



Weekly Trucking Insights



Overview

Job Board Searches and Clicks

The first full week on January saw WoW increases for both searches and clicks.

- All major driver types saw increases in both searches and clicks.

Freight Market

- Spot rates fell nearly 18 cents WoW.
 - Spot Keep in mind that last week's average spot rate was the second highest on record, so spot rates remain high.
- Load volume in the Truckstop.com system jumped 52% WoW to set a record high for volume.
- Truck postings also rose dramatically (up 55% WoW) to slightly outpace the increase in loads.

Story of the Week

- Spot rates have expanded so much and sustained for too so that capacity will certainly grow this year.
- While Class 8 truck orders have spiked in recent months, seating those trucks will be difficult as driver recruitment challenges remain in place.
- These truck orders suggest carriers are much more optimistic about the long-term than they were earlier in the year.



This week in job board searches & clicks

Searches and Clicks on Job Aggregator Partner Network¹

Truck Driver Searches

WoW:
▲15%

MoM:
▼10%

YoY:
▲55%

Clicks on Truck Driver Postings

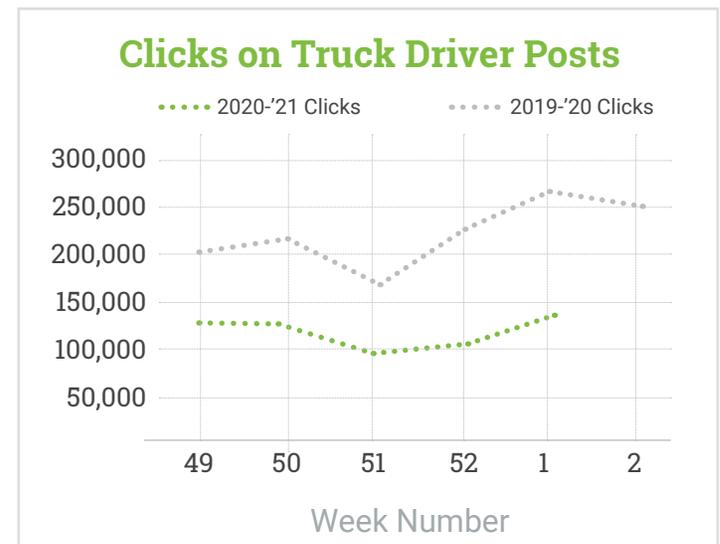
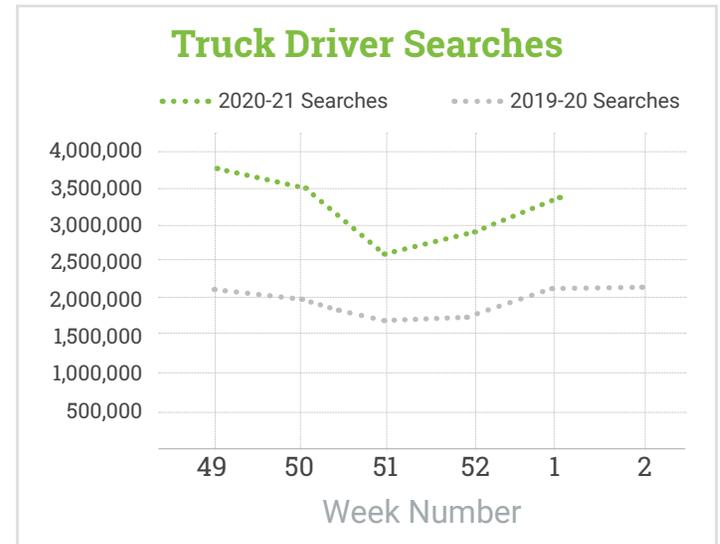
WoW:
▲25%

MoM:
▲16%

YoY:
▼48%

¹ Job board data is aggregated from many partners.

The first full week of January saw an increase in both searches and clicks. This is expected as the beginning of January is usually an active time for interest in new jobs and hiring activity in the trucking industry. All major driver types saw increases in both searches and clicks.



This week in freight

Spot volume surges to another record in first week of 2021.²

Load volume in the Truckstop.com system jumped 52% WoW to set a record high for volume.

- All segments saw higher volume, but flatbed's gain was especially strong.
 - Flatbed load volume rose 86% WoW.
 - Dry van load volume rose nearly 39% WoW.
 - Refrigerated load volume rose nearly 9% WoW.
- The rise in truck postings slightly outpaced the increase in loads, so the ratio of loads to trucks retreated slightly from last week's record high.
 - Truck postings rose 55% WoW (vs. 52% for load volume).

Spot rates fell sharply.

- The broker-posted rate per mile fell nearly 18 cents WoW.

Remember that last week's average spot rate was the second highest on record.

²Data is taken from Truckstop.

Story of the week

When will the next wave of trucking capacity hit the market?³

Spot rates have expanded too much and sustained too long not to see growth in capacity this year.

- The trucking industry employment level has dropped by more than 500,000 YoY.
 - Nov. 2019 = 15.3 million people; Nov. 2020 = 14.8 million people
- Freight volumes have expanded beyond where they were when the pandemic began.
- These have resulted in the unprecedented growth in spot market rates in the second half of 2020.

After months of caution due to uncertainty, new orders for Class 8 trucks spiked in the last few months of the year.

- Orders in November and December resemble those last seen in July and August 2018.

Ordering trucks will be easier than seating them this year as driver recruitment challenges remain in place.

- Driver schools have been operating well below capacity.
- The Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse has removed thousands of drivers from the employment pool.

Most forecasts show demand staying elevated for the first half of 2021. These orders suggest carriers are much more optimistic about the long-term than they were earlier in the year.

³ Strickland, Zach. "When will the next wave of trucking capacity hit the market?" 9 Jan 2021. freightwaves.com.