



AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

2200 Mill Road ★ Alexandria, VA ★ 22314-4677
www.truckline.com

★ ***Driving Trucking's Success***

June 26, 2006

Ms Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 6625
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 202330

Re: 2007 Commodity Flow Survey

Dear Ms Hynek:

The American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA), with offices at 2200 Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-4677, is pleased to comment on the 2007 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS). ATA is the trade association that represents the U.S. trucking industry's interests. Directly and through its affiliated organizations, ATA encompasses over 37,000 companies and every type and class of motor carrier operation.

The trucking industry is the lynchpin of the U.S. transportation system, hauling more than two-thirds of all domestic freight transportation tonnage and accounting for 84 percent of all domestic freight transportation revenue. Over 80 percent of all towns and communities in the U.S. get the goods they consume exclusively from trucks. Trucking also accounts for over 70 percent of the value of trade between the U.S. and Mexico and Canada. The trucking industry employs more than 8.6 million people¹, including more than 3.2 million truck drivers alone.

ATA fully supports the CFS program and believes it is essential to the U.S. trucking industry. In fact, we think that the Department of Commerce should be moving in the direction of collecting richer data, since we need accurate information on how products and goods move in the world's largest economy. The CFS is critical to our data needs. As the U.S. government and its partners attack congestion on our nation's highways, the CFS will provide essential data on where, and how, freight is moving. While it does not currently provide routing information, we would support an expansion of the CFS to cover this type of data, as well as to increase coverage to all industries. The CFS can also give insight to those in the security field as to what types of goods are moving on all modes of transportation.

¹ Trucking-related employment in all sectors of the economy.

Good stuff.



Additionally, the CFS is an important five-year benchmark for those organizations that publish critical freight transportation data. Without the CFS, many of these products would be discontinued or their reliability would be severely diminished.

ATA urges the Department of Commerce to continue the CFS, and we also support an expansion of the data collected. We are starting to see how highway freight transportation can be impacted through increased congestion problems. The CFS is a vital part of studying how freight moves, and allows public policy makers at all levels of government to make informed decisions on highway investment.

ATA appreciates the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-838-1799 or bcostello@trucking.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Costello".

Bob Costello
Chief Economist & Vice President
American Trucking Associations, Inc.