

**Supply Chain & Logistics** 

**Market Update** 

May 2025

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# **Key Themes in Supply Chain & Logistics**

# What is the Impact of Potential Macro or Supply Chain Shocks?

- Trade wars and tariffs are disrupting normal buying patterns, and the efficient flow and costs of goods, potentially reinvigorating inflation
- · Threat of collective bargaining action and labor supply tension
- Red Sea shipping routes remain impacted despite movement towards cease fire agreements
- In an equilibrium state, natural disasters and other shocks will have a greater impact on rates

# Will the Economy Help Fuel Substantive Freight Demand Growth?

- Real US GDP decreased in Q1 driven by shifting trade policy following eleven consecutive quarters of growth
- Multiple major domestic investments in manufacturing announced, which will take time to lead to higher freight levels; companies maintain 'wait and see' approach to CapEx as uncertainty remains around what materializes in near-term
- Consumer sentiment is down 30% since January after five months of declines, and May's reading is the second-lowest on record due to inflation and recessionary fears
  - Housing market remains challenged and 2H25 optimism is cut by last two Fed meetings





# Does M&A Activity Meaningfully Rebound in 2025?

- More favorable interest rate environment but capital markets are volatile
- Favorable regulatory environment theme is cooling
- CEO confidence has declined, now in wait-and-see state<sup>1</sup>
- Significant dry powder inside global private equity, infrastructure, and private credit funds
- Pent up demand exists among sellers and buyers of companies
- Bid/ask spread between seller and buyer expectations remains but has narrowed significantly
- Many companies preparing for market without immediate launch scheduled – waiting for market uncertainty to subside



# Will Freight Supply/Demand Dynamics Improve the Freight Rate Environment?

- OTR truckload rates nearly flat year-over-year, after a short uptick
- Trucking capacity exited the market during 2024 and into 2025, but is still at pre-COVID peak levels
- Spread between contract and spot rates turned negative for the first time since 2022, but has since receded. This is a good indication that any sustained demand increase can flip the market
- Seasonality returned to the market throughout 2024 and is expected to continue as we enter 2H25, though on an irregular time schedule to minimize tariffs amid temporary 90-day pauses given uncertainty

Source: 1) ChiefExecutive



# **Key Economic Demand Indicators: The Industrial Economy**

Although manufacturing continued to register only modest growth, the rate of expansion inched higher. Worse may be to come for manufacturing, however, as goods exports fell worldwide in April at a rate not seen since August 2023, and backlogs of work fell at an increased rate. This suggests that the current output was being supported by orders placed in prior months and some front-running of tariffs

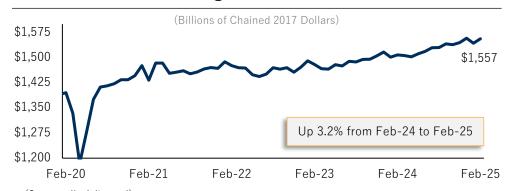
- S&P Capital IQ Pro

Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro - May 14, 2025

S&P Global Market Intelligence



### Real Manufacturing and Trade Industries Sales



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

### Industrial Production: Total Index



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

### ISM Manufacturing Index

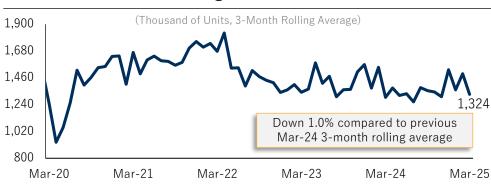


(Seasonally Adjusted)

Note: Readings above 50 indicate expansion in manufacturing activity.

Source: Institute for Supply Management

#### Housing Units Started



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



# **Key Economic Demand Indicators: The Consumer Economy**

Looking forward, there is a bull case based upon generally resilient macroeconomic numbers to date, with stable demand and capacity continuing to exit the market. We do note that forward sentiment for customer freight demand and consumer health is less clear, particularly as tariff-driven uncertainty builds. As a result, the continued rising momentum on price recovery is also less certain

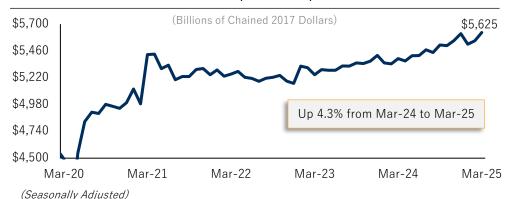
- Mark Roarke, CEO, Schneider National

Source: Schneider National - May 1, 2025



May 2025

### Real Personal Consumption Expenditures: Goods



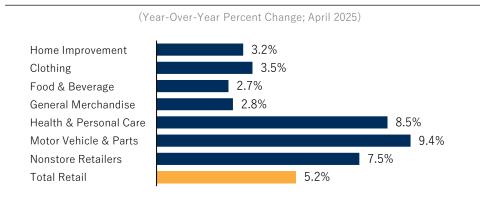
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

#### Median Consumer Price Index



(Seasonally Adjusted)
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

### Retail Store Sales



(Seasonally Adjusted)
Source: US Census Bureau

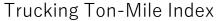
#### Real Disposable Personal Income



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



# **Key Industry Metrics**





Big carriers, which reasonably anticipated continued import reductions and announced repositions [and] service suspensions ... will need to reverse course to take advantage of the coming import demand

- Peter Friedmann, JOC, Executive Director

Source: JOC - May 14, 2025

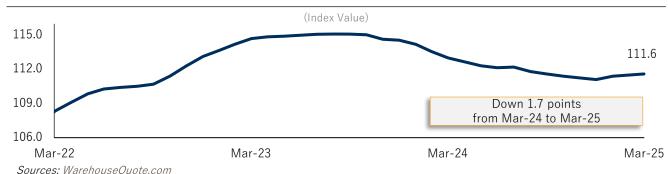
Journal of Commerce



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Sources: Fed, Census Bureau, BEA, BLS by Jason Miller, PhD

### Warehouse Pricing Index (WPI)



Customers are moving quickly to manage tariff volatility with many accelerating shipments where possible. They're also rerouting volumes and have urgent demand for overflow space

- Timothy D. Arnt, Prologis, CFO

Source: Prologis - April 16, 2025



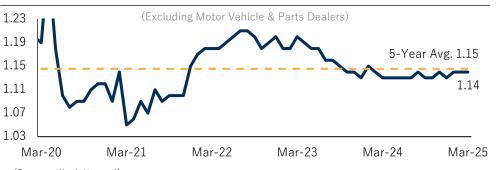


### Cass Freight Index - Shipments



Sources: Cass Information Systems, Inc.

### Retailers Inventory-to-Sales Ratio



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



## **International Trade**

It turns out the March surge in 'consumer goods' imports was almost entirely driven by pharmaceuticals, which saw seasonally adjusted imports increase by about \$20 billion in March from February, to roughly \$50 billion in total (for March)... at 3x the normal level

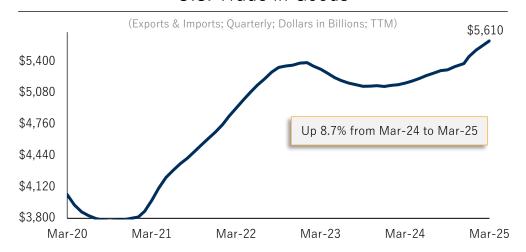
- Jason Miller, MSU, Professor

Source: LinkedIn - May 14, 2025



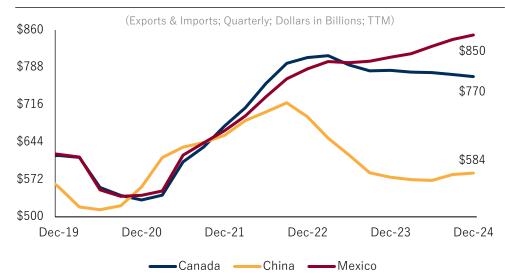


#### U.S. Trade in Goods



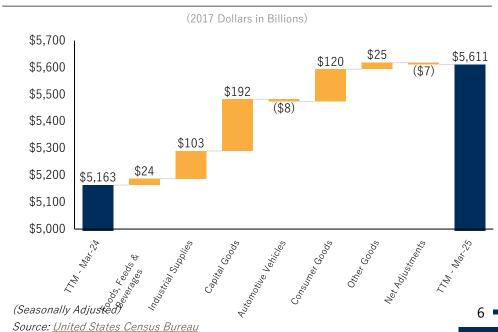
(Seasonally Adjusted) Source: United States Census Bureau

### U.S. International Trade in Goods by Country



(Seasonally Adjusted) Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

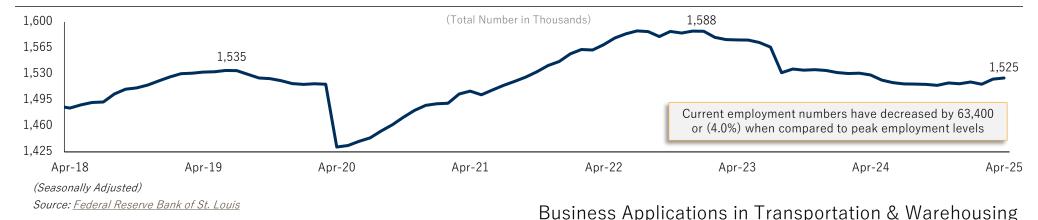
### U.S. Trade in Goods by Principal End-Use Category





# **Key Trucking Capacity Indicators**

### Truck Transportation Employment



Over the next 90 days, there's clearly going to be pent up supply that sits in China that needs to be reintroduced to the supply chain and [be brought to the US]. To bring capacity back in for vessels that have been redeployed elsewhere will be more difficult

- Ken Carles van der Steene, Maersk, President North America

Source: CNBC - May 14, 2025



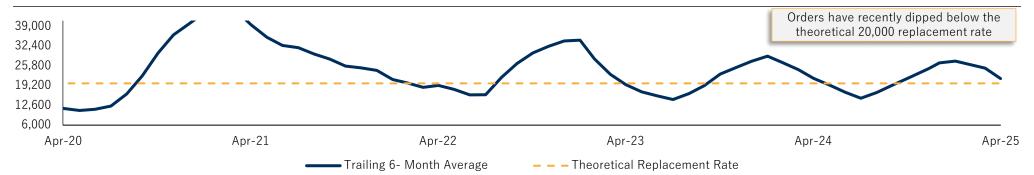
# 45,000 (Total Number)



(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

### Class 8: Net Truck Orders



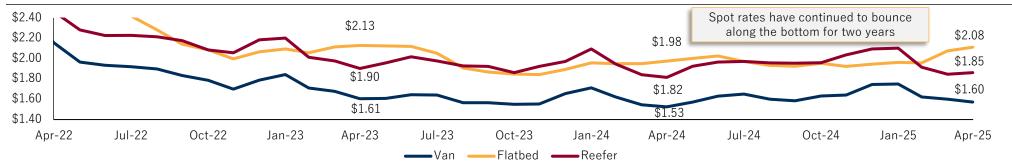
Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence

Note: Theoretical replacement rate refers to the amount of new trucks that must be purchased within a month to maintain the existing North American fleet size



# **Average Trucking Freight Rates**

### National Spot Rates



Source: S&P Journal of Commerce

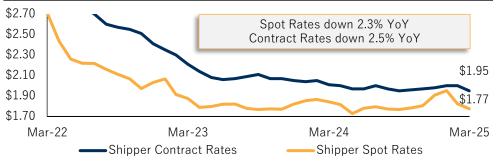
The market has not experienced sustained tightening capable of driving consistent upward pressure on transportation rates since 2022. Although there are signs that supply and demand are moving closer to equilibrium, the environment remains challenging, and carrier exits continue at elevated levels - Zach Strickland, FreightWaves, FW Market Expert & Market Analyst

Source: FreightWaves - May 18, 2025





### Shipper Contract & Spot Rates

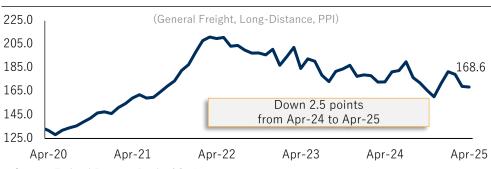


Sources: Intrepid Research, DAT Freight & Analytics , S&P JOC Contract TL & Spot TL Shipper Rates

### LTL Pricing Index



### TL Pricing Index



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

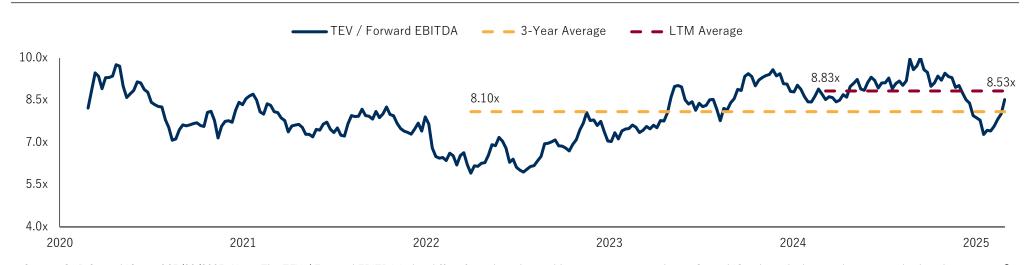
Note: The Producer Price Index measures the average change over time in the selling prices of goods and services. It is a reliable indication of pricing but is contract-freight weighted.



# **Diversified TL Public Trading Comparables**

(\$ in millions)		2025E			LTM		FY
Company	E	V / EBITDA	EV / EBIT	Price / Earnings	Operating Ratio %	EBITDA %	ROIC
J.B. HUNT		10.0x	19.2x	23.6x	93.2%	13.0%	6.6%
KNIGHT SWFT		8.6x	23.5x	26.3x	96.5%	14.1%	0.4%
<b>SCHNEIDER</b>		6.7x	20.4x	25.8x	96.6%	10.7%	1.7%
H GHubp		7.6x	15.9x	16.9x	96.3%	8.6%	3.4%
WERNER		6.7x	37.2x	39.7x	98.9%	10.7%	(0.8%)
MARTEN.		7.1x	32.2x	38.6x	97.7%	14.8%	0.3%
HE THE		5.6x	NM	NM	103.0%	14.7%	(3.3%
Covenant		5.9x	14.1x	11.6x	94.8%	13.0%	4.5%
ITANIUM		5.3x	27.0x	NM	98.0%	7.6%	(11.3%)
	Mean	7.1x	23.7x	26.1x	97.2%	11.9%	0.2%
	Median	6.7x	21.9x	25.8x	96.6%	13.0%	0.4%

## Comparable Company Index: TEV / Forward EBITDA

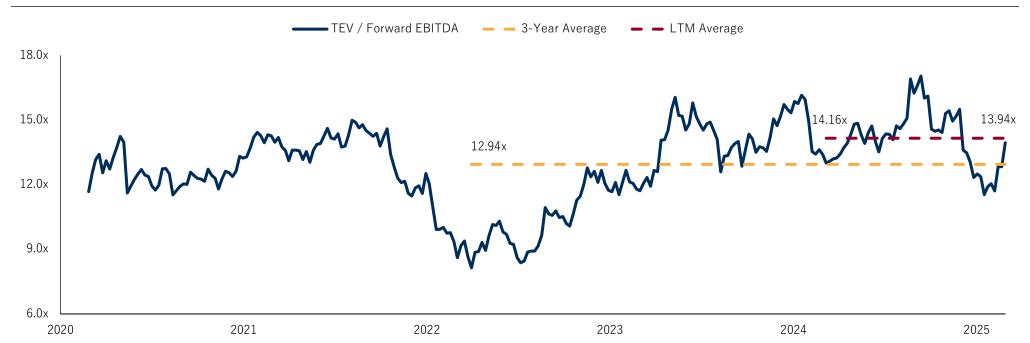




# LTL Public Trading Comparables

(\$ in millions)	_	2025E			LTM		FY
Company		EV / EBITDA	EV / EBIT	Price / Earnings	Operating Ratio %	EBITDA %	ROIC
<b>9</b>		19.2x	24.0x	31.2x	73.9%	32.2%	21.0%
XPO		14.3x	23.1x	30.9x	91.0%	15.2%	6.9%
SAIA		12.7x	21.6x	26.8x	86.5%	20.3%	12.8%
TF International		8.6x	16.9x	16.5x	92.1%	13.0%	4.4%
Forward Air.		8.7x	17.2x	NM	97.3%	8.5%	(27.9%)
ArcBest		5.9x	11.6x	11.8x	96.8%	6.9%	9.9%
	Mean	11.6x	19.1x	23.5x	89.6%	16.0%	4.5%
	Median	10.7x	19.4x	26.8x	91.6%	14.1%	8.4%

## Comparable Company Index: TEV / Forward EBITDA

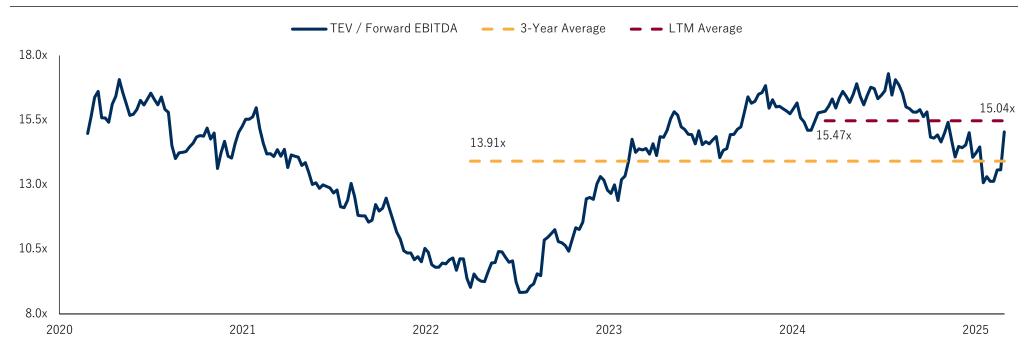




# **Logistics Public Trading Comparables**

(\$ in millions)	_		2025E		LTM		FY
Company		EV / EBITDA	EV / EBIT	Price / Earnings	Operating Ratio %	EBITDA %	ROIC
Expeditors		14.6x	15.6x	22.0x	90.1%	10.4%	22.7%
C.H. ROBINSON		14.8x	16.9x	20.6x	95.6%	4.6%	6.0%
LANDSTAR 🚖		16.6x	20.4x	26.5x	92.7%	5.8%	11.6%
RXO		21.5x	49.4x	69.0x	99.6%	2.4%	(17.9%)
<b>Mullen</b> Group		6.2x	10.7x	10.6x	90.0%	14.5%	2.0%
RADIANT		8.5x	18.3x	10.8x	97.6%	4.6%	6.1%
	Mean	13.7x	21.9x	26.6x	94.3%	7.1%	5.1%
	Median	14.7x	17.6x	21.3x	94.1%	5.2%	6.1%

## Comparable Company Index: TEV / Forward EBITDA



May 2025



# **Selected Industry Transactions**

### Recent Significant M&A

Date	Acquiror	Target
May 2025	Radiant Logistics	Universal Logistics
May 2025	DHL Supply Chain	IDS Fulfillment
April 2025	Mullen Group	Cole Group
April 2025	Proficient Auto Logistics	Brothers Auto Transport
April 2025	Fitzmark	HPL & Pentonix Freight
March 2025	Descartes	3GTMS
March 2025	Kenan Advantage Group	Evergreen Transport
March 2025	Radiant Logistics	Transcon Shipping
January 2025	Trimac	Watt & Stewart
January 2025	BlueGrace Logistics	FreightCenter
December 2024	Berkshire Partners	RJW Logistics Group
November 2024	Schneider National	Cowan Systems
November 2024	Water Street Healthcare Partners	MedSpeed





April 2025

Stonepeak

has acquired

DUPRE

#### **General Market Commentary**

- The global transportation and logistics market is poised for robust growth, expanding from \$8.5 trillion in 2024 to an anticipated \$18.6 trillion by 2034 at an 8.1% CAGR
- Diverse public sector performance, with select indices such as air and truck transportation showing resilience amid broader market challenges, underscores a dynamic valuation landscape

#### **Unique Market Commentary**

- Al-driven route planning is revolutionizing logistics through dynamic, real-time optimization that mitigates disruptions and improves fuel efficiency
- The emergence of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) is fundamentally reshaping urban transport by converging multi-modal services and leveraging real-time data for enhanced journey planning

Sentiment was positive at the beginning of the year, as the freight cycle continued to turn and interest rates continued to decrease... However, the uncertainty created by geopolitical disruptions is posing some serious clouds on what otherwise should have been a strong year. Financial sponsors and strategics are likely to focus their efforts on setting up value protection strategies for their business and improving operational efficiencies at least until the environment normalizes

- Andres Mendoza Pena, Kearney, Partner

Source: Kearney - April 24, 2025

KEARNEY >

Sources: Pitchbook, S&P Capital IQ.



## **Leadership Team - Supply Chain & Logistics**



Dave serves as a Managing Director and Head of Intrepid's Supply Chain & Logistics group. He has 20+ years of experience providing middle market companies with M&A advisory support and other capital markets solutions.

For more than a decade, Dave has focused exclusively on the transportation and logistics sector, where he has advised businesses across a broad range of sectors, including freight management, global freight, intermodal/drayage, and other specialized logistics.

Leveraging his deep transaction experience and regular dialogue with key industry constituents, Dave brings an in-depth knowledge of key market trends as well as the investment criteria and process behavior of strategic and financial buyers.

Prior to joining Intrepid, he served as co-head of William Blair's Transportation and Logistics practice and also led the Transportation and Logistics practice at Piper Sandler, where he spent 15+ years after joining as an associate in 2007.



Mike joined Intrepid in 2024 as a Managing Director in the Supply Chain & Logistics group. He has more than 20 years of banking experience and has focused on the transportation, logistics, and supply chain sector since 2016. His experience includes hundreds of M&A and capital raising transactions for public and private businesses. He has represented clients across a variety of industry segments, including trucking, logistics, short-line and regional railroads, warehousing, shipping, and transportation services firms including factoring and fleet leasing.

As a former CDL holder, he has a tremendous amount of respect for the owners, operators, and employees who drive the lifeblood of the US economy.

Prior to joining Intrepid, Mike was a Managing Director and Head of Transportation and Logistics at Bridgepoint Investment Banking and previously spent nearly 20 years with Bank of America where he was the transportation industry sector lead.



Scott is a Vice President on Intrepid's Supply Chain & Logistics team. Scott has over 12 years of investment banking experience, primarily focused on middle-market mergers and acquisitions in the broader industrials space. He has transaction experience in many logistics subverticals, including truck brokerage, freight forwarding, customs brokerage, spare parts logistics, and reverse logistics. Additional industrials transaction experience includes building products distribution, bakery products distribution, vehicle electronics, specialty vehicle manufacturing, commercial furniture manufacturing, and heavy civil construction.

Prior to joining Intrepid, Scott advised middle-market clients on mergers and acquisitions transactions at Deloitte Corporate Finance, Wells Fargo Advisors, FocalPoint Partners, Wells Fargo Securities, and Barrington Associates. Scott earned a BSE from Princeton University where he was awarded a prize for innovative research and exceptional senior thesis.

Scott currently resides with his wife and two children in Los Angeles. Outside of the office, he enjoys baking and drawing Dog Man cartoons with his daughter, building Legos with his son, and playing games at the beach as a family.

May 2025



# Overview of Intrepid's Supply Chain & Logistics Practice

Our team leverages in-depth industry knowledge and experience combined with a diverse offering of capital solutions to serve as a value-added advisor and thought partner to companies across the supply chain and logistics universe.

#### **In-Depth Supply Chain and Logistics Expertise**

Experienced Team Focused on the Supply Chain and Logistics Sector

Deep Sector Knowledge Gained Through Ongoing Dialogue and Transaction Activity

Proven Process Excellence in M&A and Capital Markets
Transactions

Extensive Global Strategic Buyer Relationships Providing Superior Access and Unique, Real-Time Market Insights

Established Relationships with Financial Sponsors Actively Investing in this Sector

Experience Leading Transactions in a Broad Range of Freight
Market Environments

#### **Diverse Capital Solutions for the Middle Market**



# EXPERTISE SPANNING FULL CAPITAL STRUCTURE

- Senior Debt
- Junior & Mezzanine Debt
- Structured & Minority Equity
- Control Equity
- Rescue Financing

# ACCESS TO ALL POOLS OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL

- Commercial Banks
- Private Credit
- Hedge Funds
- Private Equity
- Strategic Investors



# **Supply Chain & Logistics Sector Coverage**

We provide M&A and capital advisory services for companies operating across a broad range of supply chain sectors.

### Freight Management

- ✓ Freight Brokerage
- ✓ Managed Transportation
- √ 4PL
- ✓ Driveaway

WORLDWIDE C.H. ROBINSON

**SUNTECK***tts* 

#### Asset - Based Transportation

- ✓ TL, LTL, Dedicated
- ✓ Flatbed
- ✓ Auto



### **Bulk Logistics**

- ✓ Liquid, Dry, Chemical
- ✓ Short Line & Regional Rail
- ✓ Rail Services
- ✓ Jones Act
- ✓ ISO Tank







#### Infrastructure

- ✓ Chassis / Trailer Leasing
- ✓ Aircraft Leasing
- ✓ Terminals & Storage
- ✓ Port Infrastructure





### Global Freight

- ✓ Air Cargo Handling
- ✓ Freight Forwarding
- ✓ Customs Brokerage
- ✓ Ocean Shipping



### Intermodal / Drayage

- ✓ Drayage
- ✓ IMCs
- ✓ Transloading
- ✓ Port Services







#### Warehousing / Fulfillment

- ✓ Ambient / Temp Controlled
- ✓ eCommerce Fulfillment
- ✓ Reverse Logistics
- ✓ Parcel / Courier
- ✓ Final Mile
- ✓ LTL Consolidation





#### Specialized Logistics

- ✓ Student Transportation
- ✓ Medical / Life Sciences
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Aerospace & Defense
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Moving & Storage



### Fleet Services

- ✓ Fleet Management
- ✓ Freight Audit, Bill, & Pay
- ✓ Factoring / Finance
- ✓ Staffing
- ✓ Spotting / Yard Management







#### Supply Chain Technology

- ✓ Freight Software / TMS
- ✓ Telematics
- ✓ Supply Chain Visibility
- ✓ Warehouse Automation

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May 2025



# **Deep Transaction Experience across Supply Chain & Logistics**

Differentiated sector coverage, proven process excellence and trusted advisory relationships across the supply chain and logistics landscape.











































