## Bob Costello Chief Economist & Vice President American Trucking Associations

**Economic & Motor Carrier Industry Webinar** 

For ATA Members Only

December 10, 2013



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# **The Freight Economy**

- •Washington continues to be a headwind on economic growth – debt ceiling fight and healthcare in the near term.
- The housing recovery and auto production are helping freight volumes.
- The U.S. energy production boom is boosting truck tonnage.
- Manufacturing activity has picked up in recent months.
- Consumer spending remains choppy, for now.



#### **Various Housing Industry Measures**

(YTD Year-Over-Year Percent Change)

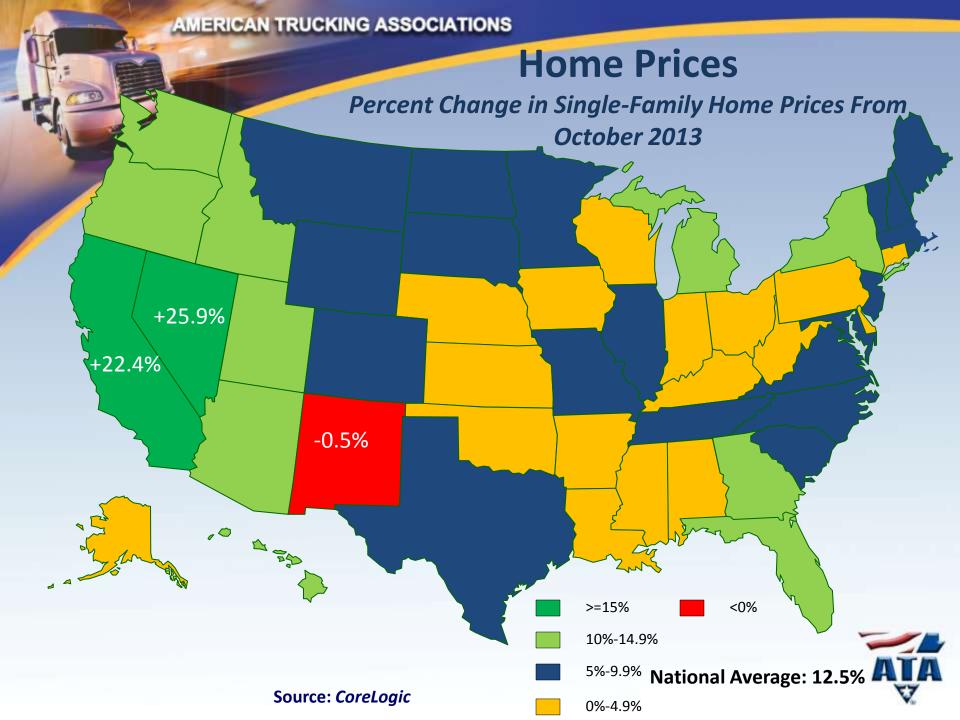


Sources: Census Bureau, NAR, and ATA

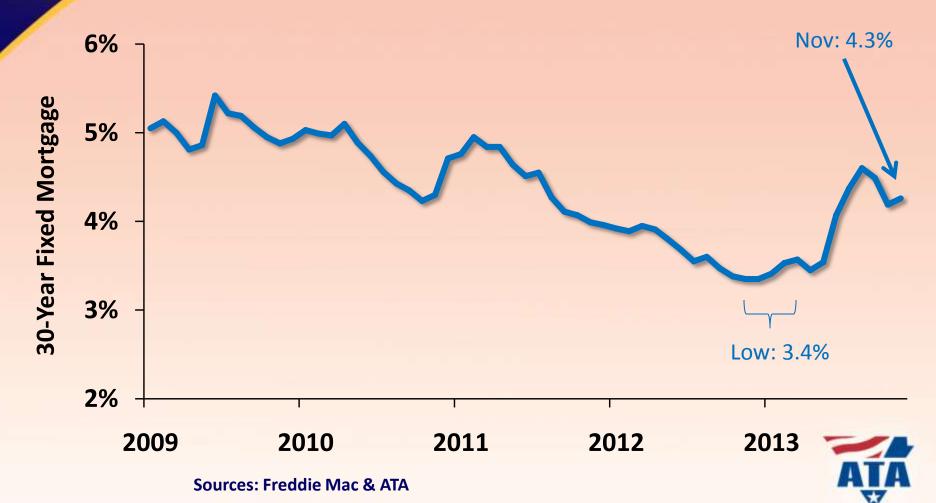
30%

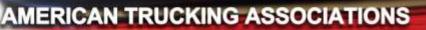
# Will recent increases in home prices and interest rates derail the housing recovery?





# **The Housing Recovery**







# **Housing Summary**

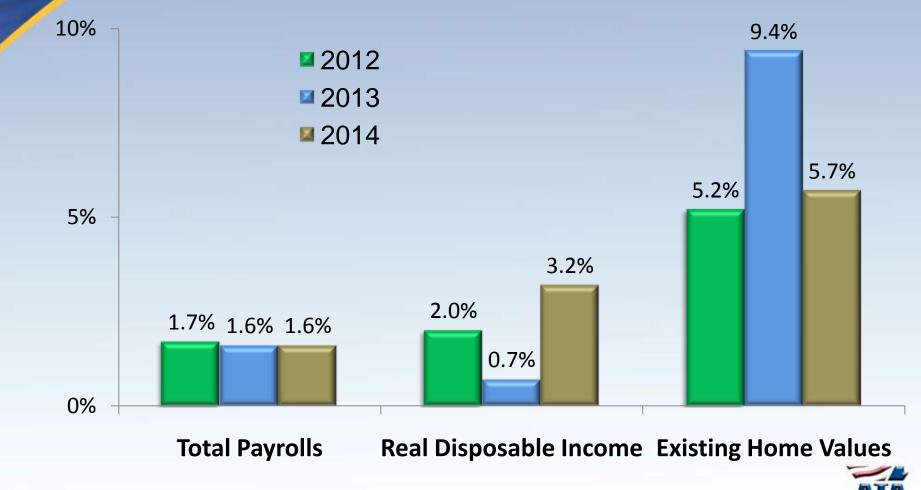
- Rising prices and rising mortgage rates have already slowed the housing recovery, but they will not detail it.
- 5-months supply of existing homes in October, down slightly from 5.2-months in October 2012, which is helping home building.

Distressed homes – foreclosures and short sales – were 14% of sales in October, down from 25% a year earlier.
Home prices increased 12.5% from October 2012, the 20<sup>th</sup> straight gain, although prices are still 17.3% below April 2006 peak.



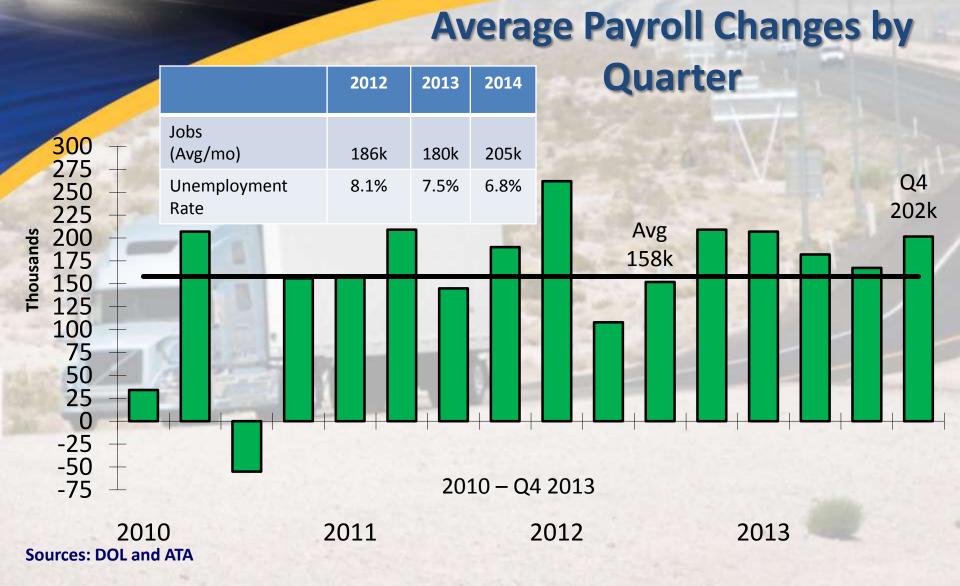
# What drives consumer spending?

#### **Drivers of Household Spending**

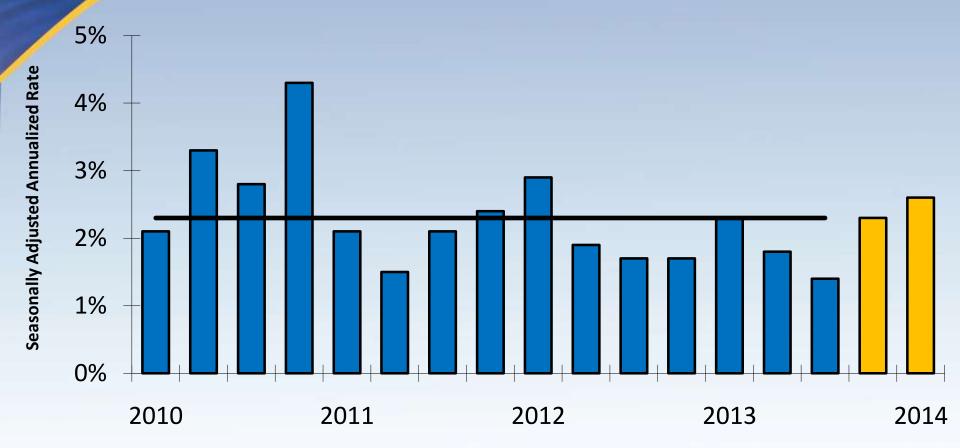


Sources: BEA, BLS, and ATA

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### **Real Consumer Spending**

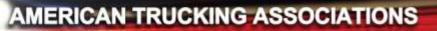




Sources: BEA and ATA

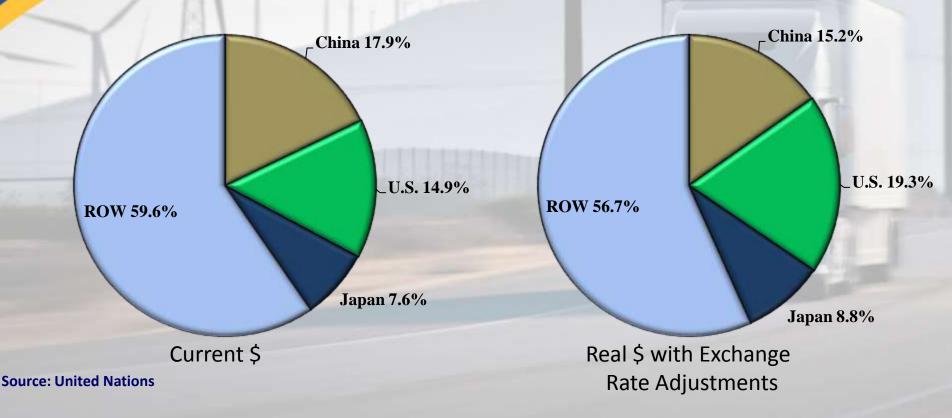


# Does the U.S. "make" anything anymore?



#### **World's Top Manufacturing Economies**

Fact: U.S. is largest or second largest manufacturing country depending on how it is measured.

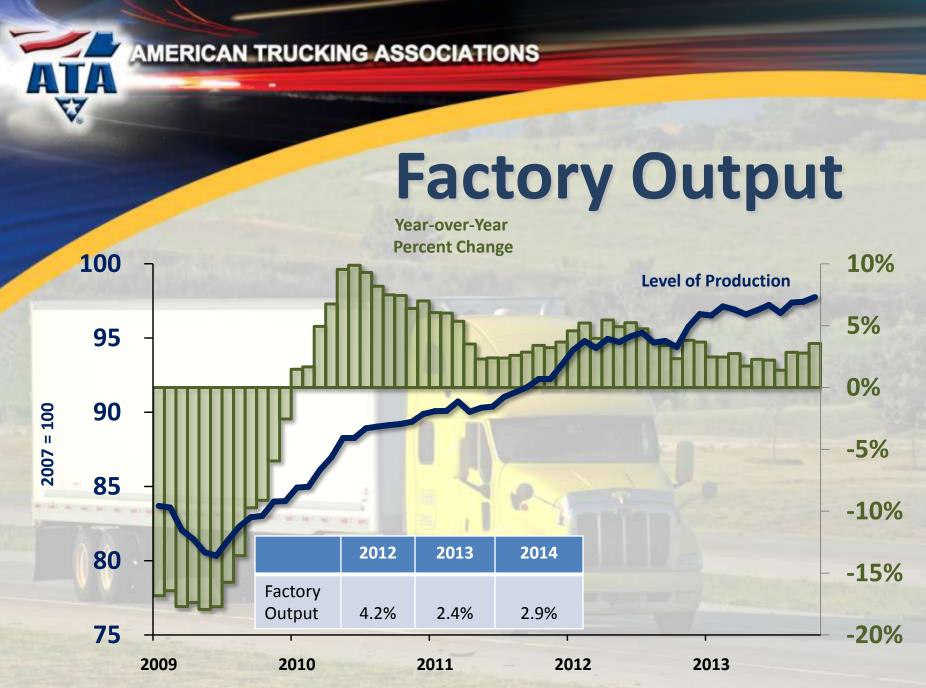


### **New Factory Orders x Aircraft**

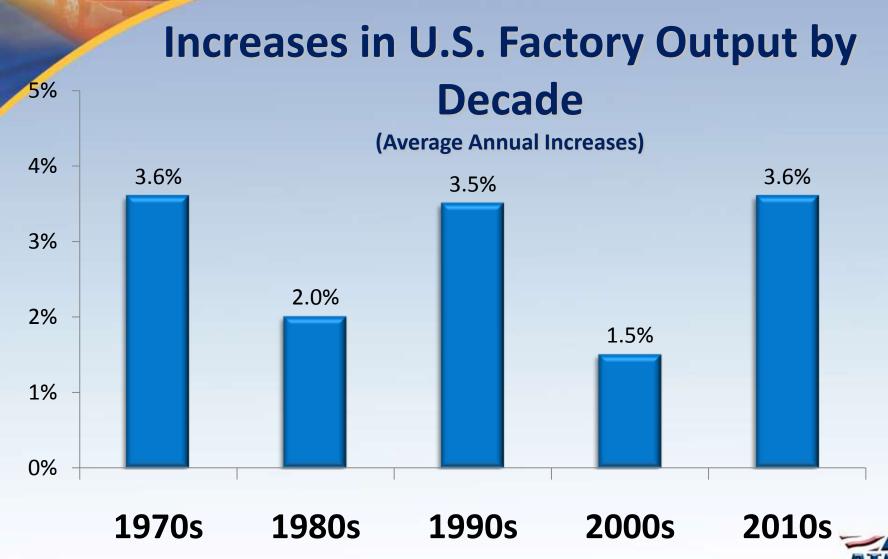


Sources: Census Bureau & ATA

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Sources: Federal Reserve & ATA

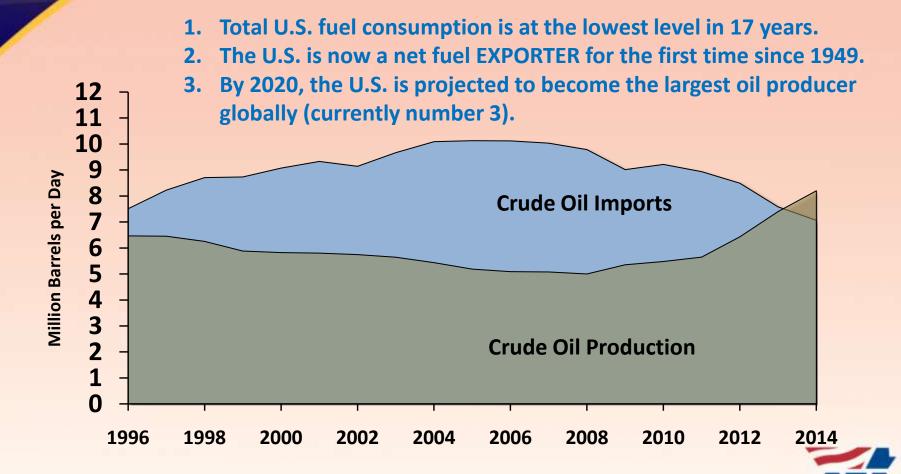


**Sources: Federal Reserve and ATA** 

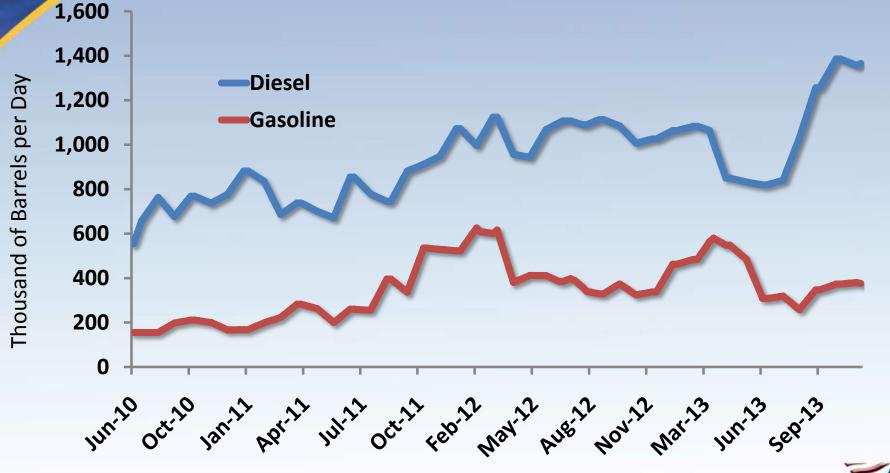


# Is the U.S. really becoming energy independent?

#### **U.S. is Becoming Energy Independent**



# **U.S. Exports** Diesel vs Gasoline



**Source: Energy Information Administration** 

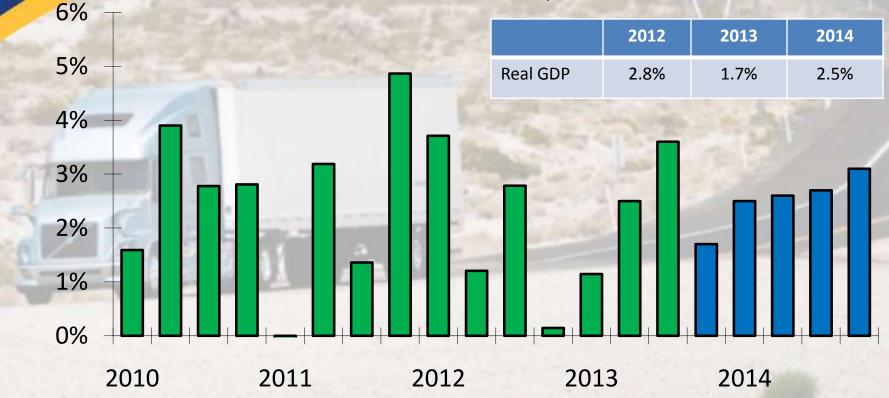


# **GDP Forecast & Risks**

### **Real Gross Domestic Product**

(quarterly, annualized rate percent change, 2005 dollars)

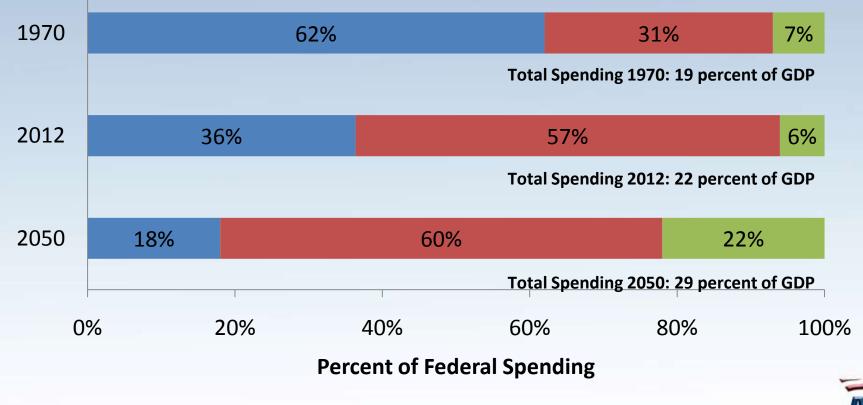
2010 – Q4 2014



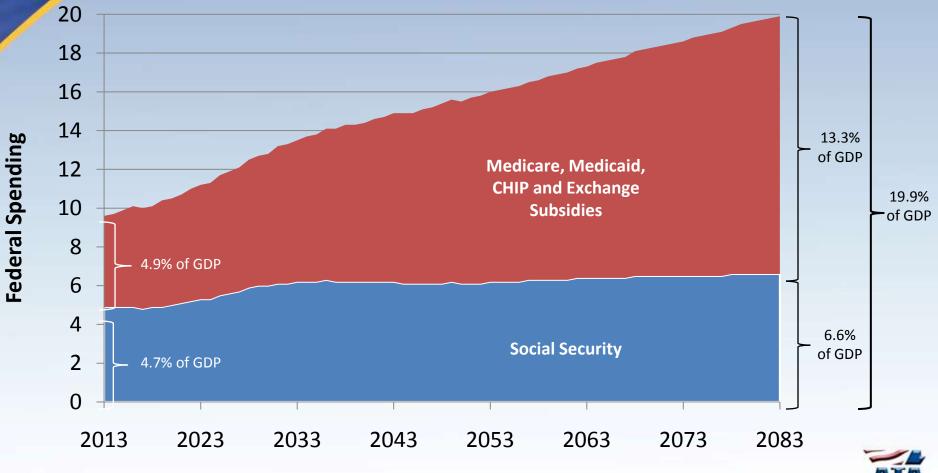
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# **Federal Spending**

Discretionary Mandatory Net Interest



#### Federal entitlement programs as a percentage of GDP



Source: Congressional Budget Office, The Long-Term Budget Outlook, September 2013.

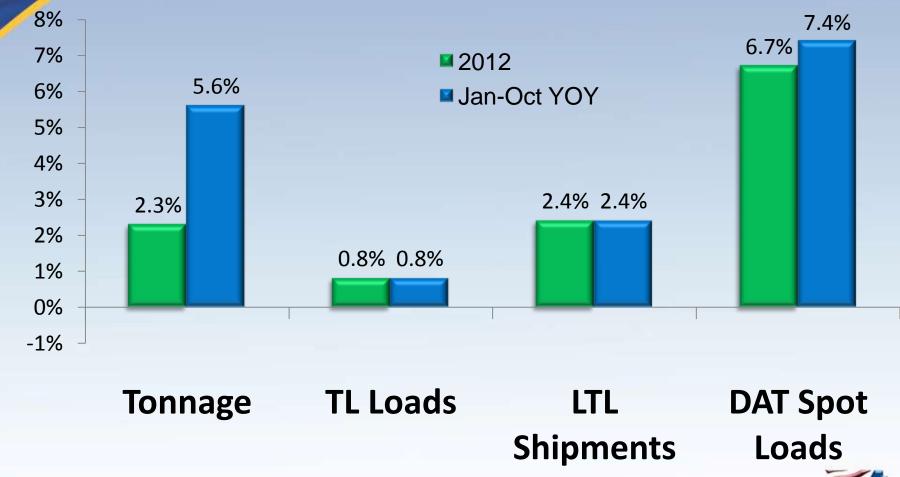


# **Trucking Trends:**

# Demand

#### **Changes in Freight Volumes**

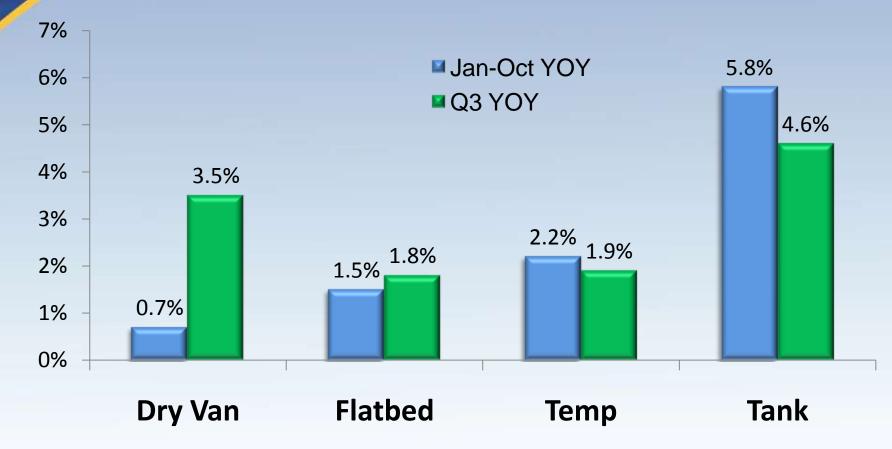
(Seasonally Adjusted)



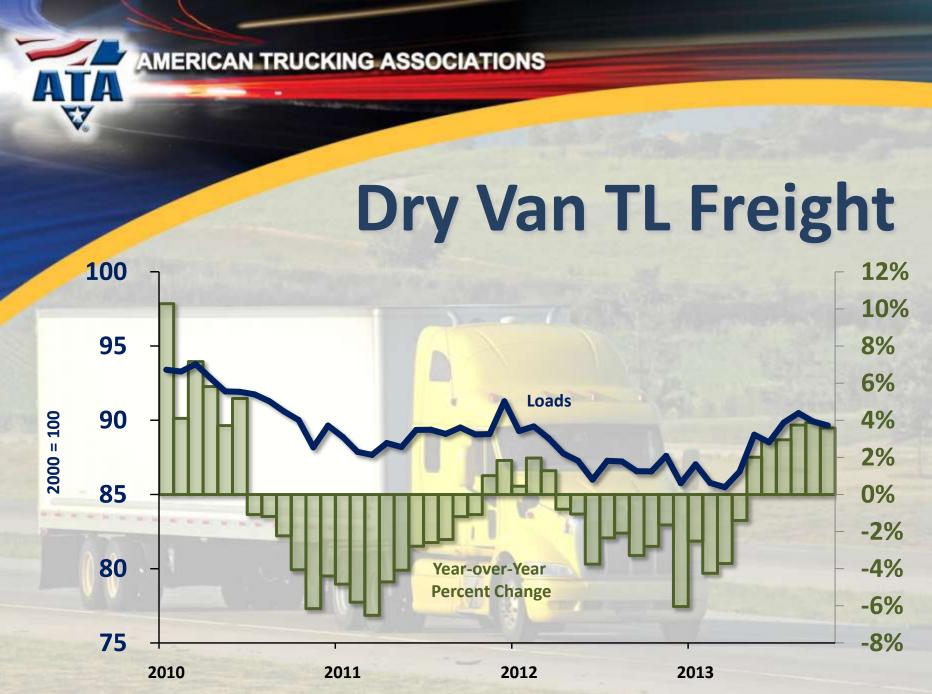
Sources: ATA's Monthly Truck Tonnage Report, Trucking Activity Report, & DAT.com

#### **Changes in TL Loads by Sector**

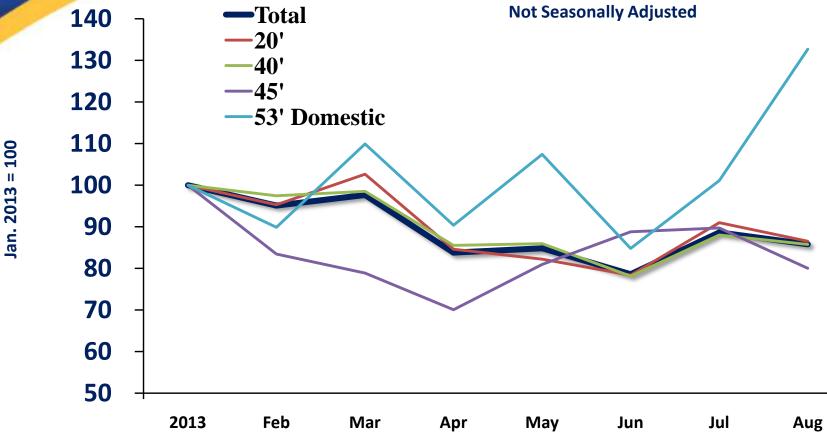
(Seasonally Adjusted)



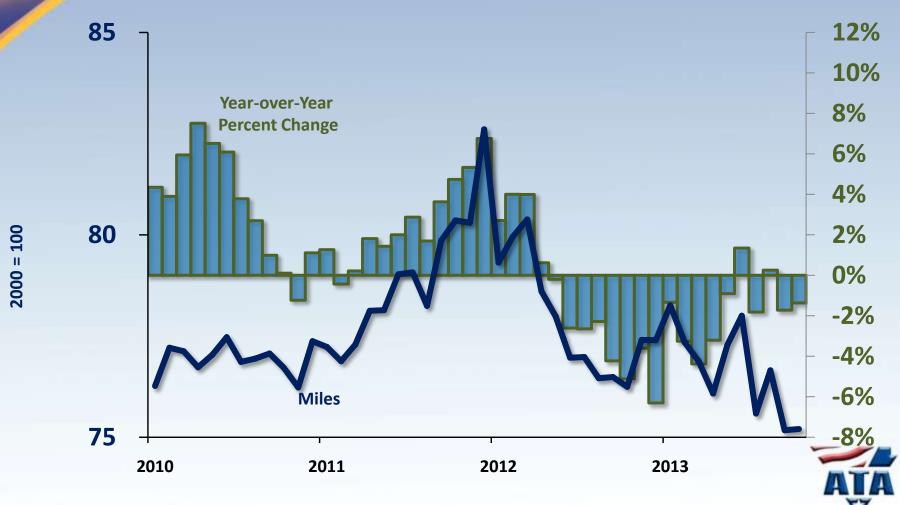




# **Drayage Loads**



# **Total TL Miles**

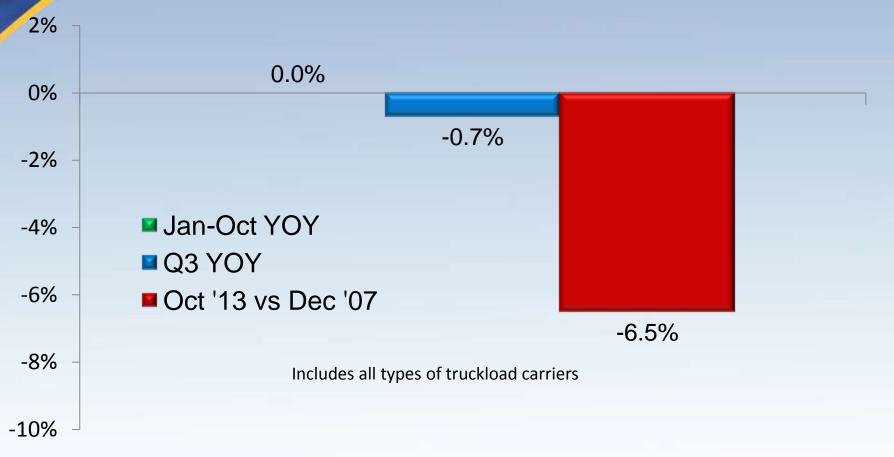


# **Trucking Trends:**

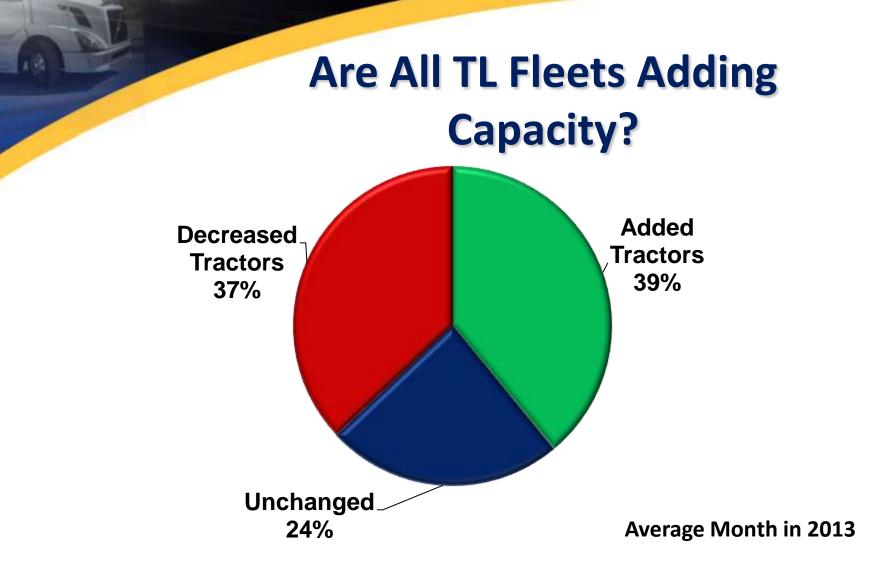




#### **TL Tractor Changes** (Percent Change in the Number of Company & IC Tractors)







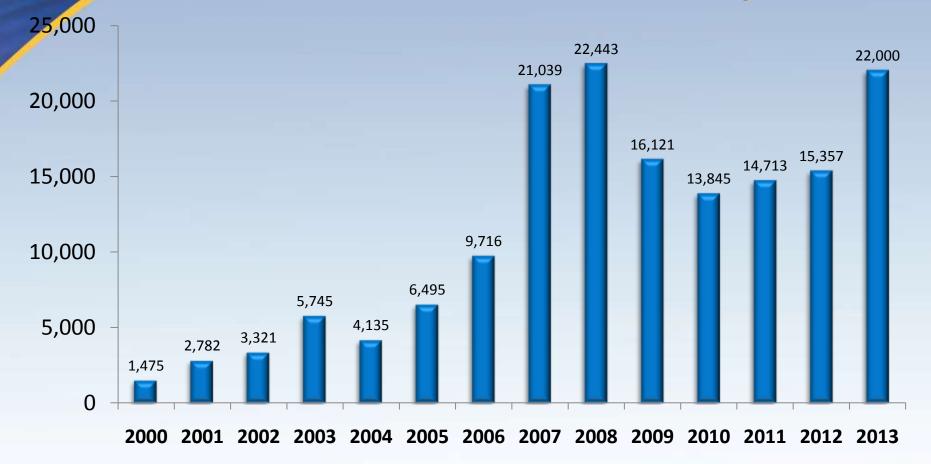
**Source: ATA** 

#### **LTL Truck Changes**





#### **U.S. Used Class 8 Truck Exports**





Sources: U.S. Trade Data & ATA

**TL Supply vs Demand TL Loads Index** 2005 = 100**TL Tractor Count Index** Oversupply **Through October 2013** 

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Source: ATA

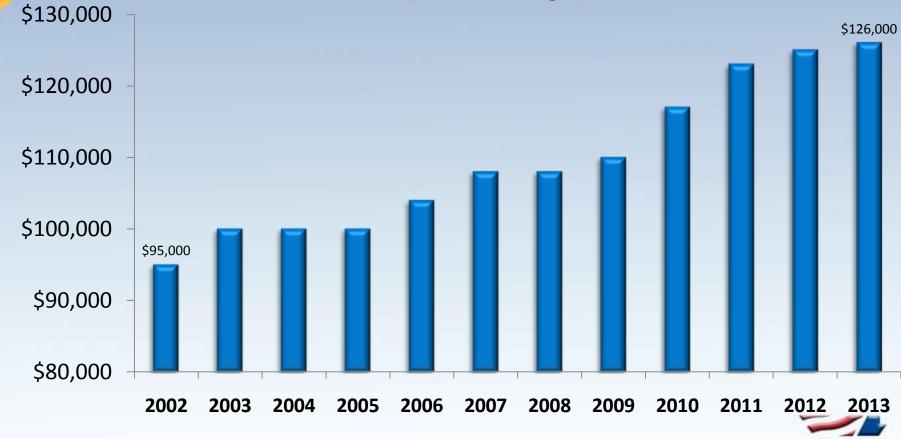
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## Industry Costs: Margin Pressures Until the Capacity Crunch

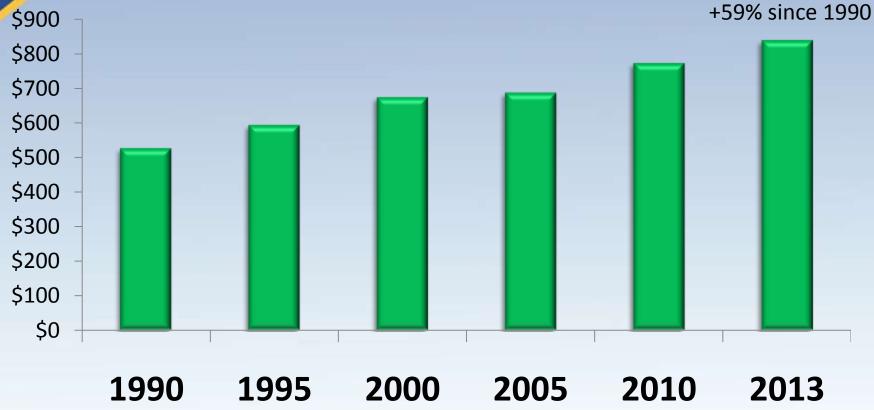
### **New Tractor (Sleeper) Price Estimate**

(Annual Averages)



Source: ACT Research

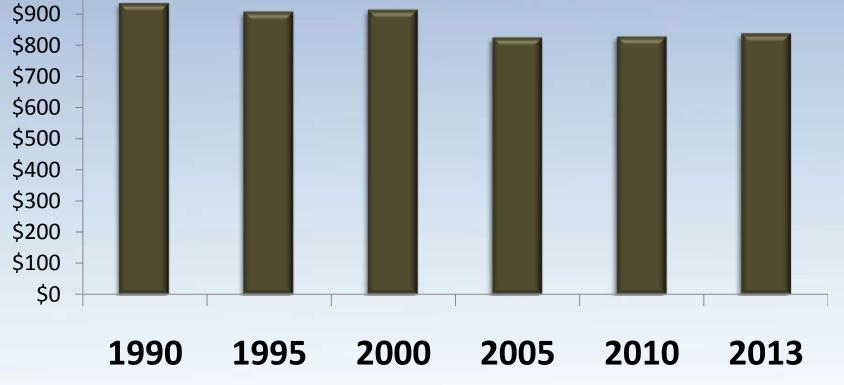
### Average Weekly Earnings for TL Drivers



YTD

Source: Department of Labor

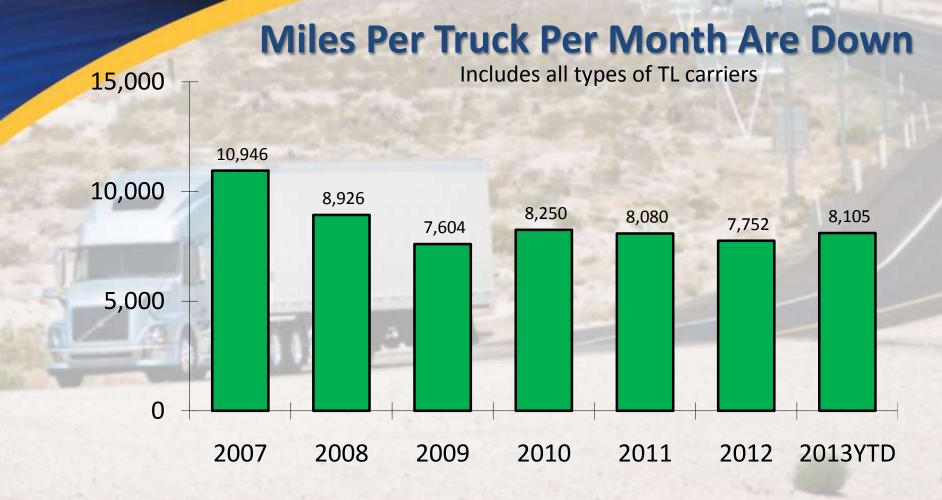
### Real Average Weekly Earnings for TL Drivers 2013 Dollars -10% since 1990



YTD



Source: Department of Labor



Source: ATA

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### **On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices**



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



ATA's data is seasonally adjusted; DAT's data is not seasonally adjusted



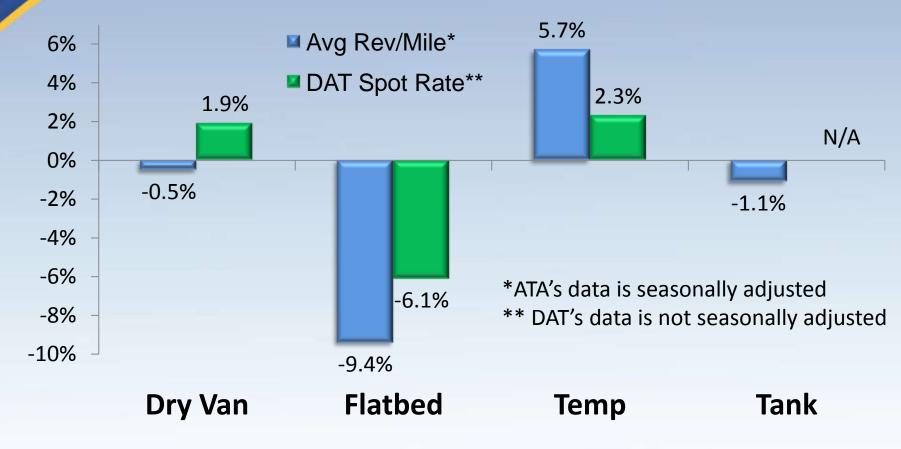
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Sources: ATA's Trucking Activity Report and DAT.com

 $|\Lambda|$ 

6%

### **Changes in Pricing Proxies** (YTD Compared with Same Period in 2012)



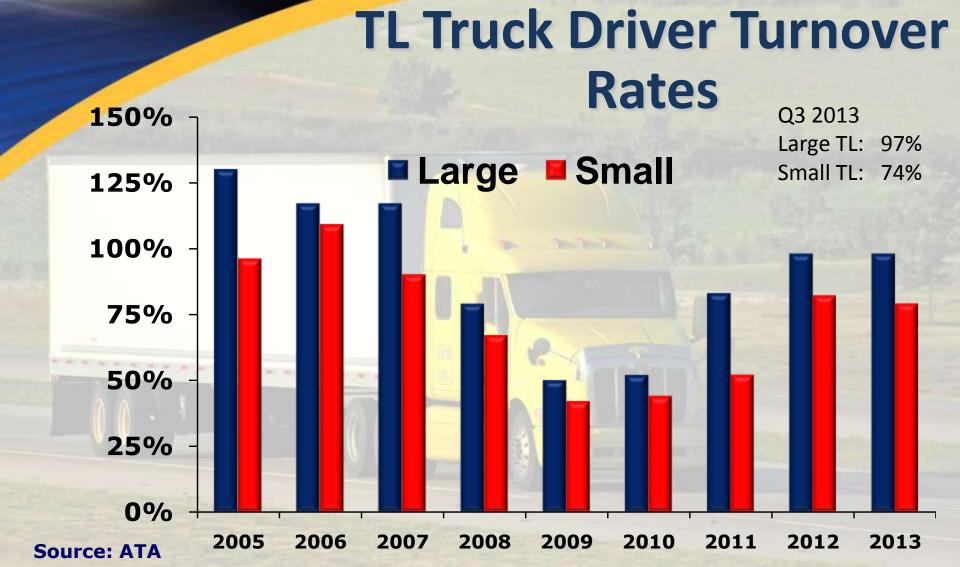


Sources: ATA's Trucking Activity Report and DAT.com

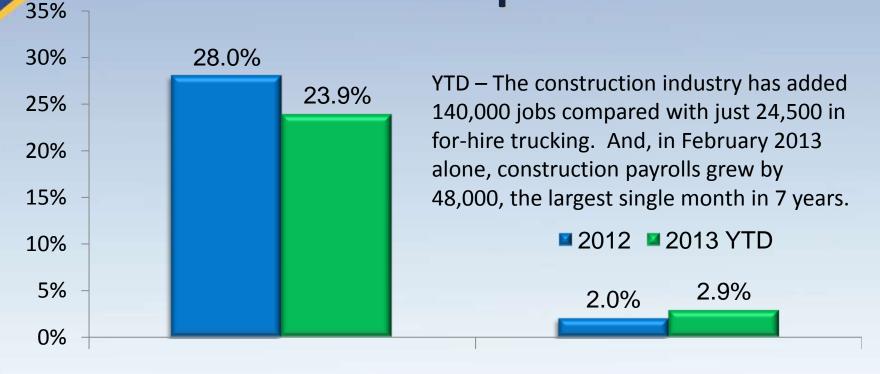


# **The Driver Situation**





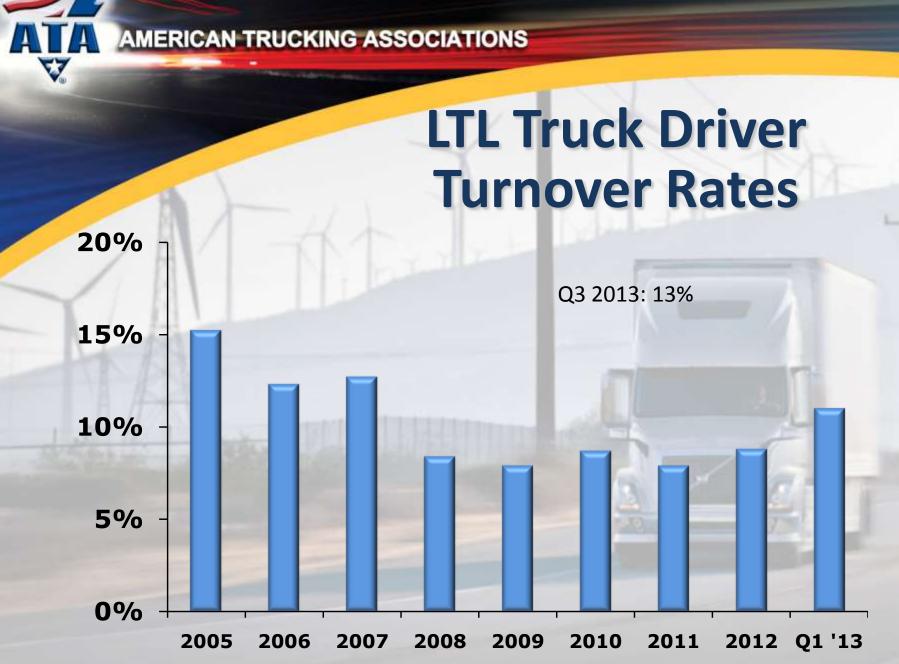
### Construction Industry Snapshot



### **Housing Starts**

Construction Employment

**Sources: Census Bureau and Department of Labor** 



#### **Source: ATA's Trucking Activity Report**

### Thank you

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# Thanks!

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