

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

REAL INSIGHTS. PRACTICAL ACTIONS. A STRONGER SUPPLY CHAIN.



TEAM POWERED.
MAKING IT EASY.
IT'S HANDLED.
DRIVEN TO INNOVATE.

THE MONTH IN FOUR NUMBERS

KEY INDICATORS. A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S MOVING THE MARKET.

+1.9%

YoY

U.S. Freight Shipments

Second consecutive month of year-over-year growth.

Cass Transportation Index | Sept 2026

+10.1%

YoY

Truckload Linehaul Pricing

Pricing remains elevated despite slower monthly growth.

Cass Transportation Index | Sept 2026

54.5

PMI

Manufacturing PMI

Expansion continues for the ninth consecutive month.

ISM | Sept 2026

\$6.20

per gallon

U.S. On-Highway Diesel Price

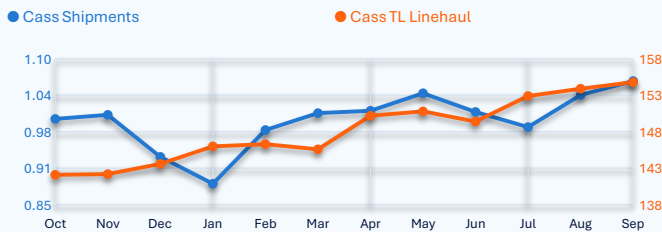
Down 18.3¢ from last week but still elevated.

EIA | Oct 5, 2026

WHAT THE DATA IS TELLING US

TRENDS. INSIGHTS. IMPLICATIONS.

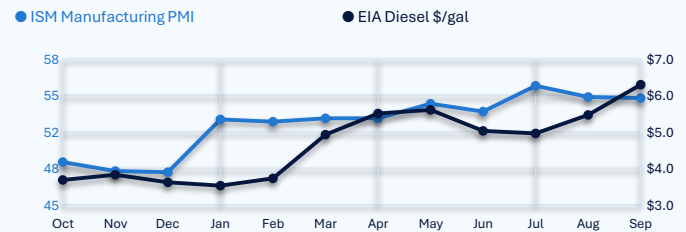
Freight Demand & Truckload Pricing



September shipments rose 1.9% YoY; truckload linehaul rose 10.1% YoY.

Source: Cass Transportation Index, monthly | Oct 2025–Sept 2026

Manufacturing PMI & Diesel Prices



PMI remains above 50; September diesel averaged \$6.29/gal, up from \$5.46 in August.

Sources: ISM Manufacturing PMI; EIA monthly diesel | Sept 2026

FROM THE FIELD

REAL PERSPECTIVE. REAL IMPACT.



“Shippers are being more intentional about how they move freight. The conversations we’re having right

now are focused on flexibility, lead times and total cost—not just rates. The earlier we can get involved, the more options we can create.”

Dan Makowski
Brokerage Manager

MARKET WATCH

PERSPECTIVE FOR WHAT'S AHEAD.

Truckload: Q4 Capacity Planning

As shippers move into Q4, seasonal demand and year-end activity can tighten capacity on certain lanes. Regional imbalances and equipment constraints may also influence rates.

Planning freight needs early can provide flexibility, reduce exposure to last-minute premium pricing and support a reliable supply chain.



LTL: Pricing Pressure Continues

General rate increases and accessorial costs continue to influence LTL pricing. Shipment characteristics, packaging and lane dynamics affect overall cost.

Accurate shipment information and proper packaging help reduce unexpected charges and optimize LTL spend.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hardinger operates its own asset-based LTL fleet.

Daily Cleveland coverage, including liftgate-equipped delivery options.

Need regional LTL capacity? Contact your Hardinger representative.

