Transportation Industry

- The 2001 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generated by the transportation industry was $306.1 billion, a three percent share of the total GDP.¹

- Employment in the transportation industry is expected to increase from 4,205,000 jobs in 2002 to 5,120,000 jobs in 2012, an increase of 914,000 jobs.²

- Much of the employment growth in the transportation industry between 2002 and 2012 will be concentrated in four occupations:
  - Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer: 337,000 new jobs
  - Truck drivers, light or delivery services: 237,000 new jobs
  - Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand: 147,000 new jobs
  - Bus drivers, school: 76,000 new jobs³

- The median annual earnings for these four positions range from $33,210 to $19,710:
  - Truck drivers, heavy truck and tractor-trailer: $33,210
  - Truck drivers, light or delivery services: $23,870
  - Bus drivers, school: $22,390
  - Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand: $19,710⁴

- Truck driver, heavy and tractor-trailer positions require moderate-term on-the-job training (one to 12 months of combined on-the-job experience and informal training). The other three positions responsible for a large portion of the transportation industry’s employment growth (truck drivers, light or delivery; laborers, and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; and bus drivers, school) require short-term on-the-job training (a short demonstration of job duties or one month or less of on-the-job experience or instruction).⁵

- Of the 5,395,000 total workers employed in the transportation and warehousing industry, 4,819,000 work full-time (89%), while 577,000 work part-time (11%).⁶

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⁶ Annual average for 2003, according to the Current Population Survey, a joint project of the BLS and Census Bureau.