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## Demographic Overview of Truck Drivers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

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A recent survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research reveals that the typical truck driver working at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach is a Spanish-speaking Latino man in his early 40's. Married, with children at home, he is likely to have worked at the ports for more than five years, owns his own truck and works for only one trucking company.

Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research interviewed 396 drivers at the ports from August 15 to August 26, 2007. The drivers were contacted by phone from a list of nearly 5,000 port drivers provided by the client for this project, Change to Win. Drivers had the option of being interviewed in either English or Spanish. Because the drivers were contacted from this list, instead of having been randomly selected, we cannot designate a margin of error based on the sample.

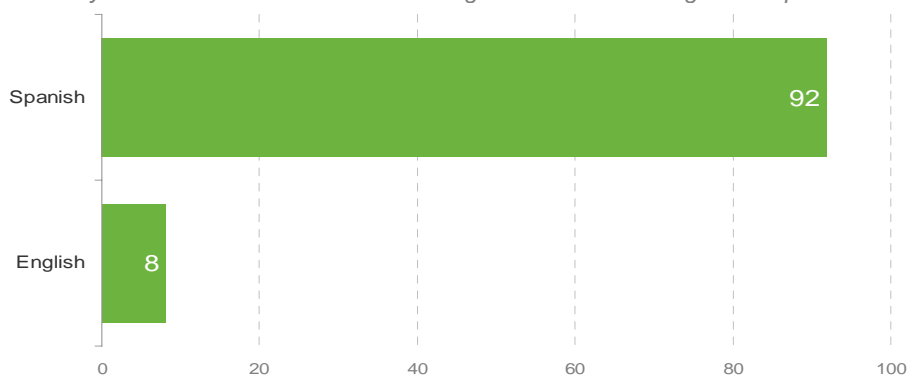
### Who Are the Truck Drivers at the Ports? A Demographic Overview

The truck drivers working at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are almost exclusively male (96 percent) and Latino (96 percent). More than nine out of 10 chose to be interviewed in Spanish (92 percent).

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■ **Graph 1:** Language Preference

*Would you be more comfortable conducting this interview in English or Spanish?*



Of the 382 drivers who identified themselves as Latino, more than two out of five claimed Mexico (42 percent) as their country of origin. Nearly one third are El Salvadoran (32 percent), one eighth are Guatemalan (12 percent) and slightly more than one in 20 is Nicaraguan (6 percent). One out of every 25 drivers who self identified as Latino said the United States (4 percent) is his country of origin.

There is a wide range in the age of truck drivers at the ports. Ten percent are between the ages of 18 and 29 years old, 31 percent are between 30 and 39 years old, 35 percent are between 40 and 49 years old, 16 percent are between 50 and 64 years old, and two percent are 65 or older. Seven percent of the drivers refused to give their ages.

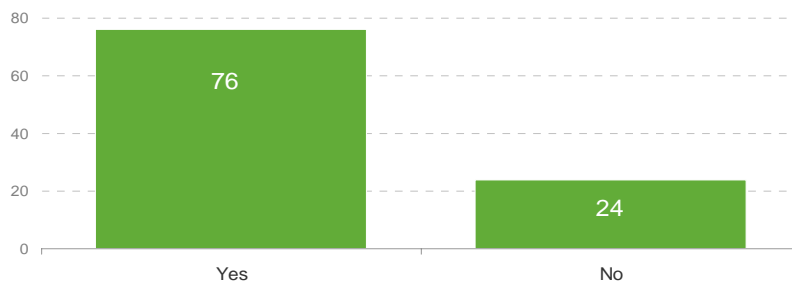
More than three quarters of the drivers are married (76 percent), one in eight is single (12 percent), nearly one in 10 is separated or divorced (9 percent) and one percent is widowed. Three percent refused to reveal their marital status.

More than three quarters of the truck drivers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have children (76 percent).

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■ **Graph 2: Children**

*Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger?*



## For Whom Do the Port Drivers Work?

For the most of these truck drivers, hauling goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach has become their long-term career. The majority of drivers have been working at the Ports for more than five years (55 percent), with some working there for more than 20 years (6 percent).

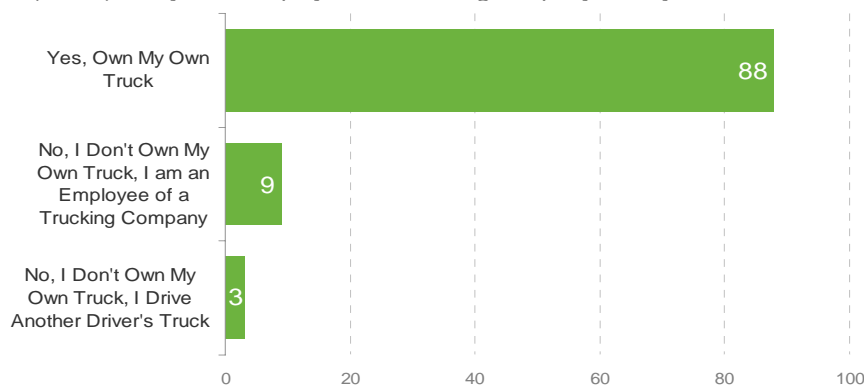
One fifth of the drivers have been port drivers for two years or less (21 percent), while one quarter have been driving there for three to five years (24 percent), three out of ten have been driving at the port between six and 10 years (29 percent), and one fifth have been port drivers for between 11 and 20 years (20 percent).

Despite their longevity at the ports, fewer than one out of 10 drivers is an employee of a trucking company (9 percent). Yet port truck drivers by and large operate as if they were employees of trucking companies—albeit without the benefits associated with that status. Nearly nine in ten own their own trucks (88 percent) and only own one truck (92 percent). Truly independent contractors might be expected to have multiple clients. However, five out of six drivers only work for one trucking company at a time (84 percent).

### ■ Graph 3: Truck Ownership

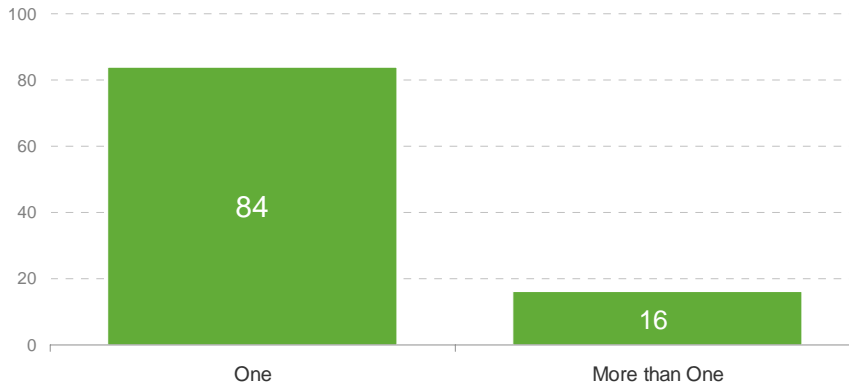
*Do you own your own truck?*

*(IF NO): Are you an employee of a trucking company or do you drive another driver's truck?*



#### ■ Graph 4: Number of Companies

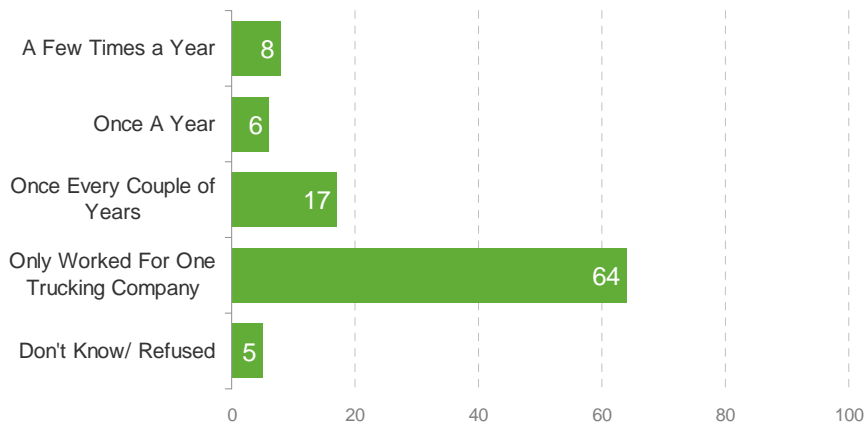
*How many trucking companies do you work for at the ports?*



In addition, most drivers do not switch from company to company, as truly independent contractors would. Nearly two-thirds have worked for only one company (64 percent), including a majority of those who have been driving for more than 10 years (52 percent).

#### ■ Graph 5: Frequency of Switching Companies

*How often do you switch the trucking companies that you work for? A few times a year, about once a year, once every couple of years, or have you only worked for one trucking company?*



Less than half of those who do change companies, switch once a year or more (14 percent of all port truck drivers). Of the one third who said they had switched companies (31 percent), seven out of 10 have worked for three or fewer trucking companies in the past five years (70 percent). Only one out of 10 of drivers said they have worked for six companies or more companies in that time (9 percent).