



THE STATE OF
TRUCKING 2021:
A DRIVER'S GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

So much has changed since our last survey. A global pandemic hit and changed life as we know it. With it came good shortages, a volatile economy and general uncertainty.

For trucking, it highlighted just how important trucks are to our economy. Truck drivers became even more critical as they helped move food, essential goods and medical supplies across the country.

Our second annual State of Trucking survey hoped to gather how the pandemic has impacted drivers and what challenges they face outside of it.

We checked in with truck drivers to see how the pandemic, the driver shortage and changing safety measures have impacted their lives.

See how you measure up against your peers, where the industry stands as a whole and what the future may bring.

METHOD: This research was conducted in January 2021, surveying more than 400 truck drivers nationwide.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

It's hard to talk about the trucking industry right now without mentioning the pandemic. It has impacted every part of our lives and trucking was no exception.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Truck drivers proved just how essential they are to this country by helping move critical goods to grocery stores and hospitals.



THANK YOU
TRUCK DRIVERS



DRIVERS' LIVES CHANGED AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

Our survey showed over 40% say it had a negative impact on their job or life.

But the pandemic proved to be not all bad news. A positive that has come out of the pandemic is how much the general public has realized they depend on truck drivers. Before this, many consumers took for granted how their favorite products got on shelves. Now, they realize truck drivers are the reason we get what we need. The **#ThankATrucker campaign** is still going strong across social media and there is a general increase in awareness of how essential trucking is to our daily lives.

SAFETY FIRST, SAFETY ALWAYS

The health and safety of drivers is always a priority in the industry and this year has added another level of concern. The number one thing reported by employers that keeps them up at night is driver safety. And drivers echoed the same sentiment.

Our survey showed that over half of drivers don't feel safe on the road today. And the most commonly cited reason is that others drive recklessly on the road.

In addition, almost 75% of drivers find distracted driving a big problem for truck drivers. Not only are there distractions inside the truck, but there are also distractions



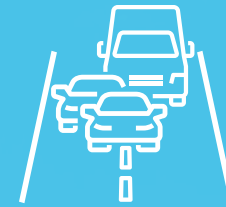
outside, including other distracted drivers.

Learn some ways to reduce distracted driving to avoid accidents and keep yourself safe on the road.

Thankfully, most drivers reported that they have avoided serious consequences on the road. More than 80% have never been in an accident while driving a truck during their career.

Not surprisingly, fatigue was cited as a safety concern of drivers. More than half felt fatigue is a big problem for truck drivers. This is frequently talked about in the industry and the consequences of not getting enough sleep are high. The **Large Truck Crash Causation Study (LTCCS)** reported that 13 percent of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers were considered to have been fatigued at the time of their crash. On the bright side, 97% of drivers we surveyed say they get between 7-10 hours of sleep at night.

We've gathered a few tips to help drivers fight fatigue on the road.



Half of drivers surveyed do not feel safe on the road today either having to drive into unsafe areas or other people driving recklessly

80%
of drivers have never been in an accident while driving a truck during their career

#1
thing that keeps employers up at night is the safety of their drivers

DRIVING TOWARDS SUCCESS

Our survey dug deeper into the life and priorities of truck drivers. We wanted to know what they looked for in a job, why they love driving and more.

Our results showed that on average, most drivers take about 1 driving job per month. In addition to that, almost half said that their last assignment was over 12 weeks long, showing that drivers like stability and consistency.

Despite the pandemic, drivers took the same number of jobs this year versus last year and plan on continuing to do so in 2021.



Our survey wanted to dig into what drivers were looking for when selecting a company. They said:

- ✓ **COMPETITIVE PAY**
- ✓ **JOB LOCATION AND ROUTE**
- ✓ **WORK-LIFE BALANCE**
- ✓ **TYPE OF JOB**
- ✓ **BENEFITS, INSURANCE AND JOB PERKS**

Work-life balance always emerges as a priority for drivers. Stereotypically, truck drivers are frequently away from home, but that doesn't have to always be the case.

83% of drivers prefer local routes over short haul and OTR driving opportunities. This allows drivers to do what they love while still being able to spend time with their families.

Working for Centerline, means you can always prioritize your work-life balance. We work hard to make sure our drivers get home at night with local routes for steady hours and competitive pay.

83%

of drivers prefer local routes over short haul and OTR driving opportunities



outside of pay, the two benefits important to drivers are work-life balance and flexible hours

LIFE OF A DRIVER

On a lighter note, we asked drivers what they enjoyed about driving and what they do on the road. Talk to any driver and they will most likely tell you that they love truck driving. When asked why, our survey respondents said they love the road for its independence, the pay and the stability of driving because they are so in demand.

Even with short haul drives, the hours on the road can be long. We asked drivers what they enjoyed listening to while driving.



The top types of music are:

- CLASSIC ROCK
- COUNTRY
- HIP HOP/RAP
- R&B
- CLASSICAL

Around 30% of drivers surveyed said they prefer to listen to podcasts instead of music. Staying healthy on the road was also a priority, according to our survey. Of those surveyed, more than half make an effort to eat healthy on the road, prepare meals ahead of time, or exercise regularly.

And these healthy habits have paid off. 90% of drivers reported not having any ailments due to driving.

If you are having trouble maintaining a healthy lifestyle, **check out our collection of articles to help get you started.**

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of drivers reported not having any ailments due to driving



Drivers listed independence, pay and stability as their top reasons for loving truck driving

A SILVER LINING

One of the highlights of this year's survey was reading how many drivers have had memorable or positive experiences during such a tumultuous time. Some of their stories are below.



"The best part of this year was being able to still deliver oxygen to patients."



"I got to drive a cargo of Disney [ride] cars to Disneyland."



"I delivered a multi-million-dollar, secretive load to Nintendo."



"I rescued a man from a burning car, which led to awards from the Truck Carriers Association and the state of California. I also have a truck stop named after me."



"Stopped to help a man out of an overturned pick-up truck that was hit by a tanker truck. Everyone walked away healthy."

CONCLUSION

2020 was hard for so many, but trucking remained a vital part of keeping this country running. Drivers remained a vital part of the pandemic and will continue to be as the vaccine rollout becomes more prominent. All current trends to trucking having a bright future.

We thank you for your hard work this year and every year. Centerline Drivers finds your perfect placement.

Centerline focuses on fit – working with transportation departments in top companies to expertly match your skills, shift and equipment preferences and lifestyle to open positions.

We want to find you local routes with steady, reliable hours and competitive pay. Driving with Centerline means you still get to live your life.


CENTERLINE DRIVERS KEEPING YOUR TRUCKS MOVING

Centerline has a team of dedicated, responsive recruiters who will work with you. With support every step of the way, Centerline makes it easy for you to find your perfect next position fast.

Ready to join the Centerline family?

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