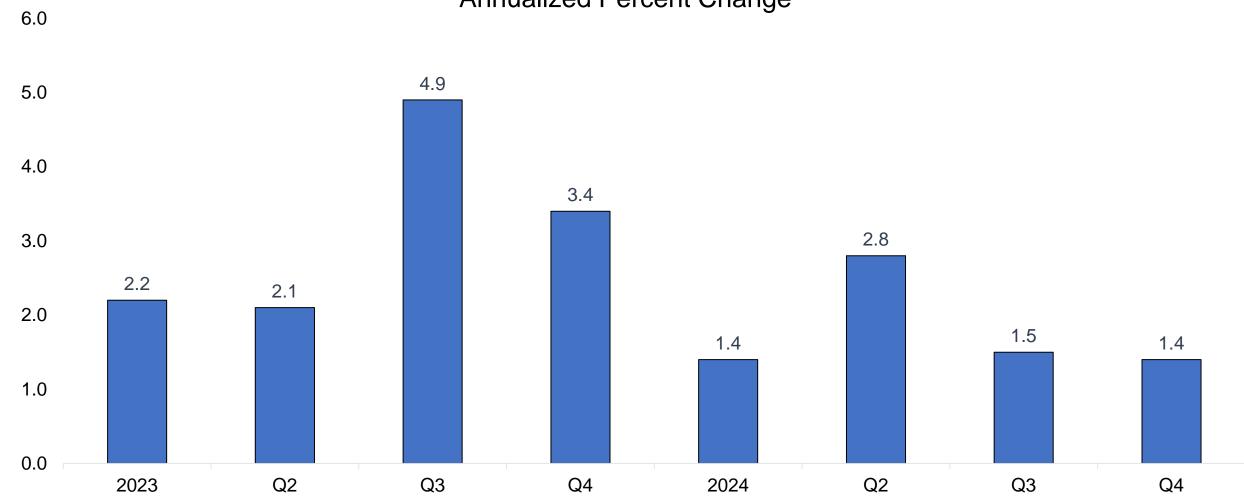
# **Economic & Trucking Industry Update**

TXTA Annual Meeting

Bob Costello
ATA Chief Economist & SVP
August 2024

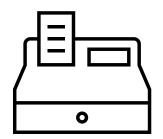
#### **Real Gross Domestic Product**

**Annualized Percent Change** 





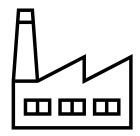
# Three Big Sources of Truck Freight



**Household Consumption/Retail** 



Construction: Home & Non-residential



**Factory & Industrial** 

We are seeing green shoots in some areas for the first time in over 2 years. Still too early to call a recovery, but it is trending better.



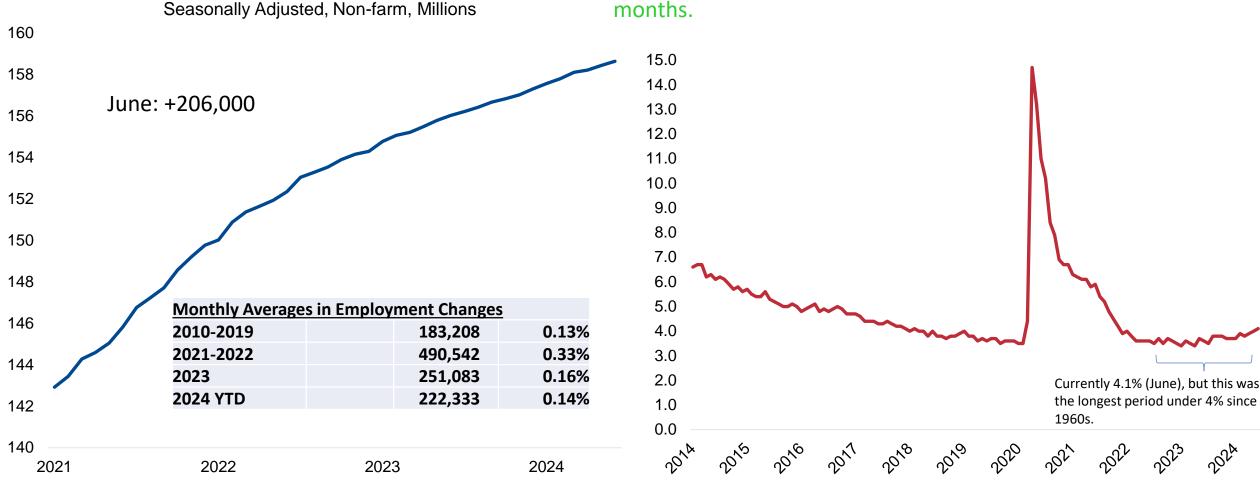


# **Key U.S. Employment Metrics**



The job market has slowed in recent months.

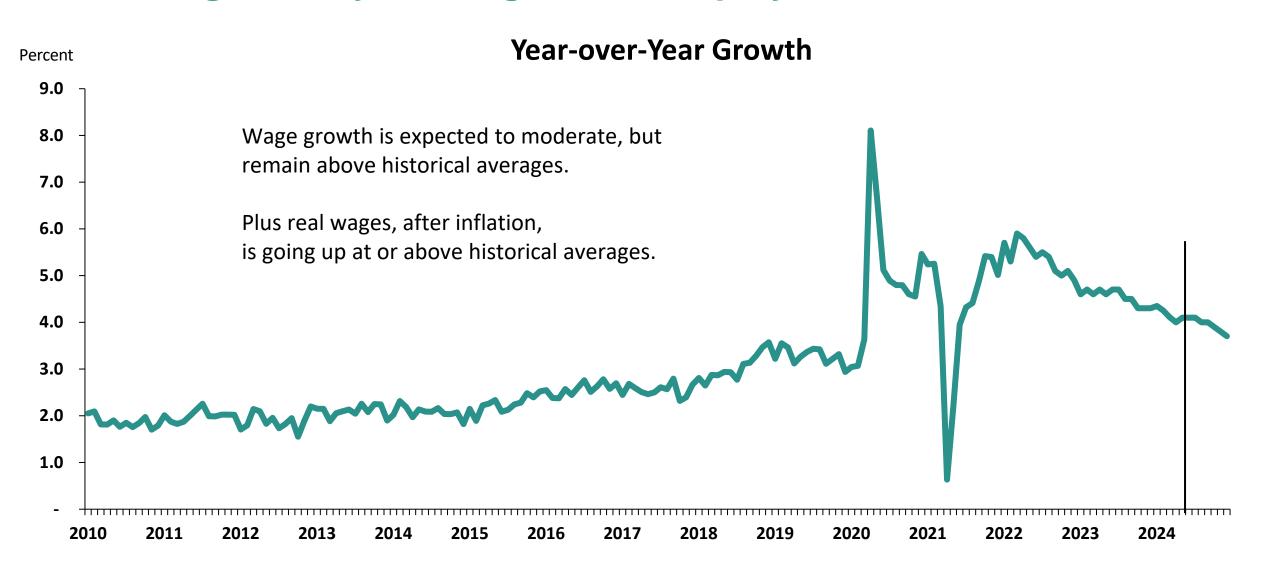
#### **Unemployment Rate**







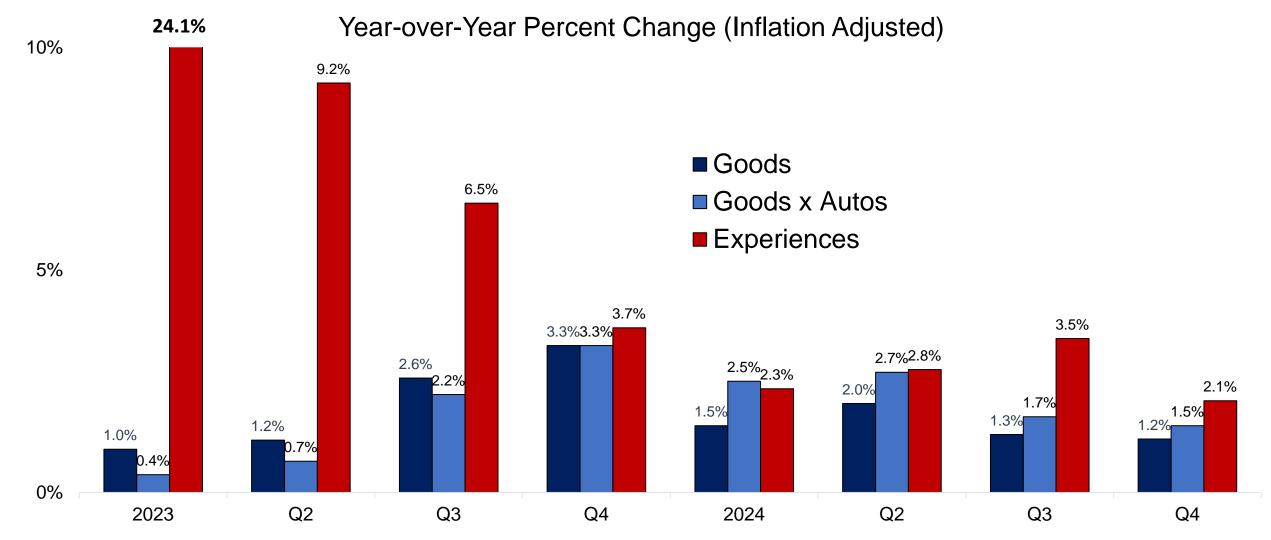
#### **Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees, Total Private Sector**







#### Consumer Spending – Goods vs Experiences

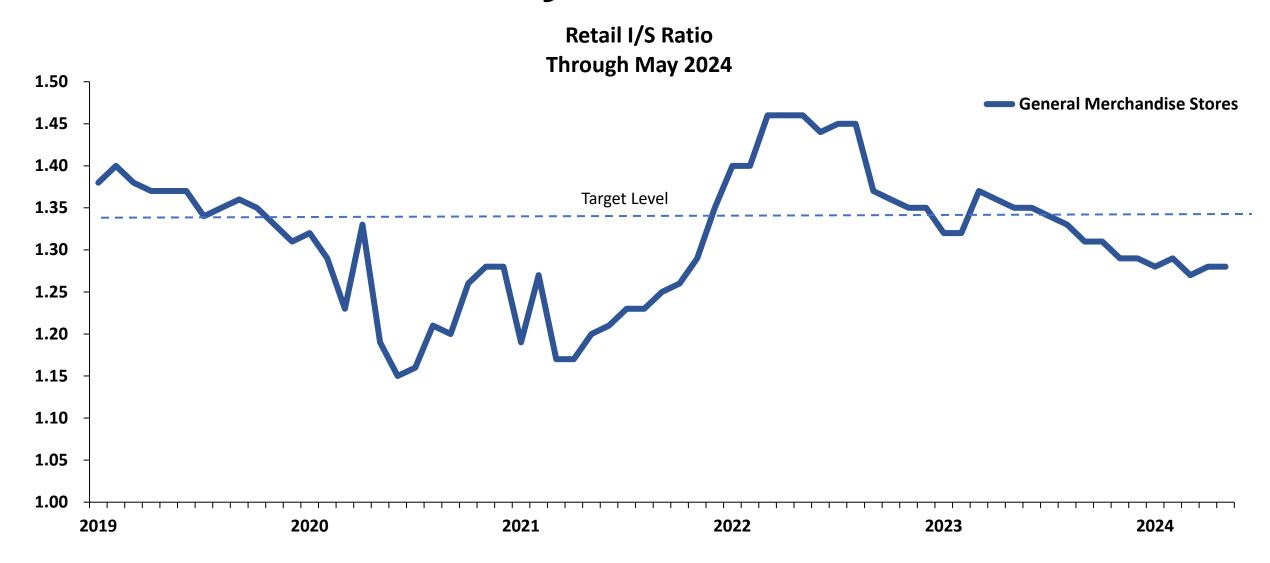




Auto sales are interest rate sensitive.



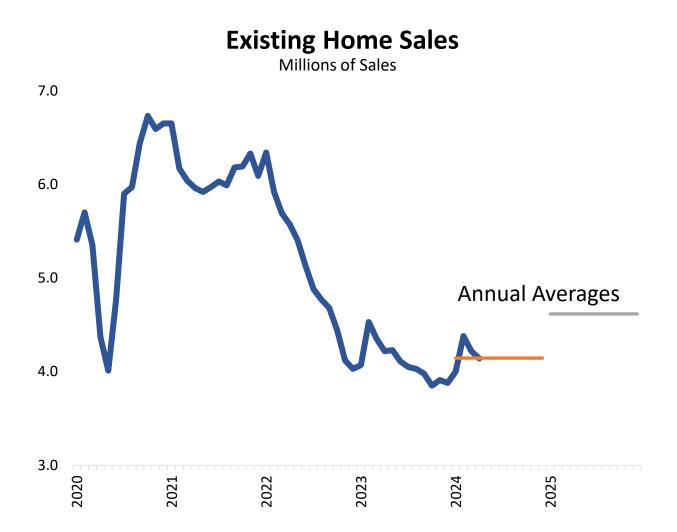
## **Inventory-to-Sales Ratio**

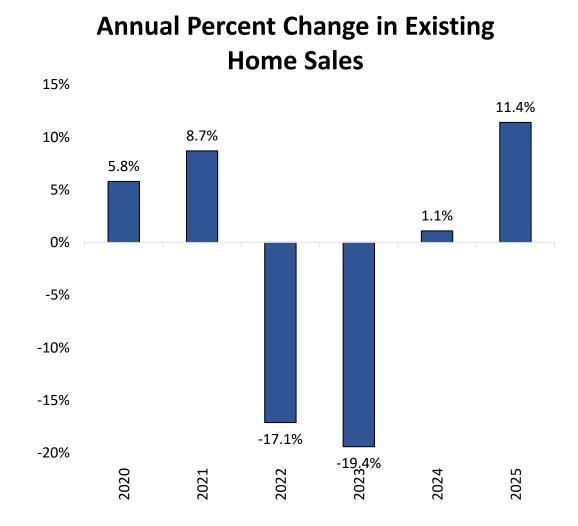






# **Housing Market**

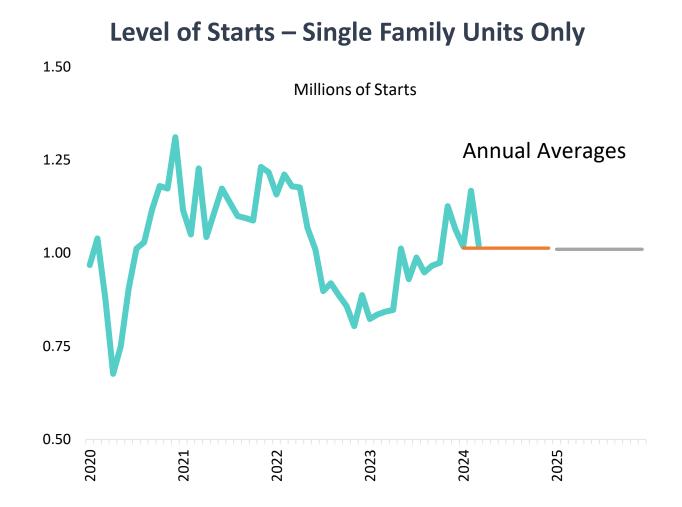


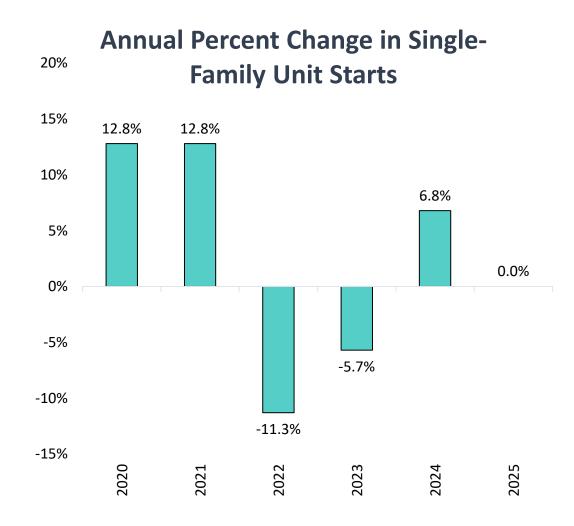






#### **Home Construction Market**

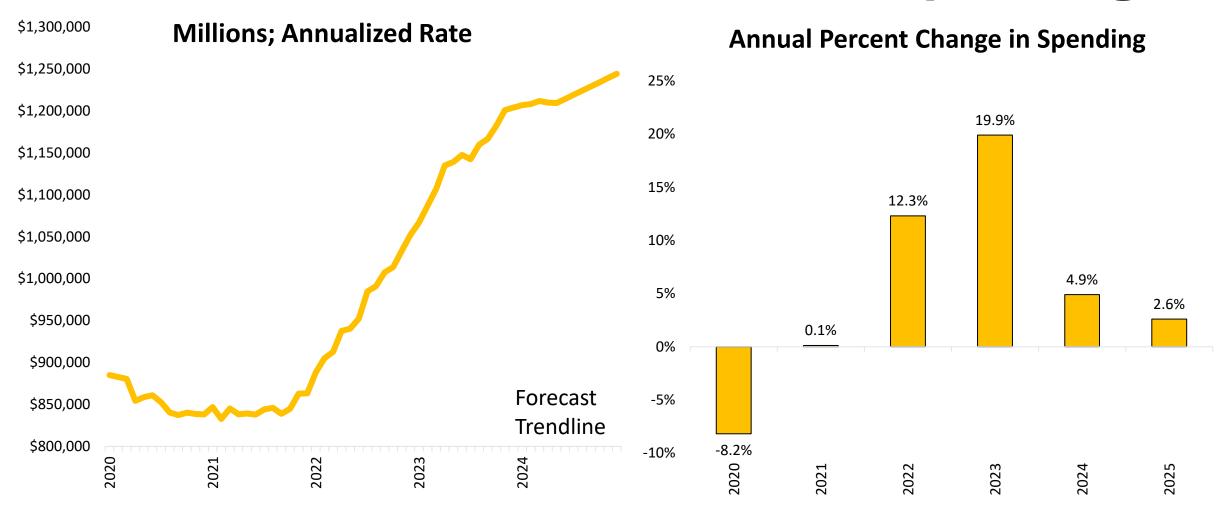








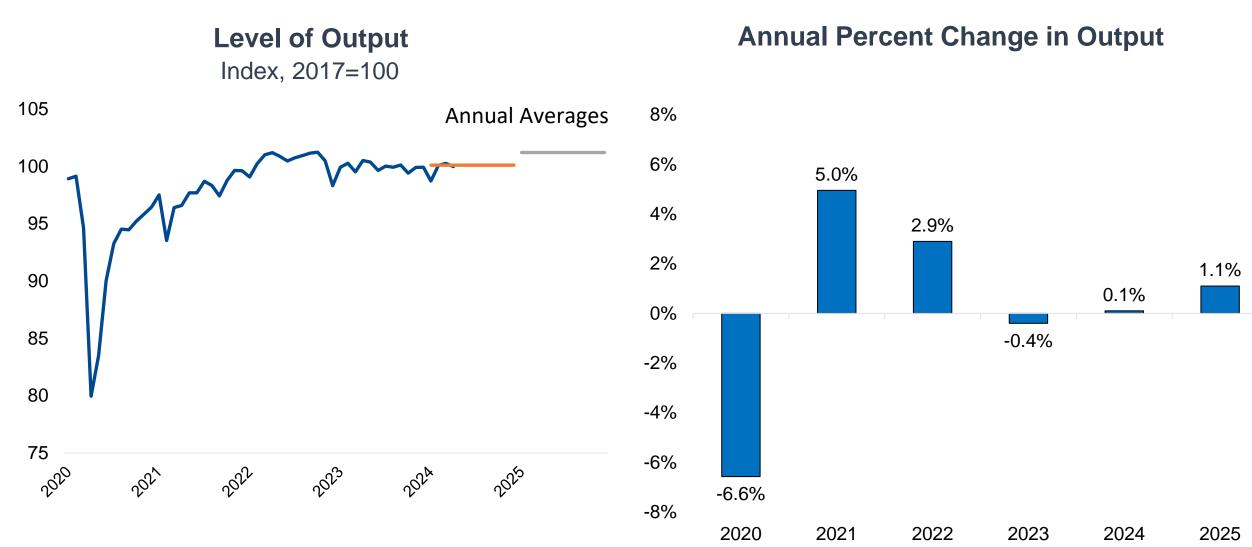
# Non-Residential Construction Spending



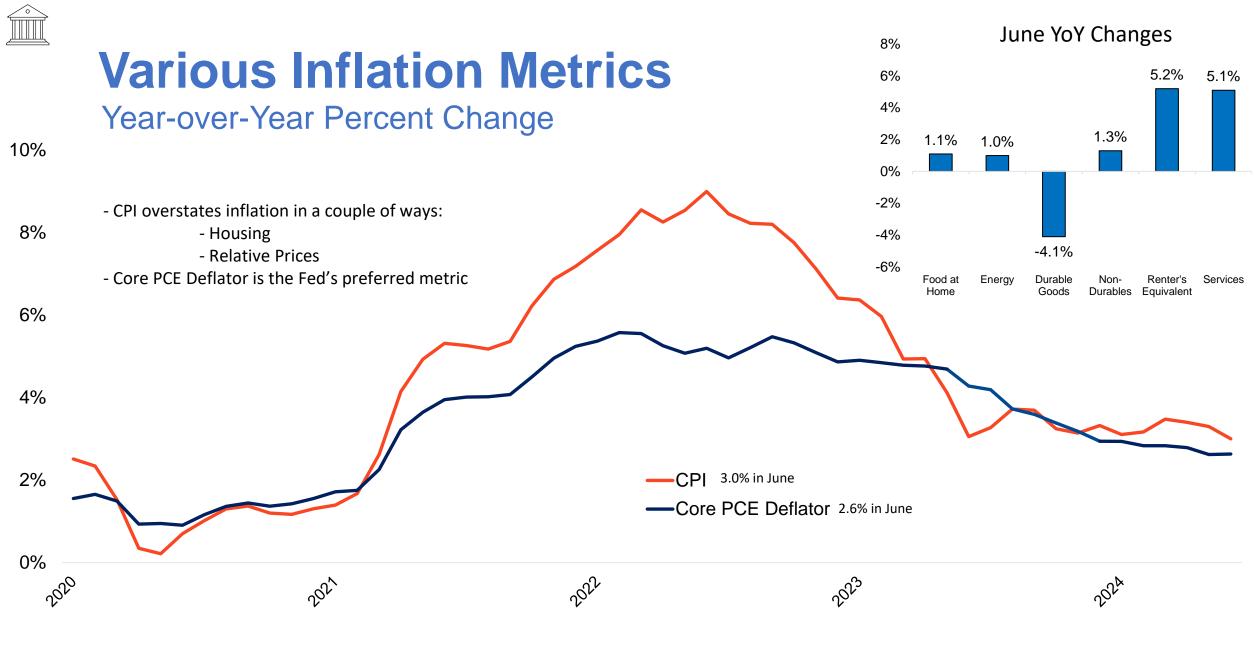




### **Factory Output**



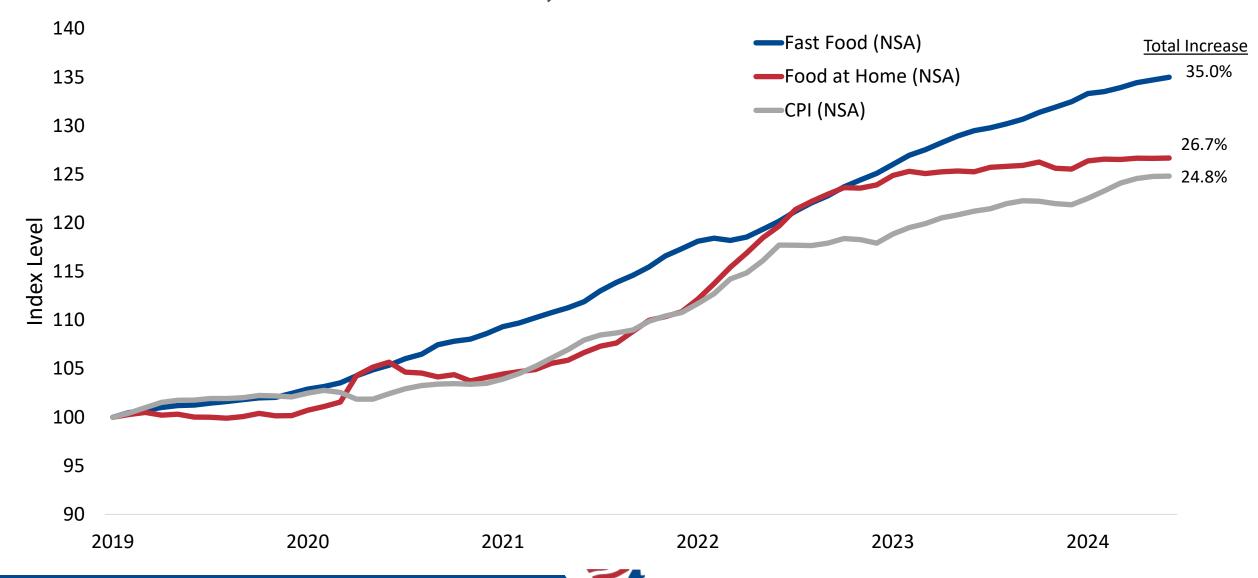






#### Various Food Service Prices vs Overall Inflation

Index, Jan 2019 = 100



Source: BLS

Trucking.org

#### **Truck Market Summary**

#### **Demand**

- Some indications that contract TL freight is at or near a bottom.
- While spot market may be near a bottom too, it has fallen significantly more that contract freight, a bad situation for fleets that get most of their freight in the traditional spot market.

#### **Supply**

- While supply has been slow to exit the industry, data shows fleets are leaving and ironically the pace of exits could accelerate as the market starts to improve.
  - Fleets and I.C.s are behind on truck payments and lenders could demand accelerated payments when the market improves – and many fleets are unlikely to be able to make accelerated payments.

#### **Costs**

• The industry has been hit was a recession and higher cost inflation at the same time. This stagflation environment is a terrible situation to be in and will likely push more fleets under in the months ahead.

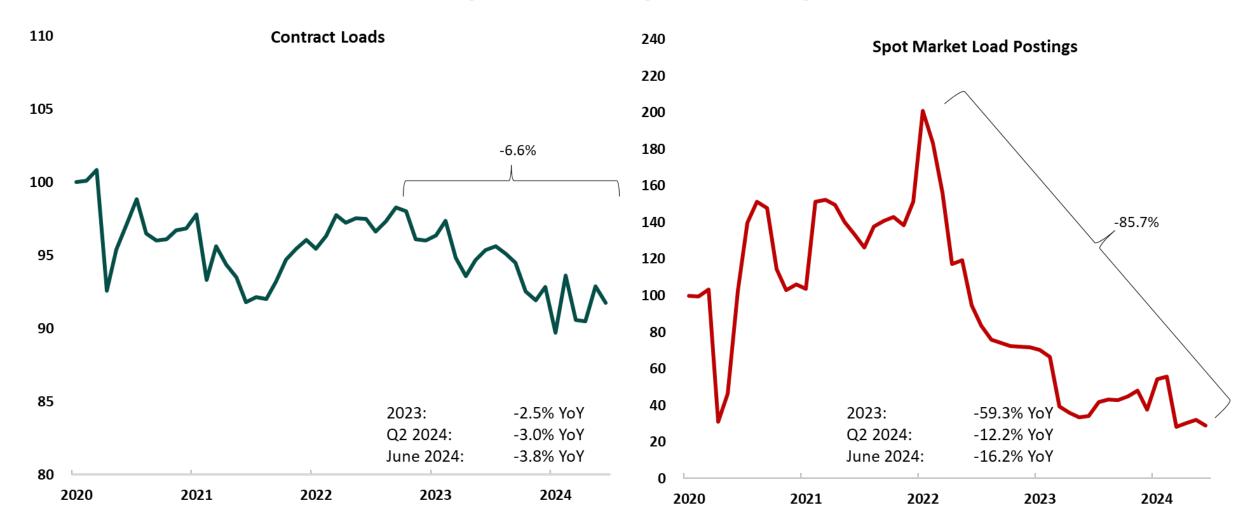






#### **Truckload Loads**

(Index; January 2020 = 100)



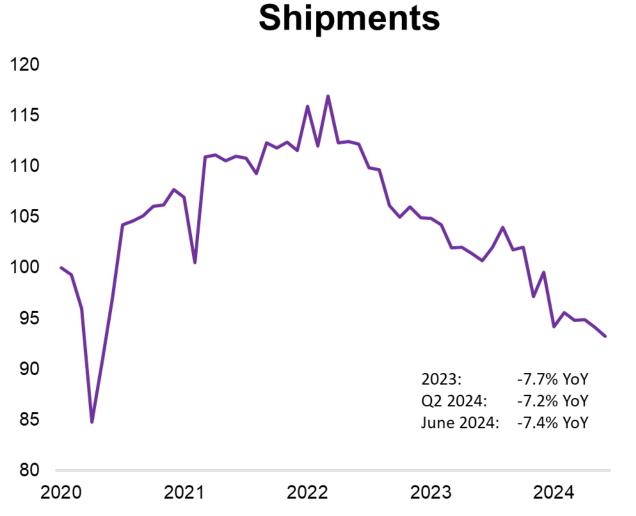


Includes all types of truckload freight.

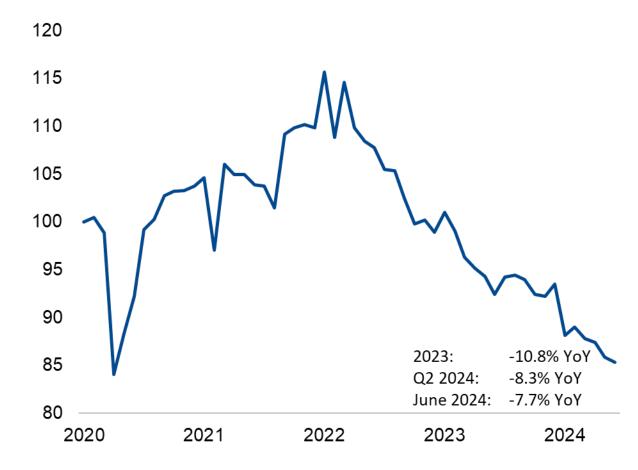


# LTL Shipments and Tonnage

Index, January 2020 = 100



#### **Tonnage**





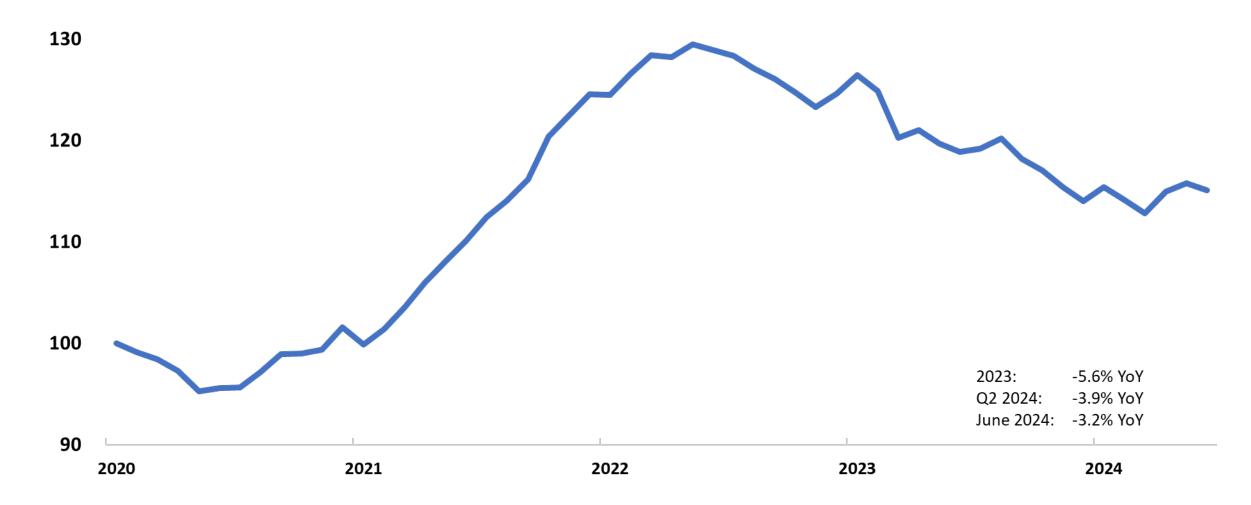


# Trucking Supply Trends— Market Pressures



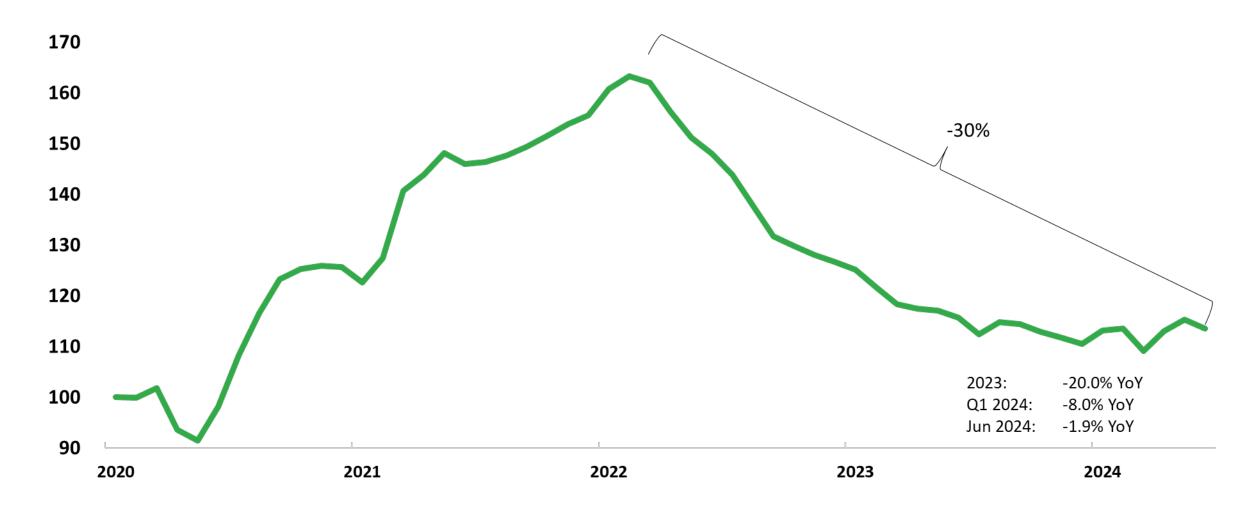
#### **Contract Truckload Average Revenue per Mile**

(Index; January 2020 = 100)





# Spot Market Rates (Index; January 2020 = 100)



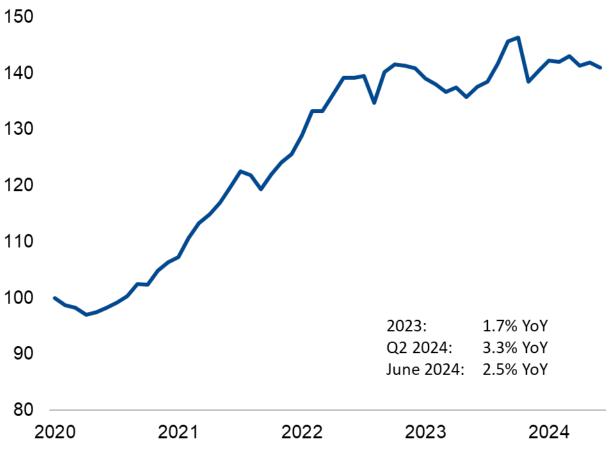




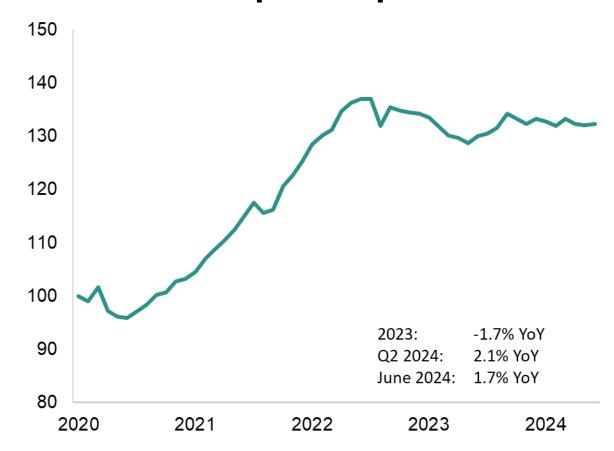
### LTL Pricing Proxy Metrics

Index, January 2020 = 100

#### Revenue per Ton



#### Revenue per Shipment





Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report

Note: Revenue metrics exclude fuel surcharge revenue.

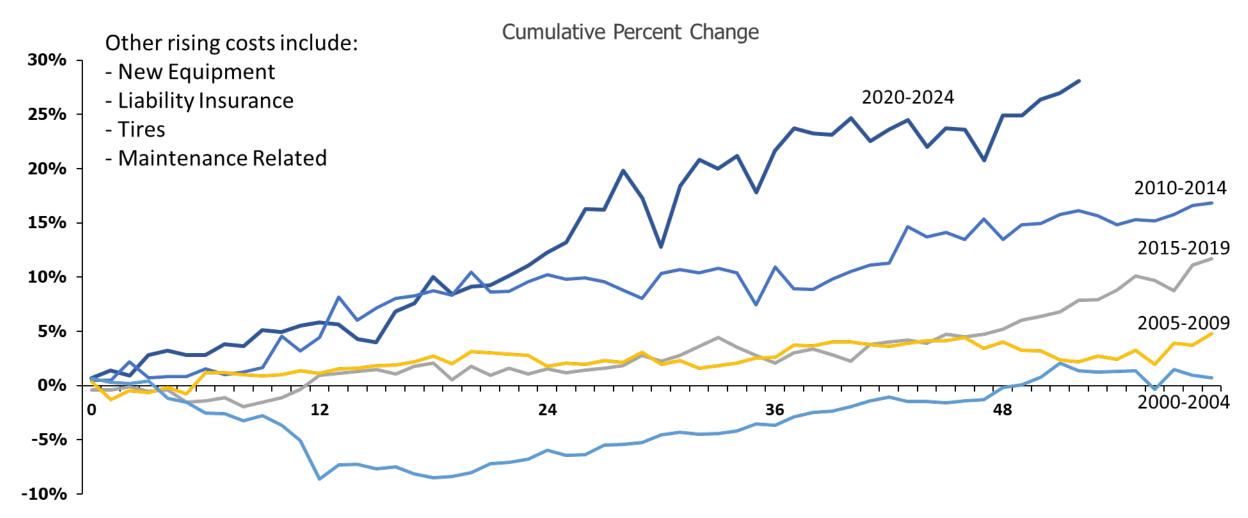


# Trucking Supply Trends— Cost Pressures



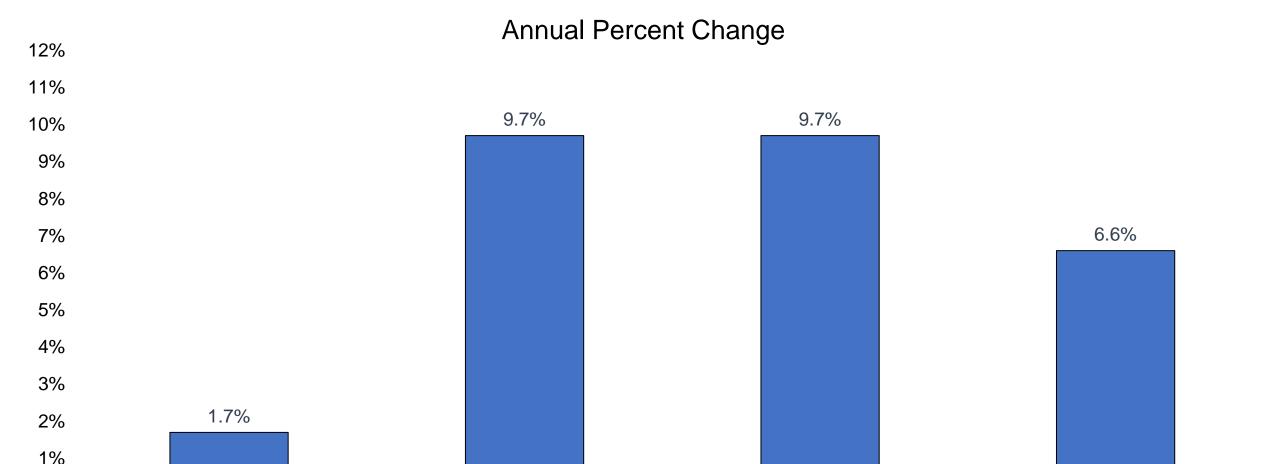
# **Average Hourly Earnings**

Production & Non-Supervisory Workers in the General Freight, Long-Distance For-Hire Trucking Industry





#### Operational Cost of Trucking for TL, LTL, & Specialized





2021

Includes: TL, Specialized, and LTL

2023

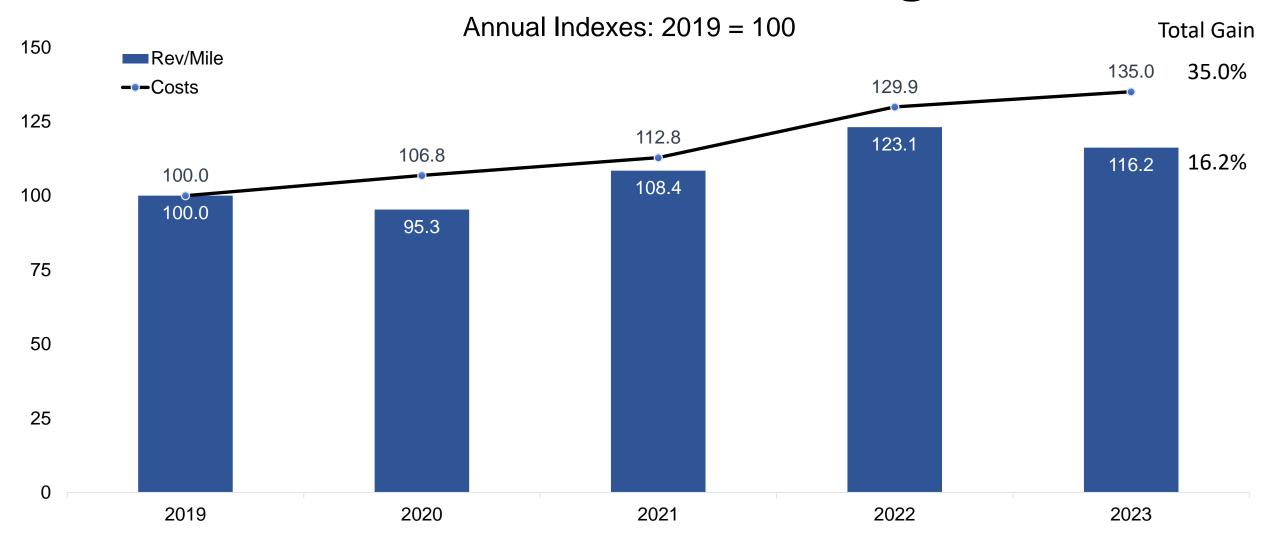
**Excludes Fuel Expenses** 

2022

2020

0%

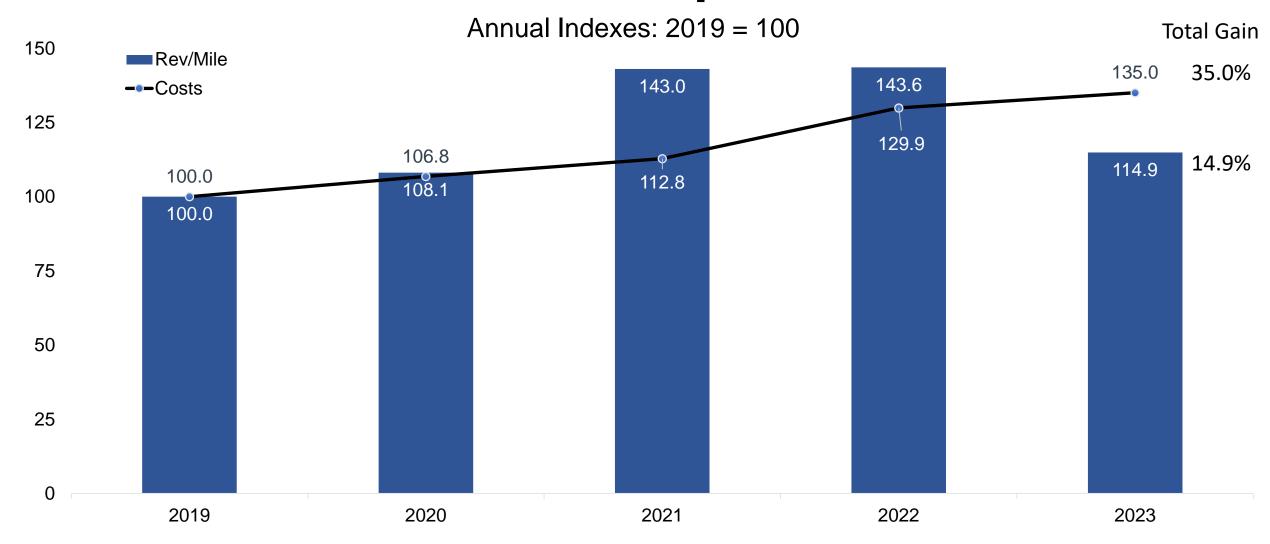
# Truckload: Costs vs Contract Freight Rev/Mile



- Data excludes fuel expenses and fuel surcharge revenues.
- Revenue data contains very little traditional spot market revenue. Data is primarily contract freight revenue.



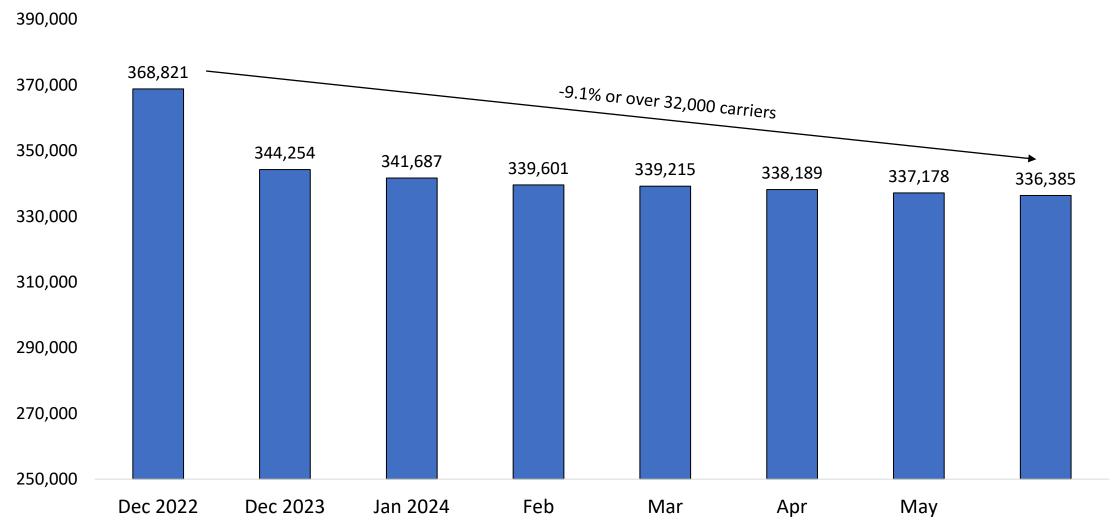
## Truckload: Costs vs Spot Market Rates







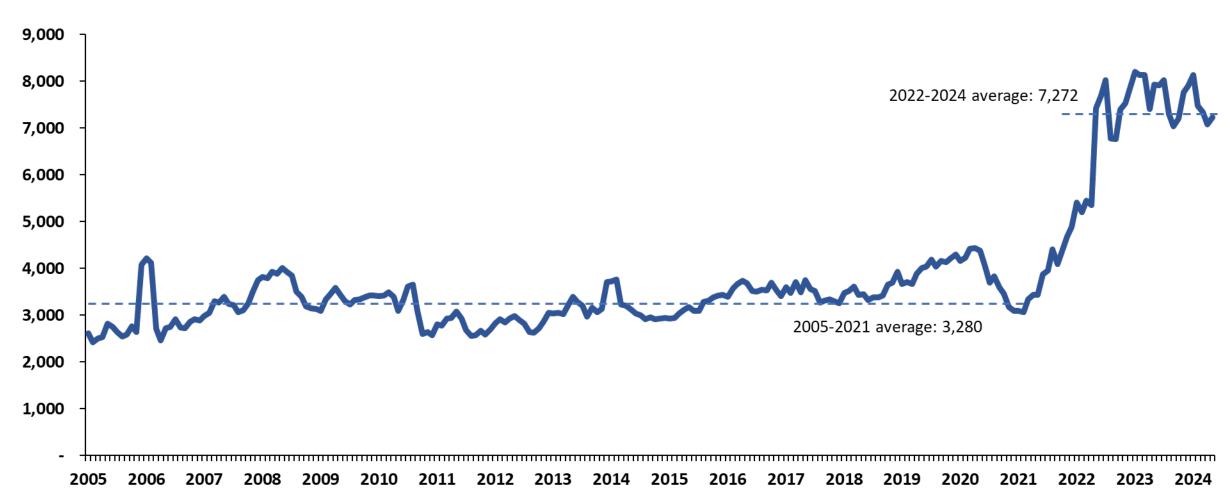
# Property Carriers with Interstate Operating Authority are Exiting the Market





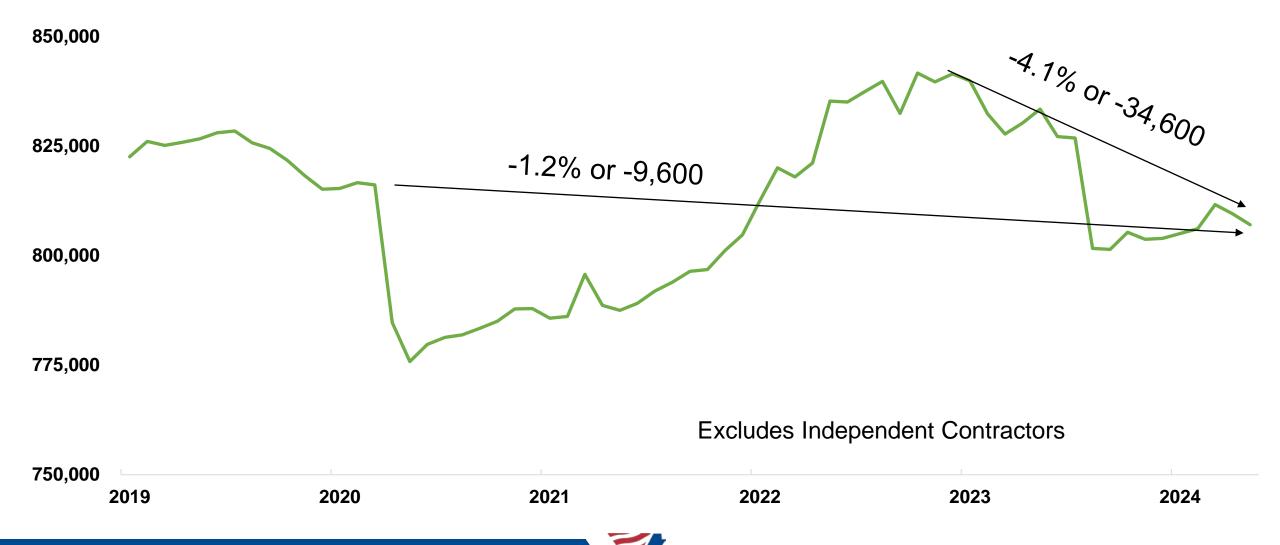
#### **FMCSA Revocations Data**

**3-Month Moving Average** 





# Production & Nonsupervisory Employees: General Freight & Specialized Long-Distance TL & LTL

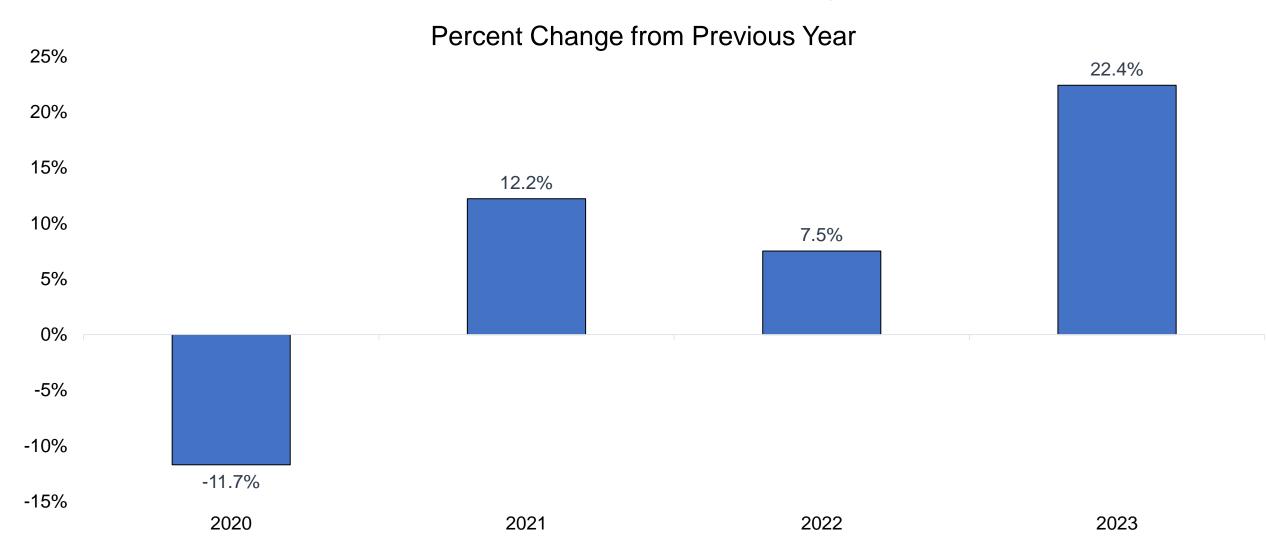


Trucking.org

Sources: DOL & ATA



#### **Inbound Loaded Trucks at LPOE from Mexico**





#### Things I'm Watching

#### **Bright Outlook**

- The only thing that the two U.S. presidential candidates agree on is trade policy and tariffs.
- Expect continued strong growth in Mexico as a result.

#### **B-1 Drivers**

• It has become clear that some U.S. based carriers are illegally using Mexican B-1 drivers. ATA is asking the federal government to crack down on this activity, not only on the drivers, but the fleets using them.

#### **USMCA**

• USMCA comes up for review in 2026. It should be a "technical" review, but politics is likely to get involved.



