

Mastio & Company's

LTL Carrier Customer Value & Loyalty

Benchmarking Study

19th Edition 2023

Metrics to Manage the “Shipper Experience”



LTL Carrier Customer Value & Loyalty Study - 2023

OVERVIEW

MASTIO published its 19th Edition LTL Carrier Customer Value & Loyalty Study in October 2023. This study identifies and quantifies the perceptions and needs of shippers who utilize LTL Carriers in the U.S. The 2023 study is based on findings from 1,635 detailed telephone interviews with key decision makers from major shippers throughout the U.S. Mastio conducts telephone interviews because it offers several advantages over other methodologies, including control over the sample to ensure that it is representative of the population(s) being studied, higher response rates and therefore more accurate results, and the ability to screen for the appropriate decision maker at each location. The opportunity for interviewers to probe for complete and meaningful replies to open-ended questions is another key advantage of a telephone interview.

The 2023 study also includes approximately 7,200 qualitative responses to five open-ended questions about individual carriers. The feedback was collected via telephone interviews with key decision-makers beginning in June and ending in October 2023.

SAMPLE OF THE ATTRIBUTES MEASURED

- Shipments picked up when promised.
- Shipments delivered when promised.
- Shipments delivered with no shortages.
- Shipments delivered with no damages.
- Claims process.
- Weighing accuracy.
- Consistent transit times. (on time%)
- Competitive transit times.
- Carrier's ability to meet appointment time for pick-up.
- Carrier's ability to meet appointment time for deliveries.
- Billing accuracy.
- Carrier responsiveness.
- Proactive communications (e.g. notification of problems).
- Problem resolution.
- Customer service personnel respond to my needs in a timely manner.
- Freight tracking systems.
- Knowledgeable and helpful sales representatives.
- Willing to be flexible with operations.
- Drivers are courteous and professional.
- Pricing terms are easy to understand.
- Website is useful.
- Trucks appearance.
- Carrier is trustworthy.
- Ease of doing business.
- Rate stability.
- Competitive pricing.
- Accessorial and surcharge prices
- How would you rate each carriers Overall Performance
- Competitive pricing.
- How likely are you to recommend each carrier?
- "I believe that [insert carrier] deserves my loyalty."
- Rate the value you receive from (insert carriers)?
- What is your overall level of satisfaction with the each carrier?

LTL CARRIERS INCLUDED IN THE 2023 PRINTED REPORT

- Averitt Express
- A. Duie Pyle
- AAA Cooper
- ABF
- Central Transport
- Daylight Transport
- Dayton Freight Lines
- Dohrn
- Estes
- FedEx Freight
- Midwest Motor Express
- North Park Transportation
- Oak Harbor Freightlines
- Old Dominion
- Peninsula
- Pitt Ohio
- R&L Carriers
- Roadrunner
- Saia
- Southeastern Freight Lines
- TForce Freight
- Ward Trucking
- XPO Logistics

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STUDY ANSWERS

Subscribers to **MASTIO's LTL Benchmarking & Loyalty Study** learn customer perceptions of LTL Performance, Value, and Loyalty by a multitude of data segmentations (i.e. geographic, number of shipments, etc.) that will specifically answer questions such as,

1. How do customers make their purchase decisions? What factors are the most important drivers of customers' perceptions of overall value and loyalty? What key buying factors (attributes) customers consider to be the most important when selecting between suppliers both from a **stated** and **derived** basis? The key buying factors will be classified as a *Baseline Requirement*, *Conscious Differentiator*, *Latent Differentiator* or *Low Impact Factor* to make it easier to understand what is really most important to customers.
2. What are the factors that lead to **defection**? What are the factors that result in **retention** – a greater share of the wallet? This is a further refinement of the customer needs mentioned above where the key buying factors will be prioritized regarding defection. Thus, subsequent monitoring systems can be established after the proposed study to track and respond in real-time to mitigate defection. Note: most defection is partial.
3. How do customers perceive your overall value and loyalty relative to **key competitors**? How competitive is your position in the marketplace? Where do you and your competitors fall on a value map - *inferior*, *economy*, *superior*, or *premium position*? Who should be losing or gaining market share? What are the biggest drivers of you and your competitors' position? What is required to change your position?
4. How do customers perceive your performance on the key buying factors? What do customers perceive as **strengths** and **weaknesses** relative to key competitors? Which factors should you target for improvement? Which factors will have the greatest impact on your ability to win and retain more business? What factors should be emphasized in marketing communications that will resonate with customers?
5. How large a role does price play in the purchasing decision? What performance factors will allow a premium?
6. Which competitors are the most vulnerable and which are strongest in their ability to gain and retain customers? How do customers perceive the performance of competitors on the key buying factors? How do you use this knowledge to have a direct impact on your growth and profits?

In short, the study will identify improvements and marketing actions that will make customers choose a specific LTL Carrier more than its competitors.

DELIVERABLES

The comprehensive study will come with a printed report, a Microsoft Excel version of the raw data, custom tagging features of the data, and a proprietary segmentation software package that includes tools to conduct your own detailed analysis including a head-to-head comparison with key competitors. The segmentation software also allows subscribers to segment the data by demographics selected by you such as state, volume, strategic importance, etc. to see where you stand vs. the competition and thus be quickly underway with actions to improve performance.

MASTIO's software also provides clients with a custom tagging feature. The custom tagging is proprietary for each client. This feature allows the grouping of your customers, for example, by the key person responsible for each customer interaction, customer service teams, profitability, strategic importance, volume, etc. These options are virtually unlimited. This powerful feature allows additional in-depth analysis and customization of the data.

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ANALYZE RATINGS ACROSS MULTIPLE SHIPPER SEGMENTS

- **Volume Level** – # of transactions respondent has per week with LTL Carriers.
- **LTL Carrier Usage** – Does the respondent only use one carrier, or do they work with multiple carriers?
- **Respondent's Vertical** – The data can be sorted by the respondent's SIC Code.
- **Respondent Role** – Is the respondent a Primary decision maker or does he/she share in the decision process.
- **Additional Respondent Role Information** –
 - Primarily a shipper
 - Primarily a consignee of the freight
 - Respondent works at a bill to only location
 - Respondent works for a 3rd party logistics company

EXAMPLES OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

- Are there any carriers you tend to avoid using? If yes, who and why?
- What should each carrier do to get a higher rating on “likelihood to recommend” in the future?
- Which LTL Carrier has the best tools on its website for your shipping needs?
- Excluding price, describe the biggest improvement you've experienced with each of your carriers in the last 12 months?
- Do you use a third party or a broker for any LTL services? Which 3PL/Broker provider(s) do you use for LTL?
- Have you switched carriers or moved a significant amount of volume? Who did you switch from and why?

METHODOLOGY

Our approach stands out from conventional customer satisfaction strategies as it is underpinned by concrete empirical evidence, ensuring that you receive actionable insights that can be effectively leveraged to enhance your business profitability. At MASTIO, we employ two pivotal methodologies, namely Customer Value and Customer Loyalty, both of which consistently reveal a robust correlation with a company's overall performance, including factors such as growth rate, market share, and profitability. These dual dashboard metrics offer managers a straightforward means of monitoring their progress toward achieving their customer relationship objectives, much like financial reports enable them to gauge their progress in attaining profit targets. To illustrate, empirical evidence demonstrates that leaders in Loyalty (measured by Net Promoter Score) experience significantly superior growth, often exceeding their competitors' growth rates by more than twofold.

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BACKGROUND

MASTIO, commemorating a distinguished 34-year legacy in the industry, excels in delivering an impartial, third-party vantage point to discerning clients seeking a comprehensive evaluation of their corporate identity. Our expertise lies in uncovering the perception of their customer value, expanding their client base, gaining insights into the competitive landscape, and enhancing their market intelligence.

Our core competency lies in guiding clients to reevaluate established paradigms, mitigate internal biases, methodically gather, and scrutinize data, and convert market research into actionable strategies that yield superior business outcomes.

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