



The Cost of Driving a Truck

While there is money to be made driving a truck, there are substantial costs to be aware of.

The first thing a new truck driver discovers almost immediately is that the cost of purchasing, licensing and maintaining a commercial vehicle is a considerable investment. These things must be taken care of before even hitting the road to make money. Otherwise, if you get audited or pulled over it could be the end, before you even get started.

Also, consider the truck and the fuel it takes to get from job to job. Trucks can have a

wide range of prices to shop from. A used truck with a sleeper and mileage under 500,000 could run anywhere from \$50,000 to \$80,000, which is generally 2-3 times more than most of us pay for a vehicle to get us to and from our job.

Diesel fuel used to be cheaper than regular gasoline, but the demand of diesel has gone up and causing the price to go up as well. If diesel is \$4.26 a gallon and the truck holds 200 gallons of fuel the cost of filling up would be around \$826.00. If the truck averaged 7 miles per gallon that would mean it

would cost \$.61 per mile for fuel. For those drivers that get paid per mile, fuel costs can eat up a good portion of their mileage pay.

Preventive maintenance is a must toward keeping repair bills at a minimum. One of the most common is oil changes. For a big truck it can run around \$200 or more for an oil change and is typically done around every 4-6 weeks.

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Upcoming Deadlines

- UCR must be renewed for the 2014 year. Renewals began Oct. 1st. Don't delay to stay compliant!
- Oregon permit holders must file their monthly report with the state by November 30th.
- If you have not already filed your 2013-14 IRS 2290 Heavy Vehicle Highway Use Tax, don't delay! The deadline was Aug 31st.
- 2013 IFTA will expire Dec. 31st. Be sure to submit your renewal for the 2014 year.
- New Mexico Weight Distance Tax permit holders must renew their permits by December 31st for the 2014 year.

For assistance with any of these permits please call 405-701-4173 or visit our website at www.dotprocessagents.com. Representatives are stand-

ing by to answer your questions and process your orders!



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Cost (Continued)

Tires are another big expense that is encountered with owning a truck. Typically, there are 10 tires on a truck and can cost anywhere from \$4,000-\$8,000 or more for a set of tires. There is an option of recapped tires where there is new tread added to an old tire; however, the cost is still around \$5,000 per set.

Another expense to consider is the cost of food. How do truck drivers get food? Most of the time they eat at truck stops where they buy from a fast food place, a restaurant, or buy food to prepare in the

truck. However, the cost of food is usually sold at a higher price at these establishments.

Source: <http://www.overdriveonline.com/>



Fatal Accident Increase

The FMCSA has reported that the number of fatalities and the number of fatal accidents that large trucks were involved in, in 2011 was reported at the highest number since 2008.

In 2011 there were 3,757 people that died compared to 3,686 in 2010, 3,380 in 2009, however, there were 4,245 in 2008.

Even with this high rate of fatalities it is still lower than the over 5,000 range within 1994-2006.

The reasons for the accidents vary. 11.9 percent of

crashes were blamed on distracted while driving or just not paying attention, 0.9 percent were cell phone related, while authorities report 5.2 percent were caused by the driver falling asleep or fatigue.

Source: <http://www.thetrucker.com/>

Electronic Logging

As technology advances, companies are looking for ways to track the miles that their drivers and trucks travel with the E-log.

The E-log would take place of the handwritten logs and be far more accurate, having the potential to save the company money.

The electronic logging device mandate is part of the MAP-21 highway funding authorization act, which instructs the FMCSA to create the electronic logging device mandate.

J.J. Keller & Associates Inc. has developed an electronic-logging mobile

app, for the Apple iPhone and iPad, it should be available for download mid-November. They are the first

provider to receive certification from Apple. The app will collect data from the company's electronic onboard recorder and will then transmit the data wirelessly back to the office software. Keller has expanded its staff to be able to help fleets get ready for the federal mandate that will require such technology.

Source: www.ttnews.com



Top Gifts for Drivers

It's that time of year when we start thinking about that perfect gift to get for that special someone. If that someone is a truck driver, this list of gifts will come in handy.

- 9. Pocket Truck Stop
- 10. Cobra 40 Channel CB Radio
- 11. Apollo 39-Piece General Tool Set

Source: <http://www.thehealthytrucker.net>

- 1. Garmin nuvi Trucking GPS
- 2. BlueParrott Bluetooth Wireless Headset
- 3. Sirius XM Dock and Play Radio
- 4. Koolatron 18 quart Compact Cooler
- 5. RoadPro 1.5 Quart Slow Cooker
- 6. Power Bright 2300 Watt DC to AC Inverter
- 7. RoadPro Portable Stove
- 8. Deluxe Motor Carriers' Road Atlas





Prepare for Safe Holiday Travel

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, there are some things to keep in mind when traveling. Here is a list of tips and advice from a group of expert truck driver that has millions of accident-free miles.

- Prepare your vehicle for long distance travel. Simple maintenance can prevent many of the problems that strand motorists on the side of the road.
- Plan ahead: Drivers mak-

ing unexpected lane changes to exit often cause accidents.

- Do not cut in front of large trucks.
- Be aware of truck blind spots. If you can't see the truck driver in his or her mirrors, then the truck driver can't see you.
- Check your emergency kit. Contents should include: battery powered radio, flashlight, blanket, jumper

cables, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable foods, maps, tire repair kit and flares.

- Be aware of changes in weather.
- Keep your eyes on the road
- Leave early and avoid risks.
- Remove ice and snow from your vehicle
- Be aware of the vehicle in front of you.

- Pack your vehicle smart. Be sure that you can see out of all of your windows and mirrors.

- Slow Down. Buckle up.

Here is to a safe and happy holiday season!

Source:

<http://www.truckline.com/>

UPS Driver Has Perfect Record

Having a perfect driving record is hard to come by. However, 73 year old UPS driver, Tom Camp, has proven that it is not impossible.

Tom has been driving for UPS since 1962. When asked how he has stayed accident free for all those years, his answer was "You need to assume other drivers are not as aware as you are," and "If you assume the other guy is day-dreaming, that's a good first step."

UPS implements safety training worth around \$118 million

a year to provide their drivers the knowledge to drive safely. There are about 6,400 drivers in the UPS fleet that have at least 25 years with accident free driving, proving that the money spent on training is well worth it.

Camp says "As long as I can do it [his job] well, I'll keep going."

Source: <http://www.pressroom.ups.com/>

Diesel Prices Still in Decline

For the fourth month in a row the price of diesel dropped 1.3 cents to \$3.857 per gallon, and gasoline fell to the lowest rate of the year as reported by the Department of Energy.

Diesel is at its lowest since July 8th and has dropped 12.4 cents the last 2 months.

Gas prices have declined 8 times over the past nine weeks. It is now at its lowest since last Christmas.

With the approaching winter season diesel prices are not expected to fall as fast as gasoline. One reason being the recent increase of diesel exports from the U.S. at 1.4 million barrels a day.

Source: www.ttnews.com



Tu' Habla Espanol?

FMCSA Spanish Home Page:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/spanish>

Mexico-Based Motor Carrier Home Page:

http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/spanish/mmc_spanish.html



Don't get overburdened with paperwork or information! We are here to help make this industry as easy to understand as possible! Feel free to contact us at any time to answer questions!

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Off Duty

Sudoku

			5	2				
	4		6				8	9
2	6		8	1			3	
9						3		4
		4				8		
6		7						2
	2			6	1		7	3
4	7				5		2	
				7	8			

	2	3						5
	4			5			9	
		6		8	4			1
				3		9		
	1	4	2		5	7	3	
		7		1				
2			6	4		1		
	6			7			2	
8						5	6	

Instructions:

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions for future newsletters please feel free to contact us. We would love any input you have to make this the best and most informative newsletter available!

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Did You Know?

- Semi engines are up to 6X larger than car engines, size and weight wise.
- The semi engine is designed to go 1,000,000 miles before an overhaul or rebuild.
- Semi engines are designed to run nonstop. The only time you must shut them down is to change the oil and service the engine, or to follow anti-idle laws.
- The semi engine will typically have 12+ gears.

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