



The Difference This Time: Last cycle's inflation drives this cycle's productivity

Kenny Vieth
ACT RESEARCH Co., LLC

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Automotive Outlook Symposium
May 30, 2014

Macro Assumptions

Economy projected to move to a stronger footing

- GDP from 1.9% in 2013 to 2.5% in 2014, 3.2% in 2015
- Broader base of support
 - Healthier consumer balance sheets
 - Pent-up residential investment
 - Rising domestic energy production
 - Strong corporate profits
 - Continued low inflation
 - Accommodative Fed policy
- Caveat(s):
 - **Reemergence of unproductive domestic politics**
 - Rising potential for geopolitical disruptions
 - Still slow job and income growth
 - *How long will this act as a drag on business investment?*
 - Modest drag from slower emerging market growth

Last October, ACT
became one of the 50
forecasters in the
***Blue Chip Economic
Indicators!***

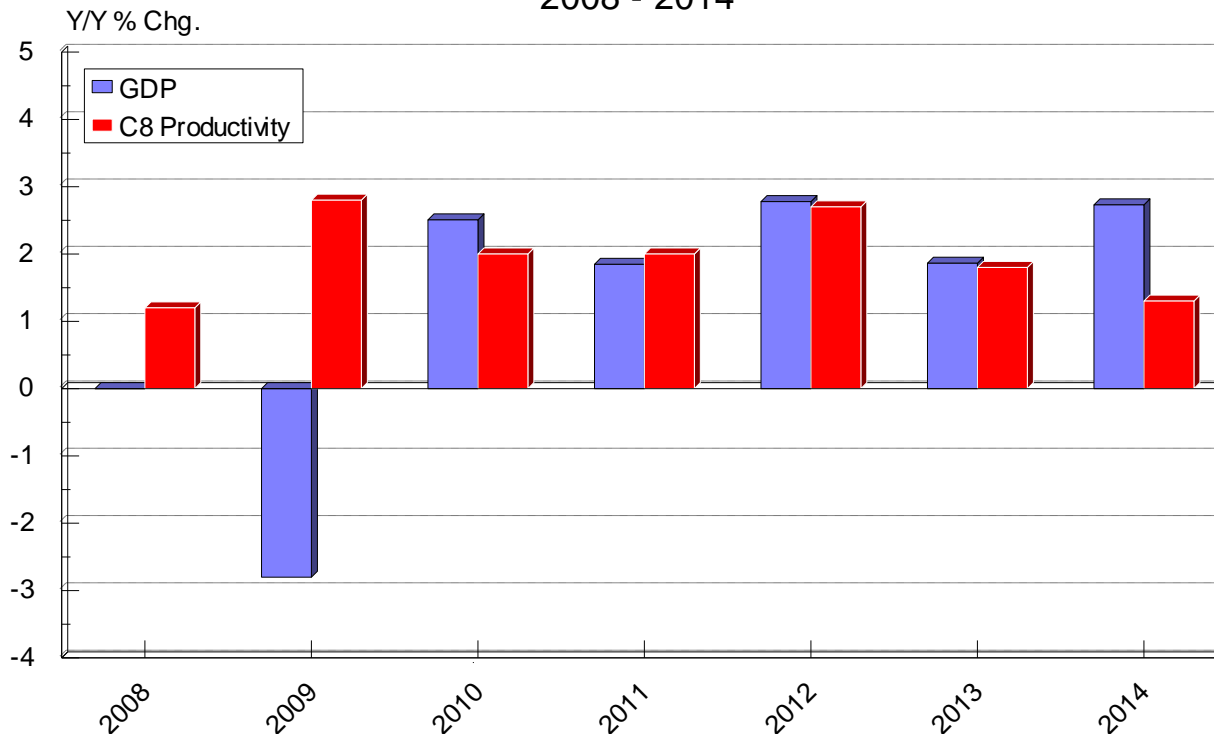
Productivity: Defining the Cycle

- Rapid rise in transportation inflation last decade drove sharp focus on cost control by shippers
 - Equipment, drivers, diesel (commodities)
- Simultaneously,
 - Technology advances made for real-time communications between shippers and under-utilized capacity
 - RRs spent \$ billions on expanding IM offerings and improving service

The Problem in a Nutshell

RGDP & U.S. Heavy Truck Productivity

Year Over Year
2008 - 2014



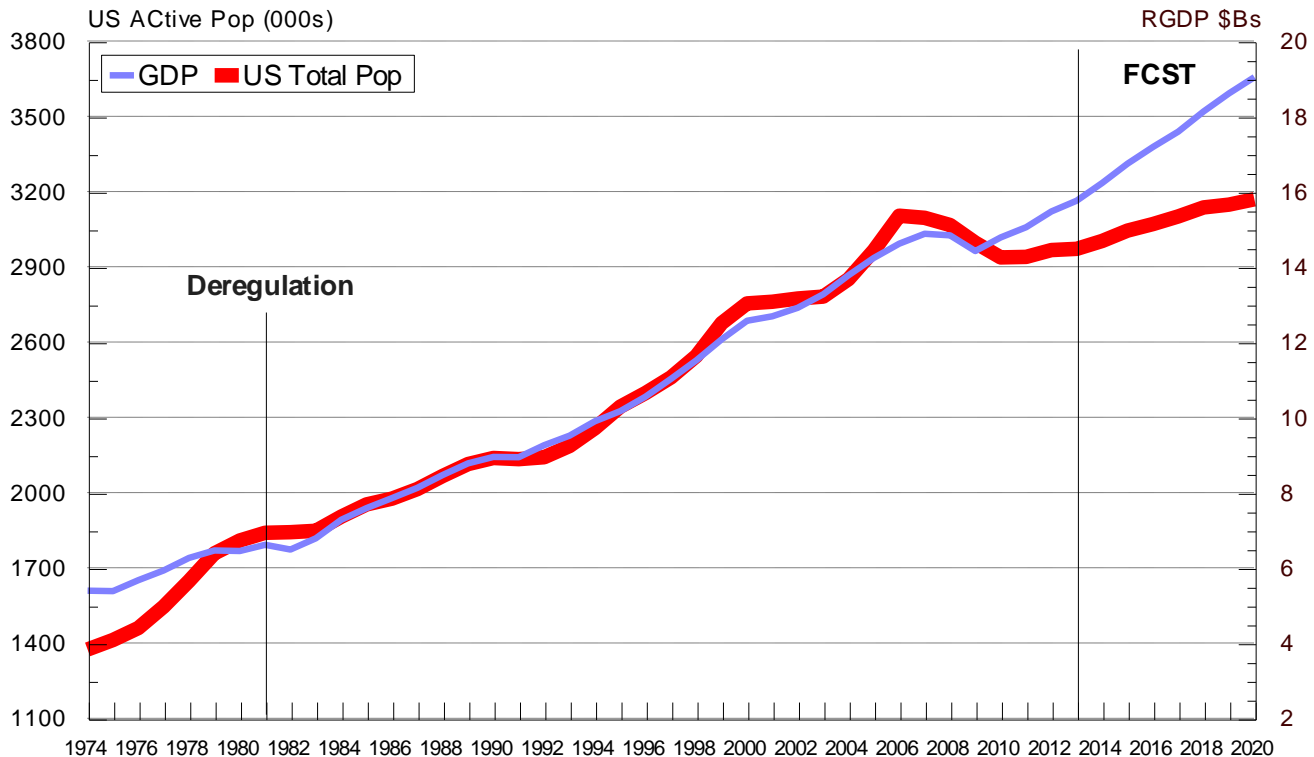
Source: ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

If freight and productivity are growing at the same rate, you don't need more trucks

Illustrating the Impact

Class 8 Total Population & U.S. Real GDP

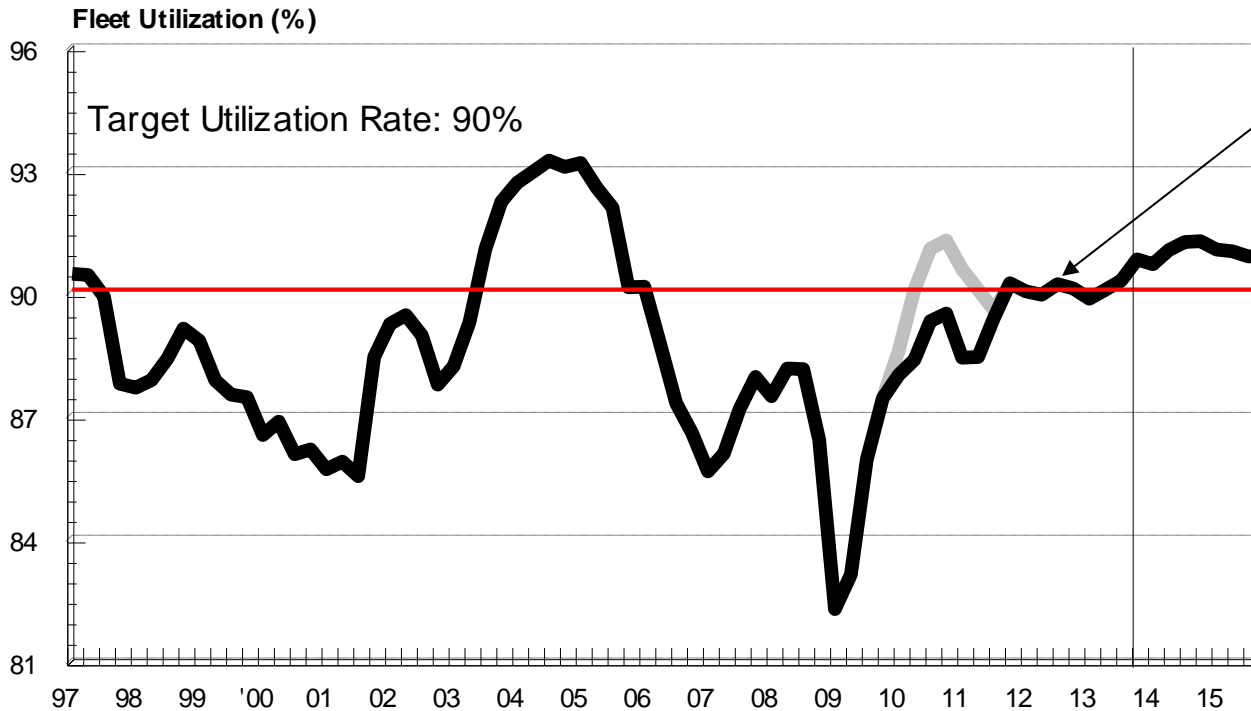
1974 - 2020f



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Resulting In This

U.S. Class 8 Implied Fleet Utilization Rate 1997 - 2014



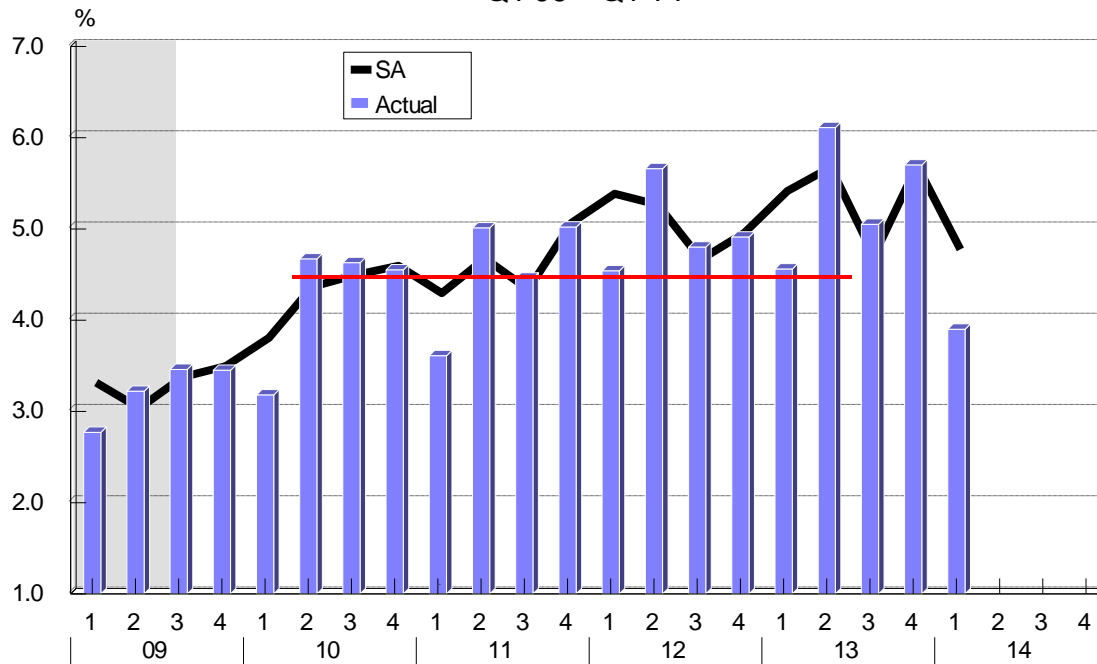
Despite economic growth and a stagnant Class 8 population, fleet utilization levels & profitability were basically unchanged from 2011 through mid 2013

ACT Research Co.,LLC: Copyright2014

Slow to Materialize

TL Carrier Database: Net Profit Margin

Q1'09 - Q1'14



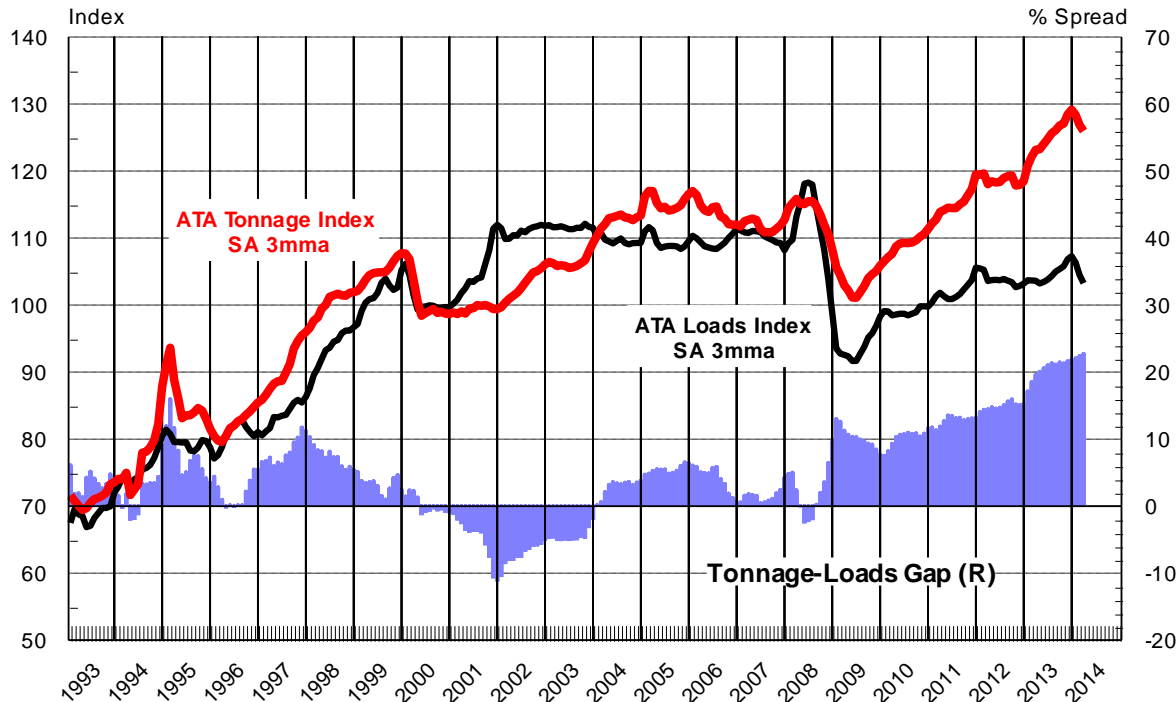
ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

- **1H'13: After ~3 years of stagnant results, profits break above trend**
- **Q3'13: Costs related to new HoS regs rose faster than revenues**
- **Q1'14: Weather pummels freight volumes, drives up operating costs**

Shipper Productivity

ATA Truck Tonnage Index & ATA Truck Loads Index

January '93 - March '14 (2000=100)



Source: American Trucking Associations, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Density

Widening spread between tonnage & loads illustrates improved freight density

As well as:

Utilization:

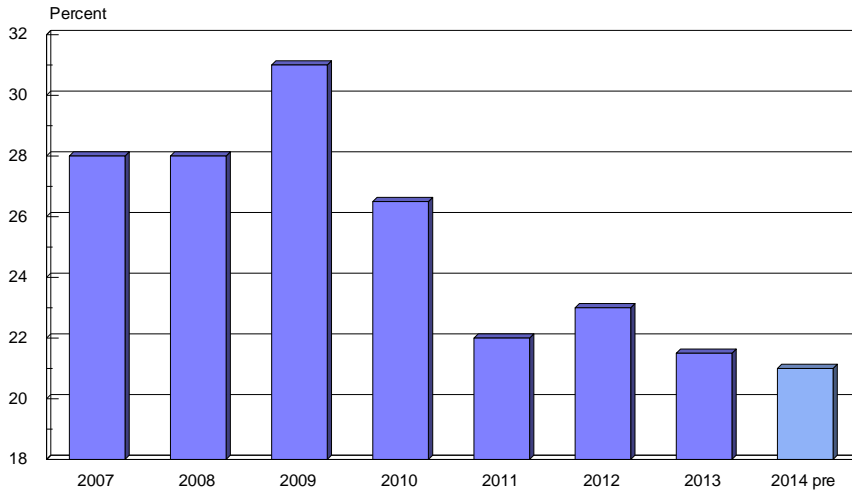
Rise in private fleet backhauls

Technology driven improvement in incremental capacity utilization

Domestic intermodal

Productivity: Other Avenues

**NPTC Benchmark Survey:
Private Fleet Empty Backhauls Percentage**



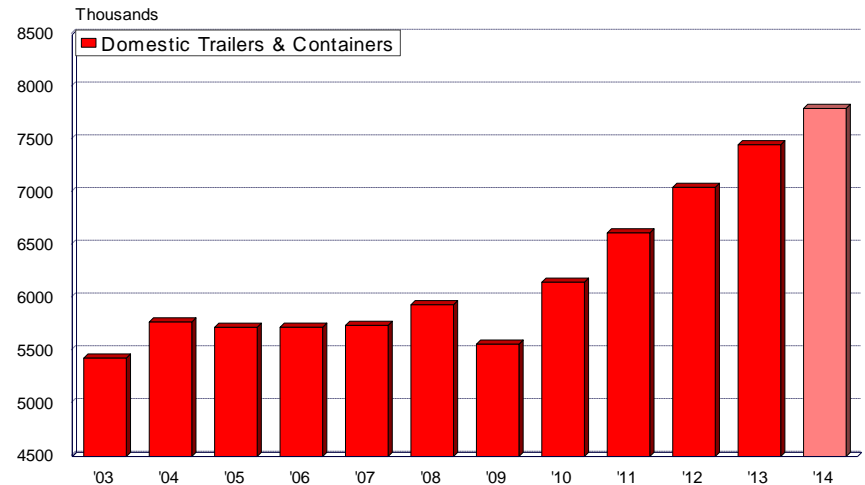
ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Private fleets get for-hire authority, farming capacity out to non-asset based 3PLs

Easy rule of thumb:
1mm IM loads = ~10k tractor pop.

Domestic Intermodal Loadings

2003-2014F

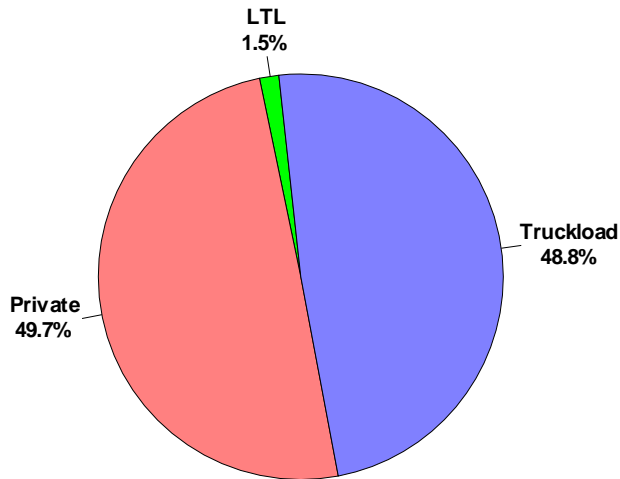


IANA, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2013

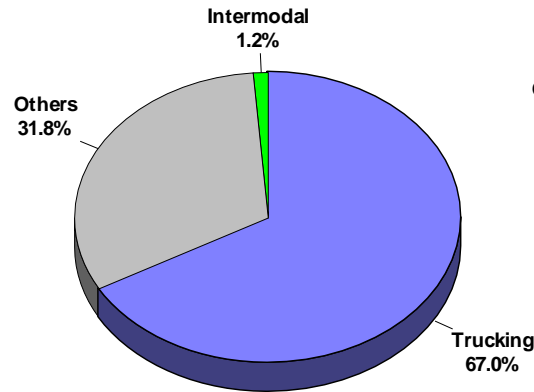
Size of the Pie Reality

U.S. Freight Tonnage by Mode

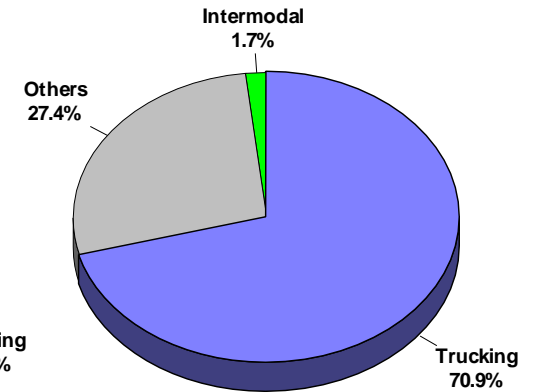
U.S. Truck Tonnage 2012



2012



2024



American Truck Associations, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Applying this data to ACT's "active" population:
1ppt of modal share ~20k truck population

American Truck Associations, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Productivity:

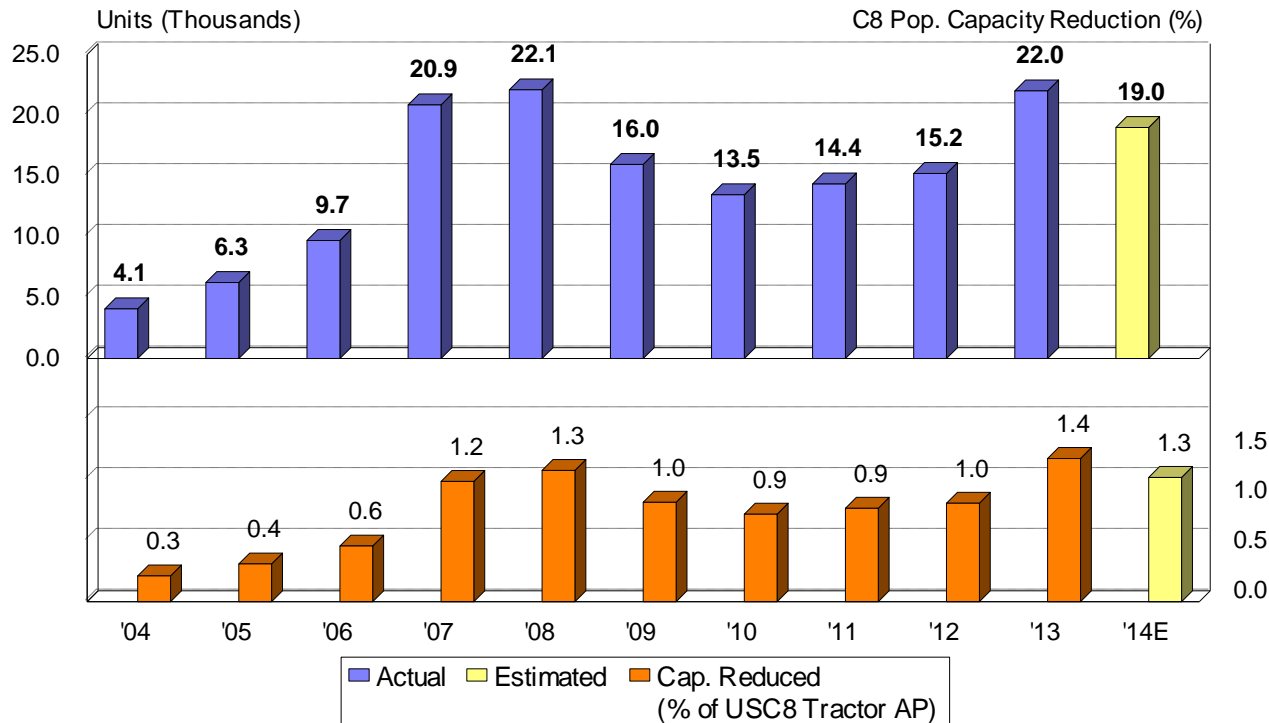
Undermining U.S. C8 Tractor Demand

2007-2013		Active stock
Capacity Diversion	Source data/methodology	Capacity Impact
Shipment Density: . Product, Packaging Loading, etc.	ATA Tonnage & Loads ~10ppts	140k units
Fleet Utilization:		
. Private fleet backhauls	NPTC ('07-'13): 29% to 21% = ~2ppts	28k
. Improved technological ability to connect loads & equipment	Rise of 3PLs, optimization software, smart phones, tablets, etc. Estimate: ~5ppts	74k
Domestic Intermodal: . 1mm = 10k pop.	2007 = 5.7mm 2013 = 7.5mm = 1.3ppts	18k
Total Productivity Impact	2007-2013	260k

It Could Have Been Worse

Used Class 8 Tractor Exports

2004 - 2013, 2014 Estimated



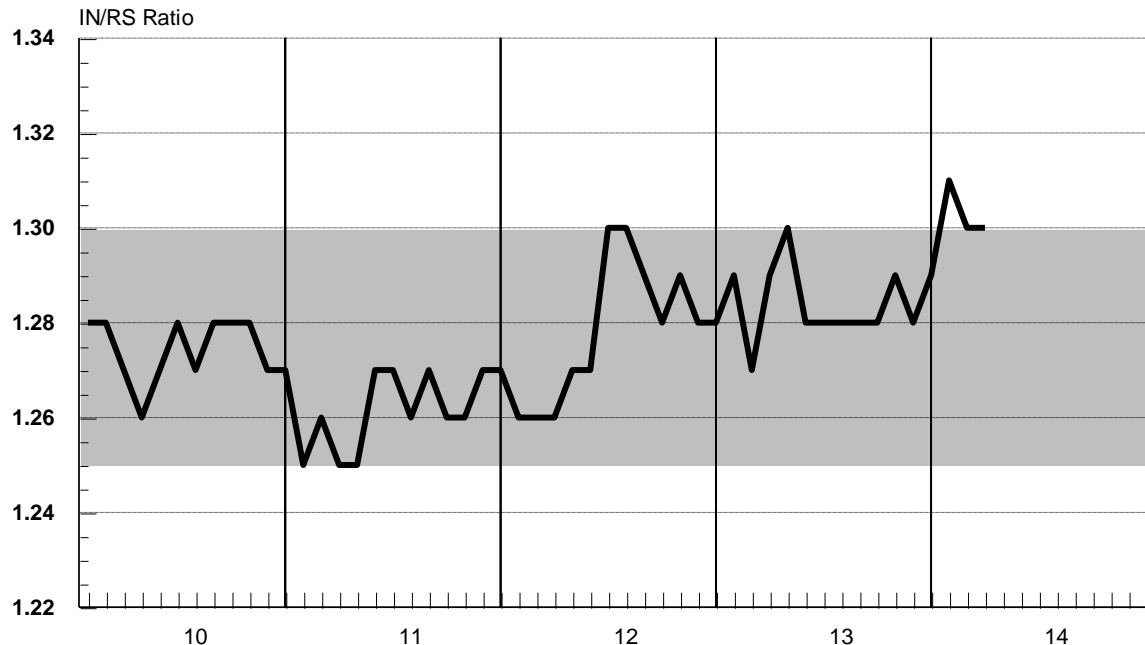
From 2007 to 2013, 124,000 tractors were exported out of the U.S. (~100k out of NA)

Final tally is a net productivity hit of ~140k units, or about 10% of active tractor capacity

Why Are We Seeing this?

Inventory to Sales Ratio: Total Business

January 2010 - March 2014
Ratio-SAAR



Source: Census Bureau, ACT Research: Copyright 2014

January aside,
permanent or
opportunistic?

A) Shippers trading
slower speed for lower
freight rates

B) A reflection of
cheap money and
China no longer
exporting deflation

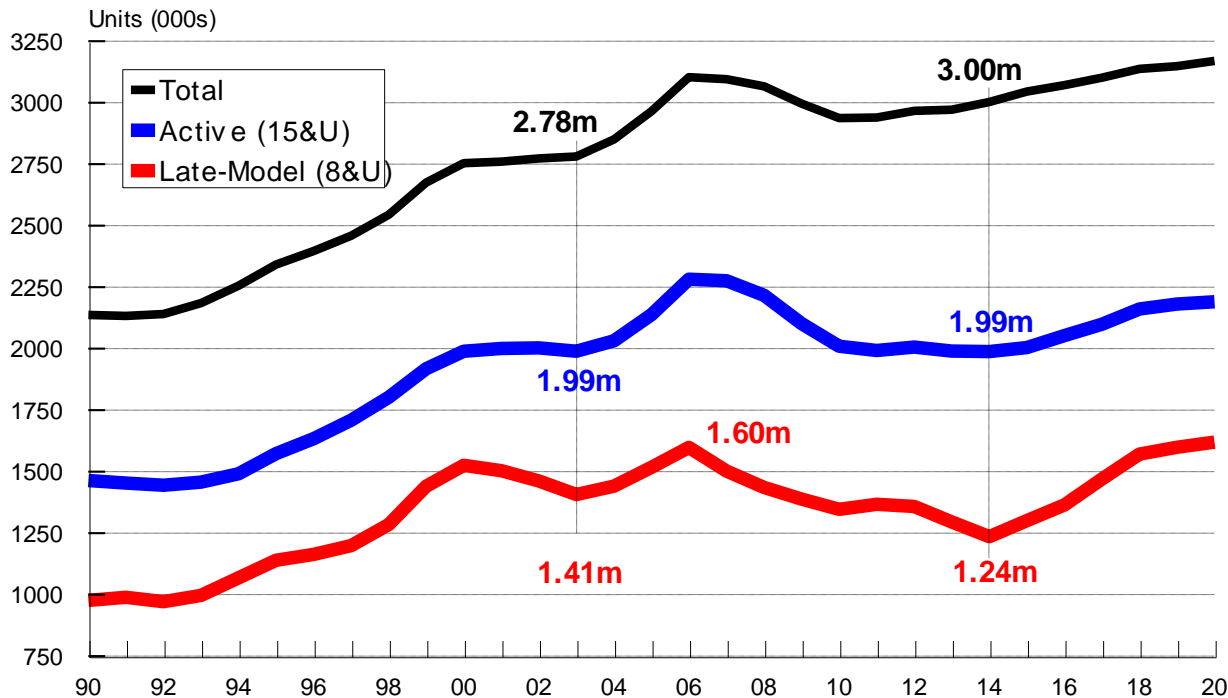
Productivity: Key question

- At what point do the outsized productivity improvements of the past 7-8 years begin to taper?
 - Our work suggests that 2012 was the high-water mark for the rate of productivity growth
 - Productivity still growing above trend, but at a slower rate
 - If the economy grows as expected* and productivity growth slows, the next several years will be very good for truckers and by extension new truck and trailer demand

Defining Population

U.S. Class 8 Population: Tractors/Artics & Trucks/Rigids

1990 - 2020



Despite 22% GDP growth from 2003 to 2013:

Total pop. up just 8%

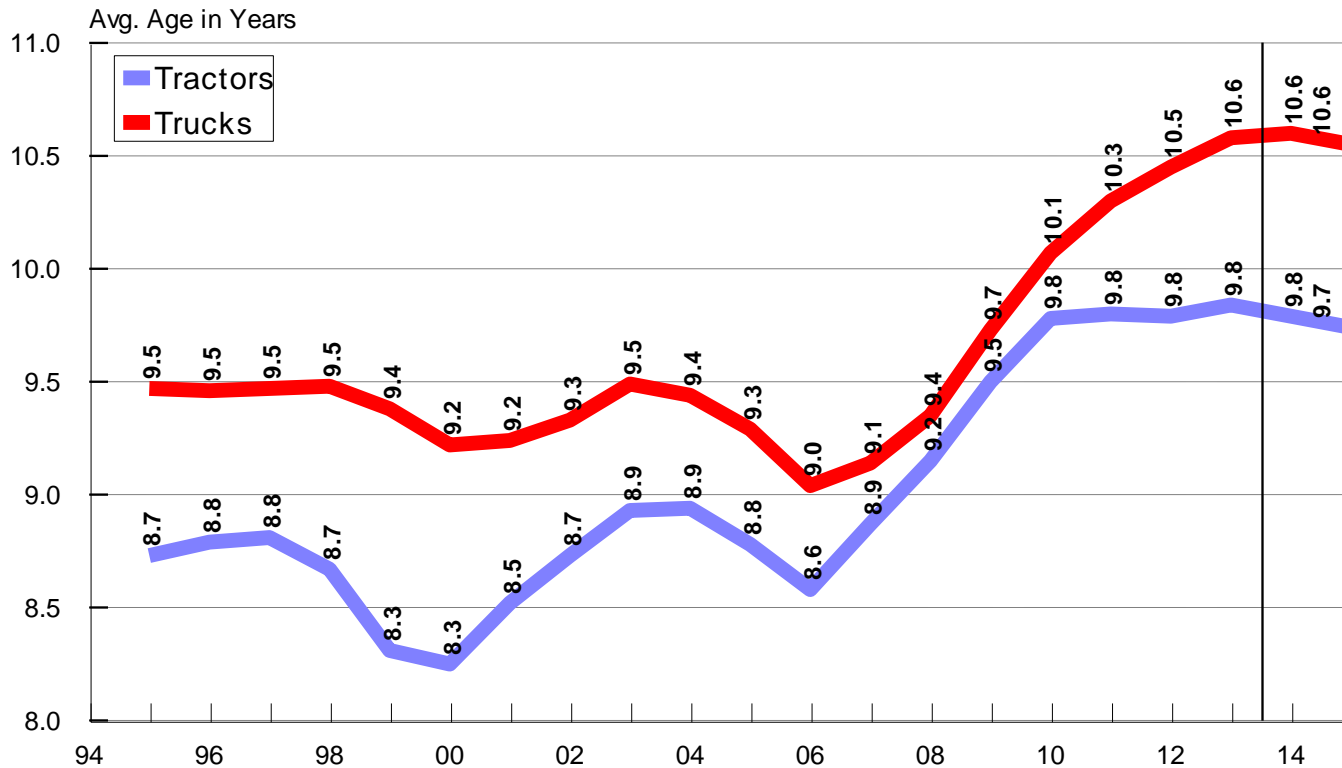
Active pop. is unchanged

Late-model pop. down 12% (and 23% from '06 peak)

Fleet Demographics

U.S. Class 8 Population Model Outputs: Average Age, TOTAL Population

1995 - 2015



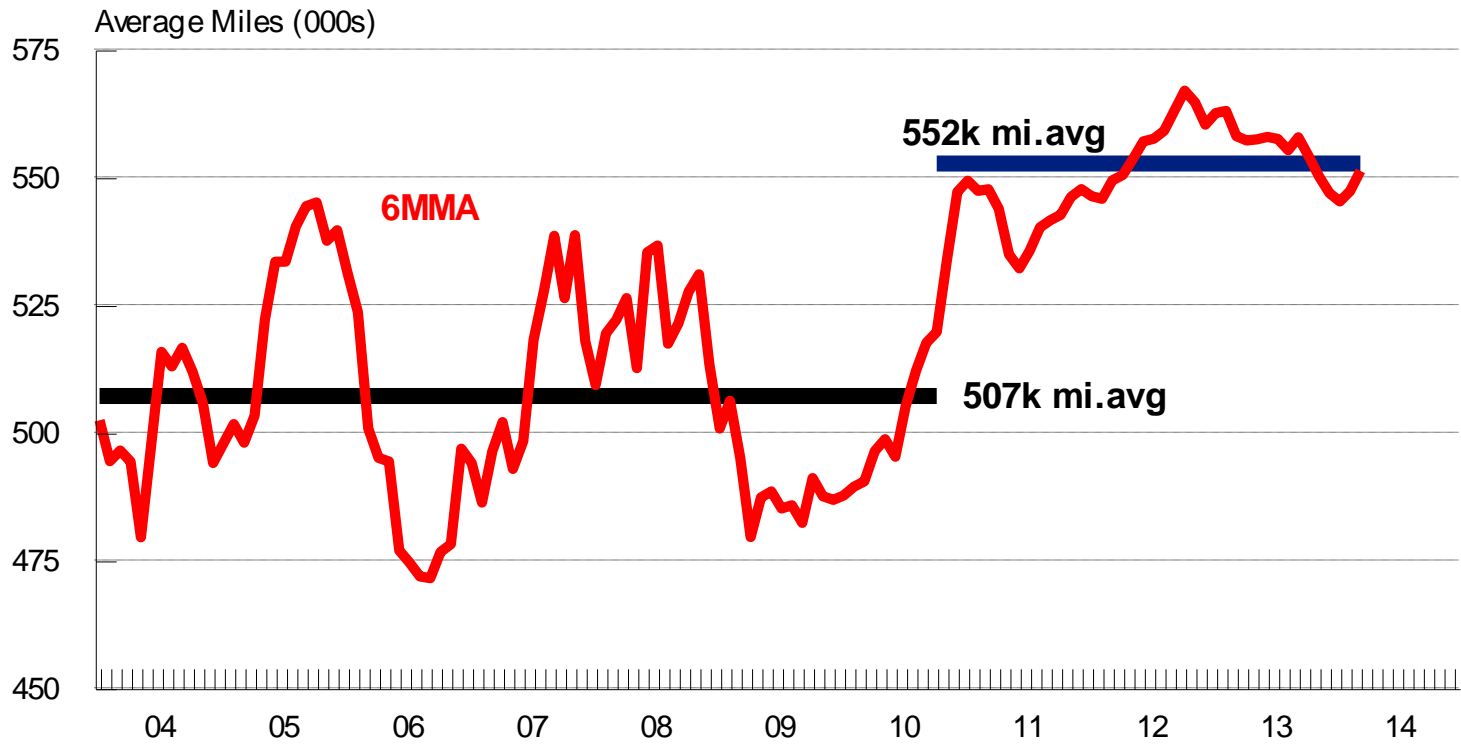
The high cost of trucks and the inability of the industry to gain traction on freight rates has kept fleet age at high levels:

Implicit in an older fleet is a less safe fleet

Truck Quality or Necessity?

Used Class 8: Average Miles

January '04 - March '14 (Not SA)



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Driver Shortage

- **The freight will get delivered**
 - Freight determines driver demand, not the reverse
 - Who, When (How long) and How Much
- **There is no substitute transportation mode for heavy tractor-trailer combinations**
- Transportation is a commodity and the Law of Supply & Demand has not been repealed
- Driver shortage does not preclude profitability
- All that said, there is no “Easy Button”

Classic

The Traffic World (now part of *Journal of Commerce*)

Dec. 12, 1914

The Truck Driver Problem

- “Practically every truck manufacturer and nearly all employers **complain of the great difficulty of securing drivers who are competent** and who will work handling freight aside from those who drive horses. They are agreed that the profit or loss from truck transportation is largely dependent upon the drivers, **and yet a majority of truck owners will hire the men who will work cheapest**, entrusting valuable property in their keeping...)

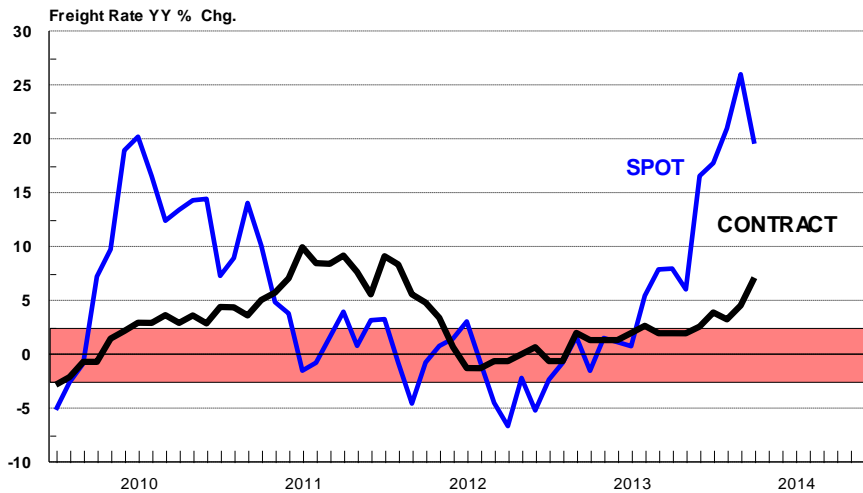
Freight Market Conditions

- Spot freight rates move higher following the capacity constraining changes to HoS
- Stronger economic growth in 2H'13 exacerbates already snug capacity
 - Driver situation started biting around this time
- Polar Vortices impact output in Q1, but impact truck availability even more
 - Reading between the lines on economic reports

Rising Rate Environment

DAT Trendlines: Dry Van Revenue per Mile (exFSC) Year over Year % Change

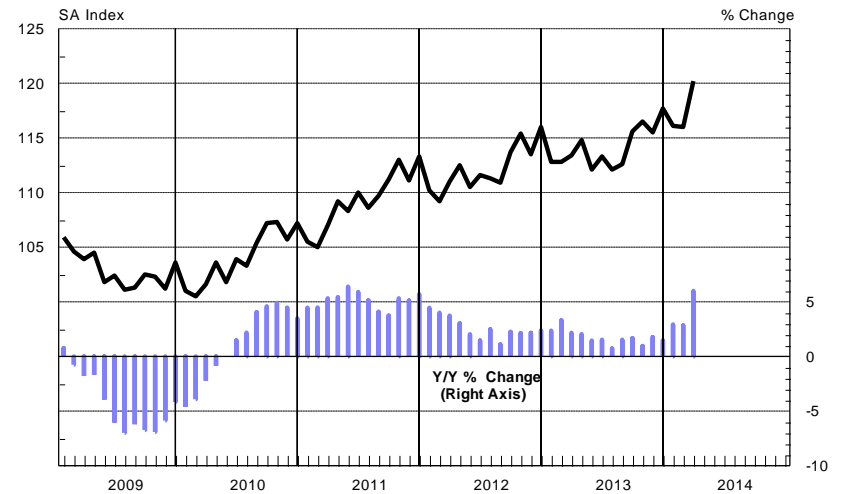
January '10 - April '14 (2000=100)



Source: Transcore Commercial Technology Group, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Cass Truckload Linehaul Pricing Index

January '09 - March '14 (01'2005=100)

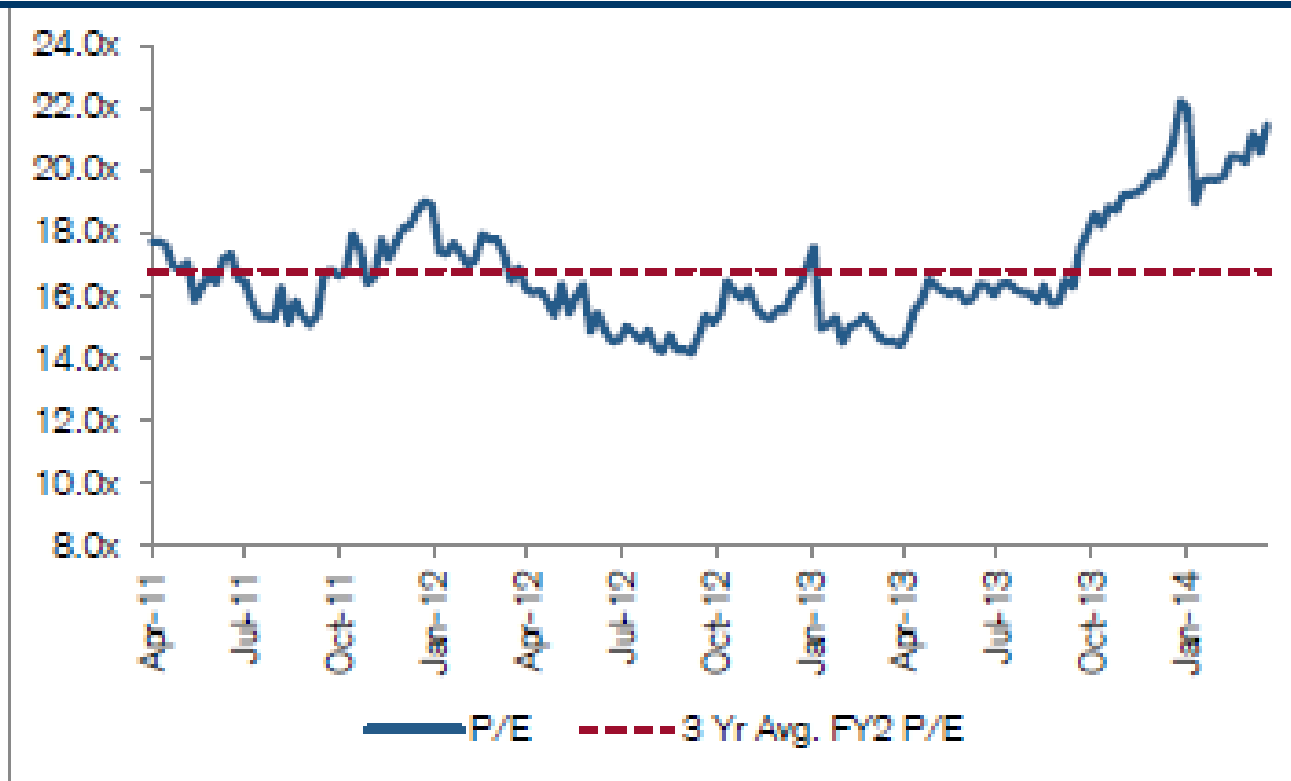


Source: Cass Information Systems, ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Spot rates were moving higher
before the weather got bad

Wall Street Has Noticed

Exhibit 1: KNX 3-Year Historical Forward P/E

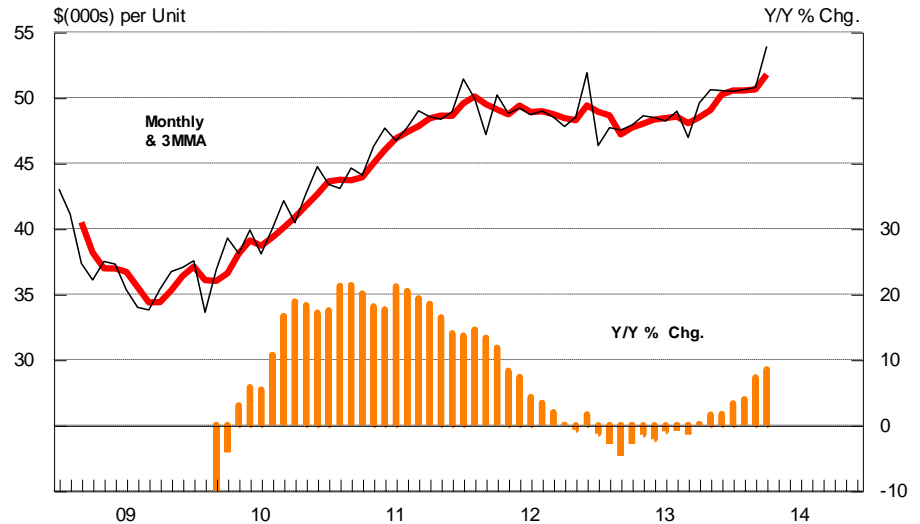


Source: Company data, Credit Suisse estimates

Used Prices Strong

Used Class 8: Average Retail Selling Price

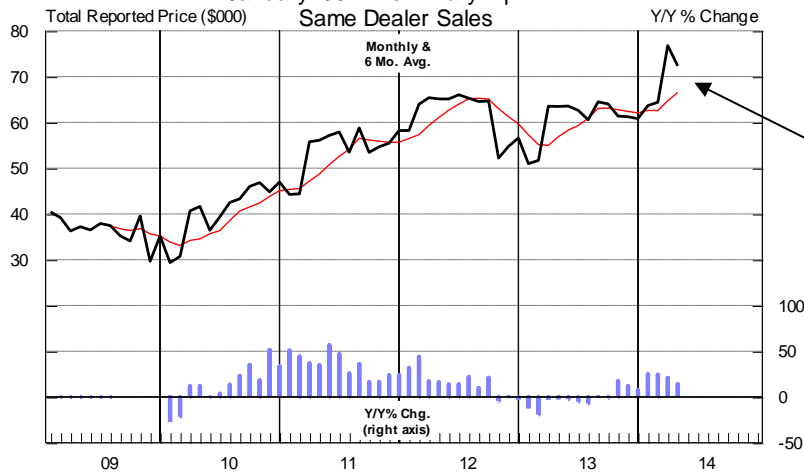
January '09- Preliminary April '14 (Not SA)



CLASS 8: U.S. USED TRUCK AVERAGE SALE PRICE

4 to 5 years old, 400-500,000 miles

January '09 - Preliminary April '14



More expensive EPA'10 trucks become part of the 4-5 year population

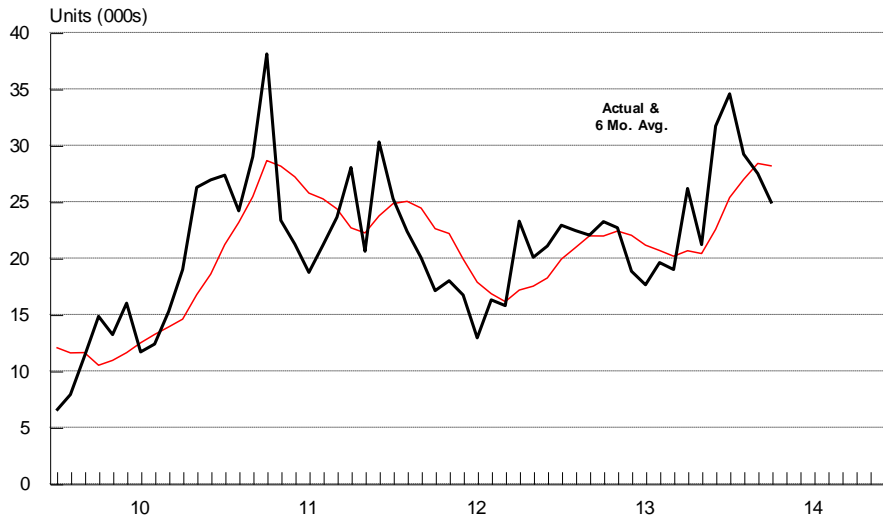
New Equipment Demand

- Rapid change in sentiment
 - Stronger and more consistent freight
 - Traction on freight rates & profitability
 - Improved confidence
- Short-term industry outlook
 - Class 8 orders booked at 320k SAAR October-March
 - Backlogs expand rapidly
 - From 4 weeks to 5 months
 - Low inventories provide some cushion for build

Never “If”, But “When”

TOTAL CLASS 8: N.A. NET ORDERS

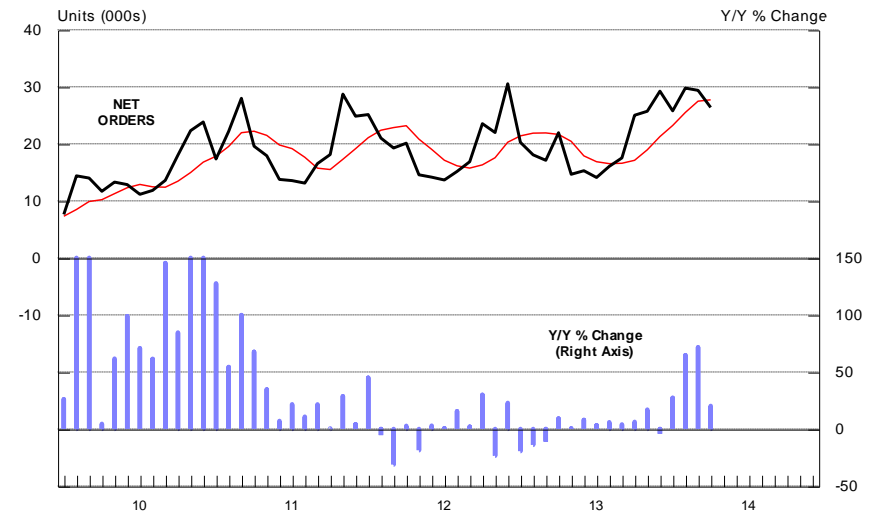
January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

TOTAL TRAILERS: NET ORDERS Year over Year Percent Change

January '10 - April '14

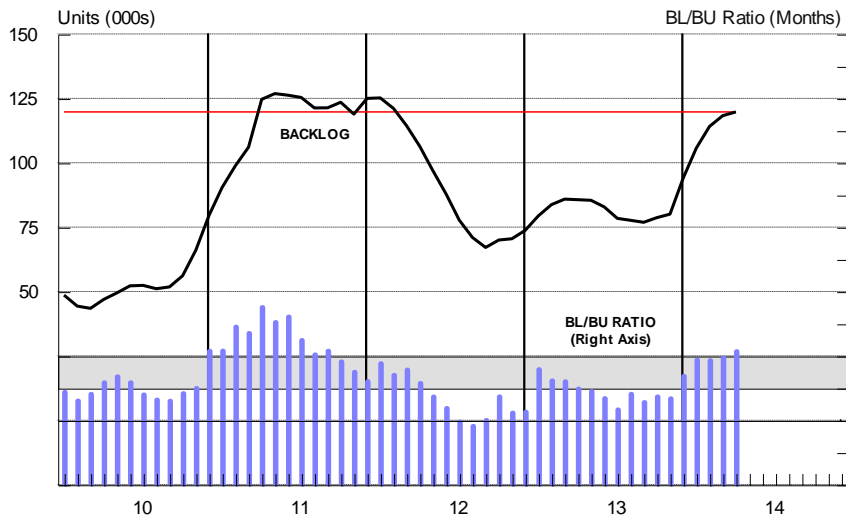


ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Improving Visibility

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

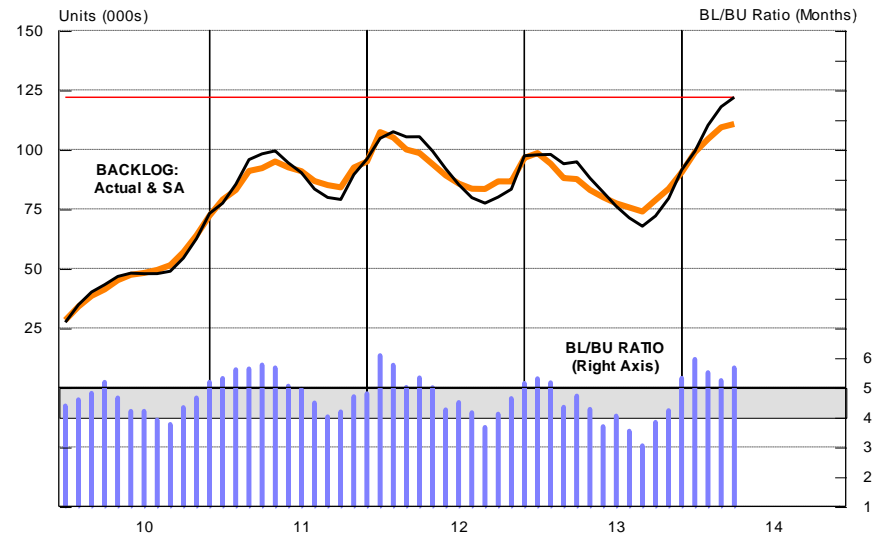
January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

TOTAL TRAILERS BACKLOG & BACKLOG/BUILD RATIO

January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Class 8 BL Analysis: Strong Near-term Filling

Build Timing of Units in Backlog as of April 2014

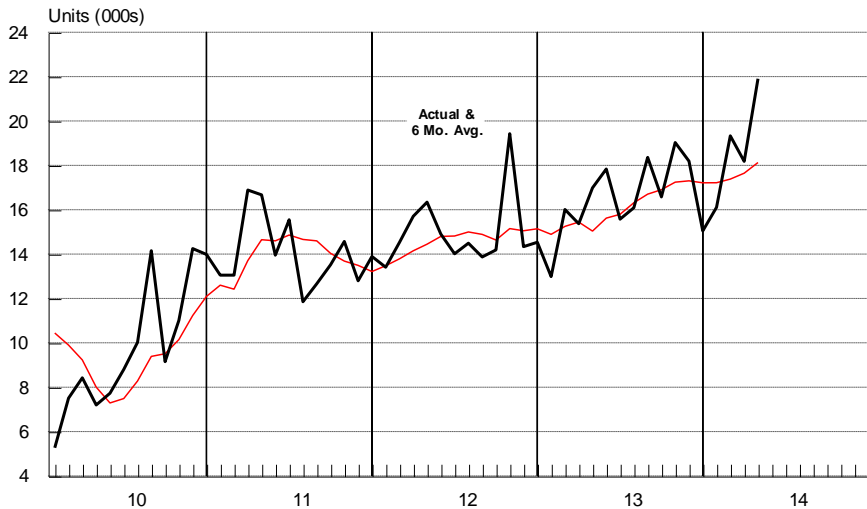
CLASS 8	2014	Q2'14	Q3'14	Q4'14	Q1'15	2014	
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>May-Jun</u>	<u>Jul-Sep</u>	<u>Oct-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-Mar</u>	<u>Beyond</u>	
						<u>Fcst.</u>	
BACKLOG DISTRIBUTION		44,709	48,625	21,506	3,576	1,312	119,728
. Distribution by Quarter		37.3%	40.6%	18.0%	3.0%	1.1%	
Class 8 Actual/Forecast Build	90,278	49,403	77,900	75,000		--	292,581
. Open build slots: 2014		4,694	29,275	53,494		--	87,463
. % Open		9.5%	37.6%	71.3%			
DAYS	YTD	May-June	Q3'14	Q4'14			
	82	42	63	59			
BUILD UPD (A/F)	1,101	1,176	1,237	1,271			

Build plan guidance from OEMs in May suggest a more aggressive 2nd half:
Extrapolating May guidance produces 290k-295k for NA BU in 2014

Mediums Too

TOTAL CLASSES 5-7: N.A. NET ORDERS

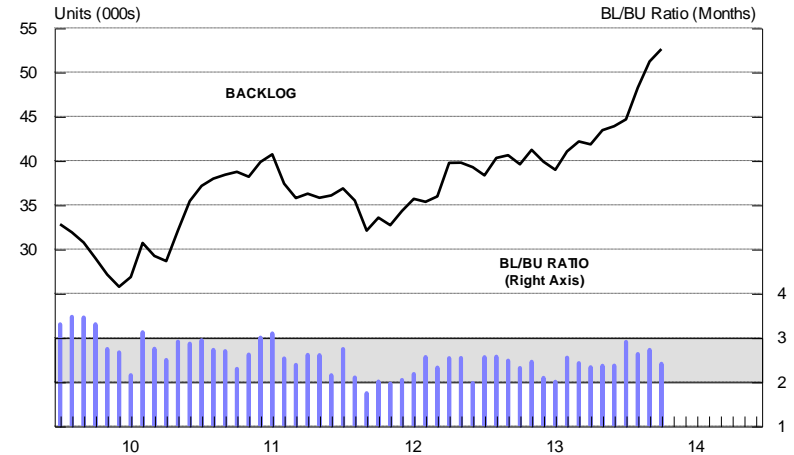
January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

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

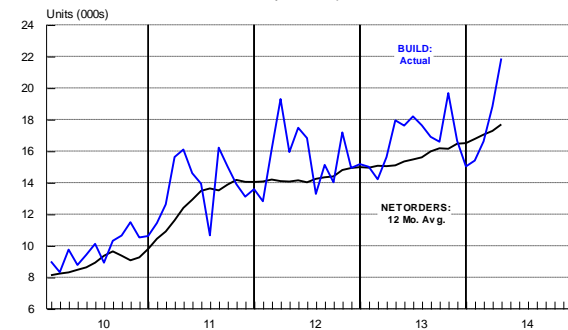
January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

TOTAL CLASSES 5-7: N.A. NET ORDERS (Trailing 12 mo.) & BUILD (Actual)

January '10 - April '14



ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

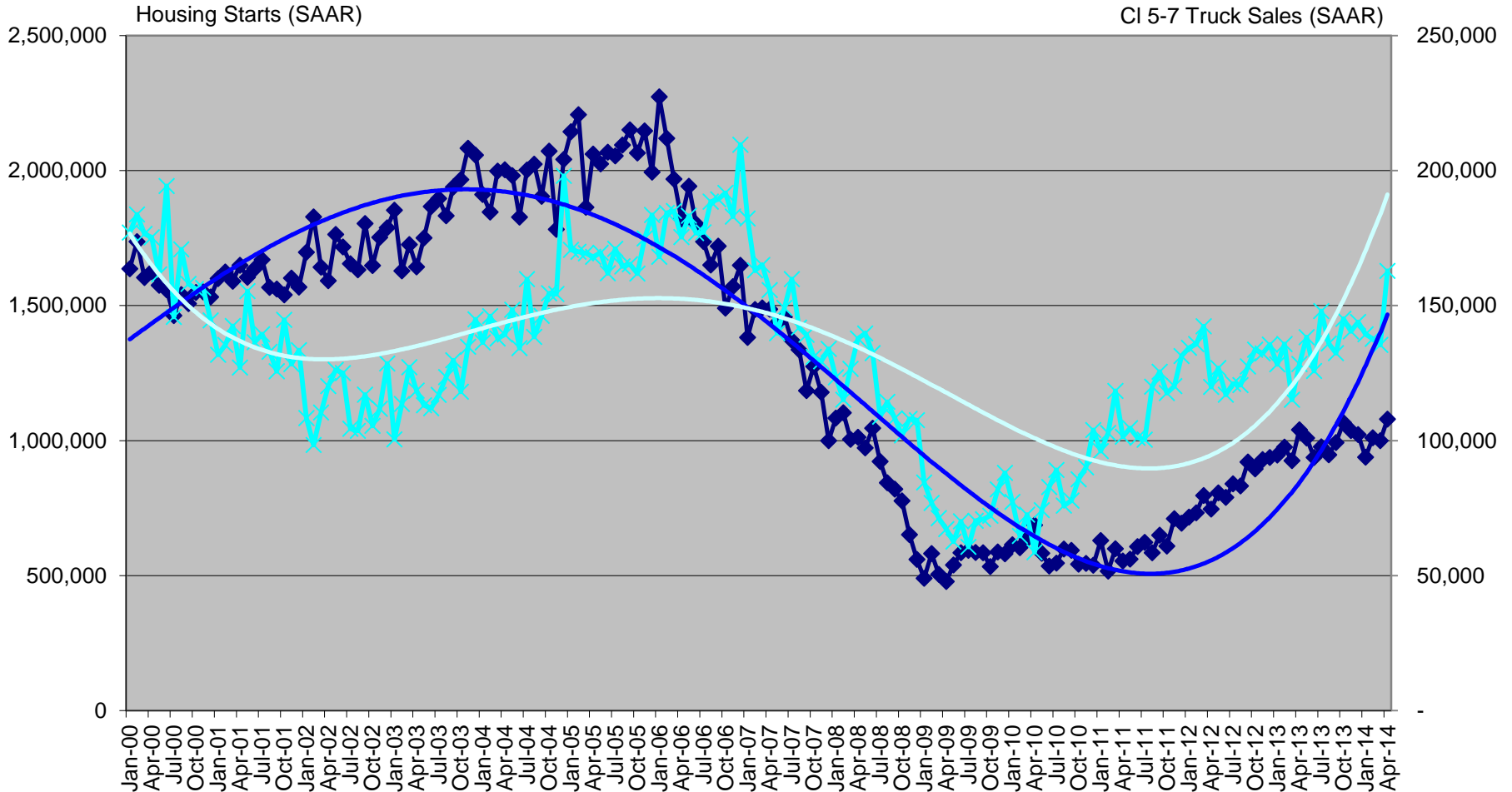
N.A. Classes 5-7 Order Distribution

(Data through April 2013, annualized)

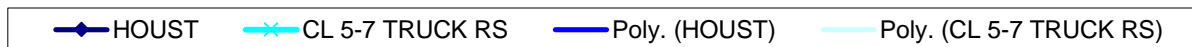
<u>Classes 5-7 Orders</u>	Truck (000s)	Bus (000s)	RV (000s)	Total* (000s)
Past 12 Mo.	152.1	35.6	17.6	212.2
Past 6 (AR)	156.3	32.4	19.0	217.5
Past 3 (AR)	163.8	38.4	23.0	237.7
Apr. (AR)	192.2	41.6	27.9	262.9

* Total includes Step Vans

Housing Starts vs. CI 5-7 Truck Sales



Source: ACT Research Co., LLC, US DOC Census Bureau

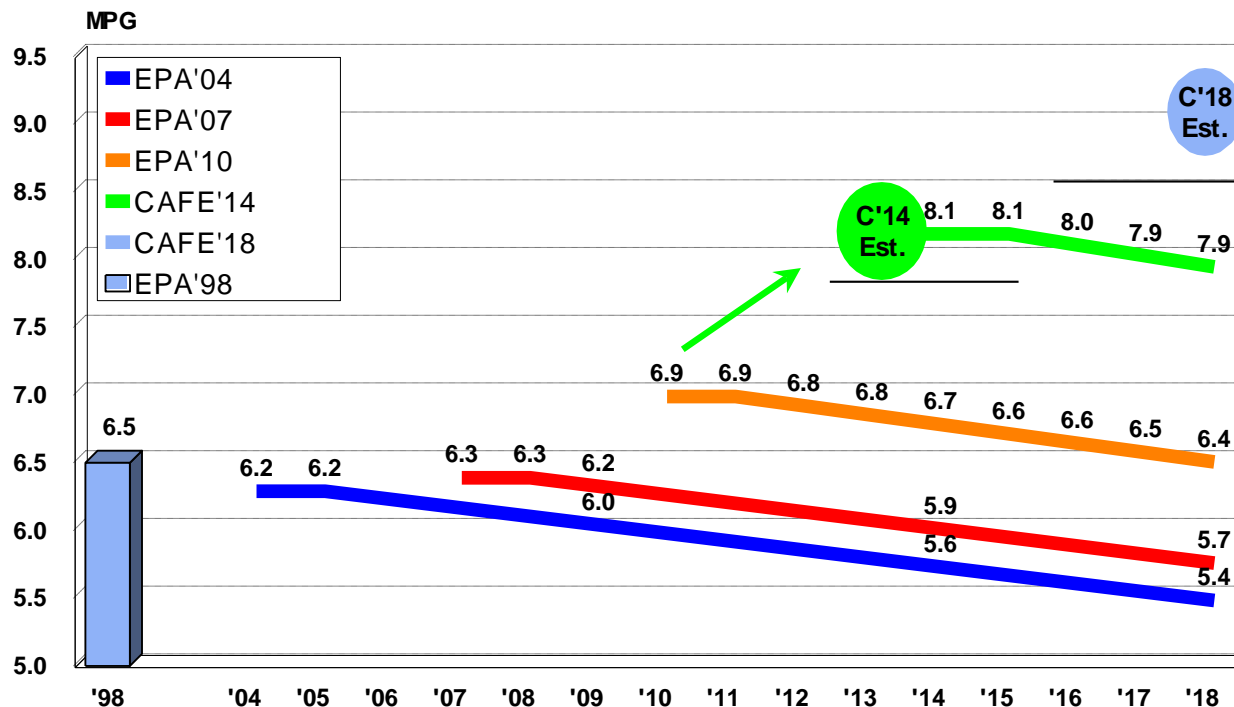


Demand Impediments

- Equipment (especially C8) is meaningfully more expensive and very good
- Regulations, HoS (2005, 2013), CSA, etc., and changes in warehousing have reduced mileage/truck ~8%-10% per year since 2004
 - More trucks required, but fewer trucks per year
- The rate of economic growth relative to the rate of productivity has not been favorable cycle to date
 - To reiterate, this situation is critical to trucker profits

Significantly Better MPG

Onhighway Tractor Fuel Economy & Estimated Degradation




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


4,200 gal./yr.
=~\$17k/yr.

Sources: ACT Research w/inputs from PHH FirstFleet, NACFE, and fleet inputs.
 ACT Research Co., LLC: Copyright 2014

Forecasts

	2012	2013	2014	2015
NA Class 8 BU (000s)	278.7	245.5	293.0	295.6 
Memo: U.S. C8 RS (000s)	198.7	187.6	220.0	223.0
US C8 NG RS		8k	10k-12k	14k-16k
NA C5-7 BU (000s)	176.6	188.2	213.8	222.0
U.S. Trailer FS (000s)	236.8	238.5	261.4	264.7

Domestic
tank supply
capacity
constrained
at ~10k





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**](http://www.actresearch.net)