

# U.S. TRUCK DRIVER SHORTAGE

Last March, the American Trucking Associations released its latest Driver Compensation Study showing driver pay has climbed as rising demand for freight transportation services has increased competition for increasingly scarce drivers.

The median salary for a truckload driver working a national, irregular route was over 53 K\$ (+7K\$ +15% since the last survey on 2013). A private fleet driver saw their pay rise to more than 86 K\$ (+13K\$ +18%).

In addition to rising pay, fleets were offering generous bonuses and benefit packages like paid leave, health insurance and 401(k)s to keep them to attract and keep drivers.

However, the shortage is still there and could be even higher than a year before. Last year, it was reported a shortage of 51,000 long-haul drivers and it could jump to 63,000 this year. The US industry needs to add almost 1 million new drivers by 2024 to keep up with demand. For the time being, trucking is unable to compete against other professions to attract younger talents and driving is the country's deadliest occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some options :

Currently the law requires to be at least 21 to drive a large truck across state lines. A Department of Transportation pilot program will allow some drivers as young as 18 (but there is another safety concern : younger drivers have higher crash rates).

Women recruitment as they are only 6% of the nation's drivers.

### ***Read more:***

- [Washington Post : America has a massive truck driver shortage.](#)
- [JOC : Why tight US trucking capacity isn't going away soon](#)
- [Washington Post : Lawmakers: Let 18- to 21-year-olds drive 18-wheelers across the country](#)

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