



Five Frequently Asked Questions about Truck Drivers and the USA Trucking Industry

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By [The Kenneth J. Allen & Associates Blog](#) © 2010

1. *How many trucks are on the roads today?*

There are over 15,500,000 commercial trucks driving USA roadways today. Around 2,000,000 are [tractor trailers](#).

2. *How much money does the trucking industry make?*

It's estimated that the annual revenue for the entire trucking industry is around \$255,500,000,000.00 (\$255.5 billion). That's the total. Common Carriers take up about \$98 billion of that total; private trucking fleets make around \$121 billion each year.

3. *How many trucking companies are there?*

There are around half a million (500,000) trucking companies in the United States today; most are very small (approximately 80% operate 1 – 6 trucks).

Trucking companies in Canada and Mexico also operate their semi rigs here in the United States. They are also expected to comply with the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](#) when operating within the United States.

4. *How many professional truck drivers are there?*

There are 3,500,000 estimated professional truck drivers; however, only 1 in 9 is an independent driver. Most work for companies.

5. *What do professional truck drivers get paid?*

In the trucking industry, pay is calculated by miles driven: the national average shows a truck driver getting around 30 cents per mile, tallying to around \$32,000 annual gross

income. For those that own their own trucks, there's more profit. The majority of per-mile charge for transporting freight goes to the trucking company.

Sources: [TruckingInfo.Net](#); [FMCSA](#)