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ICSA Announces New Member Benefits:



It's that time of year when you start thinking about health insurance coverage and worrying what you will have to pay going into 2024. Worry no more! ICSA has teamed up with Voluntary Benefits Association (VBA) to unlock a world of wellness and security with a brand-new lineup of life, accident and health benefits tailored to our members' needs including:

- **Medical Coverage:** Access to top-notch health care so you feel your best.
- **Prescription Benefits:** Affordable medications so you feel your best.
- **Life Insurance:** Providing peace of mind for you and your loved ones.
- **Dental Care:** A healthy smile is around the corner
- **Vision Protection:** Clear vision for a brighter future.
- **Pet Insurance:** Because your furry friends deserve the best too.
- **Member Discounts:** Savings on everyday essentials and more!

These benefits are open to any ICSA member company or individual and you do not need to join VBA. Before you renew your current policies or seek other new coverage, look at what VBA has to offer. Register for our voluntary benefits webinar on November 7, 2023 at 11 AM PDT/2 PM EDT to hear about the incredible benefits that await you. If you miss the webinar, it will be available for viewing on our website in the members only section.

ICSA Announces Q3 Safety Award Winners:

Based on their safety scores, their compliance with all ICSA membership requirements, and several other criteria, CONGRATULATIONS to the following carriers who won the Q3 safety awards:

Single-Truck Operators:

| Rank | Company | Safety Score | Location |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1st Place | ARK FREIGHT LLC | 6 | Tracy, CA |
| 2nd Place | A L SAFE TRANSPORTATION LLC | 7 | Newark, NJ |
| 3rd Place | 4H TRUCKING LLC | 8 | Sylmar, CA |

Small Fleet:

| Rank | Company | Safety Score | Location |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1st Place | AT CARGO LLC | 6 | Houston TX |
| 2nd Place | BJR TRANS LLC | 8 | Greenwood, IN |
| 3rd Place | BG LOGISTICS LLC | 10 | San Antonio, TX |

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week Winners



Thank you to all members who participated in the National Truck Driver Appreciation Week survey! The winner of the cooler was Verlin Truck Company, Houston, TX and Fontana, CA based HG Square won the \$250 gift card. Everyone who participated in the survey received an ICSA hat. Congratulations to all!

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COACHING CORNER

Tips for Avoiding a Crash

By Mike Hitchcock

ICSA Senior Safety Advisor



Last month [we showed you the results](#) of research by the American Transportation Research Institute predicting that commercial vehicle drivers cited or convicted of certain violations were much more likely to be involved in a future crash.

Since ICSA was formed in 2019, we have found consistent patterns of on-road behaviors among our members and drivers that lead to crashes. The major causes of crashes among ICSA members are 1) following too closely; 2) unsafe speed for conditions; and 3) distracted driving. Sometimes all three of these behaviors show up in crash details! To reduce your chances of crashing, observe these important safety practices on the highway:

- Allow plenty of time to reach your destination so you are less tempted to speed.
- Drive at a speed that is appropriate for current conditions. Remember, the posted speed limit is the maximum allowable speed. Often, it is safer and more prudent to drive at a slower speed. Consider road and weather conditions, traffic volumes, school zones, and other factors that might require you to drive more slowly.
- Slow down in road construction zones. Forty (40) percent of all crashes in work zones involve commercial vehicles.
- Don't tailgate! Maintain a minimum following distance of at least four (4) seconds from the vehicle ahead of you.
- Always signal any lane change or turning movement well ahead of the event.
- Don't cut off another vehicle, especially another large truck or bus.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs before and during driving.
- Buckle up! It is your last line of defense. Remember, seatbelts save lives.

Driving is a full-time job. Stay focused, keep your hands on the wheel, keep your eyes on the road and keep your mind in the game!

ICSA Represents Members at Major Trucking Conference

ICSA leaders were highly visible at American Trucking Associations Management Conference & Exhibition in Austin, Texas last week. One of the most important services ICSA provides is to represent members' views on issues that are critical to single-truck operators and small fleets.



As the sponsor of the Independent Contractor Policy Committee meeting, Executive Director Karen Rasmussen was able to promote ICSA with a short video message. Ms. Rasmussen was also the featured speaker addressing LeadATA graduates on the topic of the key qualities of successful leaders. LeadATA is a leadership training curriculum for young professionals working in the trucking industry. Ms. Rasmussen also attended an environmental policy meeting covering new EPA truck emission standards and the new California Air Resources Board's truck registration and inspection mandate. ICSA recently presented a webinar on the CARB requirements of all trucks operating in California. You can find the recording [here](#).

ICSA's Director of Operations, Shawn Nelson, serves on two committees that deal with issues important to ICSA members – safety policy and legal reform – and represented members' views on issues before those committees. Mr. Nelson also met with several vendors to discuss new technologies coming online for truckers.

We will provide further details and information about the conference in future newsletters. ICSA is proud to be the eyes and ears of the small carrier!



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Results from Operation See Driver in July and Brake Safety Week in August

While drivers of both cars and trucks are the target of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Operation Safe Driver program, commercial vehicle drivers received a majority of warnings and tickets/citations during the July 10-15 emphasis.

Of the 11,448 drivers stopped for unsafe driving behavior, 4,494 drivers received tickets or citations and 5,756 were given warnings. Of those, 2,634 tickets/citations and 4,592 warnings were given to commercial motor vehicle drivers, while 1,860 tickets/citations and 1,164 warnings were issued to passenger vehicles.



Speeding was the top infraction for all drivers. Commercial motor vehicle drivers received 1,594 warnings and 731 tickets/citations for speeding. Passenger vehicle drivers received 625 warnings and 1,293 citations/tickets for speed-related infractions. Combined, a total of 2,219 warnings and 2,024 citations/tickets were issued for speeding.

During Brake Safety Week Aug. 21-27, roughly one of every eight trucks inspected for brake-related violations was placed out of service by commercial vehicle inspectors. Out of 18,875 commercial trucks inspected, nearly 88% did not have any brake-related out-of-service violations. However, 2,375 (12.6%) were removed from roadways because inspectors discovered brake-related out-of-service violations.

Some examples of brake-related violations that automatically place the vehicle out of service are broken brake drums, loose air tanks, corroded holes in a spring brake housing, and inoperative tractor protection valves. Service brake violations, such as cracked linings, brake adjustment or loose chambers, may combine to put the combination of vehicles out of service under the 20% brake criterion. Certain service brake violations are automatically placed out of service when found on the steering axle.

Of the 2,375 commercial motor vehicles that were placed out of service, 295 (12.4%) had steering axle brake violations, 1,127 (47.5%) had stand-alone brake violations and 1,394 (58.7%) failed the 20% defective brakes criterion, which requires that a vehicle is out of service if the number of defective brakes is equal to or greater than 20% of the service brakes on the vehicle or combination.

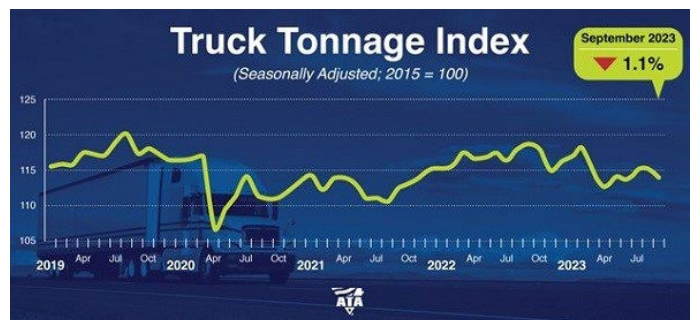
Truck Tonnage Index Fell 1.1% in September

Year-over-Year Highest Drop Since Height of Pandemic

If you think you're operating in a tougher environment than you've seen in years, you are correct! In September, American Trucking Associations' advanced seasonally adjusted (SA) For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index decreased 1.1% after rising 0.2% in August. After hitting what economists said was a bottom in April, tonnage had increased in three of the previous four months, gaining a total of 2.2% before September's drop. The drop in tonnage erased half of the gains realized since April. Even worse, compared with September 2022, the SA index fell 4.1%, which was the seventh straight year-over-year decrease and the largest over that period. In August, the index was down 2.4% from a year earlier.

"The bottom has been hit in truck freight tonnage," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "However, there could still be choppy waters ahead as the freight market remains volatile," he said. It should also be noted that ATA's index is dominated by contract freight as opposed to spot market freight.

ATA has been calculating the tonnage index since the 1970s, based on surveys from its membership. This is a preliminary figure and subject to change in the final report issued around the 5th day of each month. The report includes month-to-month and year-over-year results, relevant economic comparisons, and key financial indicators.



JOIN NOW

ICSA was formed to provide independent contractors and small carriers with safety tools, safety education, a range of services and critical information they need to be a part of improving safety on our highways.

Click [here](#) to learn more and join ICSA.