

Uber Freight

Chemical Current
Supply chain newsletter for
chemical shippers

August 2025



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Executive summary

Chemical producer prices accelerated in July, rising 0.6%, driven primarily by a 7.5% surge in manufactured fibers. Broader categories—including agricultural chemicals, bulk petrochemicals and organics, basic and specialty chemicals, and inorganic chemicals—posted modest increases of up to 1%. Prices for consumer-oriented products and plastic resins remained essentially unchanged, while synthetic rubber softened by 1%. On a year-over-year basis, overall chemical producer prices were 1.0% higher, signaling moderate inflationary pressures within the sector. Chemical output contracted by 1.4% in July, reversing June's uptick and reflecting broad-based declines across inorganic chemicals, synthetic materials, coatings, other specialty chemicals, and agricultural chemicals. Utilization of chemical manufacturing capacity eased to 80.5% from June's 81.4%, although output remains 0.9% above last year's level. This production downturn coincided with the Manufacturing PMI[®] dipping to 48 in July, identifying the chemical products segment as one of ten industries in contraction, even as certain markets—such as data-center construction—continue to drive pockets of robust demand.

U.S. Chemical Industry Capacity Utilization



Source: Federal Reserve Board, ACC analysis

Source: American Chemistry Council

Q2 bulk survey results

Uber Freight thanks all carriers who participated in our Q2 bulk shipping survey. Their input on market trends, challenges, and priorities gives us valuable insights to strengthen our logistics network. This feedback drives innovation, sustainability, and higher service standards across the bulk freight industry—benefiting shippers with a more responsive, forward-thinking carrier community.

The quarterly survey saw a 57% increase in participation, driven largely by greater input from midsize and smaller fleets. Notably, 73% of carriers experienced an increase in spot volume activity versus Q1, indicating a possible rebound in spot freight demand. Confidence in the bulk market's near-term direction improved modestly, with optimism for the next quarter rising to 45%. Despite retention being under control, issues finding qualified drivers remain persistent in Q2, with 64% of respondents citing difficulties with driver recruitment. Strategic risks remain centered on trade-policy volatility and geopolitical instability, with strong consensus calling for predictable tariffs and clearer demand signals to support long-term planning.



Other key findings include:

- 86% of respondents are ready and willing to adopt sustainable equipment
- Back-office issues are a key pain point for carriers
- Only 5% of respondents cite driver retention as an issue

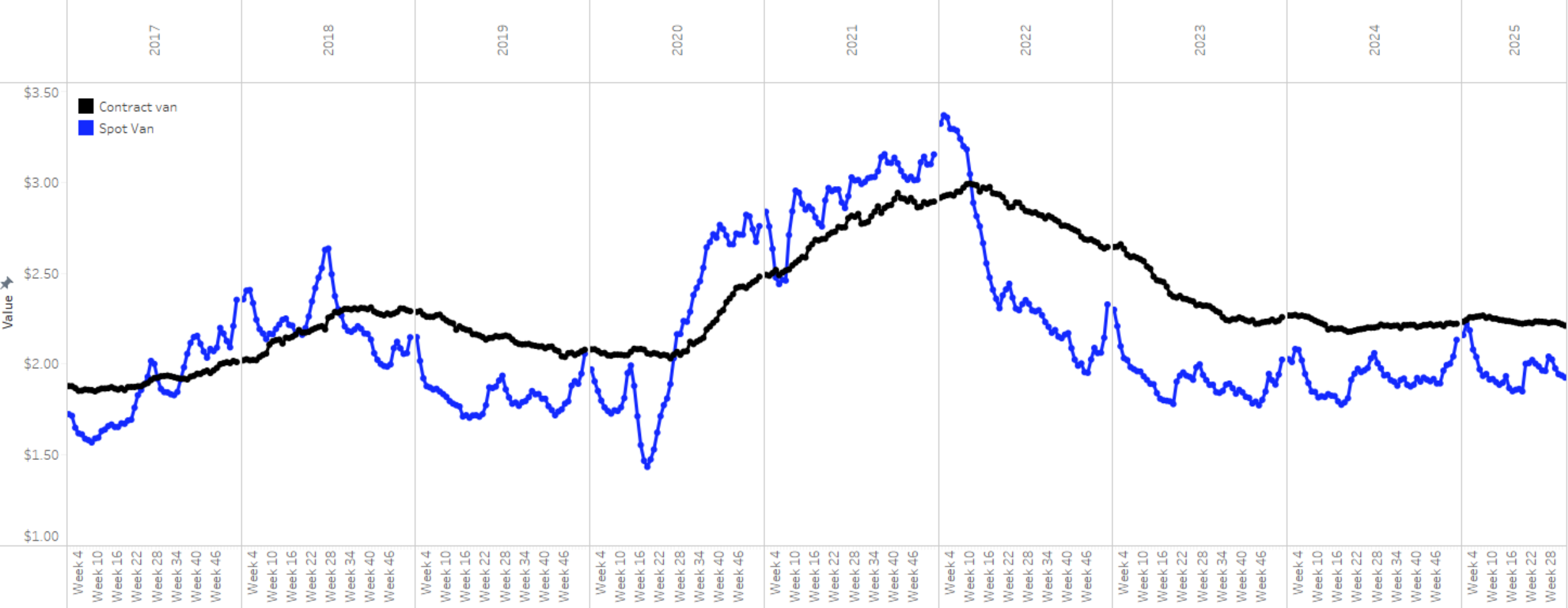
Chemical transportation trends



Uber Freight 2025

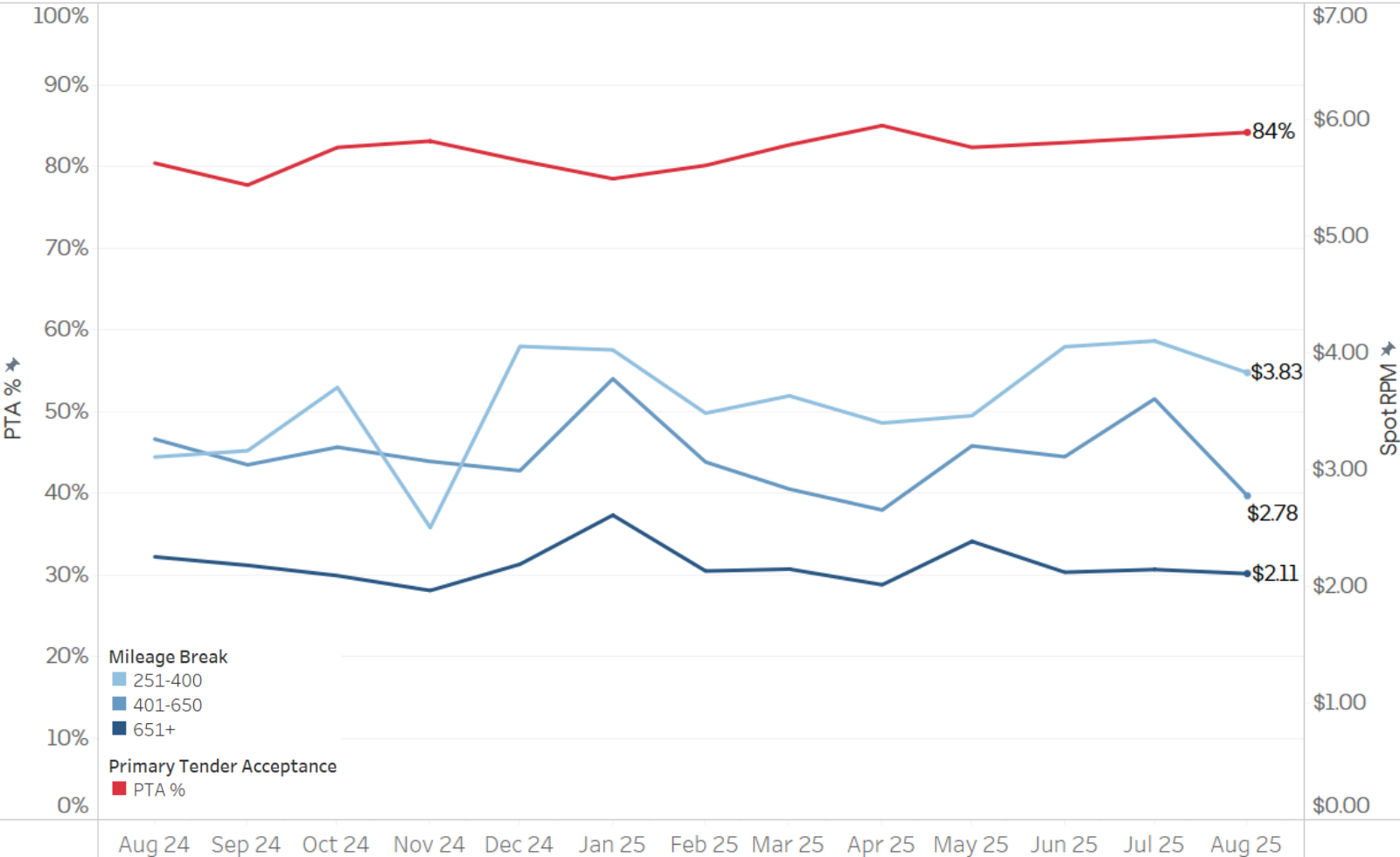
Weekly Average Van Spot vs Contract rates

Week 32 - 2025
Avg Spot Van \$1.93
Avg Contract Van \$2.21



Hazardous materials tendering trends

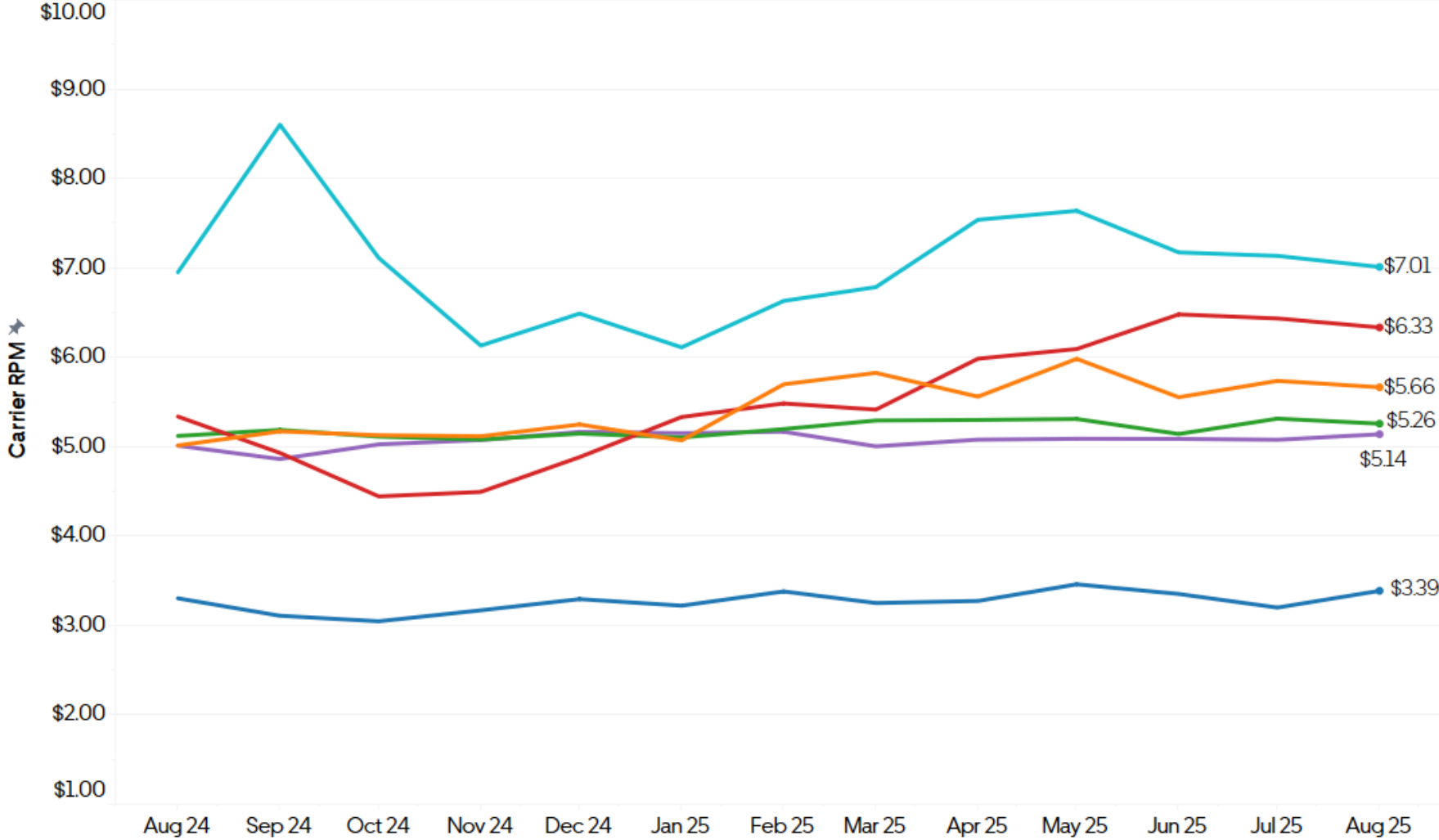
Hazmat TL: PTA % vs Spot RPM by Mileage Break (Trailing 13 Months)



- Halfway through August, Spot Rate per Mile (RPM) for long haul (> 650 miles) hazmat dry van Truckload (TL) see prolonged stability at \$2.11, a 9% premium over non-haz dry van truckload rates.
- Primary Tender Acceptance (PTA) for Hazmat Truckload (TL) is steady 84%

Bulk pricing trends

Bulk Rate per Mile by Equipment Type(Trailing 13 Months)



- Rate per Mile for **Multi-Compartment, ISO Tank/Intermodal Container, & Specialized** equipment types saw marginal variances month-over-month, leaving them virtually unchanged in July and are on pace to remain inline throughout August.
- **Food Grade & Liquid Bulk Tankers** both remain range bound
- **Dry Bulk Tankers** rate per mile hit a new 8-month low in July but has bounced back in August.

- Bulk Equipment Type
- Dry Bulk Tanker
 - Food Grade
 - ISO Tank/Intermodal Container
 - Liquid Bulk Tanker
 - Multi-Compartment Bulk Trailer
 - Specialized

Diesel fuel pricing trends



Current national diesel price - **\$3.713/gal**
(As of 8/18/25)



Brent Crude - **\$67.36 (\$/bbl)**
(As of 8/11/25)



WTI Crude - **\$65.09 (\$/bbl)**
(As of 8/11/25)

Current dry van fuel surcharge



Fuel Surcharge
\$0.42 (\$0.00)

→ Rate is neutral

Source: DAT (as of 8/19/25)

Current reefer fuel surcharge

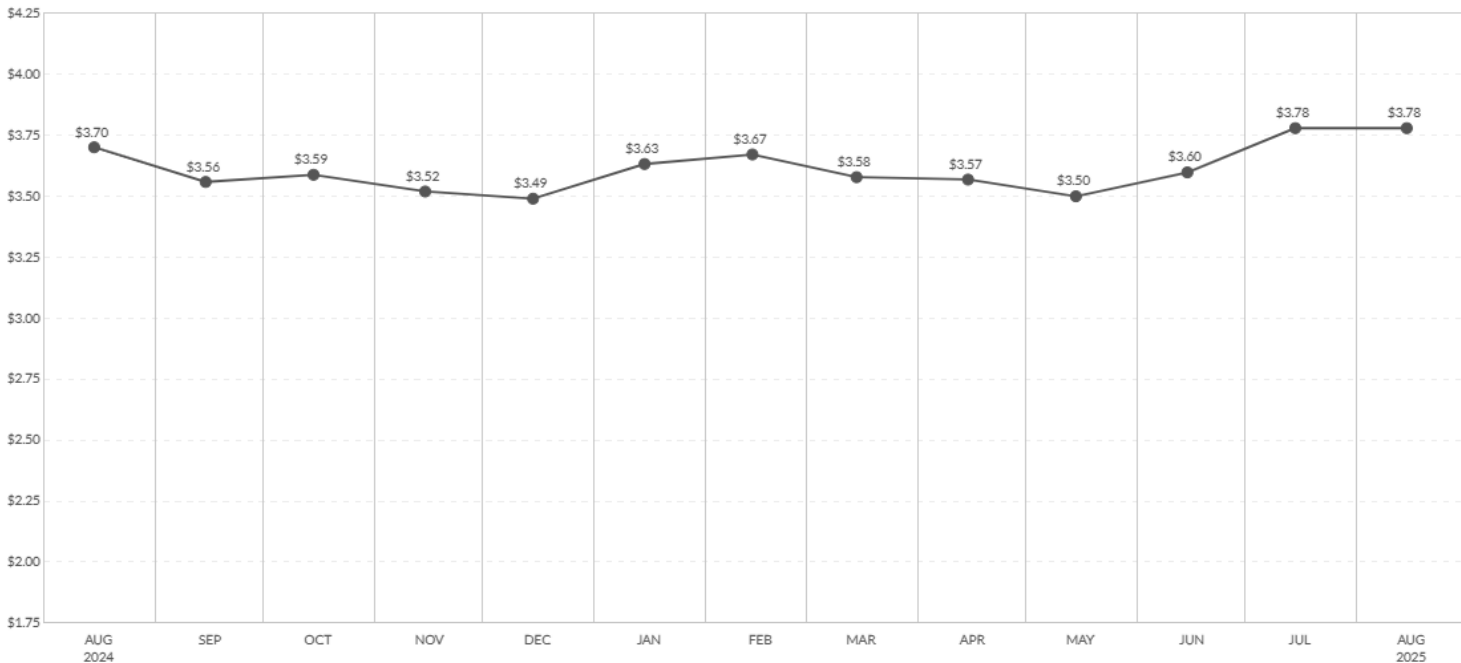


Fuel Surcharge
\$0.46 (\$0.00)

→ Rate is neutral

Source: DAT (as of 8/19/25)

1 Year national diesel fuel averages



Source: DAT (as of 8/19/25)

- National average for diesel prices decline for the fourth consecutive week
- Crude oil prices trend lower leading up to the Trump-Putin summit.

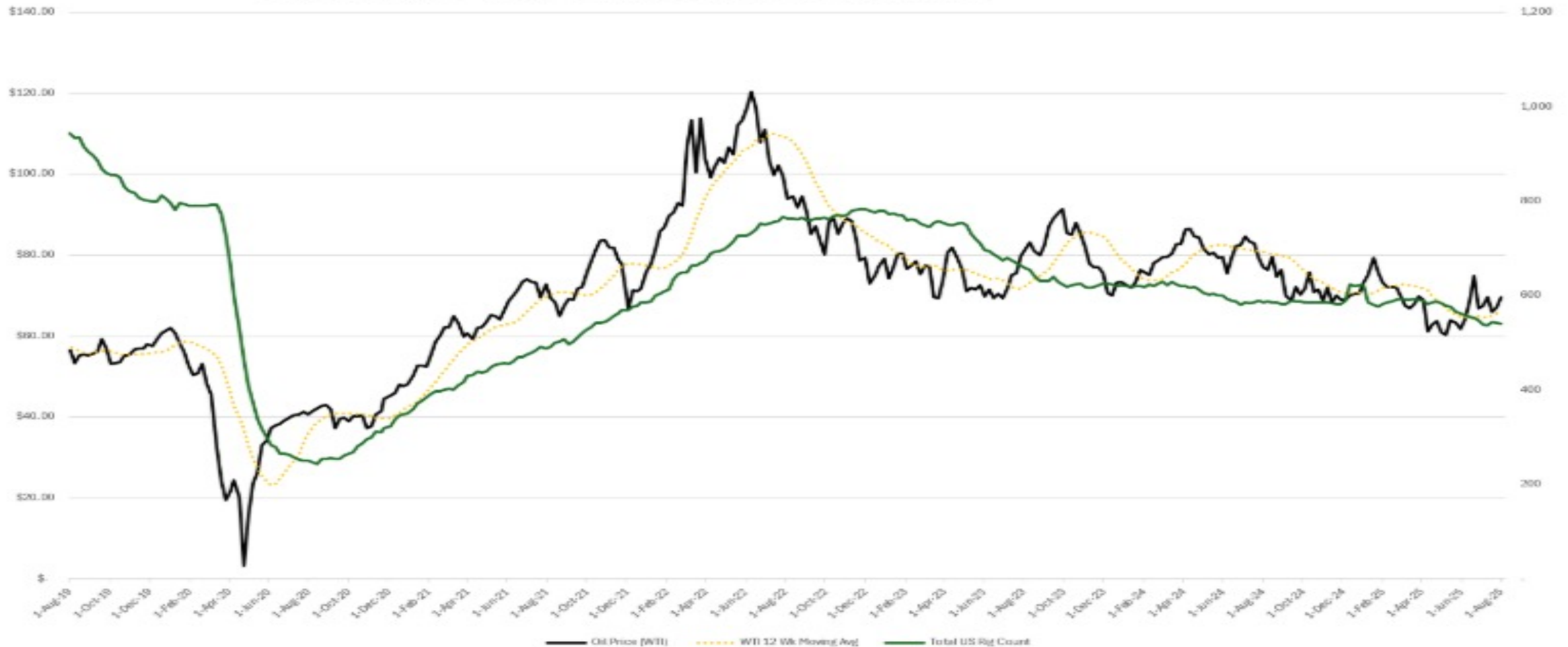
Chemical supply chain overview



Chemical industry news and updates: Energy

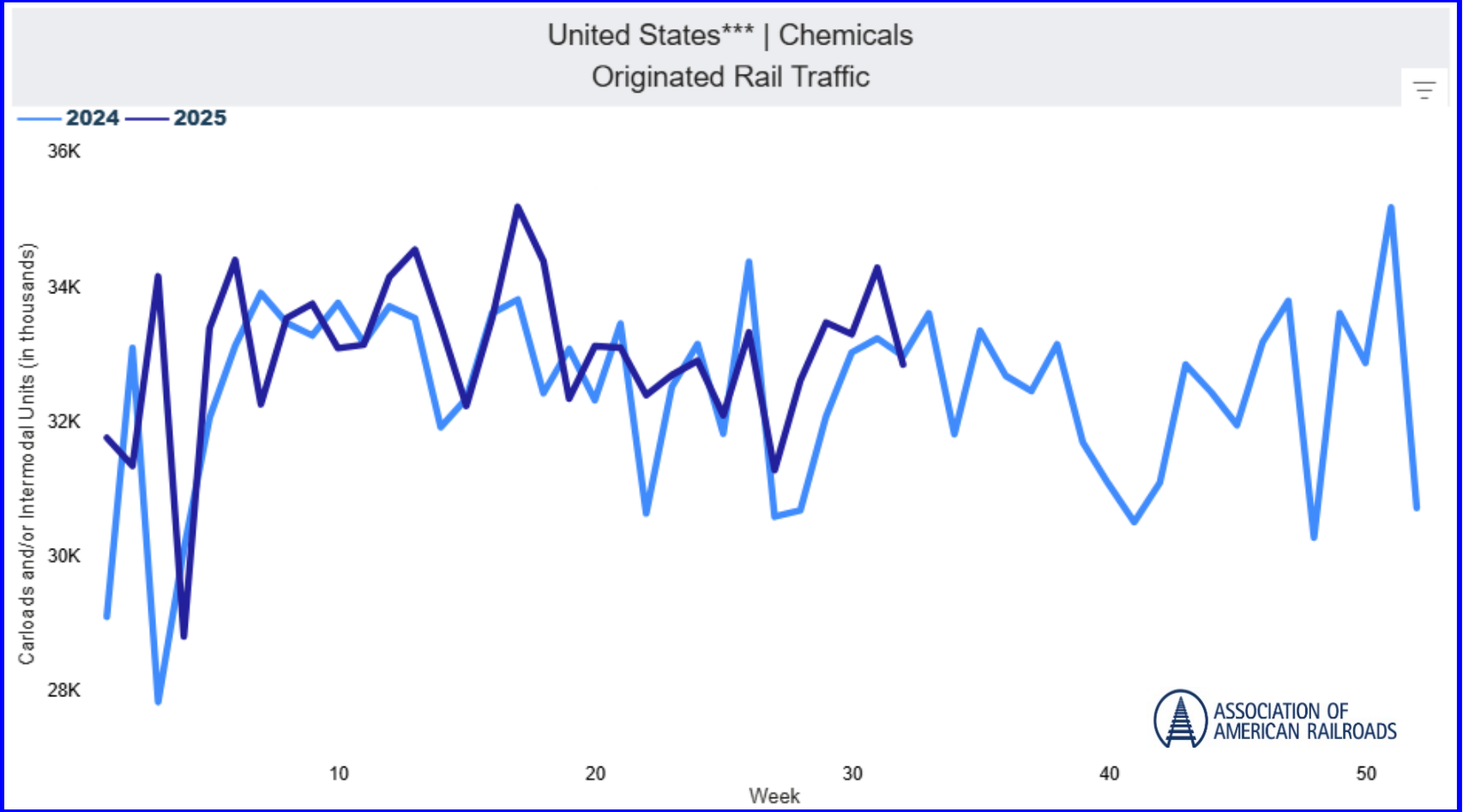
Baker Hughes count of active oil & gas rigs is up 7 to 544 for the week ending July 18. This increase comes after setting a new four-year low the previous week.

Baker Hughes Total US Rig Count verse WTI Price



**12-week moving average of WTI prices and US Rig Counts have historic correlation*

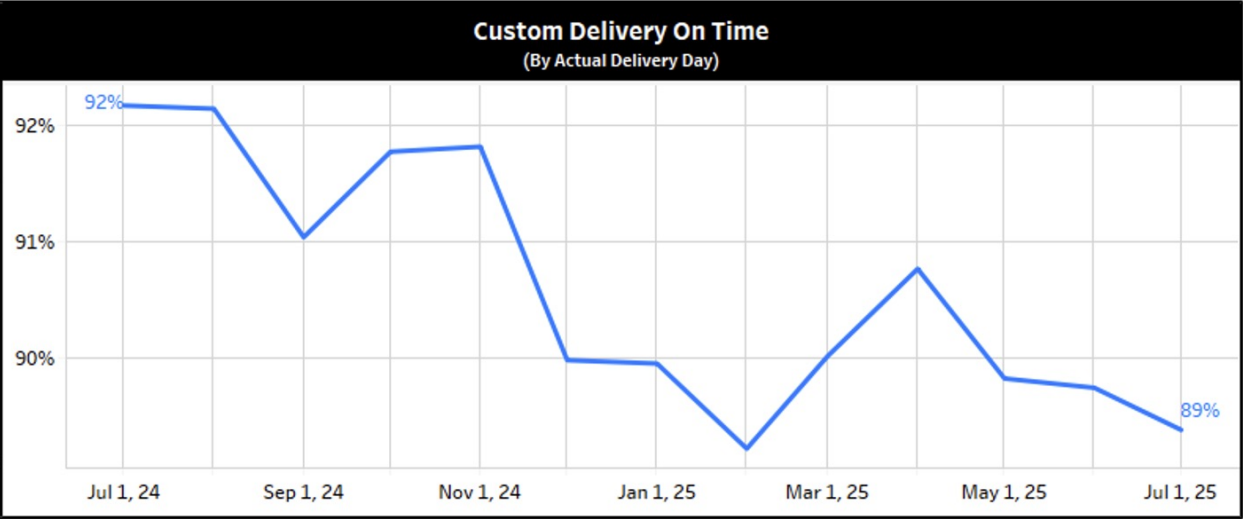
Weekly rail traffic: Chemicals



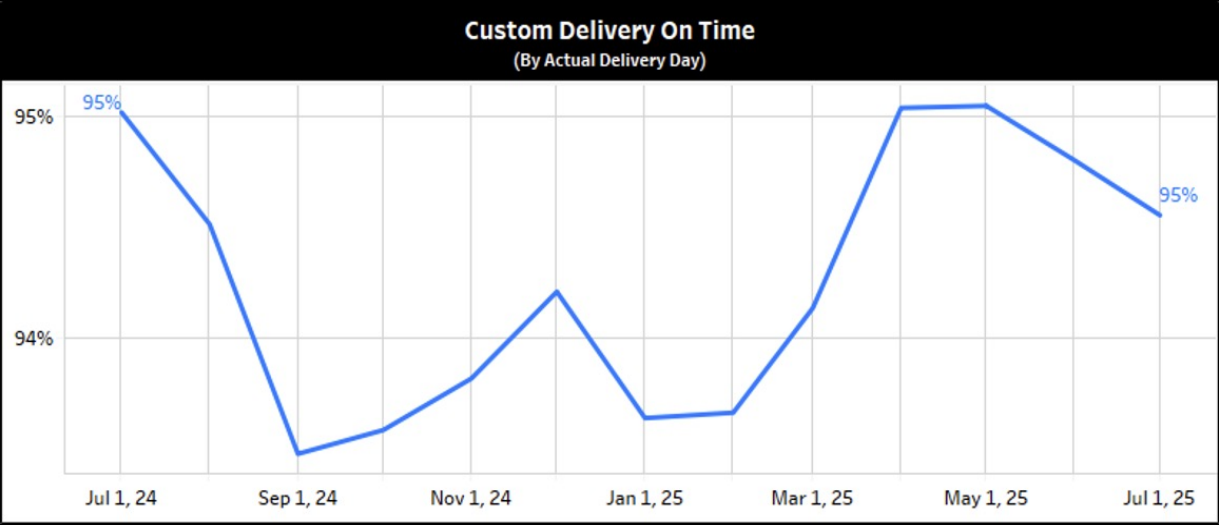
Chemical railcar loadings totaled 32,838 for the week ending August 9, based on data from the Association of American Railroads. While there's been a general upward trend in recent weeks—with increases seen in seven of the past thirteen—loadings also rose 1.4% year-over-year (based on a 13-week moving average) and are up 1.8% compared to the same period last year.

On-time delivery by mode (Uber Freight chemical customers)

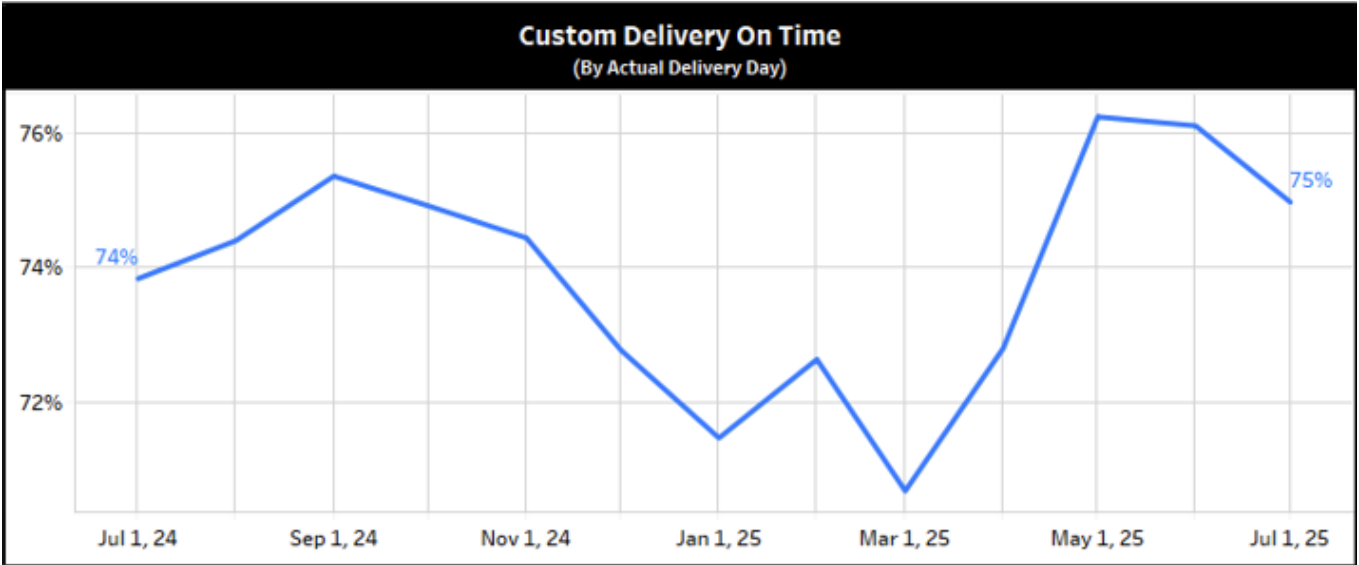
LTL



TL

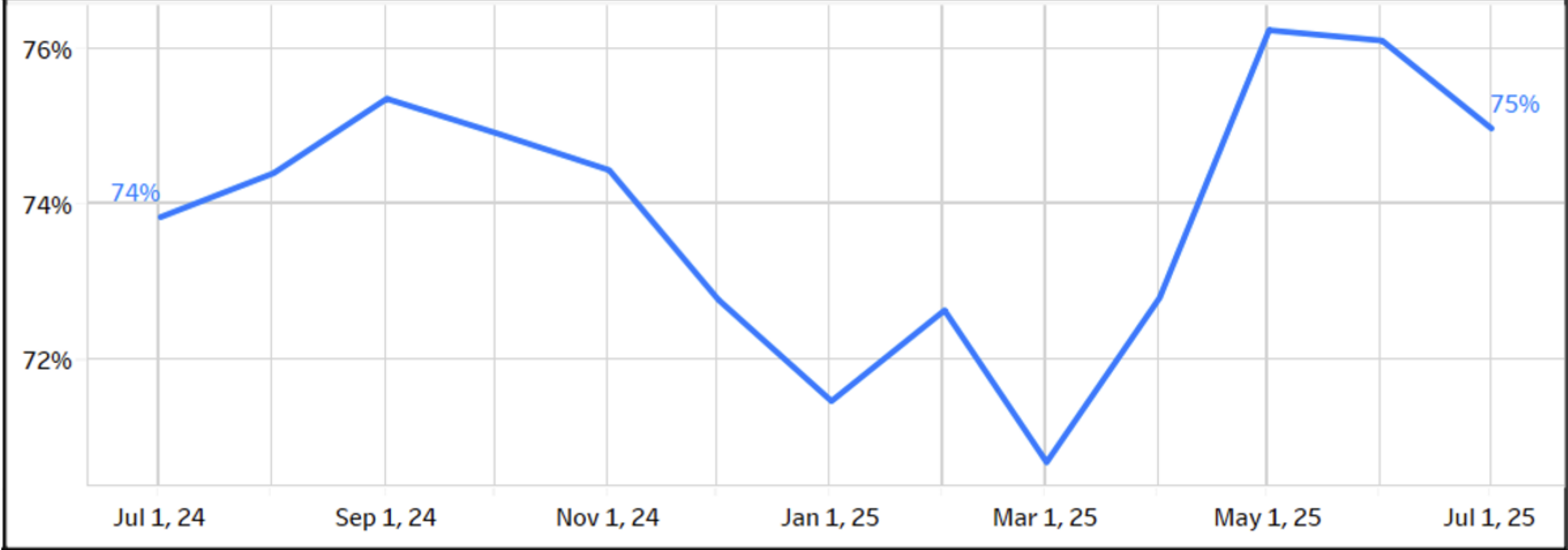


Other



Chemical vertical on-time delivery*

Custom Delivery On Time
(By Actual Delivery Day)



*More than 170,000 shipments each month, including all modes and two-hour tolerance for delivery appointments

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