

Trucking Industry Employment in Oregon

Trucking is an integral part of Oregon's economy. Serving Oregon's base industries, the trucking industry provides above average wage jobs and creates jobs directly and indirectly across industries. Information from state employment statistics reveal between 27,000 and 35,000 workers are employed in the trucking industry. Wages associated with the trucking industry are higher than average. The 1997 average annual payroll, the generally accepted measure of statewide average pay, was \$28,407 across all industries. The average payroll for the trucking industry, as defined in Table 1, was \$30,552 in 1997.

A variety of figures have been quoted recently as representing trucking industry employment. However, these figures have not been consistent or well defined. In order to get a less ambiguous look at employment in the trucking industry, the Oregon Employment Department was consulted for employment and occupational data.

Employment By Industry and Occupation

The Oregon Employment Department defines the trucking industry as all firms listed under the four Standard Industrial Classification codes (SICs)¹ listed in Table 1. Covered employment for 1997 was 24,172. While covered employment included 95% of all jobs in Oregon in 1997, the trucking industry has a number of self-employed who are not captured in these data.² The proportion of self-employed within the

¹ Description of the industry codes is available online at: <http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/sicscr.html> or in the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*.

² See *Oregon Covered Employment & Payrolls 1997* for complete description of employment not covered by unemployment insurance.

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Table 1. Trucking Industry Employment, 1997

SIC	SIC Title	Annual Average Employment
4212	Local Trucking without storage	9,384
4213	Trucking, except local	12,227
4214	Local trucking with storage	746
4215	Courier services, except by air	1,815
	Self Employed	3,296
	Total	27,468

Source: The Oregon Employment Department, Workforce Analysis Unit, June 1999

trucking industry was estimated to be 12% of industry employment in 1997, bringing total trucking industry employment to 27,468.³

Trucking industry employment makes up 1.6% of covered employment in Oregon. Table 2 lists covered employment by major industry. The trucking industry falls under the Transportation, Communication, & Utilities industry (TC&U, SICs 40-49), which included about 6% of covered employment in 1997. By comparison, the largest industry of employment in Oregon is the Service industry (33%), followed by Retail Trade (19%), Manufacturing (16%), and Wholesale Trade (6%).

Employment in the trucking industry consists of a variety of occupations. Table 3 presents the most prominent occupations within the industry in 1996.⁴ Truck drivers make up the majority of industry employment (55% heavy-truck drivers and 3% light-truck), followed by clerical positions (11%), management positions (7%), material handlers (6%) and mechanics (5%).

³ This estimate was provided by the Oregon Employment Department based on national data and is probably a conservative estimate for Oregon.

⁴ 1997 occupational detail is not currently available. Occupational employment is for 3-digit SICs.

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Table 2. Employment by Two-Digit SIC Industries, 1997

SIC	SIC Title	Total Employment	%
01-09	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	50,525	3.3%
10-14	Mining	1,847	0.1%
15-17	Construction	86,288	5.7%
20-39	Manufacturing	243,759	16%
40-49	Trans., Commun. & Utilities	89,074	5.9%
	Trucking (SICs 4212-4215)	24,172	1.6%
50-51	Wholesale Trade	93,708	6.2%
52-59	Retail Trade	283,272	18.6%
60-69	Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	84,294	5.5%
70-89	Services	509,133	33.5%
91-97	Public Administration	77,968	5.1%
99	Nonclassified	2,185	0.1%
All	Total	1,522,053	100%

Source: Oregon Covered Employment & Payrolls 1997, Oregon Employment Department

Table 3. Occupations Within the Trucking Industry, 1996 (SIC 421)

Occupation	Number of Employed	Percent of Total
Truck Drivers, Heavy (>=3 tons)	13,077	55%
Clerical Management	2,572	11%
	1,560	7%
Hand Material Movers, Other Helpers, Movers, Laborers	1,312	6%
Bus & Truck Mechanics	1,208	5%
Truck Drivers, Light (<3 tons)	781	3%
Refuse Collectors	772	3%
Dispatchers	570	2%
Other	1,711	7%
Total	23,563	100%

Source: The Oregon Employment Department, OLMIS June 1999, average annual employment

Trucking Occupations Across Industries

Clearly, this definition of the trucking industry does not encompass all trucking activity. Many firms classified under other industries have their own truck fleets to transport goods. A way to observe this part of the trucking industry is to look at the number of truck drivers working within all industries. Table 4 provides truck driver employment by industry. As expected, the Trucking and Warehousing industry is the predominant sector of employment. Other industries employing heavy-truck drivers include Wholesale Non-Durable Goods

(10% of industry employment), Lumber and Wood Products (5%), Wholesale Durable Goods (5%), and Heavy Construction Contractors (3%). Light-truck drivers are most likely to work in the Eating & Drinking Places industry (18%), Transportation by Air (12%), and Wholesale Non-Durable Goods industry (11%).

The trucking industry in Oregon employs between 27,468 (Table 2) and 35,749 people (Table 4, sum of heavy- and light-truck drivers).

Multiplier Effect

However, Oregon's trucking industry also contributes to job creation indirectly. Economists can measure the magnitude of direct and indirect impacts by calculating multipliers. For example, an employment multiplier of 2.0 means for every job directly created, another job is indirectly created in other sectors of the economy through purchases of supplies and inputs. The estimated multiplier effect of the TC&U industry's transportation related sector is 2.54. This means for every 100 TC&U jobs created, another 154 jobs in TC&U dependent industries are generated.⁵

Table 4. Industries of Employment For Truck Drivers, 1996

Truck Drivers, Heavy			
SIC	SIC Title	Number Employed	Percent of Total
16	Heavy Construction Contractors	814	3%
24	Lumber and Wood Products	1,272	5%
42	Trucking and Warehousing	13,091	53%
50	Wholesale Durable Goods	1,180	5%
51	Wholesale Non-Durable Goods	2,504	10%
	All Others	5,702	23%
	Total	24,563	100%
Truck Drivers, Light			
SIC	SIC Title	Number Employed	Percent of Total
42	Trucking and Warehousing	797	7%
45	Transportation by Air	1,333	12%
50	Wholesale Durable Goods	747	7%
51	Wholesale Non-Durable Goods	1,283	11%
52	Building Material & Garden Supplies	469	4%
55	Auto Dealers & Service Stations	716	6%
57	Furnishings & Home Furnishings Stores	513	5%
58	Eating and Drinking Places	1,976	18%
59	Miscellaneous Retail	405	4%
	All Others	2,947	26%
	Total	11,186	100%

Source: The Oregon Employment Department, OLMIS, June 1999, average annual employment.

⁵ See *Freight Moves the Oregon Economy, July 1999*, ODOT Planning Section for further discussion of direct, indirect and induced impacts.