

# “Did you know?”

Facts and Figures on Trucking in Europe

# Did you know...

- That trucks give you the freedom to live wherever you want?
- That trucks deliver nearly 75% of all goods in Europe?
- That any penalty on road transport is an even greater penalty on the economy as a whole?
- That over 6 million jobs in Europe depend directly on trucks?
- That noxious emissions from trucks have been reduced by up to 98% since 1990?
- That truck fuel consumption and thus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by more than a third since 1970?
- That trucks in Europe pay over 100 billion Euros per year in taxes?
- That better road infrastructure improves traffic flow and helps preserve the environment?
- That trucks are seldom the cause of accidents?
- That trucks make up only a fraction of vehicles on the road?
- That most goods carried by truck are delivered over short distances?
- That trucking companies are supporting the use of rail transport?
- That trucks play a vital role in recycling?
- That 25 modern trucks make no more noise than one built in 1980?
- That most trucks are actually light vehicles?

# Did you know...

## that road transport is your business too?

Trucks are the backbone of the European economy, the link between producers, businesses and consumers. Every item on every store shelf in Europe has, at one point, been on a truck.

The trucking industry has a story to tell that concerns you, especially about the indispensable role trucks play in your social and economic life. Trucks allow us to enjoy all kinds of products and give companies and individuals the freedom to locate wherever they choose; that freedom in turn helps to promote a fairer distribution of wealth and jobs between urban and rural areas.

An important part of the trucking industry's story is sustainable progress. Trucks are now safer, more efficient, cleaner and quieter than ever before. Today's modern trucks represent high technology at its best and are here to ensure the quality of life you enjoy today.

**Trucks – supporting economic and social progress**

# Did you know...

that trucks give you the freedom to live wherever you want?

From small isolated villages to bustling metropolises, people rely on trucks to bring them the goods they need. Trucks are the only way to reach most of Europe's hundreds of thousands of stores, restaurants, factories and homes.

Trucks carry your TV and computer, your swimming suit, your toothpaste, your medicine, the toys for your children, your fruits and vegetables and the materials to build your house – all along the production chain, to your local store and doorstep.

**Trucks – giving you the freedom to choose!**



# Did you know...

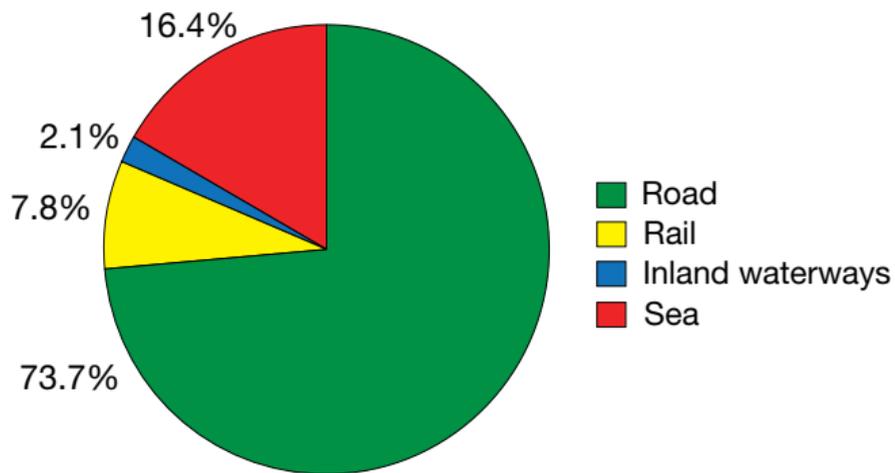
that trucks deliver nearly 75% of all goods in Europe?

Why are trucks the number one transport choice for most businesses?

Because they are highly reliable and provide a very flexible service. Trucks can go anywhere in Europe and are the only transport mode that can carry goods from door to door. This is why nearly 75% of the volume and 90% of the value of all goods in Europe are transported by truck.

**Trucks – delivering Europe's goods!**

**EU-27 modal split of freight transport (tonnes)**



Source: EUROSTAT, 2009

# Did you know...

that any penalty on road transport is an even greater penalty on the economy as a whole?

Every day trucks deliver 100 kilos of goods for every person living in Europe; that makes 18 billion tonnes of goods a year.

For delivering most goods, there is simply no viable alternative to road transport. Just try to find something in your home or at work that has not been on a truck at some stage in its production or distribution. It naturally follows that any penalty on trucking such as driving bans, excessive taxation and even being stuck in congestion is an even greater penalty on the economy as a whole through increased costs and a weakening of Europe's competitiveness.

**Trucks – bringing you anything anywhere and anytime!**



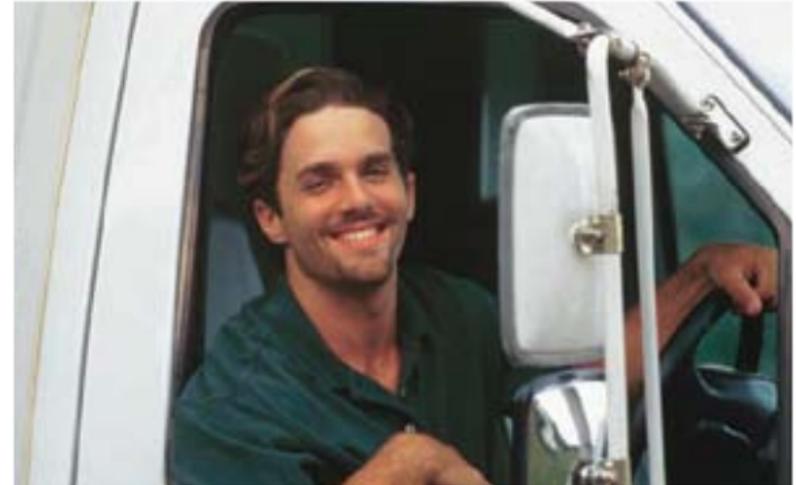
# Did you know...

that over 6 million jobs in Europe depend directly on trucks?

Almost 3 million people work directly for the trucking industry: drivers, logistics experts, dispatchers, operations managers, etc.

Another 3.5 million people earn their living in directly related industries, such as truck manufacturing, repairing, selling, leasing and insuring. Even those figures do not give the full picture, because jobs that depend on the trucking industry are far more numerous than those related directly to it. Almost every business needs trucking services to operate efficiently. Trucks keep business competitive and people employed.

**Trucks – creating and maintaining jobs in Europe!**



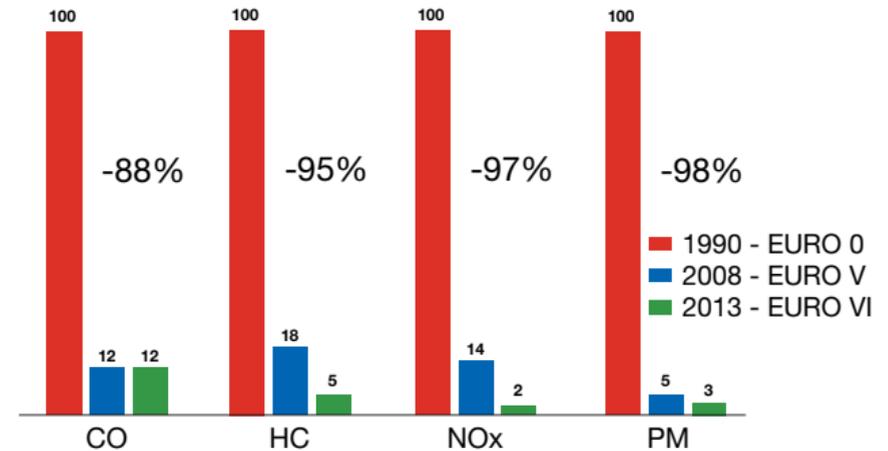
# Did you know...

that noxious emissions from trucks have been reduced by up to 98% since 1990?

Thanks to the trucking industry's tremendous investment in new technology, pollutants dangerous to the health of European citizens – carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and particulates – have been significantly reduced by up to 98%!

**Trucks – driving towards a cleaner future for all!**

## Noxious emissions reduction for heavy commercial vehicles



Source: EU Commission, 2008

# Did you know...

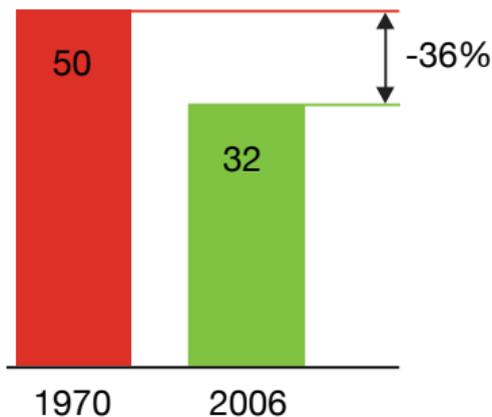
that truck fuel consumption and thus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by more than a third since 1970?

Trucks built today are much more fuel-efficient than a 1970 truck which consumed around 50 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres. Today, on average, a modern 40-tonne truck uses around 32 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres.

The trucking industry has committed to reducing fuel consumption and thus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions even further through technological innovation and energy-efficient driving.

**Trucks – moving more goods with less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions!**

**Fuel consumption reduction for heavy commercial vehicles (litres / 100 km)**



Source: VDA, 2008

# Did you know...

that trucks in Europe pay over 100 billion Euros per year in taxes?

Trucks are taxed in a variety of ways. There are fuel taxes, vehicle ownership taxes, road user fees and highway tolls and other road freight transport-related levies. The amount of tax paid by trucking companies is significantly more than what governments allocate to highway construction or infrastructure maintenance.

In fact, all road vehicles, including trucks, pay more than twice as much in taxes and tolls than is spent to build and maintain the road transport infrastructure.

## **Trucks – paying their way!**



Source: flickr

# Did you know...

that better road infrastructure improves traffic flow and helps preserve the environment?

Nothing is more wasteful for the economy and the environment than cars, buses and trucks stuck in traffic. Traffic jams and bottlenecks can easily triple emissions and fuel consumption compared to free flowing traffic.

Paradoxically, road construction has come to a virtual halt in many countries – often in the name of environmental concerns. Night and weekend truck bans, as well as inconvenient freight delivery times and business hours, have a negative impact on the environment, road safety and mobility as they force trucks on to roads during peak hours.

**Trucks – improving roads makes them safer and cleaner!**



# Did you know...

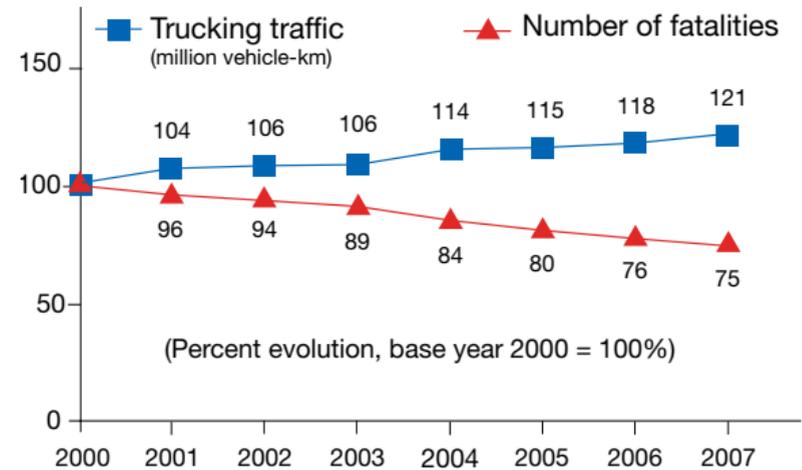
that trucks are seldom the cause of accidents?

Since 2000, the number of people killed or injured in accidents on European roads has been reduced by 25% while the number of kilometres driven by trucks has increased by over 20%.

The European Truck Accident Causation study shows that 86% of accidents involving trucks are linked to human error. 75% of these are caused by other road users versus 25% by the truck driver. Whereas truck drivers undergo lifelong training, other road users are often not educated on the speed regulations, safety distances and driving manoeuvres of trucks.

## Trucks – moving your goods safely!

**Evolution of trucking & road safety (EU-27)**



Source: EU Energy & Transport in Figures, Statistical Pocketbook, 2009

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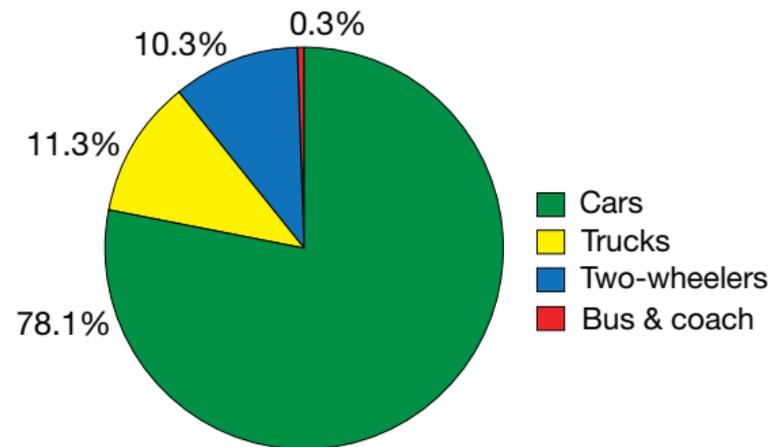
that trucks make up only a fraction of vehicles on the road?

Trucks of all sizes represent about 10% of the total number of vehicles on roads across Europe; and 20% of all the kilometres driven. Private cars, representing close to 80% of vehicles on the road, are the main users of the road transport network.

The existing road infrastructure network has had difficulty coping with rising traffic density over the last decade due to a lack of infrastructure investments. However, contrary to popular belief, roads do not cover the countryside but only make up 1% of the land surface.

## **Trucks – representing only a small portion of traffic!**

**EU-27 registered road vehicles**



Source: EU Energy & Transport Figures, Statistical Pocketbook, 2009

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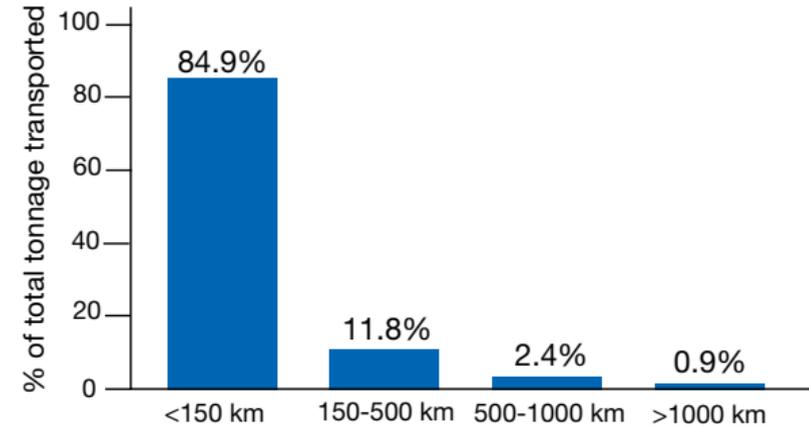
that most goods carried by truck are delivered over short distances?

85% of all goods carried by truck are transported over a distance of less than 150km, and only 1% is above 1000km.

Contrary to trucks, other modes remain largely inefficient over short distances, or their infrastructure simply does not reach your door. Imagine every supermarket having its own rail track, port or runway!

**Trucks – interconnecting every business!**

**Goods transport distances in Europe by road**



Source: EUROSTAT, 2007

# Did you know...

that trucking companies are supporting the use of rail transport?

Road freight transport companies are increasingly using rail service for their clients using a technique called combined transport, where trucks deliver to and pick up the goods from long haul freight trains.

Indeed, the trucking industry is committed to working in partnership with every mode and using the best combinations wherever they provide value to the customer. However, a forced modal shift through pricing will have no effect, as 70% of the volume of goods transported by road does not respond to changes in transport prices.

**Trucks – helping rail to succeed!**



# Did you know...

that trucks play a vital role in recycling?

As demand grows for recycling as much waste as possible and for proper disposal of what is left, the role of trucks in waste management is irreplaceable. Without trucks' flexibility and cost efficiency, recycling would be nothing more than another great idea.

Trucks go door-to-door to collect the billions of tonnes of waste we produce in households, work places, entertainment areas, etc. This includes rubbish, recyclable goods and industrial waste. It is a necessary job that trucks do for you and the environment.

## **Trucks – helping to recycle your goods!**



# Did you know...

that 25 modern trucks make no more noise than one built in 1980?

Technological innovations such as special insulation, the introduction of low rolling resistance tyres and other noise-control techniques applied at source have significantly reduced noise levels compared to 1980, making today's trucks quieter than ever!

Further reductions can be achieved if, for example, infrastructure managers ensure the use of low rolling resistant surfaces on roads.

**Trucks – turning down the volume!**



# Did you know...

that most trucks are actually light vehicles?

Close to 90% of trucks are relatively small vehicles not much bigger than a large van. They are mainly used for goods distribution on short runs – delivering food to your local store, for example. Heavy goods vehicles or trucks above 16 tonnes represent only 6% of the European commercial vehicle fleet.

**Trucks – using the right size to fit every job!**



# Did you know...

that the IRU represents road transport globally?

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), founded in Geneva on 23 March 1948, has a local and global reach through its 180 Members in over 70 countries, including all 27 EU countries. The IRU represents the operators of trucks, buses, coaches and taxis, from large transport fleets to individual owner-operators.

The IRU has made sustainable development a constitutional obligation and subsequently developed a cost-effective 3 “i” strategy to achieve it.

**Innovation** – Develop ever more effective “at-source” technical measures & operating practices to reduce environmental impact.

**Incentives** – Encourage faster introduction by transport operators of best available technology and practices.

**Infrastructure** – Without free-flowing traffic, the above measures are useless. Adequate investment in new infrastructure and the fullest use of existing infrastructure are essential.

**To learn more about the IRU and its work, please visit [www.iru.org](http://www.iru.org)**

*Working together  
for a better future*



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