

# Women drivers are hitting the highways for the long haul



The trucking industry has been having a tough go of it over the last several years, be it cost of fuel, labor shortages for drivers, supply chain issues at ports or other factors. But labor issues have taken a positive turn lately as more women are entering the trucking industry at an elevated pace.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in general, more than 2,000 trucking jobs were added to the economy in December, with an estimated 63,000 jobs contributed to throughout the year.

Ellen Voie, founder, President & CEO of the Women in Trucking Association (WIT) said:

“We are seeing more and more women coming into the trucking industry. As anticipated, many women who worked in the service industry (hotels, restaurants, conferences, etc.) saw that we had jobs in trucking that couldn’t be outsourced and withstood the pandemic. Recently, we are seeing an increase in the number of women coming into the industry from medical fields (nurses, CNA, aides, etc.) because they are getting burned out. They are working extended hours and just want to get in a truck and drive!”

Voie noted that WIT conducts an annual survey for its Women In Trucking Association index and they’ve seen a

dramatic growth in drivers, safety directors, dispatchers and C-level executives.

“Women now make up just under 14% of over the road [hauling freight over long distances] drivers. We believe our efforts to tell their stories to the general public is helping this trend.”

One company that has been successful in hiring women truck drivers over the years is A. Duie Pyle, a privately held logistics provider that’s been operating out of Pennsylvania for nearly 100 years. They currently have 43 female truckers in their employment.

John Luciani, COO of LT Logistics at A. Duie Pyle, said “a key to the success of our business is the culture, we believe

## What are some of the female truckers saying about their careers on the road?

“ I never thought of being a truck driver until I started seeing my brother drive. It inspired me to try something new. The top benefits of why I love being a driver are salary, job security, and meeting new people. When I talk to someone who may be interested in driving trucks, I normally tell them don’t be scared, be safe, and drive with confidence. ”

**SHLEAH MCKIETHAN**, a Pickup & Delivery (P&D) Driver from West Chester, Pennsylvania, decided to enter the trucking industry in 2018.

“ From the time I was a truck driver’s daughter, caught up in the mystery of the big truck parked outside my window, purring with the sound of the refrigerated unit running, I knew I wanted to drive. The men I have been blessed to work with over the years have been extremely helpful and have provided me with ample tips and information that continue to make my experience as a driver easier, more clear and definitely much more appreciated. ”

**EVELYN VINCENZO**, a CDL Shuttle driver who operates from a Westfield, Massachusetts, warehouse.

“ I’ve always wanted to drive. My dad was a driver, and as a teenager I spent a summer working on trucks. There’s a level of pride as a woman when I back in somewhere and other women drive by and give you a big smile and a thumbs up. Or the little girl who looks at you amazed. And I look at her and say ‘see you can do anything!’ ”

**HEIDI COSENZA**, another P&D Driver from West Chester was raised around trucks.

in meritocracy. The incentives to drivers include very competitive pay, robust benefits and flexibility, among other things.”

Meanwhile, in Canada there’s been a more modest increase in female drivers after a decline early in the pandemic. But many believe programs in Canada could incentivize women and other underrepresented drivers to enter the driving ranks in the next few years. There are reports that training schools have recently seen an uptick of up to 12% in women entering training programs.

The trucking world for women is ever evolving. “The addition of more women entering the trucking industry is creating a sense of urgency for carriers to better accommodate them (uniforms, restrooms, truck ergonomics, etc.)” stated Voie. “Instead of women trying to fit into the environment, the industry has started making the environment more female friendly to create a more gender diverse workforce.” [UB](#)

Article contributed by **Matt Morrow**  
mmorrow@urnerbarry.com



©Carner / Shutterstock.com

“ *Trucking provides an opportunity for women to make a good living, and with equal pay to men, which is not always the case in other fields. Driving always provides new challenges and provides a level of self-satisfaction on a daily basis.* ”

**SHAUNA BRYANT**, a P&D Driver from Concord, New Hampshire, saw the movie “Convoy” when she was 11-years-old and knew at that moment she wanted to be a truck driver.

“ *You can achieve an excellent living and will get out of it what you are willing to put in. It is a very fluid field—days, nights, long distances, short distances, physical, non-physical, company, owner-operator, teams and solos.* ”

**AMY ANDRESH**, a Cleveland Linehaul Driver, has been driving since 1996.

An advertisement for Win Transport Inc. The top half features the company logo in a stylized, blue and white font. Below the logo, the text reads "WE CAN HANDLE ALL YOUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS!". In the center is a front-facing view of a blue semi-truck. To the left of the truck, there are three bullet points: "Arrange for pickups and deliveries", "Drivers are independent and professional", and "Work with any frozen products". To the right of the truck, there are two bullet points: "Provide service in all 48 continental states" and "Specialize in LTL and full truckloads". At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Call Toll Free for our California and Florida Division (888) 345-7441". The bottom section contains contact information: "4810 Williamsburg • P.O. Box 189 • Federalsburg, MD 21632", "Toll-Free: (800) 984-9524 • Phone: (410) 943-0200", "Fax: (410) 943-0206 • E-mail: wcole@wintransportinc.net", and the website "www.wintransportinc.com".