

Economic op-ed for state media

Trucking: a bedrock of (state)'s economy: x of out x communities rely on trucking

Trucks: we see them every day on (state) roads. We ride alongside them on the highway. And we see their trailers, decorated with the logos of nearly every major industry that moves goods and services across our country.

And yet, many of us don't make the connection that these trucks are likely delivering something that you'll use today and rely on tomorrow: food on our tables, toys for our children, and even the Easter eggs that will be delivered to thousands of stores and soon dot the green lawns of our neighborhoods and parks.

Many of us might be surprised to learn that more than (xx) percent of (state) communities depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods. Fewer trucks on the road would mean more expensive products, less interstate commerce, and slower deliveries. Remove trucking altogether and essential cargo would not arrive to our doorsteps at all.

In other words, trucking is not only connecting the country and delivering goods that keep us healthy and comfortable; it's an economic engine that is valuable to our country and our state in many ways.

Here in (state), the trucking industry means jobs—about (# of jobs) of them, in fact. That's nearly one out of every (x) jobs in the state and a substantial portion of the nearly 7 million people employed nationwide in trucking jobs. In fact, of (state)'s total industry jobs in 2013, truck drivers alone—whether heavy, tractor-trailer, or delivery—make up nearly (# of jobs) jobs.

In (state), the trucking industry is strengthening small businesses—an ever-important element of (state)'s economy and arguably the most important element of our nation's long-term economic stability. As of last April, there were more than fifteen thousand trucking companies located in our state, and most of them are small, locally-owned businesses with fleets of fifteen trucks or fewer.

The trucking industry is robust in the (nickname of state) state. It keeps the larger, state-wide economy moving, allowing (state) businesses to prosper—to the benefit of business owners, employees, and consumers of all stripes. Total trucking industry wages paid in (state) for 2013 exceeded \$12.7 billion. This economic activity brings in almost (tax revenue #) in tax revenue for our state.

Trucking helps other state businesses stay efficient by delivering those essential products that all of us need. Trucks transport (xx) percent of total manufactured tonnage in the state - that's (x million or x) tons per day.

Add these benefits together, and trucking is one of our best-kept secrets, driving our nation's economy forward with every delivery. But such a vital economic driver doesn't need to be, and shouldn't be, a secret here in (state), or anywhere. So next time we're out on (state highway) and a tractor-trailer passes by, or you're at the local grocery as a truck docks in the delivery bay, you're not just looking at an impressive 18-wheeler traveling the road or dropping off food that will stock the shelves; you're looking at a vital machine for (state)'s economy.

Author Name, title, company