



August: Retail Sales Rise, Job Market Rebounds

U.S. consumers increased spending in August, while employment gains and a larger labor force provided additional support for household spending.

Retail sales rose 1.2% after a revised 0.5% decline in July, according to Commerce Department data released Sept. 16. Economists had expected a 0.7% increase, according to FactSet.

Excluding sales at gas stations, retail sales increased 1.1% in August.

Sales at clothing and accessories stores rose 0.7%, furniture and home furnishings sales increased 0.9%, and online retailers recorded a 2.6% gain.

Restaurant sales also increased 1.2%. The figures are not adjusted for inflation and do not include spending on services such as travel and hotel stays.

Consumer spending continued to increase even as prices remained elevated.

Consumer prices rose 3.4% in August from a year earlier and 0.4% from July, according to Labor Department data released Sept. 11.

The average price for regular gasoline reached \$4.37 per gallon on Sept. 16, according to AAA, while diesel prices had increased 68% from their level before the renewed fighting in the Middle East.

Employment gains in August also supported household income.

Employers added 162,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate remained at 4.1%, according to the Labor Department's Sept. 4 report.

FactSet economists had expected 65,000 new jobs. Revisions added a combined 55,000 jobs to June and July employment figures.

Restaurants and bars added 59,000 jobs in August, construction companies added 22,000 and manufacturers added 16,000.

The labor force increased by 683,000 people during the month. Average hourly wages rose 3.1% from a year earlier, the smallest year-over-year increase since May 2021.

The labor market has also seen relatively few layoffs even as hiring has slowed.

Gross hiring declined 5% in July to fewer than 5.1 million workers, according to Labor Department data released Sept. 1, while weekly applications for unemployment benefits have remained in a range of about 200,000 to 230,000 over the past year.

The combination of continued consumer spending, employment gains and relatively low layoffs has kept household demand active, while higher prices and slower wage growth remain factors affecting consumer purchasing decisions.

Businesses have increasingly used technology and artificial intelligence to improve efficiency and maintain output with existing workforces as hiring has moderated.



Service Sector Expands

The U.S. service sector expanded in August at its fastest pace in six months, supported by increased demand and business activity.

The Institute for Supply Management's services index rose 1.3 points to 55.4, the highest level since February, according to data released Sept. 3. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

New orders increased at the fastest pace since early 2023, while the business activity index reached its highest level since 2022. Order backlogs increased for the seventh consecutive month.

Twelve service industries reported growth in August, including mining, real estate, and accommodation and food services. Five industries reported contraction.

The services sector has faced supply chain disruptions, tariffs and higher costs. ISM's measure of prices paid for materials and services rose to 72.6 in August, the highest level since mid-2022.

Petroleum-related products, diesel and gasoline increased in price during August, according to the ISM Services Business Survey Committee. Graphics processing units and steel were also reported to be in short supply.

The ISM employment index indicated contraction in five of the past six months.

Supplier delivery times remained in expansion territory, although the index declined to its lowest level in nearly a year.

Share Your Feedback In Just 30 Seconds!



Tell us about your EFS experience.
Scan (mobile) or click (computer)
this QR code to fill out a brief survey

ATA's MCE 2026 Set For Charlotte

The American Trucking Associations' 2026 Management Conference & Exhibition is scheduled for Oct. 17-20 at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C.

The event will feature more than 40 meetings and educational sessions covering trucking industry issues. More than 2,500 attendees from 670 companies across North America, Europe and Asia are expected.

ATA Chairman and CEO Greg Hodgen of Groendyke Transport and ATA First Vice Chairman Derek Leathers will lead a Chairmen's Perspectives discussion titled The State of the Industry and the Road Ahead.

During a breakfast session on economic and freight market trends, ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello will provide an update on industry conditions, trade policy and the labor market.

The Oct. 20 general session will focus on cargo theft and supply chain fraud, with a panel examining emerging threats and efforts to protect freight. An educational session on artificial intelligence, Caught on Camera, Missed by AI: The Growing Fleet Liability Crisis, will address false negatives in AI video safety programs and discuss AI governance, risk reduction and fleet protection. Another session will examine physical AI and its use in monitoring, reporting and routine safety workflows.

The American Transportation Research Institute will present its annual Big Reveal of the top 10 issues facing the trucking industry, including factors contributing to those concerns and perspectives from a driver and motor carrier CEO. ATRI President and CEO Rebecca Brewster will make her final MCE appearance before retiring.

The Sunday keynote luncheon will feature Raymont Harris, a former NFL running back and founder of Elite Mindset & Performance, who will discuss approaches to handling challenges, performance and leadership.

CLICK TO READ THE LATEST EFS BLOG:

Emergency Truck Repairs For Light Commercial Fleets



NTDAW, Truckers Being Nationally Recognized/Praised

Professional truck drivers were recognized by trucking industry organizations and businesses during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, held Sept. 13-19.

The American Trucking Associations organized events recognizing more than 3 million truck drivers across the country for their role in transporting goods and supporting supply chains.

Industry organizations and businesses also held events and recognition programs throughout the week. The Propane Education & Research Council recognized drivers nominated by propane companies and customers for safety practices, including attention to detail, adherence to procedures, hazard identification, equipment maintenance and inspections.

The Port of Long Beach hosted an appreciation event Sept. 15 that included free breakfast, refreshments and giveaways. Drivers attending the event also had access to free Clean Truck Check testing required in California.

Shell Rotella highlighted the personal stories of nearly 100 truck drivers in videos recorded during the 2026 Mid-America Trucking Show. The company donated \$25 to the St. Christopher Truckers Relief Fund for each video recorded, resulting in a donation of more than \$2,000.

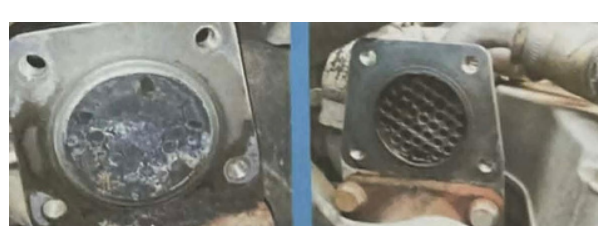
National Truck Driver Appreciation Week events were also held at truck stops and other locations across the country, providing drivers with food, refreshments, giveaways and other forms of recognition.



emergencyfleetservice.com
EMERGENCY
FLEET SERVICE
EGR Cleaning Service

Starting at \$575*
+ gaskets & filters

Don't let carbon build up damage your engine!
E restore system function and help extend diesel engine life.



Key Benefits of EGR

- Restores power & fuel efficiency
- Cleans EGR valves, turbos, and coolers
- Helps keep DPF & SCR systems clean
- Reduces exhaust emissions
- Helps prevent costly diesel repairs
- Removes carbon buildup that causes power loss
- Extends diesel engine life



For optimal results, we use only approved industrial-strength diesel induction/EGR cleaners and rinse aids.



Professional EGR Cleaning Services

Commercial trucks • Fleet vehicles • Diesel pickups
Buses • Heavy equipment • Diesel generators

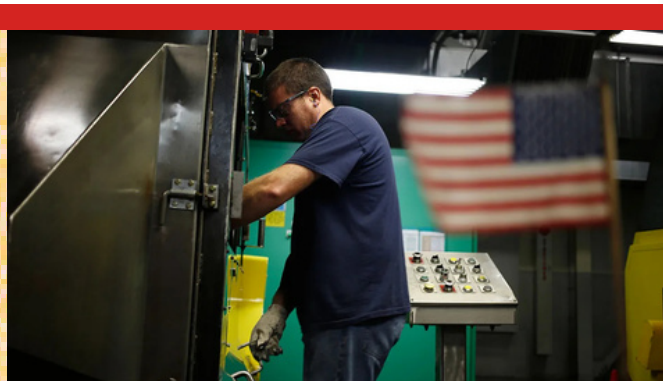
Emergency Fleet Service helps restore proper system function, improve drivability, and extend the life of your diesel engine.

KENVO TECHNOLOGY INC.



Port Activity July, 2026*

PORT VOLUMES	TEUs Processed AUGUST 2026	TEUs Processed AUGUST 2025	% ↑ ↓ Year-Over-Year
Port of Los Angeles	955,907	958,355	-0.26%
Port of Long Beach	919,992	901,846	2.01%
NW Seaport Alliance (Seattle/Tacoma).	235,795	256,735	-8.16%
Port Houston	373,756	370,430	0.90%
SC Port Authority (Charleston)	406,485	443,327	-8.31%
Port of Oakland	173,818	192,313	-9.62%
Port of Virginia	307,023	247,400	24.10%
Georgia Ports Authority	529,523	533,000	-0.65%
*Port Authority of NY & NJ reports its volume one month behind other ports	PANYNJ TEUs Processed in JULY, 2026/2025 YOY		
	766,276	794,268	-3.52%
TOTAL PORT VOLUMES	4,668,575	4,697,674	-0.62%



Employment Gains: Manufacturing And Construction

Employment growth in manufacturing, construction and other goods-producing industries has outpaced growth in the services sector in recent months.

Payrolls at goods-producing businesses increased 0.6% during the six months through August, compared with a 0.4% increase in services, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Manufacturing employment increased by 43,000 jobs during the three months through August, the strongest three-month increase since the end of 2022.

The August report showed payrolls increasing by the most in five months, while the unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.

Recent increases in manufacturing and construction employment have coincided with increased investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure and data centers, according to Citigroup economist Veronica Clark. Tax provisions enacted through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act have also supported investment in equipment and facilities.

The recent increase in manufacturing employment follows three years of job losses in the sector, according to EY-Parthenon chief economist Gregory Daco.

A measure tracking the breadth of hiring across 72 manufacturing industries reached its highest level in nearly four years in August, according to BLS data. Employment gains were reported among manufacturers of machinery, primary and fabricated metals, computers and electronic products, and electrical equipment and appliances.



Canada Fast-Tracks West Coast Oil Pipeline

Canada is moving forward with a proposed high-capacity oil pipeline that could affect U.S. energy markets by giving Canadian crude producers greater access to global customers.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Oct. 1 designated the Pacific Link pipeline a project of national interest, advancing it through a regulatory process.

Construction is targeted to begin in September 2027.

The pipeline would transport up to 1 million barrels of bitumen per day from Alberta's northern oil sands to a new deepwater terminal near Vancouver for shipment to Asian markets.

Expanding Canada's access to Pacific markets could reduce its reliance on the U.S. as an export destination and provide additional flexibility for North American crude flows. Canada is already the largest source of U.S. crude oil imports.

The project is expected to cost C\$35.2 billion (\$24.7 billion) to C\$43.7 billion. It would be operated by a new company jointly owned by the Canadian and Alberta governments, with Pembina Pipeline Corp. holding an initial 10% stake and an option to increase its ownership to 20%. Trans Mountain Corp. would lead development.

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 the renew 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



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

EMERGENCY FLEET SERVICE