

THE IMPACT OF LUMPER COSTS, EMPTY MILES, AND SHIPMENT SIZE ON THE PROFITABILITY OF MOTOR CARRIERS: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The passage of landmark deregulatory reforms in the Motor Carrier Act of 1980 has constantly pressured the U.S. trucking industry to reduce transportation costs. Thanks to such pressure, total logistics costs have declined from 16.5% in 1980 to 10.1% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2000. In particular, transportation costs have fallen from 7.6% to 5.9% of GDP in 2000. Transportation cost savings definitely benefit shippers, while jeopardizing the viability of carriers. To help transportation carriers cope with enormous cost pressure, this paper examines the impact that "lumper" costs, empty miles, and shipment size have on the very competitive trucking industry. Through an actual case study of a firm based in the Southeast U.S., we illustrate how lumper costs, empty front-haul and backhaul, and shipping weight and pieces can adversely affect the trucking firm's profitability.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACTS OF TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

There is a great deal of research regarding Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Logistics Information Systems (LIS). However, there has not been a recent examination of the current state of Transportation Management Systems (TMS). This article provides an overview of the previous research and examines the current state of TMS and the relationships between these systems and other information systems in general. The results of over twenty years of LIS and TMS data are presented to highlight potential information gaps and significant relationships between TMS and other functions.

THE CASE FOR U.S. HIGH SPEED RAIL

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ABSTRACT

High-speed rail is a form of self-guided ground transportation, which utilizes steel-wheels or magnetic levitation (i.e., Maglev) and can travel in excess of 200 miles per hour. High-speed ground transportation (i.e., HSGT) has been widely used in Europe and Asia, but the debate continues over the usefulness of high-speed rail in the United States. Several metropolitan areas in the United States have been identified as corridors that would benefit from HSGT. High speed rail can offer an alternative or a compliment to over-the-road and air transportation. Initial investment cost for this mode of transportation are high, but other factors such as fewer emissions from trains help to balance these costs. This manuscript examines the feasibility of bringing high-speed rail to clusters of cities throughout the United States (i.e., corridors) for passenger and commercial freight transportation.

AN ANALYSIS OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT CARRIER SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PACIFIC-RIM IMPORTS TO NEW ENGLAND

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ABSTRACT

The introduction of double stack rail services opened up a variety of transportation options for shippers located in the North Eastern parts of the U.S. The availability of trans-continental double stack service from the Canadian West Coast has increased this option even further particularly because of a recent new service introduced by a small U.S. railroad company. The paper uses Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) methodology to provide a decision-making framework for the intermodal choices of shippers located in the region suitable for duplication elsewhere where similar options exist.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ON-LINE GROCERS GONE? LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE DEMISE OF ON-LINE GROCERS

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Online grocer Webvan Group, Inc., fired a salvo across the shopping carts of the brick-and-mortar supermarket industry when it announced that within two years it would be delivering Web ordered groceries free-of-charge in 26 major markets throughout the United States (Dembeck, 1999).

~ July 14, 1999

Webvan Joins List of Dot.Com Failures: Online Grocer Burned Up \$830 Million Since 1999 (Mangalindan, 2001).

~ July 10, 2001

ABSTRACT

The grocery concept has evolved over many years to drive cost out of the process. Grocery margins are very thin, typically ranging from 1% to 1 ½% such that the grocery business continues to look for innovative ways to take cost out of the process. Ordering groceries on the Internet was initially thought to be a very promising new opportunity. So what happened to on-line grocers? This paper considers what went right and what went wrong for the on-line grocers and uncovers a few logistics lessons along the way.