

COVID-19

Rail Freight Recovery Index

Developed by FTR | Transportation Intelligence™

May 12, 2021

A measure of the railroad's response and recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carload and intermodal volumes each declined in the latest week as there was a pause in the gains that have marked the last few weeks.

N.A. Carload

- Carload volumes took a notable step down in the latest week, but remained close to the full recovery level of 100.
- Current Level: **98.7** // Bottomed at 78.3 the week ending 5/16/2020. Current high is 103.3 for week ending 11/21/2020.

N.A. Intermodal

- Intermodal volumes took a more significant step backward in the latest week as containers and trailers each eased back, but it remains at a fairly high level.
- Current Level: **111.7** // Bottomed at 86.7 the week ending 4/18/2020. Current high is 122.5 for week ending 11/21/2020.

Economically Sensitive Freight

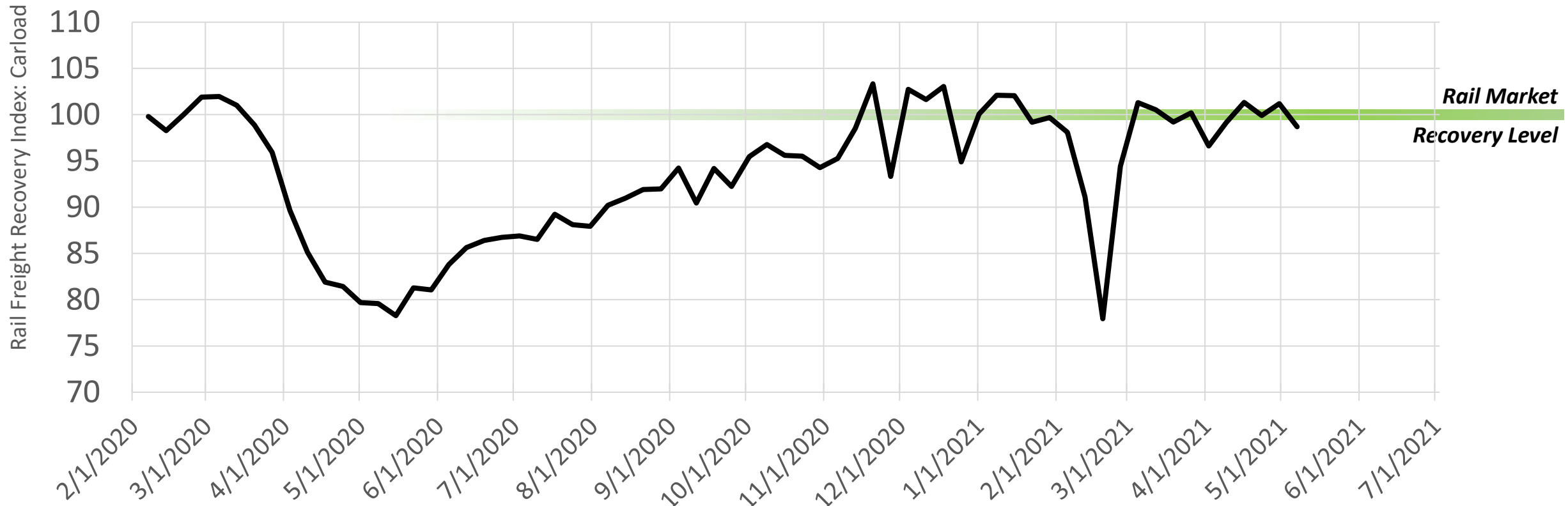
- Economically sensitive freight took another step down in the latest week as automotive and other sectors created headwinds to holding its present level.
- Current Level: **93.6** // Bottomed at 73.6 the week ending 5/16/2020. Current high is 103.2 for week ending 1/16/2021.

Other Segments:

- **Automotive:** Ongoing parts shortages continue to pressure automotive loadings weaker from an already low level. This is expected to continue until the supply issues abate. Current Level: **65.9** // Bottomed at 9.1 the week ending 4/18/2020. Current high is 99.4 for week ending 12/19/2020.
- **Energy:** Energy volumes declined as petroleum products and coal each eased back in the latest week. The sector remains in the ballpark of its highest levels since the pandemic. Current Level: **98.8** // Bottomed at 76.2 the week ending 5/16/2020. Current high is 102.9 for week ending 3/6/2021.

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N.A. Carload (100 = Full recovery to pre-pandemic volumes)

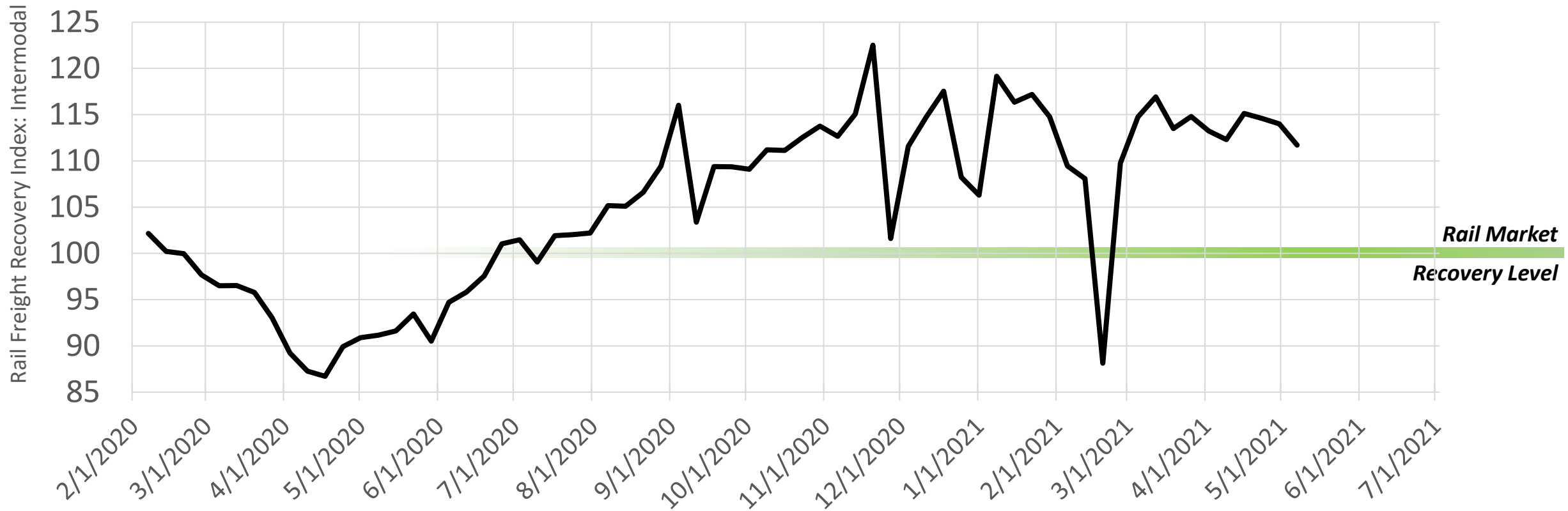


Last Updated: 5/12/2021

Source: AAR, FTR
Analysis by FTR | Transportation Intelligence™ of AAR Weekly Rail Traffic Report

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N.A. Intermodal (100 = Full recovery to pre-pandemic volumes)

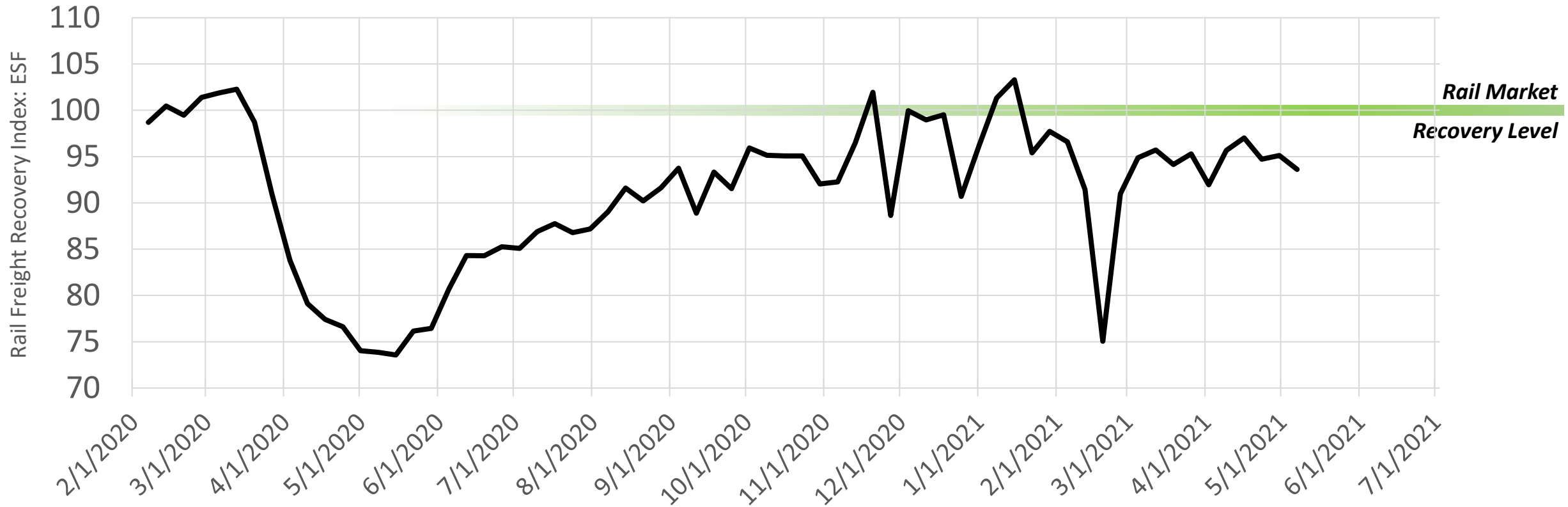


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COVID-19 Rail Freight Recovery Index

Economically Sensitive Freight (excludes Ag/Petro/Coal) (100 = Full recovery to pre-pandemic volumes)

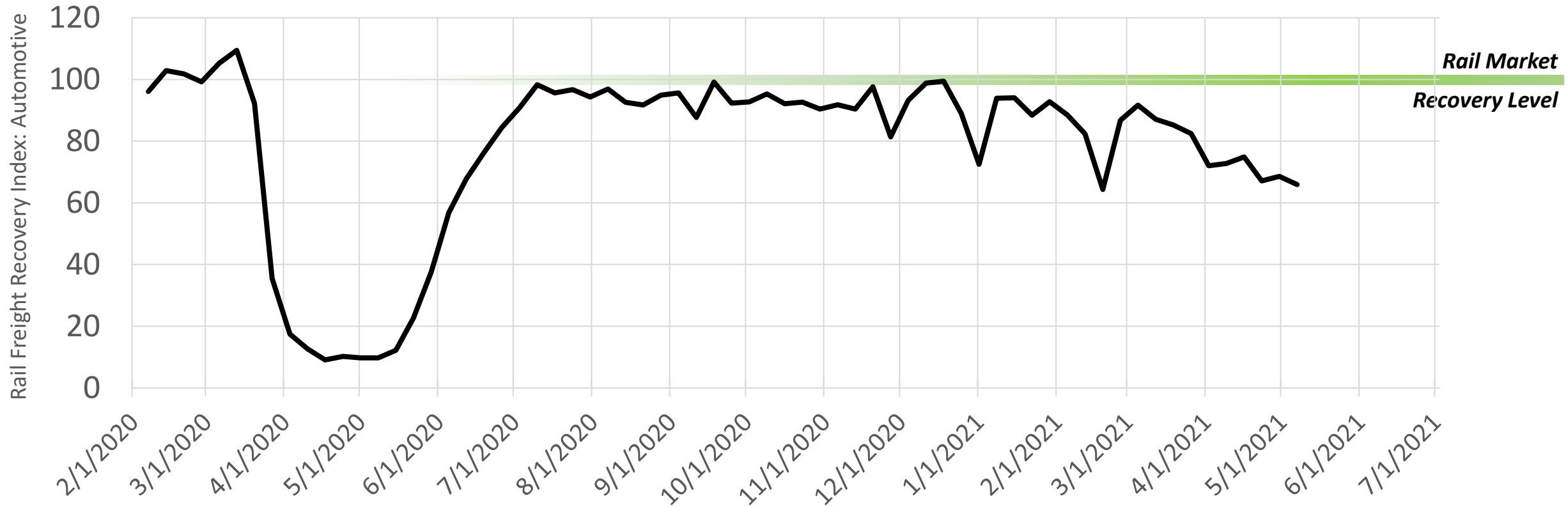


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Automotive (100 = Full recovery to pre-pandemic volumes)

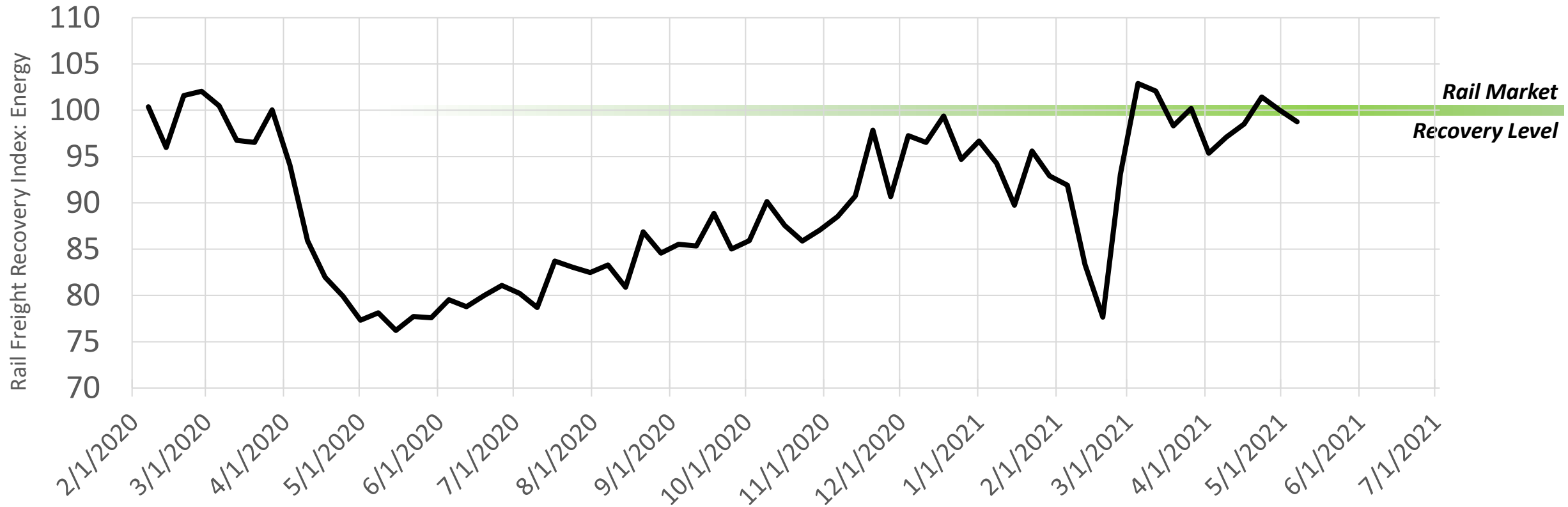


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COVID-19 Rail Freight Recovery Index

Energy (Includes Petroleum & Coal) (100 = Full recovery to pre-pandemic volumes)



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Definition and Methodology

- **Definition**

- A measure of the railroad industry's response and recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 100 = Full recovery to seasonally-adjusted pre-pandemic volume levels.

- **Methodology**

- Compares weekly railroad volumes to the average of that week for the last 5 years.
- Indexes utilize all 22 commodity segments in the AAR Weekly Rail Traffic report.
- Data is indexed to February 2020. The index measures the changes in volumes compared to the historical 5-year pattern and adjusted by February 2020 results.
- The index accounts for normal seasonal fluctuations in railroad volumes.
 - *An index level of 100 indicates that volumes have returned to pre-pandemic levels if normal seasonal patterns had occurred.*
- Analyzed for both Intermodal and Carload.
 - *Plus, several sub-segments of Carload are analyzed (Economically Sensitive Freight, Automotive, Energy).*