

A TRIADIC VIEW OF TRUCK DRIVER SATISFACTION

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ABSTRACT

In this research, the authors surveyed three groups concerning job satisfaction: experienced drivers, new drivers, and managers. Statistical tests were conducted using a sample of 196 new drivers, 145 experienced drivers, and 59 managers from a large TL firm based in the U.S. The results suggest that many discrepancies exist on driver satisfaction among the three perspectives. In particular, new drivers provide managers with opportunities and challenges for satisfaction. Given the current state of the trucking industry, managers will likely benefit from approaching this segment of drivers differently to meet their expectations and keep them from leaving their firms.

PRIVATE WAREHOUSE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES IN SMALL VERSUS LARGE MANUFACTURING FIRMS

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ABSTRACT

The research reported in this manuscript empirically compares the private warehouse investment strategies of small and large manufacturing firms. Mail surveys were administered to independent samples of small and large United States manufacturing firms. This research is based on a series of identically worded questions administered to both samples. Data was factor analyzed and cluster analyzed to identify three private warehouse investment strategies for small and large firms and two strategies for large firms. Analyses of three independent variables further evaluated differences in private warehouse investment strategies. Finally, the warehouse mix of small and of large firms was compared. This study identified specific private warehouse investment strategies, and warehouse mixes, in small and large United States manufacturing firms. Small firms were found to be less likely to use formal capital budgeting techniques and were less likely to consider strategic issues than large firms. Small firms were also found to be more likely to use private warehousing than large firms. This research increases the awareness of differences in logistics practice between small and large manufacturing firms and suggests that generalizations regarding logistics strategy should be approached with caution.

ROLES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE RETAIL SUPPLY CHAIN ORGANIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Supply chain management (SCM) has become a critical strategic function in recent years. Research in the discipline has been focused toward the upstream side of the supply chain on functions such as warehousing, transportation, procurement and production. As power has shifted downstream toward retailers and their customers, SCM research has been slow to respond. This represents a significant gap, and a significant opportunity. Retailers face challenges that differ from those found in upstream suppliers and manufacturers. We present findings from a study of senior supply chain executives in the retail industry that focuses on the supply chain challenges of greatest importance to retailers, and the evolving capabilities used to address these issues.

THE IMPACT OF HOURS-OF-SERVICE REGULATIONS ON TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTIVITY AND SAFETY: A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Since driver fatigue has known to be the primary cause of serious truck crashes, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has attempted to implement new hours-of-service (HOS) regulations that aimed to promote safer driving environments. The new HOS regulations effective on October 1st of 2005, however, may lead to substantial cost increases for the trucking industry which will in turn hurt shippers and ultimately customers. For instance, motor carriers may need to hire additional drivers to comply with new HOS regulations requiring that drivers be placed out-of-service until they accumulated enough off-duty time. In particular, off-duty breaks required to refresh driving hours were increased to 10 consecutive hours from the old rule of eight cumulative hours. A chronic shortage of truck drivers coupled with new HOS regulations could further aggravate the driver recruitment and retention problems. In addition, due to potential loading/unloading delays and stiffer fines/penalties resulting from new HOS regulations, trucking productivity may decline. To help trucking firms cope with various challenges of new HOS regulations, this paper provides a systematic overview of prior literature that examines the impact of HOS on transportation productivity and safety in the U.S. It also discusses managerial implications of new HOS regulations.

AVOIDING SHIPPER/CONSIGNEE DOUBLE PAYMENT LIABILITY

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“Double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble”
—from the three witches’ chorus, Wm. Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*.

A LONGITUDIAL STUDY OF PRIVATE WAREHOUSE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

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ABSTRACT

This article revisits private warehouse investment decision making, a topic previously examined in 1989 by McGinnis, Kohn, and Myers (1990). Since then there has been a substantial amount of discussion regarding the scope and nature of logistics/supply chain management. In particular the roles of private, contract, and public warehousing has been discussed, increased emphasis on financial performance and strategic decision making may have altered the criteria for investment decisions in private warehousing, increased coordination of supply chains may have altered the relative importance of private, contract, and public warehousing, and increasing emphasis on controlling inventory investment may have shifted inventory responsibilities onto suppliers and customers. Empirical data was collected in 1999 and 2008 regarding warehouse investment decisions in large United State manufacturing firms. This research focused on private warehouse investment decisions, topics that might affect those decisions, and the mix of private, contract, public, and other warehouse options. The results of the 1999 and 2008 data were compared to the earlier findings reported by McGinnis, Kohn, and Myers. Changes in private warehouse investment strategies, the roles of market/product mix uncertainties and availability of for-hire warehouse providers, and changes in warehouse mix were examined. Implications for practitioners, teachers, and researchers of transportation, supply chain management, logistics, and warehousing are discussed.