

Weekly Trucking Insight

SEPT 14, 2022

# Looming Rail Strike Spells Trouble



TALENT INTELLIGENCE

# Overview

## Job Board Searches and Clicks

- Last week, search activity fell by 2%, while click activity increased by 8%.

## Spot Freight Market

- Overall average spot rates (including fuel) decreased by 1 cent from the previous week.
- Total load postings fell by 17%.
  - ◆ This was consistent with declines typically seen during Labor Day holiday weeks.
- Overall truck availability decreased by 15%.
- As rail workers threaten a strike this week, shippers might send more freight to trucks as a precaution.

## Story of the Week

**With the current threat of a rail worker strike, ATA cautions that trucking capacity does not exist to offset the effects of a rail shutdown.**

- ATA says that more than 460,000 additional long-haul trucks would be needed every day to carry the freight currently hauled by freight trains.
- ATA cautions against merely extending the negotiating deadline, which could push a potential shutdown to the shipping holiday season.

*More details on pages 6-7*

## Numbers at a Glance

### SPOT RATES (INCLUDING FUEL)

WoW: ▼ Down 1¢ per mile

### SPOT RATES BY SEGMENT (INCLUDING FUEL)

WoW: Dry Van ■ Flat

WoW: Refrigerated ▲ Up 1¢ per mile

WoW: Flatbed ■ Flat

### LOAD POSTING VOLUME

WoW: ▼ Down 17%

### LOAD VOLUME BY SEGMENT

WoW: Dry Van ▼ Down 12%

WoW: Refrigerated ▼ Down 12%

WoW: Flatbed ▼ Down 23%

### TRUCK AVAILABILITY

WoW: ▼ Down 15%

### TRUCK DRIVER SEARCHES

WoW: ▼ Down 2%

MoM: ▲ Up 11%

YoY: ▼ Down 37%

### CLICKS ON TRUCK DRIVER POSTINGS

WoW: ▲ Up 8%

MoM: ▼ Down 9%

YoY: ▲ Up 17%

# This Week in Job Board Searches & Clicks

## Searches and Clicks on Job Aggregator Partner Network<sup>1</sup>

### TRUCK DRIVER SEARCHES

vs. 1 Week Ago:

▼ Down 2%

vs. 1 Month Ago:

▲ Up 11%

vs. 1 Year Ago:

▼ Down 37%

### CLICKS ON TRUCK DRIVER POSTINGS

vs. 1 Week Ago:

▲ Up 8%

vs. 1 Month Ago:

▼ Down 9%

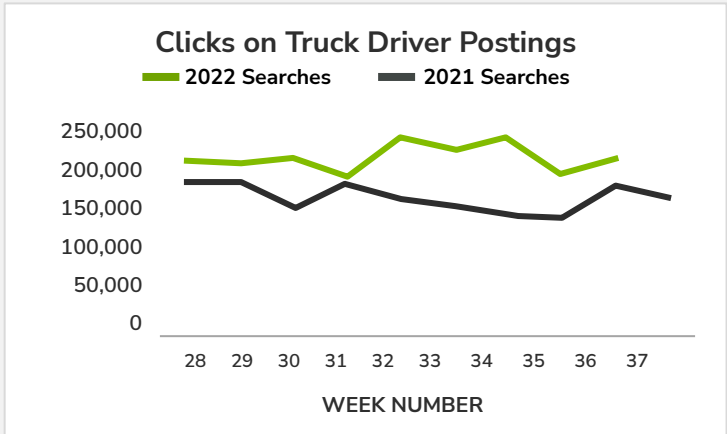
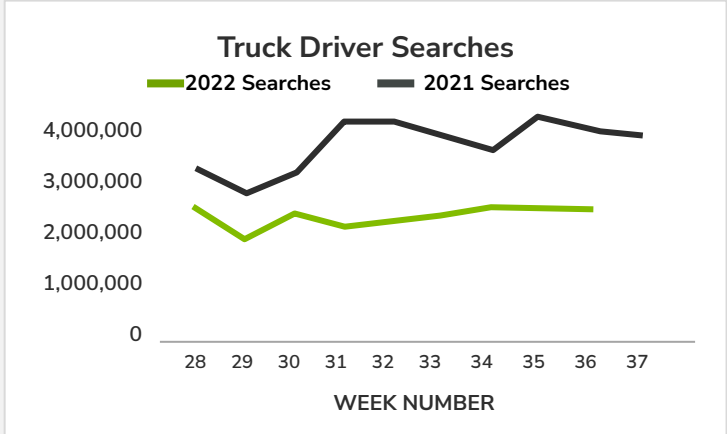
vs. 1 Year Ago:

▲ Up 17%

→ The spike in clicks in last year's week 36 corresponded with the ending of extra federal unemployment benefits.

◆ This year's click count remained above last year's despite that.

<sup>1</sup> Job board data is aggregated from many partners.



# This Week in Spot Freight

**Spot rates hold steady, volume falls during the holiday week.<sup>2</sup>**

**Overall spot rates (including fuel) eased 1 cent from the previous week.**

Dry Van: Flat | Refrigerated: +1¢ WoW | Flatbed: Flat

→ Excluding fuel surcharges, rates were 26% below the same week last year.

**Total load postings fell by 17% from the previous week.**

Dry Van: -12% WoW | Refrigerated: -12% WoW | Flatbed: -23% WoW

→ This is similar to declines typically seen during Labor Day holiday weeks.

→ Load postings were down in all regions.

**Overall truck availability decreased by 15% from the previous week.**

→ The overall load-to-truck ratio eased lower.

**Rail workers are threatening to strike this week, and the trucking spot market may be affected as a result.**

→ Even if a strike is averted, shippers might send more freight to trucks as a precaution.

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



## WoW Spot Freight

Spot Rates Including Fuel Charges

▼ 1¢ WoW

Total Load Postings

▼ 17% WoW

Overall Truck Availability

▼ 15% WoW

## Story of the Week

### Not enough trucks to mitigate effects of the potential rail strike.<sup>3</sup>

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) say that trucking capacity does not exist to offset the effects of a possible rail worker strike.

- ATA says that more than 460,000 additional long-haul trucks would be needed every day to offset the idling of long-distance freight trains in the U.S.
  - ◆ ATA argues that this isn't possible based on current equipment availability and a driver shortage.
- ATA warned of dire consequences for the U.S. supply chain if a strike were to go into effect.
  - ◆ They warn that any rail service disruption will create havoc in the supply chain and will fuel inflationary pressures across the board.
  - ◆ The Association of American Railroads projects lost economic output due to a national rail shutdown at more than \$2 billion per day.

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## Story of the Week

**ATA has called on Congress to intervene and resolve ongoing labor negotiations in the freight rail industry if the parties fail to reach a mutual agreement.**

**→ ATA cautioned against merely extending the negation timeline.**

- ◆ That could push a potential strike or lockout into the holiday season when the supply chain is already under added duress.

3 Cannon, Jason. "[Impossible task: ATA says 460,000 trucks needed to offset effect of potential rail strike.](#)" 12 Sep 2022, ccjdigital.com.



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