

# **Current Context**JONATHAN SMOKE

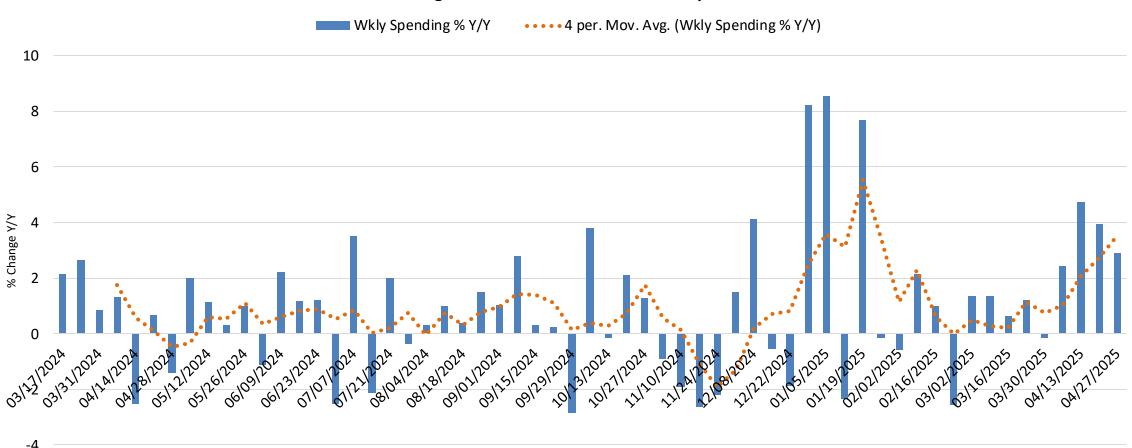
**Chief Economist** 



## **Consumer Spending Growth Accelerated in April**

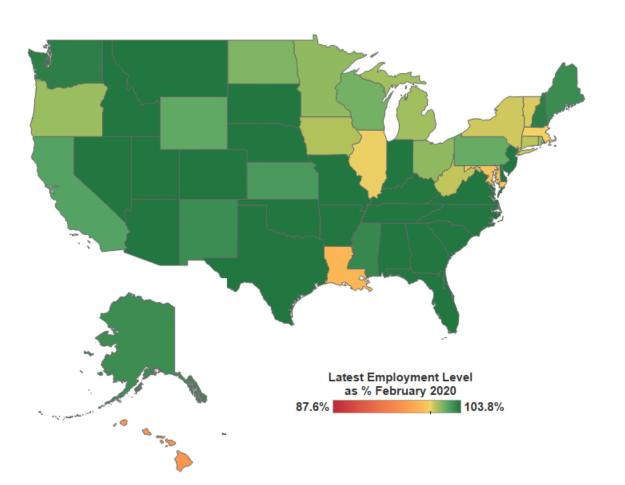
Total consumer spending showing strongest year-over-year growth since early January

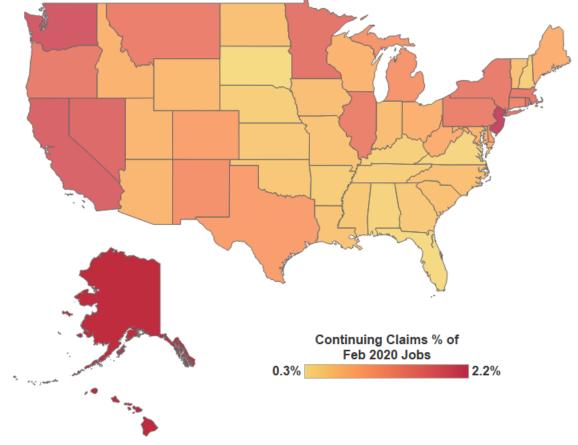
#### **Bloomberg Second Measure US Consumer Spend NSA**





## **Continuing Claims Down to 1.88 Million Nationally**



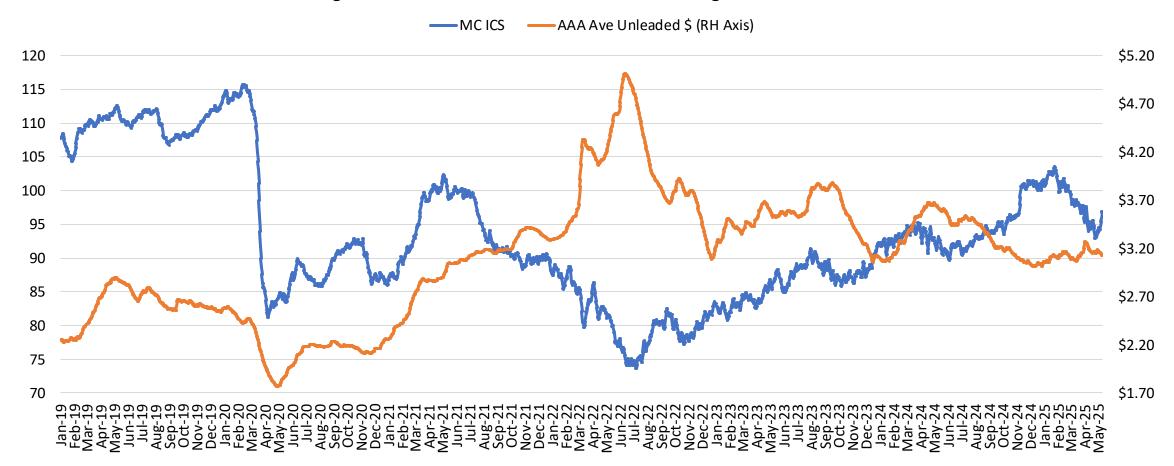




## **Consumer Sentiment Trending Higher in May**

The Index of Consumer Sentiment declined every month through April but is up 2.7% so far in May

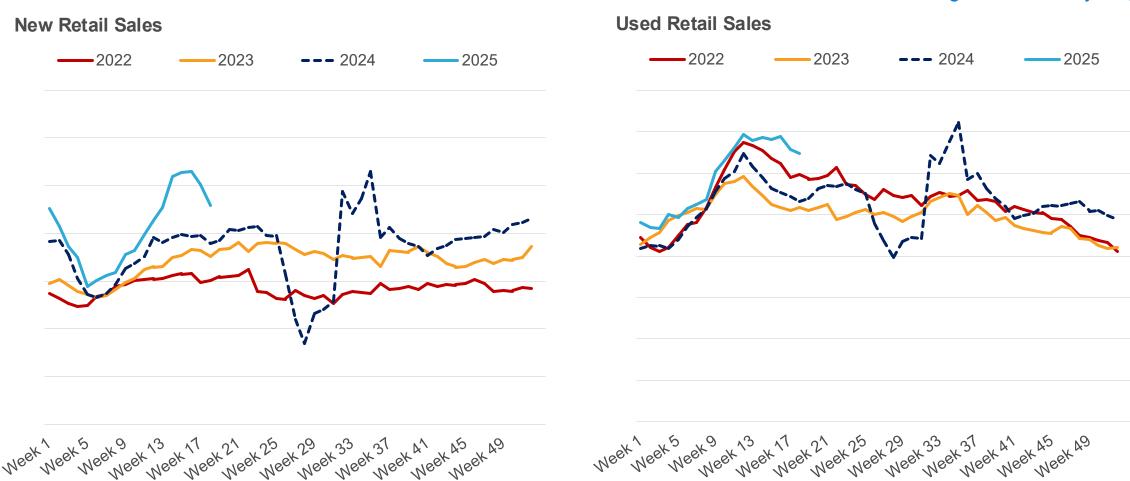
#### Morning Consult Index of Consumer Sentiment vs. Average Price of Unleaded Gas





## **Retail Vehicle Sales Peaked in Late April**

Sales trends for new and used markets both decreased in the two most recent weeks but remain higher than last yeak

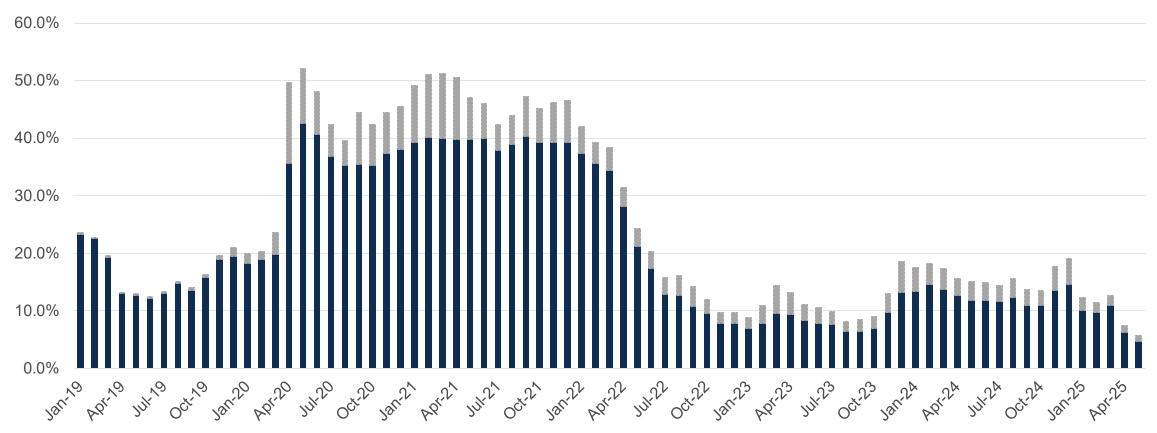


## **Low APR Financing**

Low-interest rate deals are down over 7 percentage points year over year, while 0% interest loans are also lower

#### Low Interest Rate Loan Share

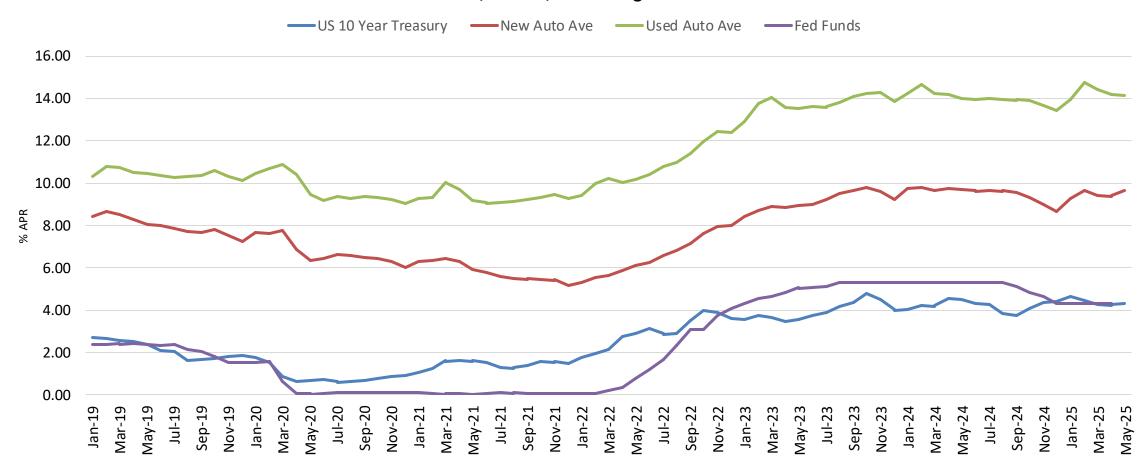
■ < 3% Share ■ 0% Share



## **Average Loan Rates Moved Lower in March and April**

Used rates have moved slightly lower so far in May to 14.13% but new has moved higher to 9.64%

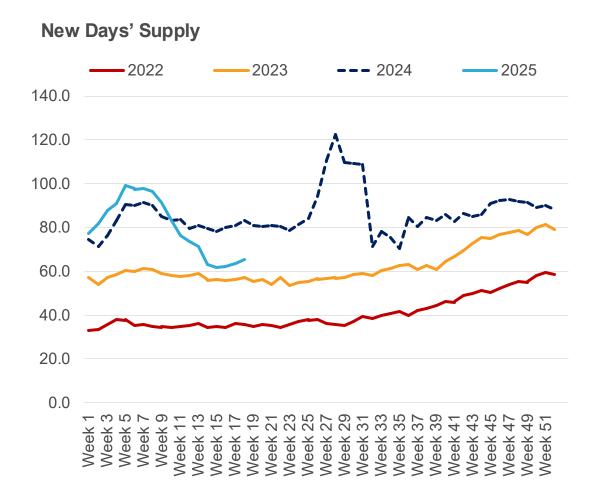
#### Fed Funds Rate, 10-Year, and Average Auto Loan Rates



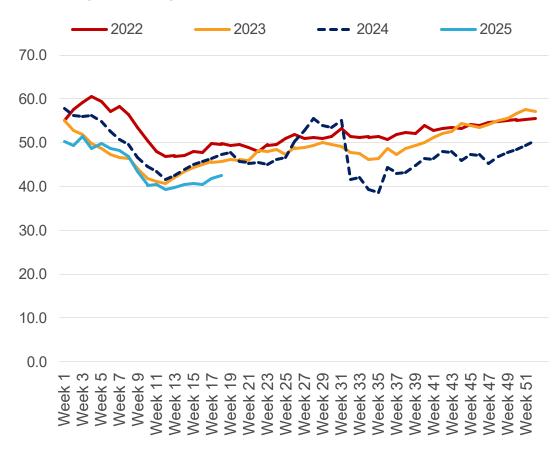


## **New & Used Supply Remains Tight Yet Appears to Have Bottomed**

New and used supply has trended higher for the last few weeks and has likely hit the floor for now



#### **Used Days' Supply**

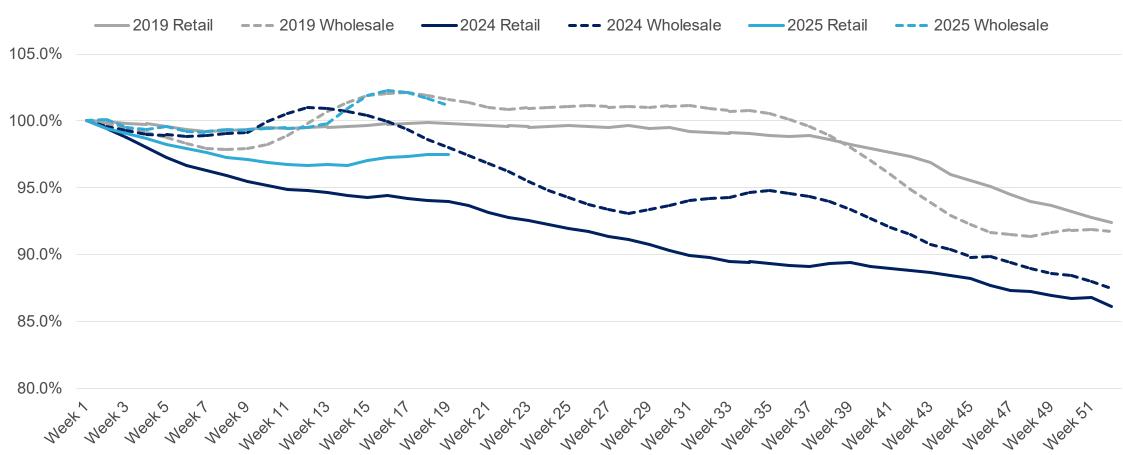




## Wholesale Prices Continue Declining as Retail Stops Increasing

The average MY 2022 price for retail was unchanged while wholesale declined 0.6% for the week

#### 3YO Retail and Wholesale Price Indices



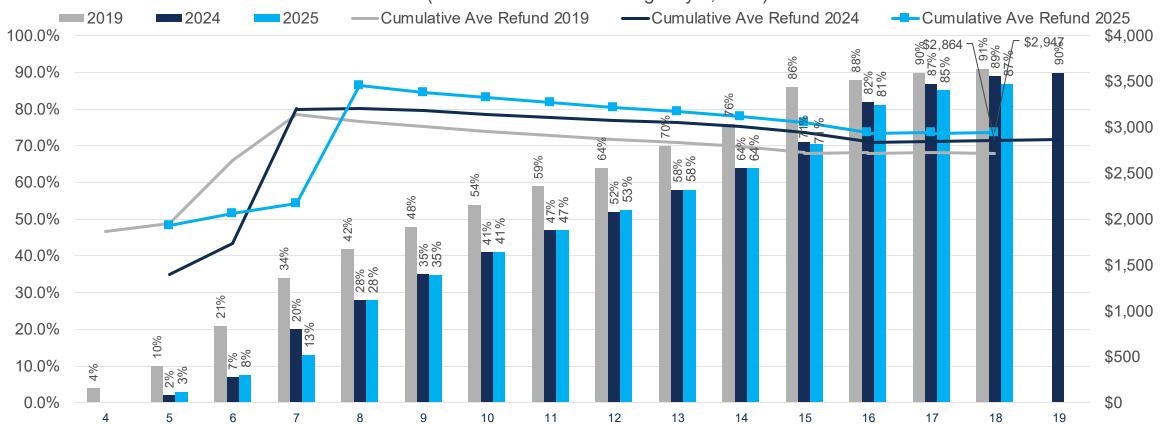


## Tax Refund Season Up Over Last Year But Almost Over for This Year

Total number of refunds down 1% versus 2024 but the average refund is higher by 3% year over year

#### **Cumulative Refunds Issued and Ave Refund Amount by Week**

(Week 18 was week ending May 2, 2025)



## **Cox Automotive Leading Indicators**

- Leads are up year over year so far in May on Autotrader but are down on Kelley Blue Book, and leads are up for the month compared to April on Autotrader but down on Kelley Blue Book.
- Unique leads per dealer for new vehicles are down year over year, but up on used vehicles so far in May on websites hosted by Dealer.com, and new and used leads are down for the month compared to April.
- Unique credit applications per dealer on Dealertrack were up 3% year over year last week, with the trend in applications per dealer declining w/w in new but improving in used.
- Service trends on Xtime relative to last year were stable but weak in the week ending May 3, as completed appointments were down 1.8% year over year.

# Final Thoughts JONATHAN SMOKE

**Chief Economist** 



## Where It All Connects

The most complete and connected ecosystem

COX AUTOMOTIVE

























