Industry Facts

Industry/Owner-Operator Facts

- There are currently 3.9 million commercial driver’s license (CDL) holders actively driving in commerce within the United States.\(^1\) These men and women represent the driving force behind the U.S. economy, delivering 70 percent of all freight worth $11.7 trillion\(^2\) while collecting $726.4 billion in gross revenue.\(^3\)

![U.S. Trucking Market Share](image)

- In 2015, trucking carried approximately 10.9 billion tons of freight worth $11.7 trillion.\(^4\)
- 33.8 million trucks across all classes, 1 through 8 (i.e., light-, medium-, and heavy-trucks)\(^5\)
- Owner-Operators primarily operate Class 8 Trucks (33,001 pounds and greater). There were approximately 3.63 million registered Class 8 Trucks in 2016.
  - Freightliner – 37.5%
  - Peterbilt – 15.9%
  - Kenworth – 15.3%

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International – 11.4%
Volvo – 8.9%
Mack – 8.3%
Western Star – 2.7%

There were 7.4 million people employed in trucking-related jobs in 2015.7

• Owner-Operators logged nearly 101,000 miles in 2018, of which 19,000 was deadhead
• Owner-Operators averaged net income is $50,000+.
• 4% of Owner-operators are women.
• Minority owner-operators are around 17%.
• Most owner-operators became owner-operators at 36 years old
• 63% of owner-operators are away from home 151+ nights a year
• The average owner-operator has a 2006 model year truck.
  • A majority of owner-operators own a Peterbilt, followed secondly by Freightliner
  • Caterpillar are the number one engine among owner-operators.
• The typical owner-operator has accumulated approximately 2.6 million miles of driving during their career, most of which was without a Department of Transportation reportable accident8 resulting in 47.7 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, or almost 3.5 times below the national crash rate for the overall trucking industry.
• 35% of all owner-operators served in the military. The Army, Navy, and Air Force were the three top branches of service in 2018.
• While van trailers are the most common trailer pulled, the majority of owner-operators pull flatbed or reefer trailers.
• There are approximately 350,000 to 400,000 owner-operators
• On average, the owner-operator has been driving for almost 20 years

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8 A DOT reportable accident is a crash that resulted in either (1) a fatality, (2) an injury receiving treatment immediately away from the accident scene, or (3) disabling damage to any vehicle involved