# **Market Trends Update**

#### INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

MARCH 2020



### Market Indicators

Industrial Production: -2.2% Jobs: 273,000 in Feb, 56,500 in healthcare, 51,000 in Retail Sales: -0.5% leisure and hospitality







## Industry Indicators

Tender Rejections: 15.06% Cass Freight Index: Index was declining in January, expect higher Tender Volume: 12.221

volumes due to retail stock replenishment

DAT Postings: Spot load posts up 18.2% since last week, spot trucks down -0.8%; load-to-truck ratios are also

climbing since last week (van: +31%, reefer: +33.2%, flatbed +7.4%)

DAT Rates: All three categories increasing (van: +3.0%, reefer: +2.1% and flatbed: +1.1%), most notably in short

haul regional shipments from DC to consumer in an effort to replenish retail inventories.

#### Canada Market Data

US-Canadian border temporarily closed to nonessential travel. This will not affect commerce in an effort to preserve \$560B in trade between the two countries, most of which travels by truck.

#### Mexico Market Data

US-Mexico border is also temporarily closed to nonessential travel. Oil dropped to lowest price/barrel in 18 years.

#### Forward Statement

While we cannot predict the future nor the outcome of this pandemic, we can utilize other countries as models for what is possible. China was roughly 3-4 months from the start of the outbreak to at least getting to a "new normal" that finds citizens going back to work and getting out to restaurants and other activities. If we are able to follow a similar trajectory that would put the US in a "new normal" situation around late May-June. The after-effect on the economy and capacity is yet to be seen but we can safely predict some level of short-term turmoil followed by a slow return to growth.

#### **Best Practice**

At this time, as we strive to serve our customers, the current challenges we face lead a path to collaboration in preparation for the eventual easing of restrictions. Plans for a post-lock down increase in volume and the need for elevated levels of capacity in many areas are paramount for near- to mid-term success.