

# TWU TRUCKING SURVEY

A survey of 1,100 truck drivers working in freight, construction, and oil and gas has revealed one in two have had their wages stolen and almost half know a driver killed on the job. The shocking results highlight the financial pressures drivers face which force them to cut corners on safety and drive to exhaustion, and come as thousands of truckies take industrial action to protect good, safe transport jobs.

## A DEADLY INDUSTRY

**41%**

know a driver killed at work

Almost

**50%**

had witnessed a serious crash

**1 IN 4**

has been involved in a crash while working

“ I have watched **a truck completely burn in front of me with one of my co-workers trapped inside.** Another close co-worker rolled his truck 2 years ago, seriously injuring himself, he is still not cleared to drive again. ”

“ A car went through a stop sign on Stirling Hwy, hit it at 60km. Thought I had killed her, she survived with some broken bones, **I can still see her face looking up at me.** ”

“ To keep the nation moving, **we die for you.** ”

## WAGE THEFT



**52%**  
experienced wage theft

Of those who had wages stolen:

**68%**

were not paid for work they had done

**43%**

were underpaid minimum rates

**1 IN 4**

had been ripped off by more than \$5,000

“ Small operators have become a target for wage and time theft, whilst the company that subcontracts them makes record profit... **The circle continues, less time to deliver, more pressure to cut corners to deliver freight.** ”

**1 IN 3**

had wages stolen over 20 times

**4 IN 5**

didn't get their money back

**75%**

of owner drivers had done a run that made them no profit

## LOW PAY THREATENS SAFETY

**95%**



think truckies should be paid more to make their jobs safer

**55%**



of owner drivers delayed maintenance on their truck because they couldn't afford it

**42%**



of owner drivers didn't raise safety concerns in case they lost pay

more over page...

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## EMPLOYER PRESSURE TO BREACH SAFETY RULES



**1 IN 4**

were pressure by employers to work beyond legal hours and skip rest breaks



**1 IN 5**

were pressured to speed to meet deadlines



**1 IN 5**

were pressured to falsify working hours in logbooks



**1 IN 10**

knew employers who pressured drivers into trucks tampered with to go faster

“ When you report damage/ unroadworthiness/weight issues/ cleanliness...**you get pushed and bullied to drive anyway.** ”

“ My company pushes you for maximum output( deliveries/pick ups) without giving you reasonable time to do your job safely. I often drive around under stress having so much work on my scanner and stressing how I will get it done... **It's always push push push.** ”

“ The whole industry needs to be overhauled. I work anywhere from 12-17 hours a day, up to 6 days a week... To put that into perspective, **I'm fatigued every day I go to work, but I'm still expected to turn up and do the job.** ”

“ **I witnessed a driver fall asleep and turf their trailers...** My good friend fell out of a trailer loading watermelons after he voiced his concerns about climbing up so high. ”

## TAKING STIMULANTS TO STAY AWAKE



**30%**

knew drivers who'd taken stimulants to stay awake behind the wheel



**1 IN 8**

knew of employers offering drivers illicit drugs to keep working

“ I have been in the industry for 33 years and the last ten years have **seen the industry drop to really appalling levels.** ”

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.  
JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.**

[www.twu.com.au/join](http://www.twu.com.au/join)

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