## March 2023: Trucking Market Weakening



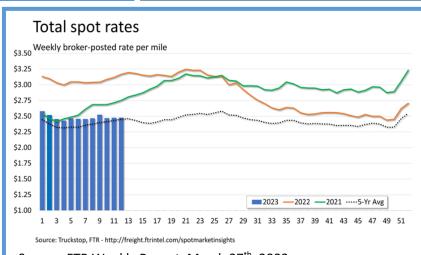
## A consensus within the industry that the second half of 2023 would show positive demand

is becoming less certain. This uncertainty is driven by weakened demand and a decline in spot and contract rates. A survey of U.S. supply chain executives in February showed that transportation rates fell at the fastest pace in the past six and a half years last month. While February is usually a slow month for transportation, seasonally-adjusted trucking sector employment in February experienced its 3rd largest decline in the past decade (8,500 jobs). The largest drop occurred in April of 2020 and was a loss of 84,500 jobs. The second largest drop occurred in January of 2013, with a loss of 9,000 jobs. Some experts say this is due to companies reacting to market signals and lower volume expectations. They expect to see trucking jobs continue to decline alongside the decline in spot rates, used equipment prices, and contract rates. Notable Florida developments over the past month include 455 abruptly lost trucking jobs at Florida-based Flagship Transport and a Miami-based trucking company filing for bankruptcy protection due to hardships over the past year.



- Since the beginning of 2023, truckload volumes have been consistently below the 5-year average. Over the last month volumes have been slightly higher, but still significantly below average.
- The index of firms with rising and falling outlooks fell into negative territory this quarter, with transportation and logistics firms reporting falling revenues this year outnumbering firms reporting rising revenues this year for the first time since COVID.

- As of February 24<sup>th</sup>, volumes were 53% lower compared to week 12 last year.
- Rates were down 22% compared to the same week last year. Over the past month rates have been flat and slightly above or at the 5-year average.
- Flatbed rates are 22% lower than the same week in 2022, but still 3% higher than the 5-year average.
- Flatbed volume was about 56% lower than this week in 2022 and 30% below the 5-year average for week 12.



Source: FTR Weekly Report, March 27th, 2023