

Weekly Trucking Insight

NOV 30, 2022

The Railroad Strike is BACK ON???

 **RANDALL
REILLY**

TALENT INTELLIGENCE

Overview

Job Board Searches and Clicks

- Last week, search activity fell by 14% and click activity decreased by 25%.

Spot Freight Market

- Overall average spot rates (including fuel) decreased by 2¢ per mile from the previous week.
- Total load postings fell by 45% WoW.
- Overall truck availability decreased by 26% WoW.

Story of the Week

Rail strike back on the table, this time for December

- The nation's largest rail union, SMART Transportation Division, declined Monday a contract proposal in part brokered by the White House, putting the potential of a national railroad strike back on the table next month.
- SMART-TD could strike Dec. 9, or the rail carriers could lock out workers, unless Congress steps in.

Read more on pages 6-7

Numbers at a Glance

SPOT RATES (INCLUDING FUEL)

WoW: ▼ Down 2¢ per mile

SPOT RATES BY SEGMENT (INCLUDING FUEL)

WoW: Dry Van ▲ Up 7¢ per mile

WoW: Refrigerated ▼ Down 5¢ per mile

WoW: Flatbed ▼ Down 1¢ per mile

LOAD POSTING VOLUME

WoW: ▼ Down 45%

LOAD VOLUME BY SEGMENT

WoW: Dry Van ▼ Down 41%

WoW: Refrigerated ▼ Down 43%

WoW: Flatbed ▼ Down 52%

TRUCK AVAILABILITY

WoW: ▼ Down 26%

TRUCK DRIVER SEARCHES

WoW: ▼ Down 14%

MoM: ▼ Down 21%

YoY: ▼ Down 29%

CLICKS ON TRUCK DRIVER POSTINGS

WoW: ▼ Down 25%

MoM: ▼ Down 21%

YoY: ▼ Down 19%

This Week in Job Board Searches & Clicks

Searches and Clicks on Job Aggregator Partner Network¹

TRUCK DRIVER SEARCHES

vs. 1 Week Ago:
 ▼ Down 14%

vs. 1 Month Ago:
 ▼ Down 21%

vs. 1 Year Ago:
 ▼ Down 29%

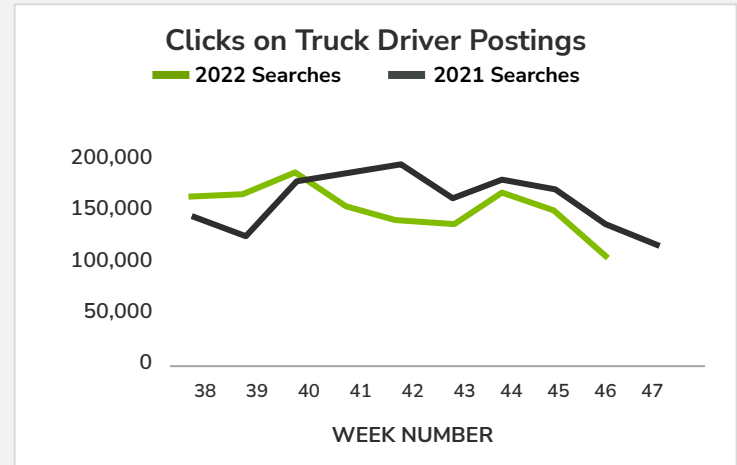
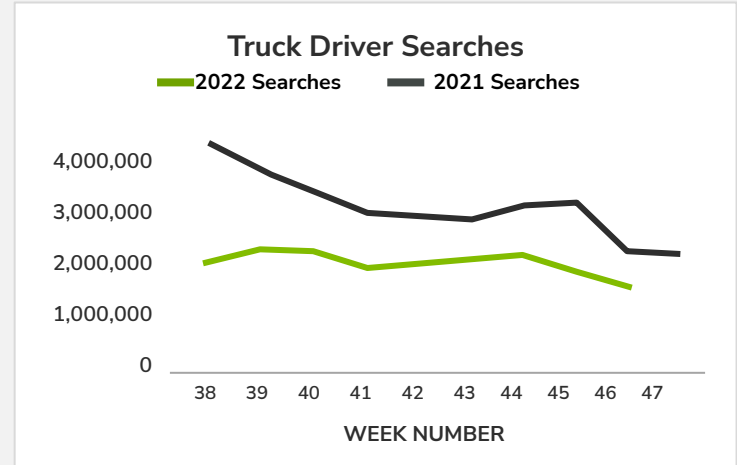
CLICKS ON TRUCK DRIVER POSTINGS

vs. 1 Week Ago:
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vs. 1 Year Ago:
 ▼ Down 19%

¹ Job board data is aggregated from many partners.



This Week in Spot Freight

Dry van spot rate strength continues in the holiday week.²

Overall spot rates (including fuel) were down 2¢ the previous week.

Dry Van: +7¢ WoW | Refrigerated: -5¢ WoW | Flatbed: Flat -1¢ WoW

- 16% Below the same week of 2021
- 6% Above the five-year average

Total load volume decreased by 45% from the previous week.

Dry Van: -41% WoW | Refrigerated: -43% WoW | Flatbed: -52% WoW

- 49% Below the same week of 2021
- 25% Below the five-year average
- Declines were relatively uniform across all regions due to the holiday week

Overall truck availability fell by 26% from the previous week.

- Ratio of loads-to-trucks fell to its lowest ratio since May 2020
- While the ratio of loads-to-trucks was much lower than typical since lockdowns began, the number is still slightly above the average weekly Market Demand Index in 2019

² Data is taken from FTR via Truckstop. To read the full weekly report, [click here](#).



WoW Spot Freight

Spot Rates Including Fuel Charges

▼ Down 2¢ WoW

Total Load Volume

▼ Down 45% WoW

Overall Truck Availability

▼ Down 26% WoW

Story of the Week

The Railroad Strike is BACK ON???

→ A railroad strike was avoided this past September

- ◆ Talks were extended and it was thought an agreement would be reached
- ◆ After a narrow vote a strike could be back on the table - just in time for Christmas

→ SMART Transportation Division, the nation's largest rail union, rejected a proposal partly brokered by the White House

- ◆ Following record turnout for the vote, the union, which represents 28,000 conductors turned the deal down by the slimmest of margins
 - 0.8% of union voters rejected the deal

→ The second largest rail union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, voted in favor of the deal

- ◆ The conductors union and engineers union make up about half of the unionized labor force, but the 12 unions involved adhere to what is referred to as a "me too" policy
 - ◆ Under these conditions, the terms agreed to by the last hold out would trickle down and be applied to all the others
 - If all 12 unions can't reach an agreement, they may go on strike

(continued)

Story of the Week *(continued)*

- **The last railroad strike was in 1991, and lasted until a day before Congress was to step in**
 - ◆ The following year, a walkout by members of the International Association of Machinists spread nationally and lasted for two days before Congress had to intervene
 - ◆ SMART Transportation Division could strike on December 9th, or rail carriers could lock out workers, unless an agreement is reached or Congress once again steps in

- **The losses for a railroad strike could potentially top \$2 Billion a day**
 - ◆ The ATA estimates the U.S. would need an additional 460,000 long-haul trucks every day to offset the loss of the 7,000 daily freight trains - which is simply NOT possible



Source: Jason Cannon, CCI chief editor; "[Rail strike back on the table, this time for December](#)"
Nov 21, 2022; [CCJDigital.com](#)



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