

Even-Keeled: The Business of Warehousing in North America

Market Size, Market Trends, Major 3PLs,
Benchmarking Costs, Prices and Practices

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ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Armstrong & Associates, Inc. (A&A), founded in 1980, is a leader in Third-Party Logistics (3PL) market research, consulting, and M&A advisory services. A&A has become an internationally recognized key resource for information and consulting in the 3PL market.

A&A's mission is to possess leading proprietary knowledge in supply chain management and market research that is not available anywhere else. Our ongoing commitment to this mission is demonstrated by the frequent citations of A&A's 3PL market research in media articles, publications, and the securities filings of publicly traded 3PL companies. Additionally, A&A's email newsletter currently has over 88,000 subscribers worldwide.

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**In its latest transaction, A&A was the buy-side search advisor for Palladium Equity in acquiring Source Logistics on November 2, 2023.*



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| North American Warehousing Overview | 1 |
| Top North American Warehousing 3PLs | 5 |
| Cold Chain Warehousing | 9 |
| Foreign Trade Zone and Bonded Warehousing | 12 |
| A&A's North American Warehousing Benchmark Study 2025 | 14 |
| Warehousing Study General Questions Overview | 15 |
| Contract Warehousing | 24 |
| Contract Lengths | 24 |
| Contract Warehouses by Size | 25 |
| Contract Warehouse Revenue by Size | 27 |
| Operating Margins | 28 |
| Owned vs. Leased | 29 |
| Primary Warehouse Handling Types | 31 |
| Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) | 33 |
| VAWD Customer Contracts Overview | 34 |
| Advanced Breakdown – Contract Warehouses | 36 |
| VAWD Revenue and Space by Region | 36 |
| VAWD Revenue and Space by Commodity | 38 |
| Dedicated vs. Multi-client Warehouse Space by Region | 41 |
| Contract Warehouse Pricing Guidelines | 43 |
| Current Warehouse Rental and Vacancy Rates | 46 |
| E-commerce Fulfillment and Value-Added Warehousing and Distribution (VAWD) | 51 |
| U.S. E-commerce 3PL Market Segment | 53 |
| Appendix | 55 |

North American Warehousing Overview

Figure 1. U.S. Warehousing Market - 2010-2026E¹

Table 1. U.S. Warehousing Market – Recent Values (US\$ Billions) – 2010-2026E

Table 2. Top 5 Warehousing 3PL Outsourcing Pitfalls

Top North American Warehousing 3PLs

Table 3. A&A's Top 50 VAWD 3PLs by Warehousing Space within North America - 2025

Table 4. Top 50 VAWD 3PLs – Warehouse Capabilities Summary

Table 5. Top 50 VAWD 3PLs – Value-Added Services Capabilities Summary

Cold Chain Warehousing

Table 6. 2025 Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) North American Top 25 List

Figure 2. North American Top 25 Cold Chain Warehouse Capacity Changes

Foreign Trade Zone and Bonded Warehousing

A&A's North American Warehousing Benchmark Study 2025

Figure 3. Contract Warehouses by 2024 Revenue in North America

Warehousing Study General Questions Overview

Figure 4. Changes and Trends in the Warehousing Business

Besides the changes and trends in the figure above, the following areas were mentioned at least once:

Figure 5: Important Challenges in the Warehousing Business

Besides the challenges mentioned above, the following areas were also mentioned at least once:

Figure 6. Differentiations in 3PLs' Warehousing Service Offerings

In addition to the distinctions shown in the figure above, the following points were also mentioned:

| Table 7. 2023-2024 Total Warehousing Revenue Growth | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Figure 7. 2025 E-commerce Warehousing/Fulfillment Revenue 2022 vs. 2025

Table 8. I.T. Cost Percentage 2022 vs. 2025

The five critical areas below are attributes of leading 3PL VAWD operations:

Figure 8. Level of Maturity in Five Critical Areas of VAWD

We have added a new section to our 2025 warehousing study that gathers sales information from 3PLs. This section includes details about the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems they use, their customer contract renewal rates, information regarding RFPs, and the number of sales personnel employed.

Table 9. 2024 Warehousing Sales Information

Figure 9. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System

Contract Warehousing

Contract Lengths

Figure 10. Contract Lengths

Figure 11. 2015-2025 Contract Length Trends

Contract Warehouses by Size

Figure 12. 2015-2025 Average Contract Warehouse Size Trends

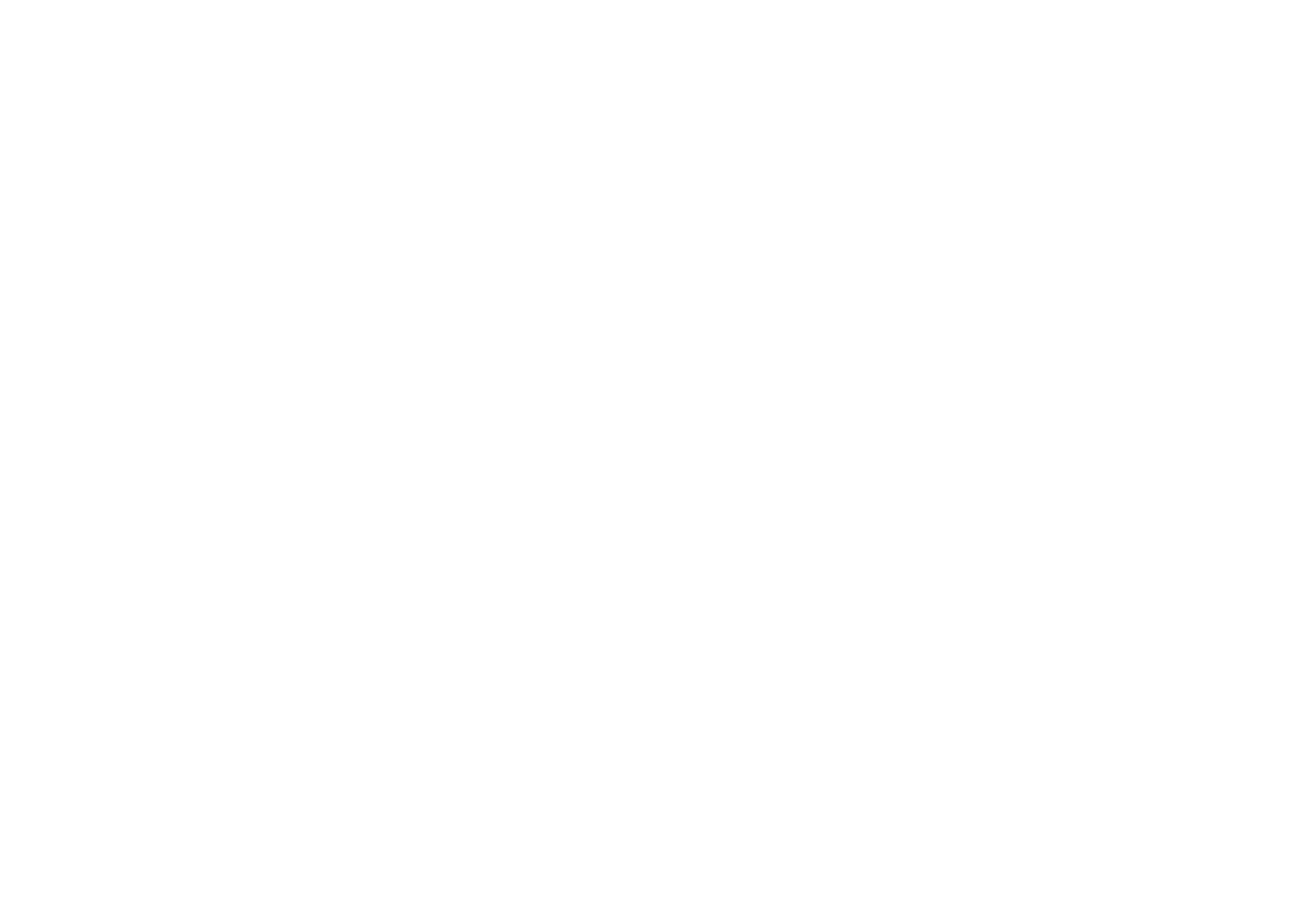


Figure 13. Contract Warehouses Percentage by Size 2022 vs. 2025



Table 10 shows the smallest, largest, and average size of the warehouses in each group.

Table 10. Contract Customer Warehousing Operations by Size – Smallest, Largest, and Mean

Contract Warehouse Revenue by Size

Figure 14. Contract Warehouses Average Revenue per Square Foot by Warehouse Size

Operating Margins

Figure 15. Contract Warehouses by EBITDA/Operating Profit Margin Group - 2022 vs. 2025

T

Table 11. Contract Warehouses by EBITDA/Operating Profit Margin – 2022 vs. 2025

Owned vs. Leased

Figure 16. Contract Warehouses – Ownership 2022 vs. 2025

Figure 17. Contract Warehouses – EBITDA/Operating Profit Margin by Warehouse Ownership 2022 vs. 2025

Primary Warehouse Handling Types

Figure 18. Average/Mean Percent by Warehousing Handling Type - 2022 vs. 2025

Figure 19. Primary Warehouse Handling Type 2022 vs. 2025

Table 12. 2025 Contract Warehouses by Primary Warehouse Handling Type

Figure 20. Contract Warehouses by Primary Warehouse Handling Type

Warehouse Management Systems (WMS)

Figure 21. Percent of Leading WMS Brands Deployed by 3PLs

VAWD Customer Contracts Overview

Table 13. VAWD 3PL Customer Contracts Overview

Figure 22. VAWD Contract Payment Terms



Figure 23. Warehouse Pricing Fee Structures



Advanced Breakdown - Contract Warehouses

VAWD Revenue and Space by Region

Figure 24. U.S. VAWD Gross Revenue/Market Sizing by Region (\$ Billions): 2016-2025E

Figure 25. Total U.S. VAWD Space/Storage – 2016-2025E (Sq. Ft. Millions)

Figure 26. U.S. VAWD Space/Storage by Region – 2016-2025E (Sq. Ft. Millions)

VAWD Revenue and Space by Commodity

Figure 27. U.S. VAWD Gross Revenue by Commodity/Vertical Industry (\$ Billions): 2016-2025E

Figure 28. U.S. VAWD Space/Storage by Commodity (Sq. Ft. Millions): 2016-2025E

Dedicated vs. Multi-Client Warehouse Space by Region

Figure 29. U.S. VAWD Space by Region – Dedicated (Sq. Ft. Millions): 2016-2025E

Figure 30. U.S. VAWD Space by Region – Multi-client (Sq. Ft. Millions): 2016-2025E

Contract Warehouse Pricing Guidelines

Table 14. Warehousing Average Rate by Category for the U.S. Main Distribution Center Locations

Current Warehouse Rental and Vacancy Rates

Table 15. Top 5 Locations under Construction

Table 16. Top 5 Locations with Inventory

Table 17. Price per Square Foot, Vacancy Rate, and Inventory by Market

E-commerce Fulfillment and Value-Added Warehousing and Distribution (VAWD)

Figure 31. U.S. Retail E-commerce Sales as a Percent of Total Quarterly Retail Sales: 2016-2025

Figure 32. U.S. E-commerce Retail Growth 2000-2025E

U.S. E-commerce 3PL Market Segment

Figure 33. U.S. 3PL E-commerce Revenues (Fulfillment and Last-Mile) w/o Amazon 2017-2025E (\$ Billions)

Table 18. Market Share of Leading Retail E-commerce Companies in the U.S.

Appendix



North American Warehousing Study 2025 – General Questionnaire

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Thank you for your participation in this study. Your input is critical to developing a realistic picture of the current and future warehousing market. The reliability of the resulting metrics depends on your accurate responses. Individual company responses are confidential; we combine them to develop vital market benchmarks and insights. Please provide complete responses to the following questions. If you have any questions, please let us know.

1. What important changes, trends, and challenges have you seen in the warehousing business in the last 2-3 years?

| |
|------------------------|
| Changes/Trends |
| Challenges/Pain Points |

2. How did your total warehousing revenue change from 2023 to 2024?

| | |
|---|---|
| Total warehousing revenue 2024 (US\$ M) | Total warehousing revenue 2023 (US\$ M) |
| | |

| | |
|---|--|
| 3. For 2024, what percentage of your total warehousing revenue was from e-commerce warehousing/fulfillment? | |
| For 2024, what percentage of your total e-commerce warehousing/fulfillment revenue was from outbound transportation (parcel and freight)? | |

| | |
|---|--|
| 4. What is your overall I.T. cost as a percent of the total warehousing operating cost? | |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 5. Based upon feedback from your customers, what differentiates your service offering from the competition? (Choose the Top 3) | |
| 1st Choice | If other, explain |
| 2nd Choice | If other, explain |
| 3rd Choice | If other, explain |

6. Please rank the level of your organization's maturity in each area below, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| A. Safety | Safety is embedded into daily operations with defined standards, regular training, and active committees. Programs include 5S (Sigma), equipment checks, lockout/tagout, safety audits, and behavior-based safety recognition. Root cause analysis is conducted on incidents and near misses. |
| B. People, Talent Management | Roles are clearly defined, and associates have the tools and training to succeed. There are structured performance reviews, mentorship programs, and employee development paths. Responsibilities are aligned with individual strengths, where possible. In the program. There is an employee development program where they can grow and learn skills beyond the day-to-day work. Roles and responsibilities are personalized to meet the strengths of the associates. |
| C. Technology | Technology includes an integrated Tier-1 Warehouse Management System, Business Intelligence tools, Labor Management System, and Customer Relationship Management System. Real-time customer access is available via a self-service portal. Automation (e.g., robotics, AS/RS, pick-to-light) is used where appropriate. A clear digital strategy has been developed, supporting optimization and innovation. |
| D. Continuous Improvement | Lean/Six Sigma principles are in place, with certified belts supporting operations. Visual management and KPI tracking are standardized. Employees are trained in root cause tools (DMAIC, 5 Whys, fishbone, etc.), and there is a formal suggestion and leadership standard work process. |
| E. Quality Program | A centralized Quality Program ensures compliance and continuous audit readiness. SOPs are current and accessible. Core components include CAPA, change control, risk management, supplier quality, audits, training, and statistical process control. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 7. 2024 Warehousing Sales Information | |
| What Customer Relationship Management System are you using? | |
| Customer Contract Renewal Rate % | |
| Total RFPs Received Annually | |
| RFP Win Rate Percentage (%) | |
| Annual New Business Won from RFPs (\$) | |
| Number of Sales Personnel | |

Market Research

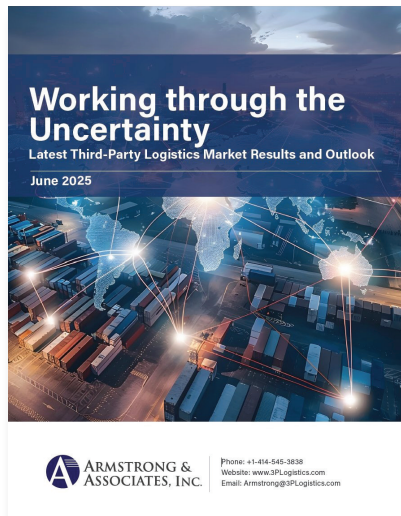
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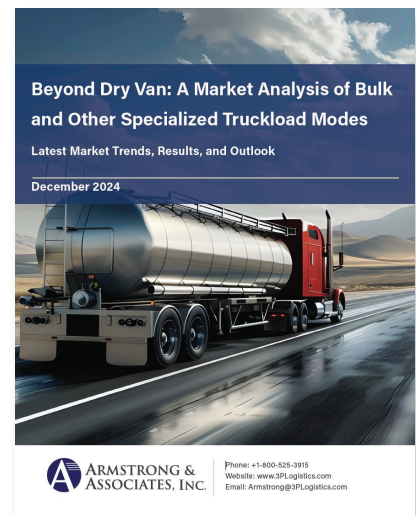
Working through the Uncertainty: Latest Third-Party Logistics Market Results and Outlook- 2025

This report provides the latest trends in the third-party logistics industry and all four major segments, latest trends and estimates in the U.S. and Global 3PL Markets, including the 3PL M&A activity. The report also contains A&A's lists of the Top 50 Global 3PLs and Top 50 U.S. 3PLs for 2024.



Delivering through Uncertainty: Big and Bulky Last-Mile Delivery in the United States – 2025

The National Home Delivery Association (NHDA) and A&A partnered for this study covering the U.S. Big and Bulky Last Mile Delivery Market. This major market research report provides updates on current market size, growth, and outlook, key providers, customers and verticals served, estimated route costs and average stops by geography, as well as employment and other trends.



Beyond Dry Van: A Market Analysis of Bulk and Other Specialized Truckload Modes

Latest Market Trends, Results and Outlook- 2024

This report analyzes the U.S. for-hire truckload market by segment, compares dry van against the bulk, flatbed, and refrigerated truckload segments, and provides estimates for all modes/trailer types from 2017-2027.

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