



# Weekly Trucking Insights

## Overview

### Job Board Searches and Clicks

- **Job board search and click activity both rose to their highest levels in four weeks (the week of March 15).**
  - Click activity remains quite low: only five weeks since the beginning of 2019 have had a lower number of clicks.

### Spot Freight Market

- **Spot rates rose 4 cents WoW to set another all-time high.**
  - Rates for flatbed rose, dry van rates fell, and refrigerated rates remained unchanged.
- **Load volume in the Truckstop.com system rose 5% to set a record high.**
- **Truck postings fell by 5% last week.**

### Story of the Week

- **FTR's Trucking Conditions Index for February hit its highest level in 16 months.**
- **FTR's near-term outlook for trucking remains very strong, and they expect good conditions to remain through 2022.**



# Numbers at a Glance

## TRUCK DRIVER SEARCHES

WoW: ▲ Up 17%

MoM: ▲ Up 2%

YoY: ▲ Up 77%

## LOAD VOLUME

WoW: ▲ Up 5%

*Sets an all-time high record.*

## VOLUME BY SEGMENT

WoW: Dry Van ▼ Down 2%

WoW: Refrigerated ▲ Up 2%

Wow: Flatbed ▲ Up 9%

*Sets an all-time high record for the 7th time in 8 weeks.*

## SPOT RATES

WoW: ▲ Up 4¢ per mile

*Sets another all-time high record (5cpm higher than the previous record from June 2018).*

## CLICKS ON TRUCK DRIVER POSTINGS

WoW: ▲ Up 3%

MoM: ▼ Down 2%

YoY: ▼ Down 42%

## TRUCK POSTINGS

WoW: ▼ Down 5%

## TRUCK POSTINGS BY SEGMENT

WoW: Dry Van ▲ Up 1%

WoW: Refrigerated ▼ Down 9%

WoW: Flatbed ▼ Down 7%

## RATES BY SEGMENT

WoW: Dry Van ▼ Down 4¢ per mile

WoW: Refrigerated ■ Flat

WoW: Flatbed ▲ Up 6¢ per mile

# 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:

▲ 17%

vs 1 Month Ago:

▲ 2%

vs 1 Year Ago:

▲ 77%

### Clicks on Truck Driver Postings

vs 1 Week Ago:

▲ 3%

vs 1 Month Ago:

▼ 2%

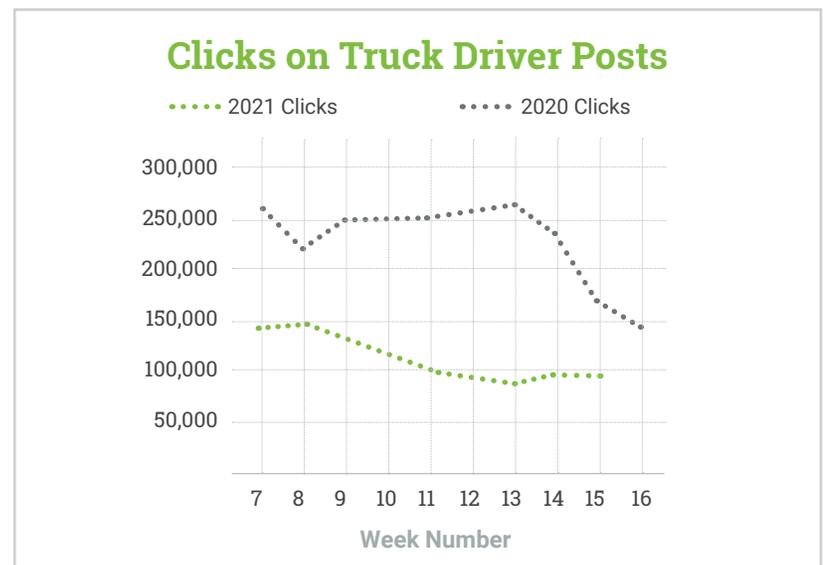
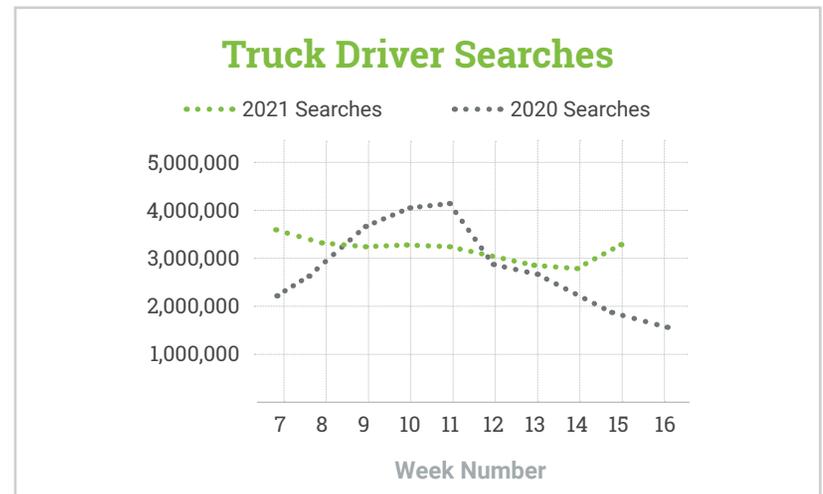
vs 1 Year Ago:

▼ 42%

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

Please note that we are now one year removed from the early stages of Covid-19 affecting the United States in substantial ways (initial shutdowns, stay-at-home orders, etc.). Searches spiked in Weeks 9-11 last year before dropping off; clicks remained elevated through Week 14 before dropping off significantly.

Truck driver search and click activity on job boards both increased last week. Both numbers were the highest since week 11 (the week of March 15). Click traffic remains quite low: only five weeks since the beginning of 2019 have had lower click values.



# This Week in Spot Freight

## Spot market sets volume, rate records.<sup>2</sup>

### Spot rates (excluding fuel surcharges) rose by 4 cents per mile (CPM) to set another all-time high.

- **This is 5 CPM above late June 2018's rate, which had been the previous high before last week.**
  - Flatbed was solely responsible for the increase (+6 CPM), while dry van rates declined (-4 CPM) and refrigerated rates were unchanged.
  - Rates are 75% above the same 2020 week, but YoY comparisons are difficult because one year ago pandemic-related lockdowns had caused spot rates to plummet.

### Load postings in the Truckstop.com system rose 5% last week to set an all-time high, which had previously been week 8 of this year.

- **Dry van load postings decreased 2% WoW.**
  - Volume has held fairly steady over the past five weeks.
- **Refrigerated load postings rose 2% WoW**
  - Volume has changed little over the past six weeks.
- **Flatbed load postings rose 9% WoW, setting yet another volume record.**
  - This was the seventh time in eight weeks flatbed volume set a record.

### Truck postings dropped by 5% last week.

- **Dry van truck postings edged up 1%.**
- **Truck postings for refrigerated (-9%) and flatbed (-7%) both fell.**
- **The ratio of loads to trucks rebounded from last week's decrease.**
  - The ratio was at its seventh highest level on record.
    - The past week's number was surpassed only by six of the previous eight weeks.

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

## Story of the Week

### Trucking conditions hit highest mark in more than a year.<sup>3</sup>

#### FTR's Trucking Conditions Index for February hit its highest level in 16 months.

- It would hard to devise better market conditions for trucking companies.
  - Demand is robust in both consumer and industrial sectors.
  - Lingering labor-related challenges are keeping a lid on capacity.

#### FTR's near-term outlook for trucking remains very strong, and they expect good conditions to remain through 2022.

- They do not expect any noticeable easing until this fall.
  - When easing does occur, they don't anticipate that conditions will stabilize as quickly as they did in late 2018 and 2019.
- Supply chain constraints are a real headwind.
  - Many truck OEMs are struggling to keep up with demand, and these issues are unlikely to be resolved in the coming few months.
  - The global shortage of semiconductors and supply limitations of various other components are causing this.

<sup>3</sup> CCJ Staff. ["Trucking conditions hit highest mark in more than a year."](#) 13 Apr 2021, ccjdigital.com.



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