



# North Carolina

## TRUCKING FAST FACTS



## TRUCKING DRIVES THE ECONOMY



### CAREERS

# 271,300

Trucking industry jobs in North Carolina

1 in 15 jobs in the state

### SMALL BUSINESS EMPHASIS

# 47,100

Trucking companies located in North Carolina

Primarily small, locally owned businesses, these companies are served by a wide range of supporting businesses.

### COMPETITIVE WAGES

In 2024, trucking industry wages paid in North Carolina averaged **\$57,509**, and exceeded **\$15.6 billion** in total.

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers held **64,610** jobs in North Carolina in 2024. The national average annual salary of an over-the-road truck driver is **\$75,144**.

### TRANSPORTING THE ESSENTIALS



**96.6** % of manufactured tonnage transported by trucks in North Carolina.

**That's 236,780 tons per day**



**85.6** % of communities in the state depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods.



## SAFETY MATTERS

### SAFETY FIRST

**North Carolina Trucking Association members put safety first through:**

- ✓ Improved driver training
- ✓ Investment in advanced safety technologies
- ✓ Active participation in industry safety initiatives

**ATRI research shows the success of their efforts.** Members of State Trucking Associations are involved in fewer crashes and receive fewer violations at roadside inspections than their industry peers. **Crashes per 100 Million Miles by STA Membership Status:**

<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>	<b>95.10</b> ★
<b>FORMER MEMBERS</b>	<b>121.21</b>
<b>NEVER MEMBERS</b>	<b>146.33</b>

### CONTINUALLY IMPROVING

**2023 U.S. fatal crash rate:**

**USA: 1.48 • North Carolina: 1.96**  
per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Between 1975 and 2023, the U.S. large truck fatal crash rate has dropped **67.6%**



## DELIVERING A CLEANER TOMORROW

### EMISSIONS



of North Carolina commercial trucks now powered by the newest-generation, **near-zero emissions** diesel technology.

Medium- and heavy-duty trucks contribute just **23%** of all transportation-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the U.S. and represent only **6%** of total U.S. GHG emissions.



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### TRUCKING PAYS THE FREIGHT



#### THE INDUSTRY

The trucking industry in North Carolina paid approximately

**\$1.0 billion**  
in federal and state roadway taxes

The industry paid **27%** of all taxes owed by North Carolina motorists ...



... despite trucks representing only **7%** of vehicle miles traveled in the state.



#### INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES

As of January 2026, a typical five-axle tractor-semitrailer combination paid highway user fees and taxes of ...

**STATE** → **\$8,653**

**FEDERAL** → **\$11,351**

These taxes were **over and above** the typical taxes paid by businesses in North Carolina.

#### ROADWAY USE

**108,588**

Miles of public roads in North Carolina

Miles driven on public roads:

All Motorists: **122.3 billion**

Trucks: **8.8 billion**



Traffic congestion in North Carolina cost the trucking industry **\$3.3 billion** in 2024.

## EDUCATING OUR POLICY-MAKERS



## TOP 10

### ISSUES FACING NORTH CAROLINA'S TRUCKING INDUSTRY

- 1 Economy
- 2 Lawsuit Abuse Reform
- 3 Insurance Cost / Availability
- 4 Driver Shortage
- 5 Driver Retention
- 6 Driver Distraction
- 7 Diesel Emissions Regulations
- 8 Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)
- 9 Transportation Infrastructure / Congestion / Funding
- 10 Cargo Theft



www.NCTrucking.com

Updated January 2026 with most recent data available

The following data sources were utilized for the Fast Facts: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (2024); Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: Analysis & Information (2025); American Trucking Associations Driver Compensation Study (2024); Commodity Flow Survey Public Use Microdataset (2017); American Transportation Research Institute: Membership Counts - Associations with Safety (2023); Federal Highway Administration: Highway Statistics Series (2023); National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool (2023); Energy Information Administration (2023); International Fuel Tax Association: Fuel Tax Rates (Q4 2025); International Registration Plan, Inc.: Jurisdiction Data (2026); American Transportation Research Institute: Cost of Congestion to the Trucking Industry (2024); Diesel Technology Forum Clean Diesel Powers in Your State (2023); American Transportation Research Institute: Critical Issues in the Trucking Industry (2025).