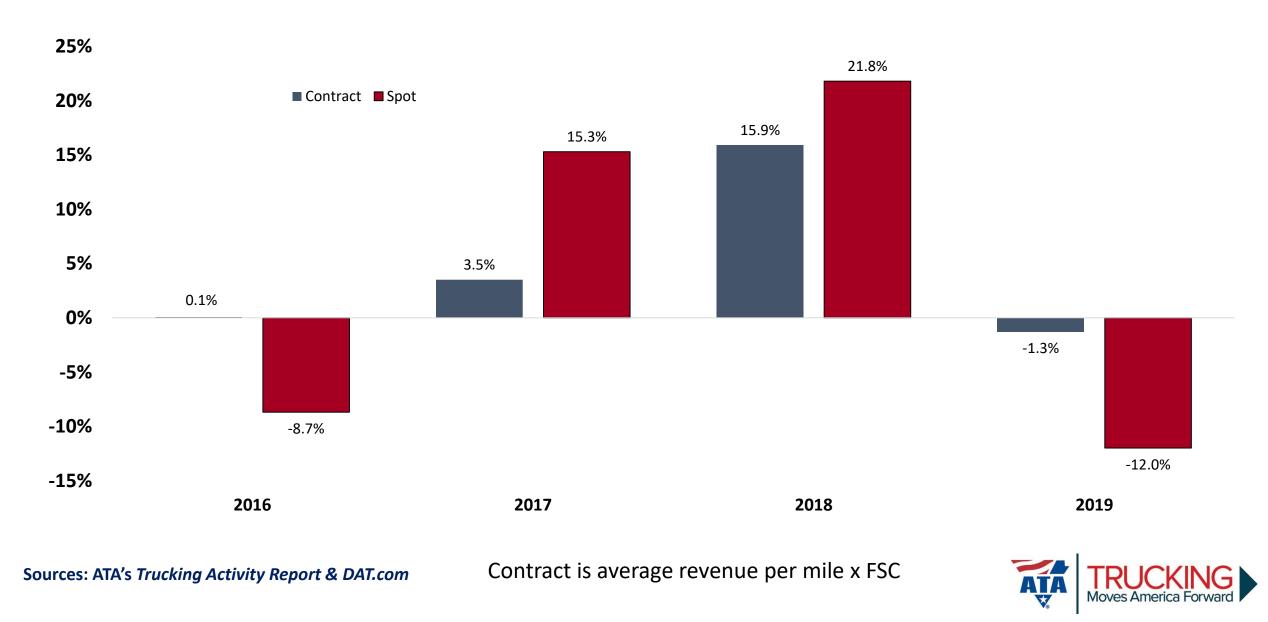




## **Pricing Trends**



#### Truckload Contract vs Spot Market Pricing



#### **Expect Continued High Fleet Closure Rates**

- Combination of higher driver pay rates, minimum pay guarantees, and soft to falling rates, especially in the spot market, will lead to:
  - Significant amount of industry failures/closures First 3 quarters 2019 795 carriers failed, 2.5x all of 2018
  - Not all of the fleets that have closed their doors have been small Celadon (2,500); New England Motor Freight (1,472); Falcon Transport (585); LME (424); Cold Carriers (339)
- Adding to closures will be liability insurance renewals with very large premium increases.
- Overall, expect tough market into Q2. Q2 should be transition quarter with a better, not great, second half as volumes improve and supply is more balanced.

