

BMB TRANSPORTATION GROUP



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TURNOVER JUMPS FOR SMALL TRUCKLOAD CARRIERS

The average turnover rate for small truckload carriers increased to 111 percent during the first quarter of 2006 - its highest rate since the American Trucking Associations began tracking such statistics in 1995. Meanwhile, the turnover rate among large truckload carriers experienced its largest quarterly decrease in a decade, falling to a 116 percent annual rate for the first three months of the year. That number is 20 percentage points below the 2005 fourth quarter rate of 136 percent. Less-than-truck-load line-haul turnovers decreased to 13 percent from 17 percent during the same period last year.

Large truckload carriers indicated they are reducing some of their long-haul freight to accommodate drivers' preferences to spend more time at home.

"Some small truckload carriers appear to be picking up a portion of the larger carriers' long-haul freight," says ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "This could explain why the turnover rate among small truckload carriers was only a few percentage points below that of large carriers, when historically the gap has been much larger."

Despite a contraction in the driver pool, the number of line-haul drivers with large truckload carriers grew 1.8 percent in the first quarter. Both small truckload and LTL fleets saw reductions in total employment.

- Brittani Tingle

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