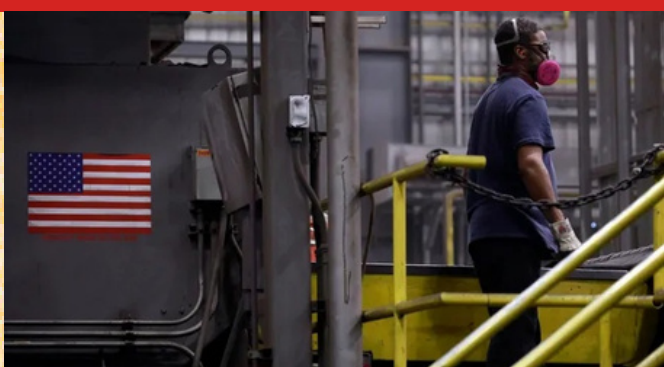




ARTICLES SOURCED FROM LEADING TRUCKING NEWS ORGANIZERS  
NEWSLETTER DESIGNED, CREATED, AND EDITED BY BRIAN MISEVETH, 586-707-0787, BRIAN.MISEVETH@GMAIL.COM



### U.S. Manufacturing Expands

U.S. manufacturing activity increased in March at the fastest pace since 2022, while input prices continued to rise.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that its gauge of prices paid for manufacturing inputs climbed 7.8 points to 78.3, the highest level since mid-2022.

Over the past two months, the index has advanced 19.3 points, marking the largest two-month increase in nearly a decade.

The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed due to the war with Iran, disrupting transportation of oil and other materials critical to manufacturing and contributing to higher oil prices.

ISM's measure of overall factory activity rose to 52.7, supported by production growth and an increase in the supplier deliveries index, which reached its highest level since May 2022.

Thirteen manufacturing industries reported growth, including primary metals and transportation equipment, while three industries contracted.

The ISM survey found that a portion of negative business comments cited trade disruptions related to tariffs and the conflict in the Middle East.

Higher input costs may affect manufacturers' pricing decisions.

In March, new orders and backlogs grew at a solid pace, while the factory employment index showed that headcount continued to decline.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the March jobs report on April 3.



### DoorDash Offsets Drivers' Expenses, Gas Price Relief

DoorDash is providing extra compensation to drivers in the U.S. and Canada to help offset rising fuel costs.

The program, announced March 23, comes as the national average gas price in the U.S. reached \$3.96 per gallon, up 35% from a month earlier, according to AAA.

The program offers U.S. drivers with a DoorDash debit card 10% cash back on gas purchases, compared with the usual 2%.

Drivers who travel 125 miles or more per week while making deliveries will also receive a weekly fuel payment of \$5 to \$15. In Canada, drivers will receive up to 36 Canadian dollars per week based on miles traveled.

Both programs will remain in effect through April 26.

The relief effort follows similar actions in Australia and a comparable program DoorDash ran in 2022 when U.S. gas prices exceeded \$4 per gallon.

At that time, other ride-hailing companies, including Uber and Lyft, implemented temporary fuel surcharges for customers.



### Digital Dashboards: Automakers Consider Removing AM Radio

AM radio continues to serve as a critical communication channel during emergencies, prompting federal legislative efforts to ensure automakers maintain receivers in new vehicles.

In 2011, Randy Brooks broadcast information live during the Joplin, Missouri, tornado, notifying listeners about the death of a local man who saved lives during the storm. At the time, the local AM station was the only functioning communication medium, with residents relying on car and battery-powered radios for emergency updates.

Brooks has noted the role of AM radio as a primary communication hub during emergencies. Today, AM radio faces competition from satellite radio, streaming music, and podcasts. Some automakers, including "Identity" company, "Tesla", "electric vehicle manufacturer", Mazda and Ford Motor Company, began phasing out AM radios in EV models due to interference issues, though Ford has since restored AM access in its vehicles.

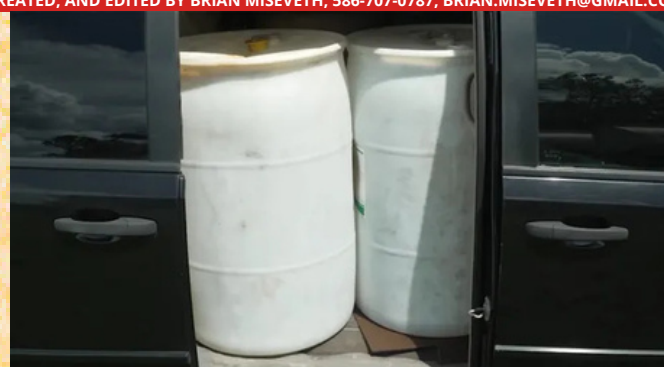
Legislation, led by Sens. Ed Markey and Ted Cruz, would require automakers to include AM receivers in vehicles. The measure, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, has received broad support in both the Senate and House, with hundreds of co-sponsors, and may be included in a larger transportation package later this year.

Supporters cite AM radio's emergency communication advantages. AM signals travel close to the ground over long distances and can operate when FM signals, cell towers, and power lines are disrupted. AM stations also serve as initial distribution points for the government's emergency alert system and provide localized reporting in coordination with public safety agencies.

Jeff Federman highlighted the role of AM stations during the 2023 Hollywood Hills fires, when stations provided evacuation directions to residents in vehicles. Brendan Carr stated that maintaining AM radio access supports public safety and quality local news coverage.

AM radio remains a platform for news, sports, music, and talk programs, including nationally syndicated hosts. According to the Congressional Research Service, over 4,000 AM stations remain on the air.

The legislation reflects ongoing coordination between Congress and federal regulators to preserve AM radio's role in public safety and emergency communications as in-car media options continue to evolve.



### NTSB: Automated Driving Features For Convenience, Not Safety

Features that allow drivers to take their hands off the wheel are associated with reduced driver attention, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy stated that drivers using partially automated systems are more likely to focus on cellphones or infotainment screens. The agency is investigating two fatal 2024 crashes involving Ford Motor Company's BlueCruise system in Texas and Pennsylvania that resulted in three deaths after vehicles struck stopped cars.

Automakers state that partially automated driving systems are not intended to replace human drivers and require driver engagement.

The NTSB indicated that some systems are marketed as allowing drivers to remove their hands from the wheel. The agency also stated that drivers using these systems are more likely to divert attention from the road.

NTSB Vice Chair Michael Graham stated that there are no uniform U.S. government standards for these systems, resulting in variation among manufacturers. The agency is evaluating system performance and driver monitoring, including prior investigations involving Tesla's Autopilot.

Missy Cummings of George Mason University stated that hands-free systems are associated with reduced driver engagement.

Ford's BlueCruise system allows hands-free driving on highways while controlling steering, braking and acceleration, and includes driver monitoring. Fully autonomous vehicles are not available for public sale in the U.S., though driverless robotaxis operate in some cities.

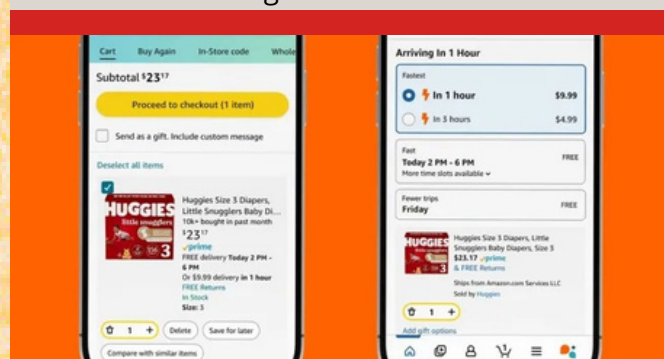
The NTSB stated that some systems may have difficulty detecting stationary objects and that this information is primarily communicated through owner manuals.

One crash in San Antonio involved a vehicle traveling about 75 mph that struck a stopped Honda CR-V on Interstate 10 at night.

Investigators reported no evidence of braking or evasive action. Another crash in Philadelphia involved a vehicle traveling 72 mph in a reduced-speed construction zone that struck a stationary Hyundai Elantra following a prior collision.

The Philadelphia crash resulted in two fatalities, including individuals outside their vehicles. The driver was charged with DUI homicide; the case is pending.

The NTSB also stated that some drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs use driver assistance systems. The agency reported that automatic emergency braking systems are effective in reducing traffic deaths.



### 1-Hour And 3-Hour Deliveries For Extra Charge

Amazon announced March 17 that it is offering faster delivery of selected products in the U.S. for a fee.

The service includes pantry staples, clothing, over-the-counter medications, cleaning supplies, and electronics.

Customers in more than 2,000 cities, towns, and suburban areas can choose three-hour delivery for 90,000 items, at \$4.99 for Prime members and \$14.99 for nonmembers.

One-hour delivery slots are available in hundreds of locations, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, Des Moines, and Boise, with charges of \$9.99 for Prime members and \$19.99 for nonmembers.

Amazon began testing the express delivery service late last year and expanded it in March.

The company has also tested ultrafast deliveries of 30 minutes or less, known as Amazon Now, in cities in India, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates, and is testing the service in U.S. and U.K. communities. Amazon uses robotics, artificial intelligence, and regionalized delivery networks to reduce order fulfillment times.

Other retailers are expanding faster delivery services.

Walmart offers same-day deliveries in under three hours to 95% of the U.S. population and is expanding drone deliveries to 270 locations by 2027 through its partnership with Wing, a division of Alphabet.

Target provides same-day delivery via Shipt to 80% of the U.S. population, with about 80% of those orders delivered in three hours or less.

### Group Efforts On Truck Parking Access, Safety Modernization

Federal and industry stakeholders are advancing coordinated efforts to strengthen trucking infrastructure capacity and safety oversight through federal funding initiatives and regulatory modernization proposals.

At the infrastructure level, federal, state, and regional agencies are expanding truck parking capacity to address growing freight demand and longstanding operational constraints.

The Federal Highway Administration received \$200 million in fiscal 2026 funding through legislation signed by Donald Trump on Feb. 3, designated for truck parking projects aimed at improving availability and efficiency along key freight and commuter corridors.

Regional organizations such as the Atlanta Regional Commission are incorporating truck parking into broader transportation planning efforts, helping local governments identify priority locations and expand capacity.

These initiatives are intended to reduce roadside parking, support compliance with hours-of-service requirements, and improve overall freight system efficiency.

At the regulatory level, the American Trucking Associations and the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association submitted a joint letter to Congress on March 31 recommending updates to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's New Entrant Safety Assurance Program.

The groups called for increased resources to enable more timely and consistent safety audits of newly registered motor carriers, with the goal of reinforcing safety practices, improving compliance, and preventing unsafe or fraudulent operations.

Recommendations include shortening or eliminating the period during which new entrants may operate without an audit, implementing a two-step review process tied to initial vetting, and returning to standardized in-person audits to improve verification of compliance and carrier legitimacy.

The organizations also emphasized strengthening the educational component of early audits, including guidance on driver qualification, hours-of-service regulations, vehicle maintenance, and drug and alcohol testing.

These proposals align with ongoing legislative consideration of Dalilah's Law. The measure seeks to enhance English-language proficiency requirements for commercial drivers and improve consistency in commercial driver license enforcement across states.

**INTRODUCING  
THE OFFICIAL  
EFS BLOG**

Click to Open Post #1:  
**Why 24/7 Fleet  
Repair Matters**

### Port Activity January, 2026

PORT VOLUMES	TEUs Processed FEBRUARY 2026	TEUs Processed FEBRUARY 2025	% ↑ ↓ Year-Over-Year
<a href="#">Port of Los Angeles</a>	824,323	801,398	2.86%
<a href="#">Port of Long Beach</a>	767,525	765,385	0.28%
<a href="#">NW Seaport Alliance (Seattle/Tacoma)</a>	207,725	257,705	-19.39%
<a href="#">Port Houston</a>	326,799	326,844	-0.01%
<a href="#">SC Port Authority (Charleston)</a>	177,811	225,532	-21.16%
<a href="#">Port of Oakland</a>	163,255	190,937	-14.50%
<a href="#">Port of Virginia</a>	n/a	260,000	n/a
<a href="#">Georgia Ports Authority</a>	445,214	479,847	-7.22%
<a href="#">Port Authority of NY &amp; NJ reports its volume one month behind other ports</a>	PANYNJ TEUs Processed In JANUARY		
	749,906	720,747	4.05%
<b>TOTAL PORT VOLUMES</b>	<b>3,662,558</b>	<b>4,028,395</b>	<b>-9.08%</b>

### February, 2026: Tonnage, Trailer Orders, Medium Duty Sales, Class 8 Orders/Sales, Used Trucks, Retail, Manufacturing

**TONNAGE:** Freight tonnage in February reached its highest level in three years, American Trucking Associations reported March 24. The ATA For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index increased 2.6% sequentially to 116.2 in February from 113.3 in January. The results also marked a 2.1% increase from 2025, which is the largest year-over-year gain since October 2022.

**TRAILER ORDERS:** U.S. trailer orders in February came in below prior-year results as the sector began working down peak-season backlog. ACT Research reported preliminary net data showed orders decreased 26% year over year to 13,200 units. The results were also 43% below the previous month. Seasonally adjusted volume at this point in the annual order cycle lowers the tally to about 12,300 units.

**MEDIUM DUTY SALES:** U.S. medium-duty truck sales in February continued trending below prior-year results, a pattern that stretches to the beginning of 2025, according to data from Omdia Automotive. Classes 4-7 retail truck sales for the month decreased 14.1% to 13,591 units from 15,824 a year earlier. The drop marks the 13th consecutive month of year-over-year declines for the segment. The result also marked a 15.2% sequential decline from 16,035 units sold in January.

**CLASS 8 ORDERS:** Class 8 truck orders surged December through February, with the most recent month's data surprising analysts, but at least one veteran market watcher has questions on how sustainable carrier appetite is. North American Class 8 truck orders jumped 156% year over year to 46,200 units in February, according to ACT Research data.

**CLASS 8 SALES:** U.S. Class 8 retail sales slipped again in February, extending an eight-month streak of year-over-year declines and underscoring the uncertainty clouding the 2026 economic outlook — even as the market posted a modest sequential gain. Omdia Automotive data showed February sales fell 17.4% to 12,992 units from 15,725 a year earlier. The last year-over-year gain came in June 2025. Sales did rise 5.7% from January's 12,287 units.

**USED TRUCKS:** Used Class 8 truck sales for February exceeded seasonal expectations amid strong gains for auction, wholesale and same-dealer sales. ACT Research reported that sales increased 5.6% to 22,700 units from 21,500 the prior year but fell 8.8% sequentially from 24,900 units sold in January.

**RETAIL:** Shoppers increased their spending in February after pulling back at the start of the year, reflecting volatile and cautious activity by American consumers even before the Iran war sent gasoline prices soaring. Retail sales rose a better-than-expected 0.6% in February, after registering a 0.1% decline in January, the Commerce Department said April 1. There is a concern that Americans, already squeezed by years of elevated inflation, will cut spending further.

**MANUFACTURING:** U.S. manufacturing activity expanded in March by the most since 2022, while input prices continued to surge. The Institute for Supply Management's gauge of prices paid for manufacturing inputs climbed another 7.8 points to 78.3, remaining at the highest since mid-2022. Over the past two months, the index has advanced 19.3 points, the most in nearly a decade.

## REMINDERS:

**Your trucks/trailers may be due for inspection**

**Schedule PM's & DOT's with EMERGENCY FLEET SERVICE**

**Check renewal dates on your equipment!**

- If inspections are overdue, we can bring you in on an emergency basis
- If there is a renewal by date is coming up soon, we can schedule prior to expiration

**Call 586-776-6157 from 7AM to 4PM**  
**Ask for John to schedule now**

**CHECK THE  
BRAKE SYSTEMS  
ON YOUR  
TRACTORS  
AND TRAILERS**

# EMERGENCY FLEET SERVICE



**14138 E. 11 MILE RD.  
WARREN, MI 48089  
TOLL FREE: 800-582-5304  
LOCAL: 586-776-6157**

**FOR INFO, CONTACT PHIL BENEDETTI  
PHILB@EMERGENCYFLEETSERVICE.COM  
PHONE: 586-864-6332**