

## **Solid Foundation:**

A look at the factors that promise to keep commercial vehicle markets healthy for several years to come

Kenny Vieth ACT RESEARCH Co., LLC

FRB Chicago Automotive Outlook Symposium May 2013

## **Axioms**

- There is no substitute transportation mode for heavy trucks and tractor-trailers.
- Economic activity provides a proxy for the freight that trucks haul.
- Truckers do not buy trucks if they are not making money.
- It is difficult to buy trucks if funds are not available



## **Underlying Macro Assumptions**

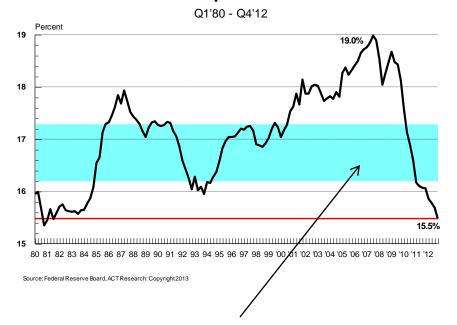
## Slow growth in early 2013, strengthening into 2014

- GDP at ~2% in 2013, rising towards 3% in 2014
- Growth is more broadly based
  - Consumer balance sheets
  - Domestic energy production
  - Manufacturing
  - Residential & commercial investment
  - Low inflation
- Caveat(s):
  - Politics: Domestic & International
  - European voters



## Rising Wealth, Falling Debt

## Household Financial Obligations as % of Disposable Income



Each ppt = ~\$100b in annual discretionary income



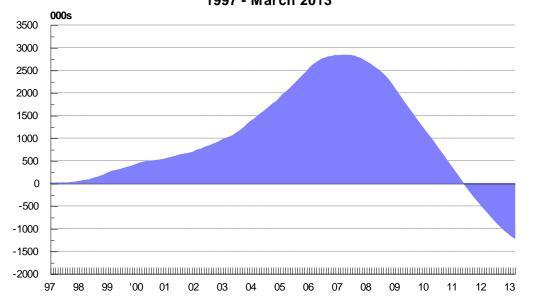
Source: FRB Board of Governors., ACT Research: Copyright 2013



## Pent-Up New Housing Demand

## **U.S. Housing Bubble**

Assuming Replacement + New Demand @ 1.45mm/Year 1997 - March 2013



To return to 2.2 adults/ household: 970,000 add'l homes

### **Existing Home Inventories & IN/RS**

January 2006 - March 2013
Thousands of Units-SAAR

Thousands

IN/RS Ratio

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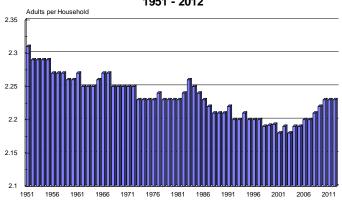
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U.S. Current Population Survey: Adults per Family Household (18+) 1951 - 2012



Source U.S. Census Bureau CPS, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

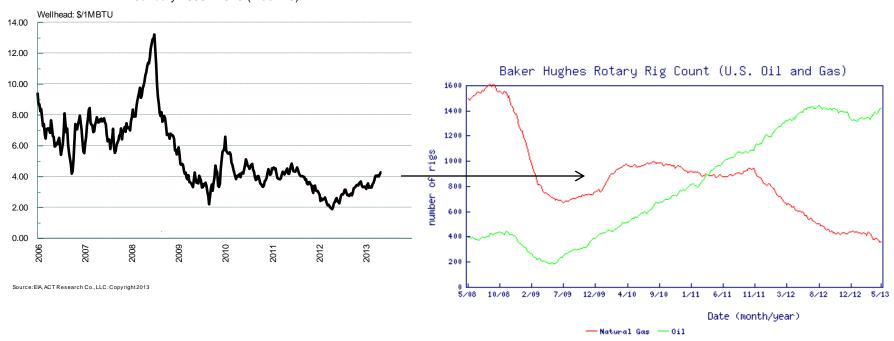


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# Domestic Energy Production

### **Spot Natural Gas Prices: Henry Hub**

January 2006 - 2013 (Week 19)



May 13: Down ~10%/200 rigs y/y . Down 500+ NG rigs



# Firming Outlook

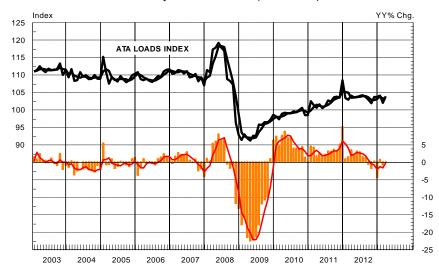
- Freight supply truck demand in balance
  - Should tip towards truckers through 2013
- Trucker profits are at replacement levels
  - Need another 100bps-150bps for capacity additions
- Used equipment valuations at high levels\*
  - Good forward visibility for profits & used equipment values
- Also,
  - Significantly better fuel economy
  - A really old fleet from deferred capex (maintenance, opportunity)
  - Maturing super-productivity trends
  - Regulatory impacts on productivity, liability, & drivers
    - HoS in July



## Still Little Traction

### **ATA Truck Loads Index**

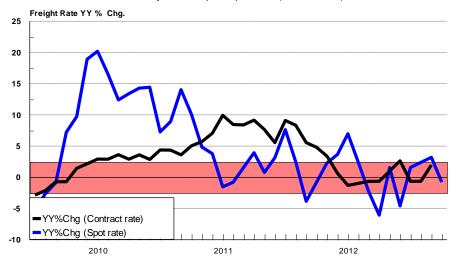
January '03 - March'13 (2000=100)



Source, American Trucking Associations, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

# Transcore Loadboard: Dry Van Revenue per Mile (exFSC) Year over Year % Change

January '10 - April Spot '13 (2000=100)



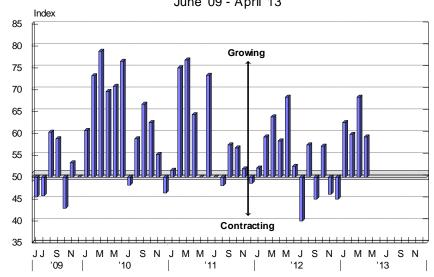
Source, Transcore Commercial Technology Group, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013



# **ACT For-Hire Index**

### **ACT For-Hire Truckload Index Freight Volumes**

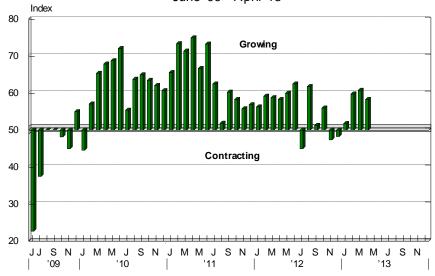
June '09 - April '13



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

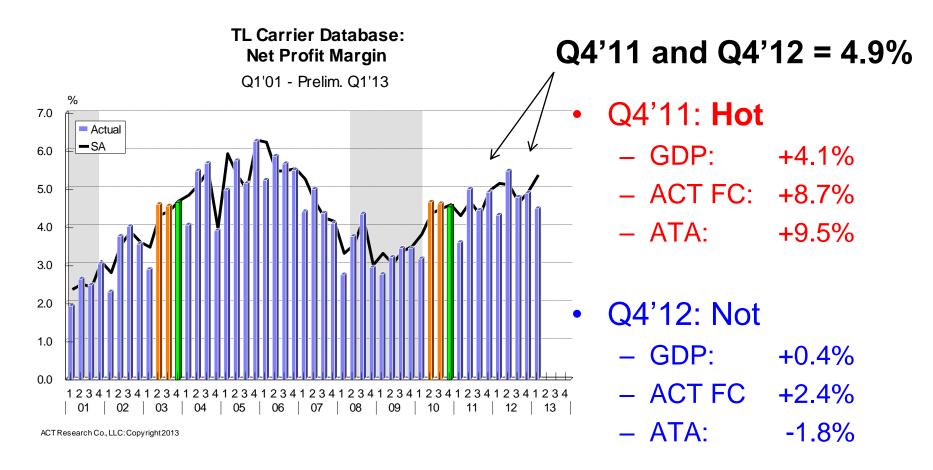
### **ACT For-Hire Truckload Index Freight Rates**

June '09 - April '13





## A Tale of Two Quarters

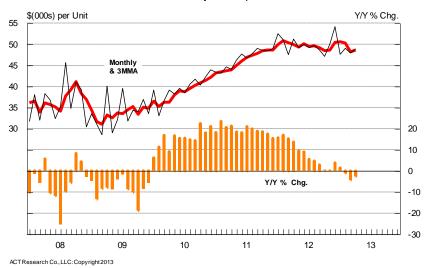




# Steady Pricing Outlook

### **Used Class 8: Average Retail Selling Price**

January '08- April '13

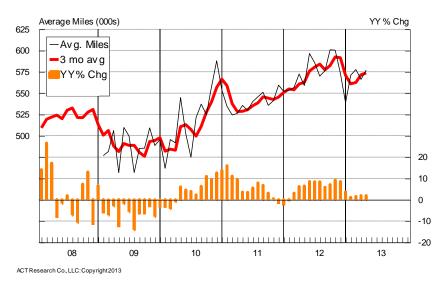


Selling price: -3% y/y

Mileage: +2% y/y

### **Used Class 8: Average Miles**

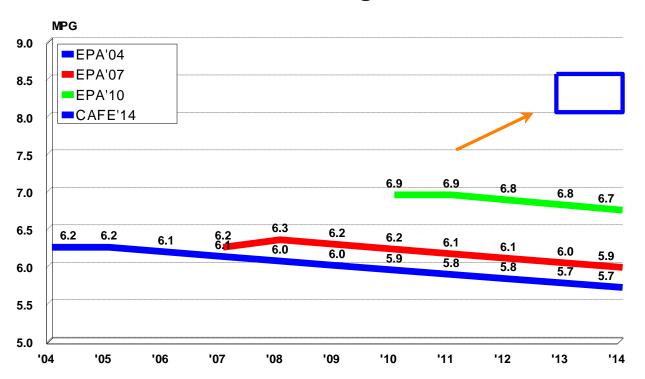
January '08 - April '13 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)





# Significantly Better MPG

# Onhighway Tractor Fuel Economy & Estimated Degradation



The difference between 6mpg & 8mpg over 100k miles?

4,200 gal./yr.

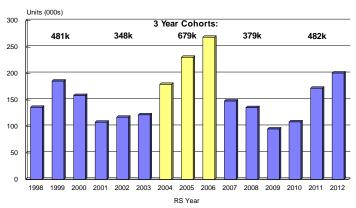
Sources: ACT Research w/inputs from PHH FlrstFleet, NACFE, and fleet inputs. ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013



# U.S. Population Model

### **U.S. Class 8 Active Population: Trucks & Tractors**

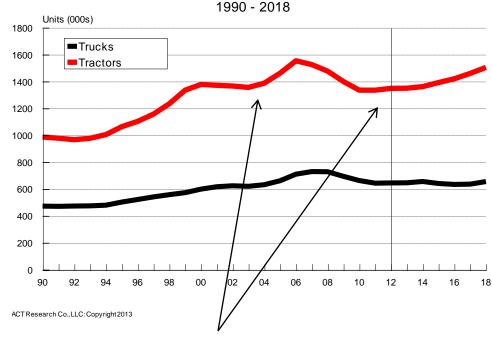




U.S. Tractor population today comparable to 2003 population . GDP up 15%

. But so is productivity!







# Maturing Productivity Trends

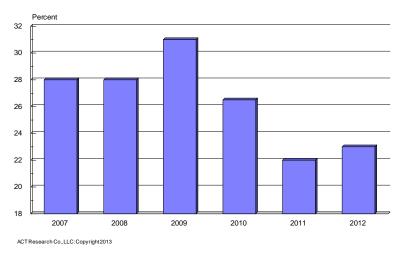
Starting around 2005, rising energy, equipment, & driver costs, caused companies to redouble efforts to reign in transportation spending:



- Product
- Loading
- Routing
- Intermodal
- Etc.

10% - 12% productivity gain since ~2006

## NPTC Benchmark Survey: Private Fleet Empty Backhauls Percentage



The shift from 28% to 22% private fleet empty backhauls effectively created 1.5ppts, or 25,000 units of additional tractor capacity



## Additional Evidence

Widening spread between tonnage & loads implies improved freight density: 10ppt swing above typical implies ~140k population impact

## ATA Truck Tonnage Index & ATA Truck Loads Index

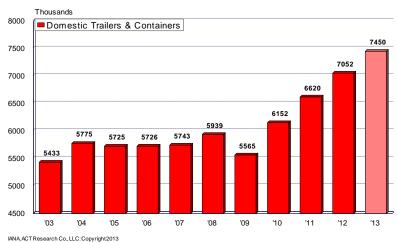
January '03 - March'13 (2000=100)



Source, American Trucking Associations, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

### **Domestic Intermodal Loadings**

2003-2013F



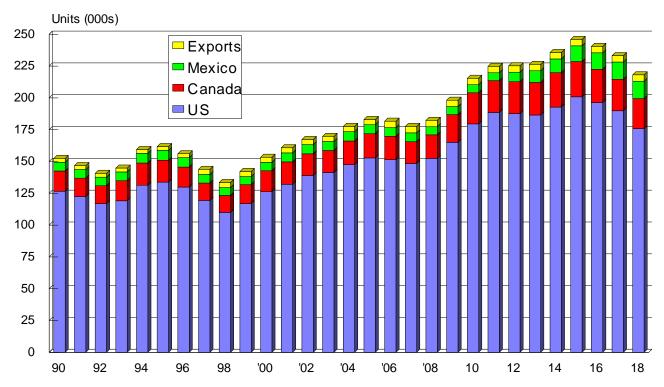
ACT's IM Truck
Conversion math:
~2mm loads = 16k fewer
tractors needed in
population



# Underlying Replacement

## REPLACEMENT: NA Class 8 Active Stock

1990 - 2018





# Regulatory Onslaught

- CSA ('11):
  - Productivity, Liability, Drivers
- Hours of Service (07'13):
  - Keep 11 and 14 hours (for now)
  - 34 hour reset must include 2 overnights
  - Trucking industry challenge to new rule
- EOBR mandate: (Stuck)
  - Will force for-hire to catch-up with private
  - Should curtail cheating
- CAFE Standards ('14, '18)



**Productivity** 

squeeze =

freight rates

Higher

# **Driver Shortage**

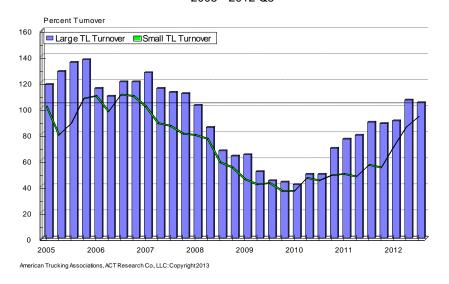
- There is no substitute transportation mode for heavy tractor-trailer combinations
  - None.
- The freight will get delivered
  - Freight determines driver demand, not the reverse
- The Law of Supply & Demand has not been repealed
  - Periods of rising freight activity exacerbate the shortage situation, causing driver wages to rise



# Driver Shortage?

ATA: For-Hire TL Carrier Driver Turnover

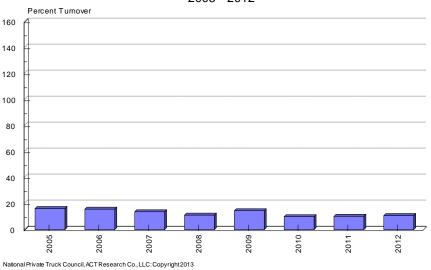
2005 - 2012 Q3



# 100% annualized turnover? Retaining drivers, rather than finding them is the problem

## NPTC Benchmark Survey: Private Fleet Driver Turnover

2005 - 2012



Lower turnover = increased safety: 42% fewer DOT recordable accidents for Survey participants than industry average



# New Equipment Demand

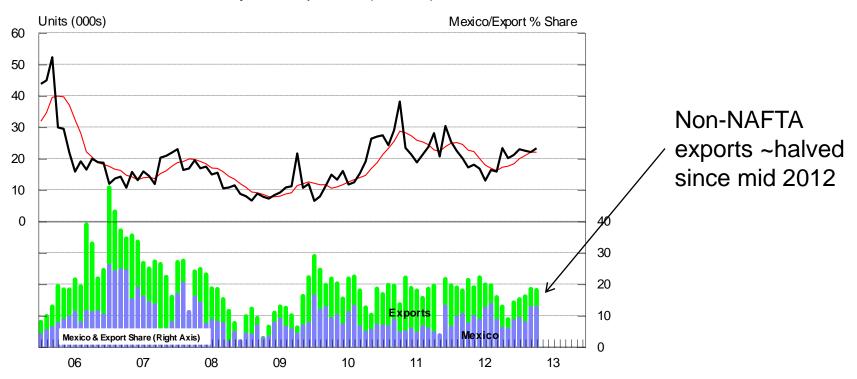
- Short-term: Risks outweighing potential rewards
  - Ongoing economic uncertainty
  - Inconsistent freight
  - Lack of traction on freight rates & profitability
  - Large gap between new and used truck prices\*
- Short-term industry outlook
  - Backlogs remain thin
    - From order to delivery in 4 to 6 weeks
      - Short-term orders increasingly important
  - Cancellation trend is falling
- Broader economic support will improve demand
  - Look for September-October pop in Class 8 orders



## Good but not Great

## **TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. NET ORDERS**

January '06 - April '13 (Not SA)

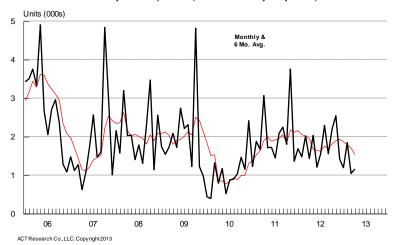




## Cancellation Pull-Back

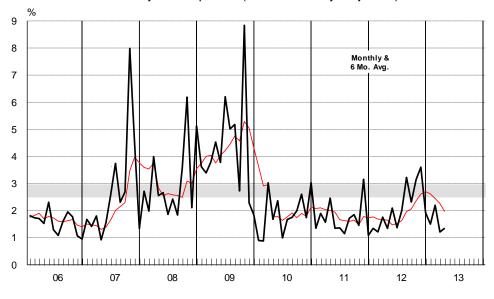
### **TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. CANCELLATIONS**

January '06 - April '13 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



## TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. CANCELLATION RATE Expressed as a percentage of Backlog

January '06 - April '13 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

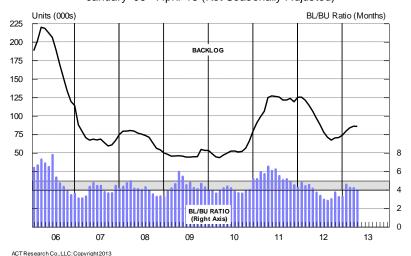




# Limited Visibility

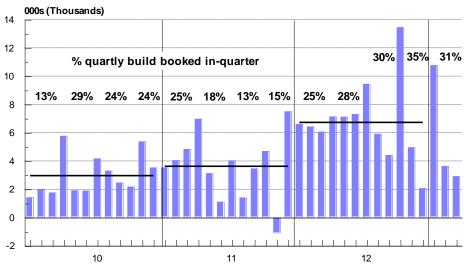
### **TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. BACKLOG & BL/BU RATIO**

January '06 - April '13 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



### NA Class 8 Orders: Booked Into Current Quarter

2010 - March 2013

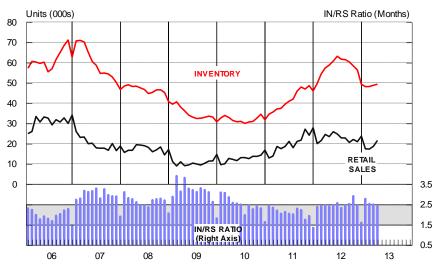




## Positive Turn

### TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. INVENTORY/RETAIL SALES RATIO

January '06 - April '13(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



#### ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

### U.S. IN/RS RATIO

January '06 - April '13(Not Seasonally Adjusted)





# **Backlog Analysis**

Build Timing of Units in Backlog as of April 2013							
	Actual BU	Q2'13	Q3'13	Q4'13			
CLASS 8	YTD 04'13	<u>May-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Sep</u>	Oct-Dec	<u>Beyond</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
BACKLOG DISTRIBUTION		34,426	27,990	16,073	3,956	82,445	
. Distribution by Quarter		40.2%	32.7%	18.8%	4.6%		
Class 8 Actual/Forecast Build	77,681	43,600	69,000	72,000		262,281	
. Open build slots:		9,174	41,010	55,927		179,836	
. % Open		21.0%	59.4%	77.7%			
	VTDI42	02	02	04			
DAYS	YTD'13 60	Q2 64	Q3 62	Q4 59			
BUILD UPD (A/F)	1,295	681	1,113	1,220			



# Medium Duty

- Cancellations and key ratios (BL/BU and IN/RS) suggest fundamentals basically in line. Could use more orders.
- Job concerns loosening hold on MD vehicle buyers
- Housing accretive to economy and MD truck/RV demand
- State and local government contribute to 2013 growth
- Bus market to benefit from improved property values
- Forecast below replacement until 2H'14/1H'15
  - Cl.6-7 at ~160k/yr, Cl.4-5 at ~70k/yr
- Velocity of growth for medium duty market is determined by the pace of economic growth, in particular, consumer spending



## N.A. Classes 5-7 Order Distribution

(Data through April 2013, annualized)

Classes 5-7 <u>Orders</u>	Truck (000s)	Bus (000s)	RV (000s)	Total* (000s)
Past 12 Mo.	128.7	32.4	13.7	180.9
Past 6 (AR)	134.2	28.1	10.1	180.0
Past 3 (AR)	133.1	34.7	12.0	192.5
April	154.0	34.0	11.9	201.0
April (SAAR)				205.6

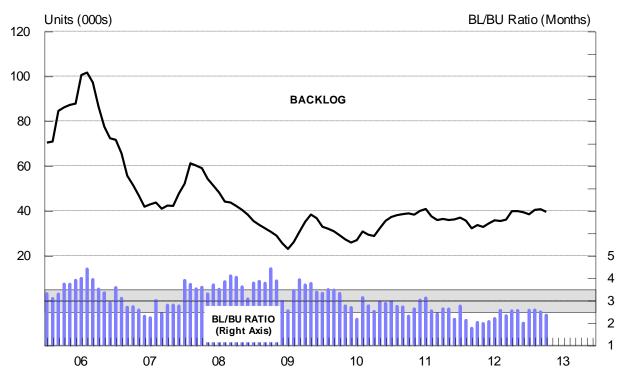
<sup>\*</sup> Total includes Step Vans



## In Maintenance Mode

### TOTAL CL. 5-7: N.A. BACKLOG & BL/BU RATIO

January '06 - April '13 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

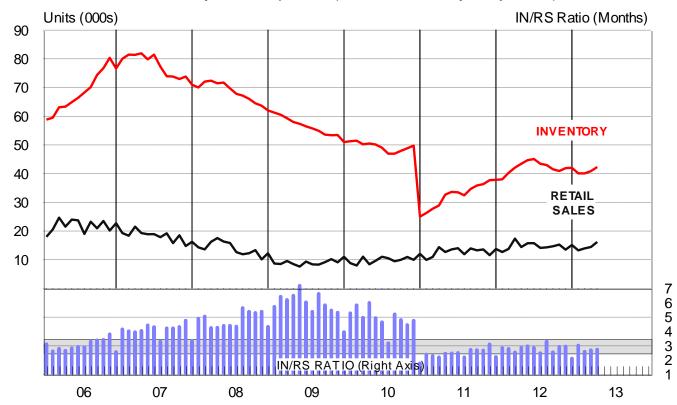




# IN/RS on Target

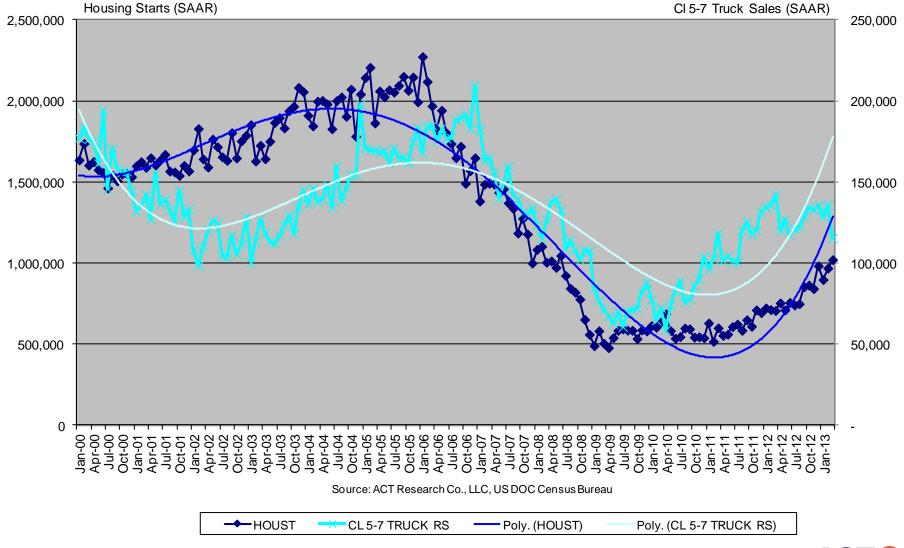
## TOTAL CLASSES 5-7: N.A. INVENTORY/RETAIL SALES RATIO

January '06 - April '13(Not Seasonally Adjusted)





## Housing Starts vs. CI 5-7 Truck Sales





# Concluding

- Profit environment should improve into 2014
  - Growth in key freight sectors
  - Slowing rate of productivity growth
    - » HoS productivity restriction should prove positive
  - New equipment, while pricy, offers real MPG benefit
    - » Will help to pay-off that big loan
  - Improving margins will improve credit access
- Challenges remain
  - Rising demand for drivers
  - Keeping up with best practices
    - » Safety, regulation, technology



# **Forecasts**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NA Class 8 BU (000s)	154.2	255.3	278.7	262.3	300.9
Memo: U.S. & CA Retail Sales	128.9	199.2	228.9	226.6	260.0
NA Classes 5-7 BU (000s)	117.9	166.8	188.4	197.6	213.7
U.S. Trailers FS (000s)	125.6	212.6	240.0	247.7	258.4



## Natural Gas as CV Fuel

## Game changing

- Plentiful
- Inexpensive with low sensitivity to commodity cost changes
- Environmentally friendlier
- Chickens & Eggs: No "Easy Button"
  - Few commercially available filling stations
  - First OTR engines just now available
  - The NG-diesel engine price gap remains large





## **DGE Math**

 7.2 Diesel Gallon Equivalents (DGE) per 1mm BTUs of Natural Gas

Cost of Natural Gas (\$4.00) ÷ 7.2: ~\$0.56

+ Transmission costs~\$1.50

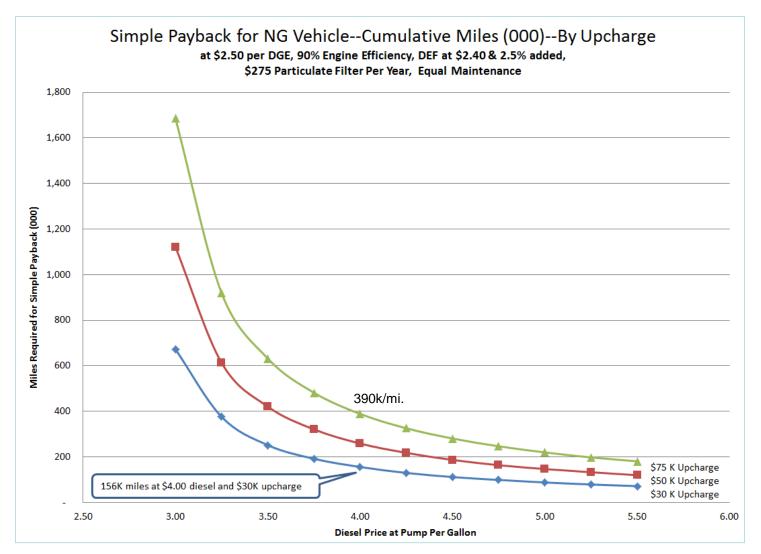
- + Taxes\* ~ \$0.54

Total ~\$2.60/DGE

- Doubling the price of natural gas (\$8/mmbtu) increases the cost of a DGE by 56 cents
- \*Taxes are all over the board
  - Measurement by gallon or BTU equivalence?
  - Assume that NG taxes ultimately need to mirror diesel taxes



# Key to Conversion: Payback







## ACT Research Company, LLC

4400 Ray Boll Boulevard Columbus, IN 47203

Phone: (812) 379-2085

Fax: (812) 378-5997

Email: trucks@actresearch.net

www.actresearch.net

