

Professional Truck Drivers and the Trucking Industry

Professional truck drivers drove over 431 billion miles in 2007, more than double 25 years ago.

Most individual long-haul drivers average from 100,000 to 110,000 miles driving per year.

Class 8 truck drivers will average over 45,000 miles behind the wheel.

The average daily run for an over-the-road driver is nearly 500 miles.

The trucking industry paid \$38 billion in federal and state highway taxes in 2007, and represented 12.2 percent of vehicles on the road. The trucking industry paid \$17.8 billion in federal highway-user taxes and \$20.2 billion in state highway-user taxes.

The trucking industry consumed 55.1 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline in 2007. Based on consumption and price, ATA reported that motor carriers spent a record \$146.2 billion on diesel fuel in 2008.

The federal fuel tax for diesel is 24.4 cents per gallon; the average state tax for diesel fuel is 24.7 cents per gallon.

There are 2.8 million class 8 trucks on the road in the United States and 5.6 million commercial trailers registered in 2007.

There are 3.4 million truck drivers in the United States. Total industry employment is 7.3 million, or one of every 19 people working in the United States.

There are 227,930 for-hire carriers and 282,485 private carriers in the United States; 96 percent of them have fewer than 20 trucks.

In 2008, the trucking industry hauled 10.2 billion tons of freight, or 68.8 percent of total U.S. freight tonnage. Rail was the next busiest mode, moving 13.8 percent of the nation's freight tonnage.

In 2008, the trucking industry was an astounding \$660.3 billion industry, representing 83.1 percent of the nation's freight bill.

More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities.

A new 2010 truck produces one-tenth the fine particulate emissions and smog-forming NOx emissions as a similar truck manufactured just four years ago.

Fine particulate emissions from on-road diesel engines have been cut by more than half over the past decade.