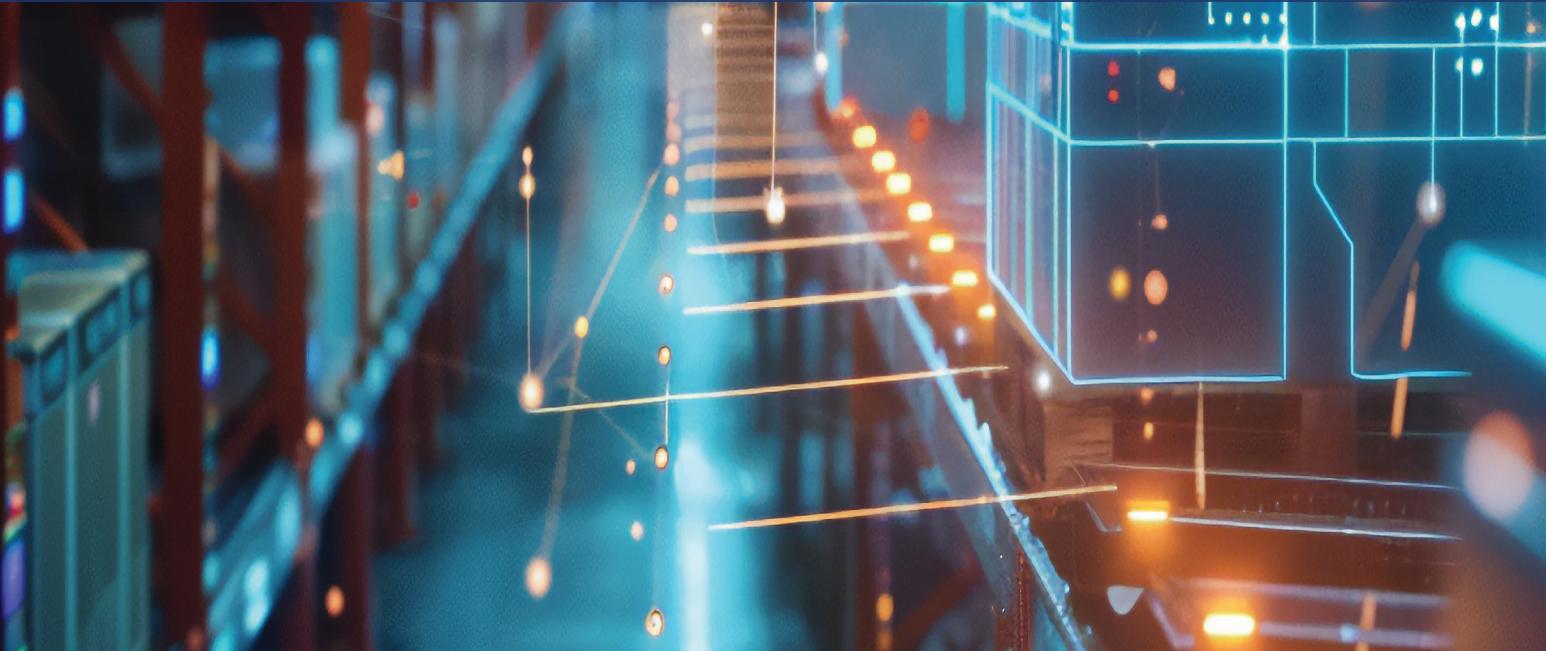


# Even-Keeled: The Business of Warehousing in North America

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

January 2026



Phone: +1-414-545-3838  
Website: [www.3PLogistics.com](http://www.3PLogistics.com)  
Email: [Armstrong@3PLogistics.com](mailto:Armstrong@3PLogistics.com)

## ABOUT ARMSTRONG & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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.

A&A's market research enhances its consulting services by providing continuously updated data for analysis. Leveraging its extensive knowledge of the third-party logistics (3PL) market and the operations of top 3PL providers, A&A has delivered strategic planning consulting to more than 50 3PL companies. Additionally, it has supported 26\* completed investment transactions and offered advice to numerous organizations seeking to benchmark their current 3PL operations or outsource logistics functions.

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, Armstrong & Associates, Inc.

The facts of this report are believed to be correct at the time of publication but cannot be guaranteed. Please note that the findings, conclusions and recommendations that Armstrong & Associates delivers will be based on information gathered in good faith from both primary and secondary sources, whose accuracy we are not always in a position to guarantee. As such, Armstrong & Associates can accept no liability whatsoever for actions taken based on any information that may subsequently prove to be incorrect.

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



©2026 Armstrong & Associates Inc.

---

# Contents

<b>North American Warehousing Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
Top North American Warehousing 3PLs	5
Cold Chain Warehousing	9
Foreign Trade Zone and Bonded Warehousing	12
<b>A&amp;A's North American Warehousing Benchmark Study 2025</b>	<b>14</b>
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
<b>Current Warehouse Rental and Vacancy Rates</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>E-commerce Fulfillment and Value-Added Warehousing and Distribution (VAWD)</b>	<b>51</b>
U.S. E-commerce 3PL Market Segment	53
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>55</b>

## North American Warehousing Overview

**Figure 1. U.S. Warehousing Market – 2010-2026E<sup>1</sup>**

**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

13400 Bishops Lane | Suite 70  
Brookfield, WI 53005 USA  
Office: +1-414-545-3838  
[www.3PLogistics.com](http://www.3PLogistics.com)

Karen Erickson  
Vice President  
Phone: +1-801-608-1504  
[Karen@3PLogistics.com](mailto:Karen@3PLogistics.com)

Jenny Sun  
Senior Research Analyst  
Phone: +1-414-545-3838  
[Jenny@3PLogistics.com](mailto:Jenny@3PLogistics.com)

*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  
2nd Choice  
3rd Choice

If other, explain  
If other, explain  
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 (\$)

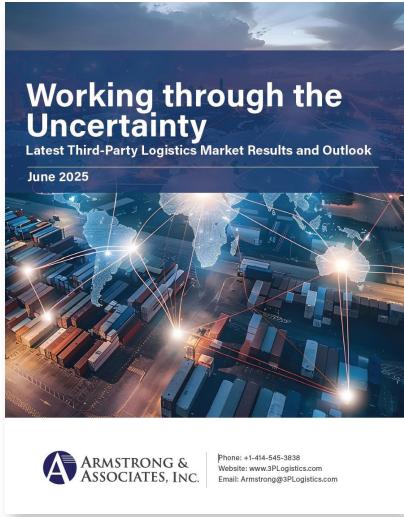
Number of Sales Personnel

# Market Research

## New Releases from Armstrong & Associates, Inc.

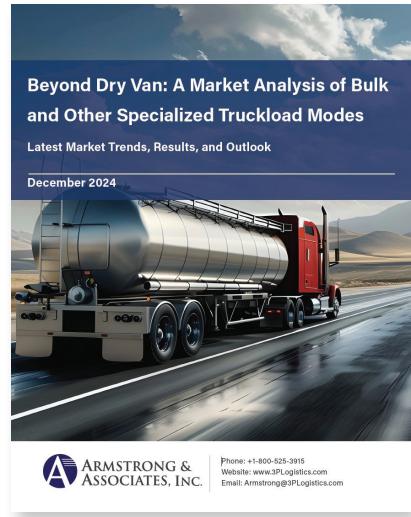
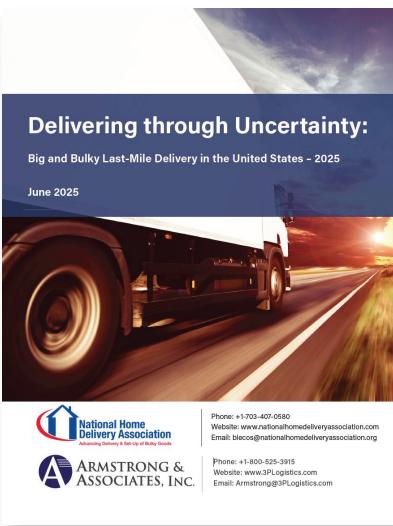


**Expert Information Service:**  
A&A's premium market  
research and online 3PL guide.



### Expert Information Service (E.I.S.)

Our premium market research and analysis offering includes access to our eight most popular [3PL market research reports](#) and a subscription to our leading 3PL guide, [Who's Who in Logistics Online](#). Phone consulting is available.



### **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.

- The reports above are part of A&A's premium market research Expert Information Service (E.I.S.)
- The reports above can be downloadable as Adobe PDF file with a single user license.

More reports are available for purchase at <https://www.3plogistics.com/product-category/guides-market-research-reports/market-research-reports/>