

## Transportation Vertical

The US transportation industry is valued at \$1.36 trillion (2022). Approximately 10.6 million Americans are employed and as of May 2022 unemployment in the sector was 4.5%.<sup>1</sup> This was 25% higher than the national average.

Roughly 83% of transportation industry workers have access to healthcare. US transportation workers over 55 make up 23.9% of the sector, and 43.3% of transit workers are 55 + years of age.<sup>2</sup>

### Employment, Gender & Race (2022)<sup>3</sup>

*(#s in the thousands)*

Field	Total Employed	Women	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic
Transportation and material moving occupations	11,826	22%	71%	20%	4%	24%
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	3,539	8%	74%	18%	4%	23%
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	2,244	22%	70%	21%	3%	27%
Stockers and order fillers	1,722	37%	70%	20%	5%	23%
Packers and packagers	719	53%	69%	22%	5%	38%
Industrial truck and tractor operators	636	10%	69%	25%	1%	32%
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	350	19%	73%	19%	2%	36%

## Workplace Injuries, Illnesses, & Fatalities

1

<https://www.zippia.com/advice/transportation-industry-statistics/#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20transportation%20industry%20is,warehouseing%20industry%20as%20of%202022.>

2

<https://www.zippia.com/advice/transportation-industry-statistics/#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20transportation%20industry%20is,warehouseing%20industry%20as%20of%202022.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm>

The transportation industry experienced 184,470 injuries and illnesses in 2018 resulting in 1 + days away from work.<sup>4</sup>

- A median of 13 days off work was taken.
- The most common type of injury was sprains and strains (~ 40%)<sup>5</sup>
- Slips, trips, and falls comprised 30% of reported cases.
- 55% of heavy tractor-trailer operators have suffered musculoskeletal disorders.
- Approximately 13% of accidents are a result of fatigue.
- Fractures accounted for 10% of injuries.
- 35% of truck drivers reported experiencing at least one work-related injury in their career.<sup>6</sup>
- Fatal occupational injuries have been rising since 2009.<sup>7</sup>
  - A slight decrease occurred in 2018.

### Fatalities<sup>8</sup>

- 805 for the industry in 2020.
- One out of every five work-related fatalities belonged to transportation and material moving occupations.<sup>9</sup>

Type of Fatality	Number
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	56
Transportation incidents	575
Fires and explosions	0
Falls, slips, trips	40
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	68
Contact with objects and equipment	62

### States with the most Incidents<sup>10</sup>

- #1 - Texas (122)
- #2 - California (66)
- #3 - Florida (56)

- 23 states had 15 or more fatal occupational injuries.

4

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/transportation-and-material-moving-workers-experienced-184470-injuries-and-illnesses-in-2018.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <https://blog.gitnux.com/truck-driver-injury-statistics/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://blog.gitnux.com/truck-driver-injury-statistics/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/iif/factsheets/archive/truck-drivers-2018.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/iif/fatal-injuries-tables/fatal-occupational-injuries-table-a-1-2020.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <https://blog.gitnux.com/truck-driver-injury-statistics/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/iif/factsheets/archive/truck-drivers-2018.htm>

## **Moving Forward**

Earlier this year the transportation industry was grappling with the debt ceiling, bank failures, and declining freight spot rates. These are all behind us, although contract rates usually follow spot rates so a slide later in the year is likely.

Inflation is still high, freight volumes are weak, and there are concerning carrier profit pressures at work. Trucking rates are unlikely to drop further as fleets are freezing hiring and selling equipment. Trucking layoffs are likely to continue moving into 2024.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.actresearch.net/resources/blog/trucking-industry-forecast>