



2022 Drug Testing Index® Spotlight

Transportation Industry

2022

Drug Testing Index® spotlight

A focused analysis of workforce drug use data and trends in your industry

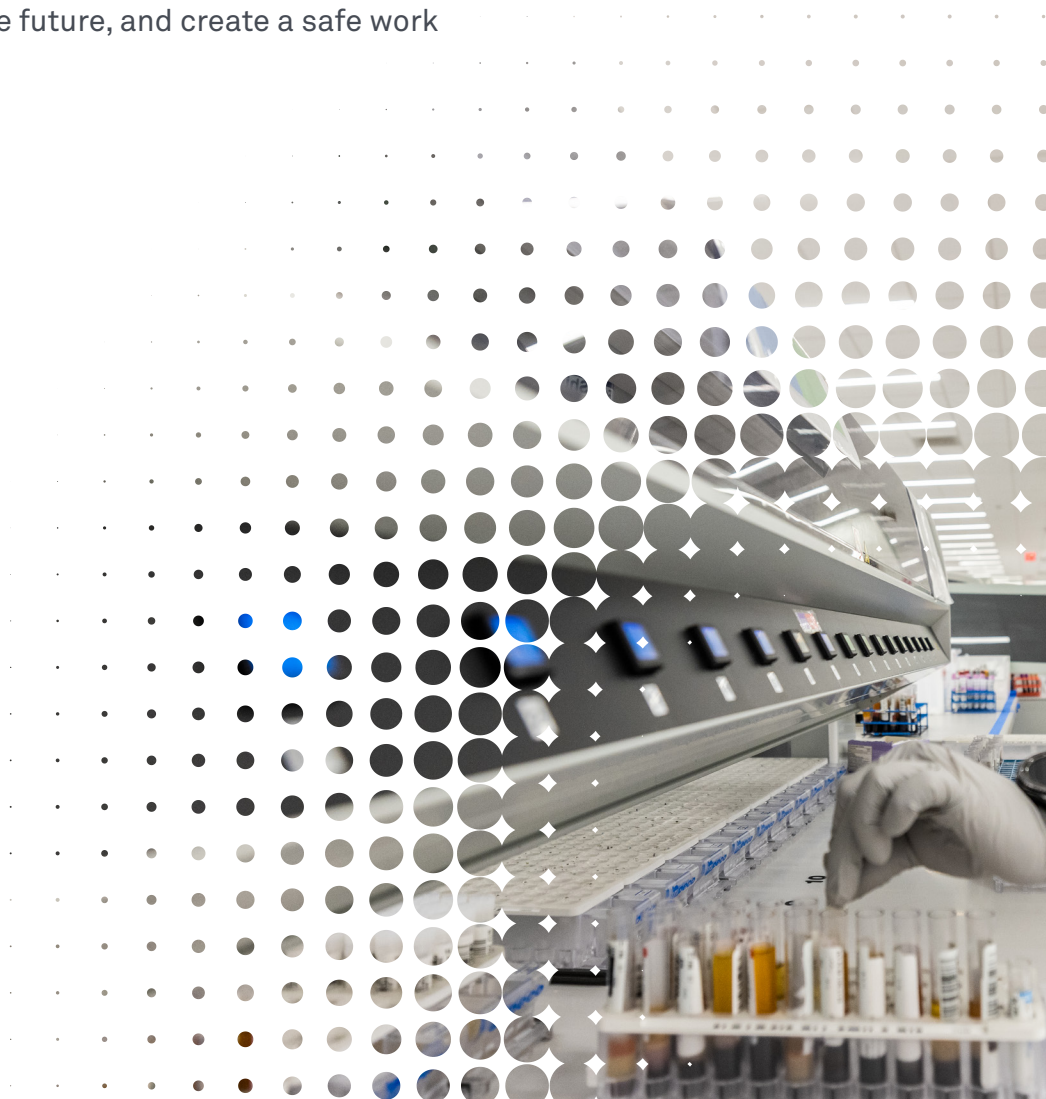
Since 1988, Quest Diagnostics® has leveraged the nationwide data from our forensic toxicology labs to publish the Drug Testing Index® (DTI), an annual report examining drug positivity rates of specimens tested on behalf of employers across the country.

The 2022 DTI compiles data from more than 11 million deidentified urine, hair, and oral fluid drug test results collected between January and December 2021. This year's report reveals relevant insights into patterns of drug use among American workers as companies grapple with an ever-evolving labor market—and an ongoing recruitment and retention crisis—in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We invite you to review both the cross-industry and industry-specific data captured in this DTI spotlight, and to use the information as you continue to reduce risk, plan for the future, and create a safe work environment for your employees.

DTI data reported in:

The Wall Street Journal
Barron's
Axios
CNBC
Fox Business
NPR Marketplace



The upshot

US workforce drug use rates reach 20-year peak

The past 5 years have seen a sharp rise in America's workforce drug use in 16 of the 17 industries tracked by Quest. 2021 continued that trend, reaching the highest rate of positive drug test results since 2001—up more than 30% in the combined US workforce from an all-time low in 2010-2012.

“Our Drug Testing Index reveals several notable trends, including increased drug positivity rates in the safety-sensitive workforce responsible for keeping society safe, as well as higher rates of positivity in individuals tested after on-the-job accidents.”

Barry Sample, PhD
Senior Science Consultant for
Quest Diagnostics

Adapting drug testing strategies to address shifting trends

As workforce drug use continues to increase, so does your risk as an employer. Consider updating your company's drug-free workplace program to meet the moment and match current drug use patterns. In addition, conducting specific post-accident drug testing can help you learn why workplace accidents happen—so you can maintain a safe environment for employees.



30%

year-over-year increase in positive drug test results

(combined US workforce since 2012)

General workforce positivity

Pre-employment ▲ 17.4%

Post-accident ▲ 26%

(vs 2017)

Safety-sensitive workforce positivity

Pre-employment ▲ 9.5%

Post-accident ▲ 41.9%

(vs 2017)

Not all drugs are used equally

Over the past 5 years, positivity rates are up for some drugs and down for others:

Marijuana ▲ 50%

Amphetamine ▲ 8.3%

Methamphetamine ▼ 11.1%

Cocaine ▼ 30%

Opiates ▼ 56.4%

(national averages across all industries vs 2017)

The down-low

Post-accident positivity rates steadily climb

The correlation between drug use and workplace safety is clearer than ever as positivity rates for post-accident urine tests among the general US workforce increased over the past 5 years.

A changing national environment for marijuana

In 2021, marijuana positivity rates in the general US workforce rose to 3.9%, the highest ever reported in the DTI. Considering many states have recently changed laws regarding medical marijuana, recreational marijuana, and Low THC/High CBD, it's no surprise that positivity increased across industries—highlighting the potential need for companies to reexamine how marijuana is handled in the workplace.



Urine test positivity rate after workplace accidents

- ▲ **26% for all post-accident testing from 2017 to 2021**
- ▲ **59.5% for post-accident marijuana testing from 2017 to 2021**

General workforce marijuana positivity

- ▲ **50% over the past 5 years**



2021
3.9%



2017
2.6%

Cannabis use at work

Percentage of workers who report seeing coworkers use cannabis:



30%¹
Transportation



32%¹
Manufacturing



45%¹
Construction

Transportation

An evolving workforce ramps up the pressure

As with other industries, transportation companies are dealing with significant challenges in recruitment and retention. While several areas see growth, others battle attrition due to a range of factors.

For example, the rail and long-haul trucking sectors are experiencing an employee exodus from retirements and lifestyle shifts, plus fewer entrants into the field thanks to a scarcity of training during COVID-19 shutdowns.² Meanwhile, as insurers recalibrate after several years of catastrophic claims, underwriters are now scrutinizing transportation providers' risk exposure and mitigation plans more closely than ever.³

It all adds up to a mixed outlook for job growth through this decade—and more stress on companies and hiring managers across the transportation industry.

A growing demand, a greater opportunity

As the demand for transportation workers rises, the field finds itself shifting gears. Recent regulatory changes are opening doors for age-18+ commercial drivers.¹² Industry organizations and trade groups are increasing awareness and opportunities for female drivers.¹³ Consequently, new driver training must rapidly ramp up. Yet as companies hire more employees—at a time when drug use is very high—it's critical to maintain safety standards while also delivering a drug testing experience that ensures job candidates feel respected.



Key industry stats

Employees⁴

6,459,600

(as of April 2022)

Unemployment rate⁴

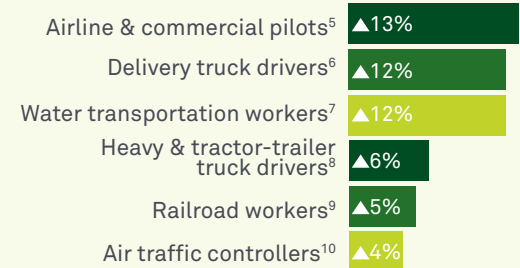
3.6%

April 2022

15.3%

April 2020

Workforce growth outlook through 2030



Transportation workers in short supply

+ 8,400

water transportation workers needed *per year* through 2030⁷

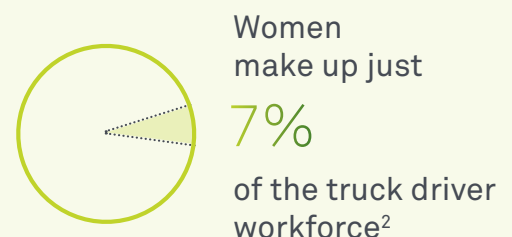
+ 12,000

airline pilots needed by 2023¹¹

+ 160,000

truck drivers needed by 2030²

Mind the gender gap



Transportation

A clear need for comprehensive drug testing

Finding qualified employees has always been an arduous task. Yet today's post-pandemic labor market has made hiring and retaining workers an increasingly complex concern for many companies. Especially when so many new entrants into the field are younger, less experienced—with truck drivers as young as 18 now¹²—and perhaps pickier in their choice of employer.

Workforce drug testing can play a key role in the process, both in ensuring safety and enhancing recruitment and retention. Consider that a potential employee's drug screening may be their first experience with your company. It's essential to make that experience simple, seamless, and superior to what they may find elsewhere. Yet a comprehensive drug testing program is often an investment many companies decide not to make.

Review the transportation industry's drug positivity data to the right and on the following pages to see why that investment—in time, resources, and, yes, budget—is critical.

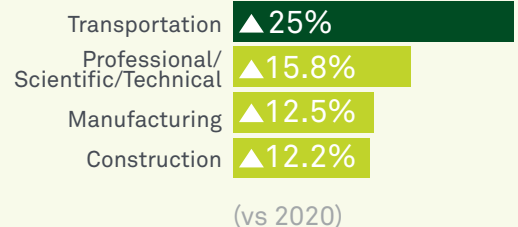
A closer look

While positivity rates for marijuana increased dramatically—most likely due to changing state laws and shifting national perceptions—jumps in positivity rates for other drugs were also seen in 2021.



2021 transportation industry drug use trends

Workforce positivity



Not all drugs are used equally

Compared to last year, positivity rates are up for most drugs:

Marijuana ▲ 42%
Cocaine ▲ 20%
Methamphetamine ▲ 9%
Amphetamine ▲ 8%

Opiates ▼ 11%

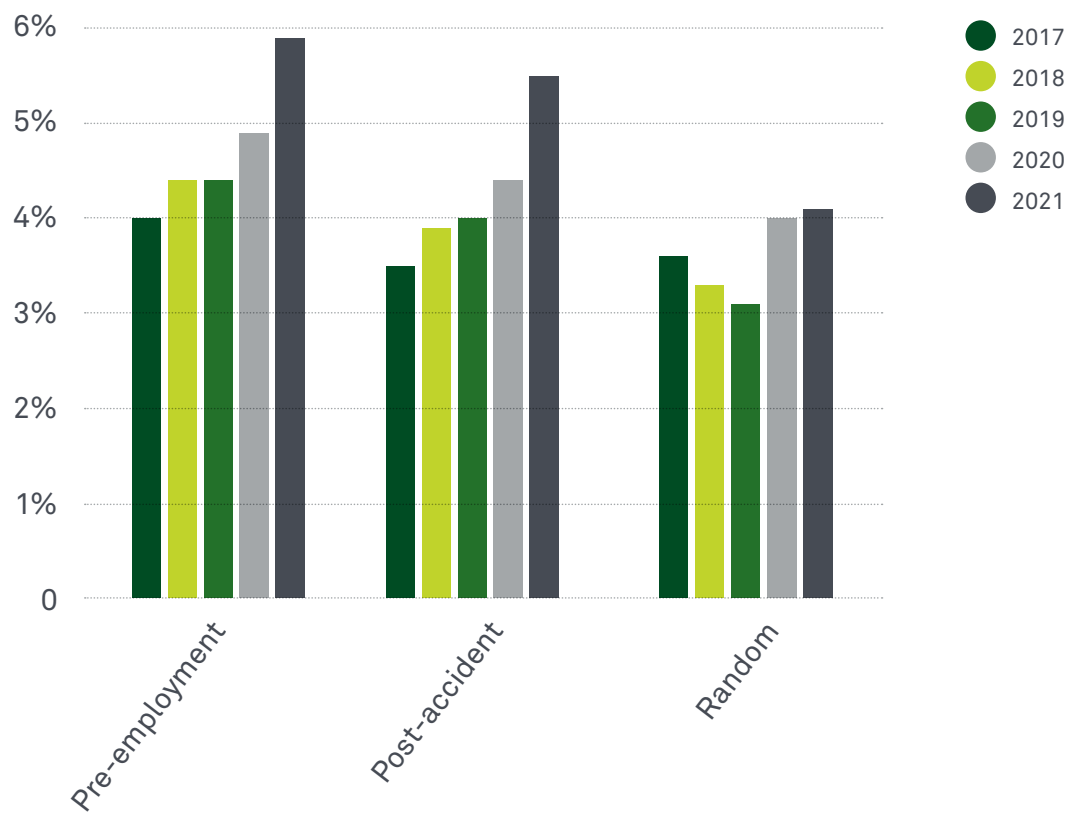
(transportation industry averages vs 2020)

A slippery slope

Comparing transportation workforce positivity from 2017 to 2021

Positivity by reason

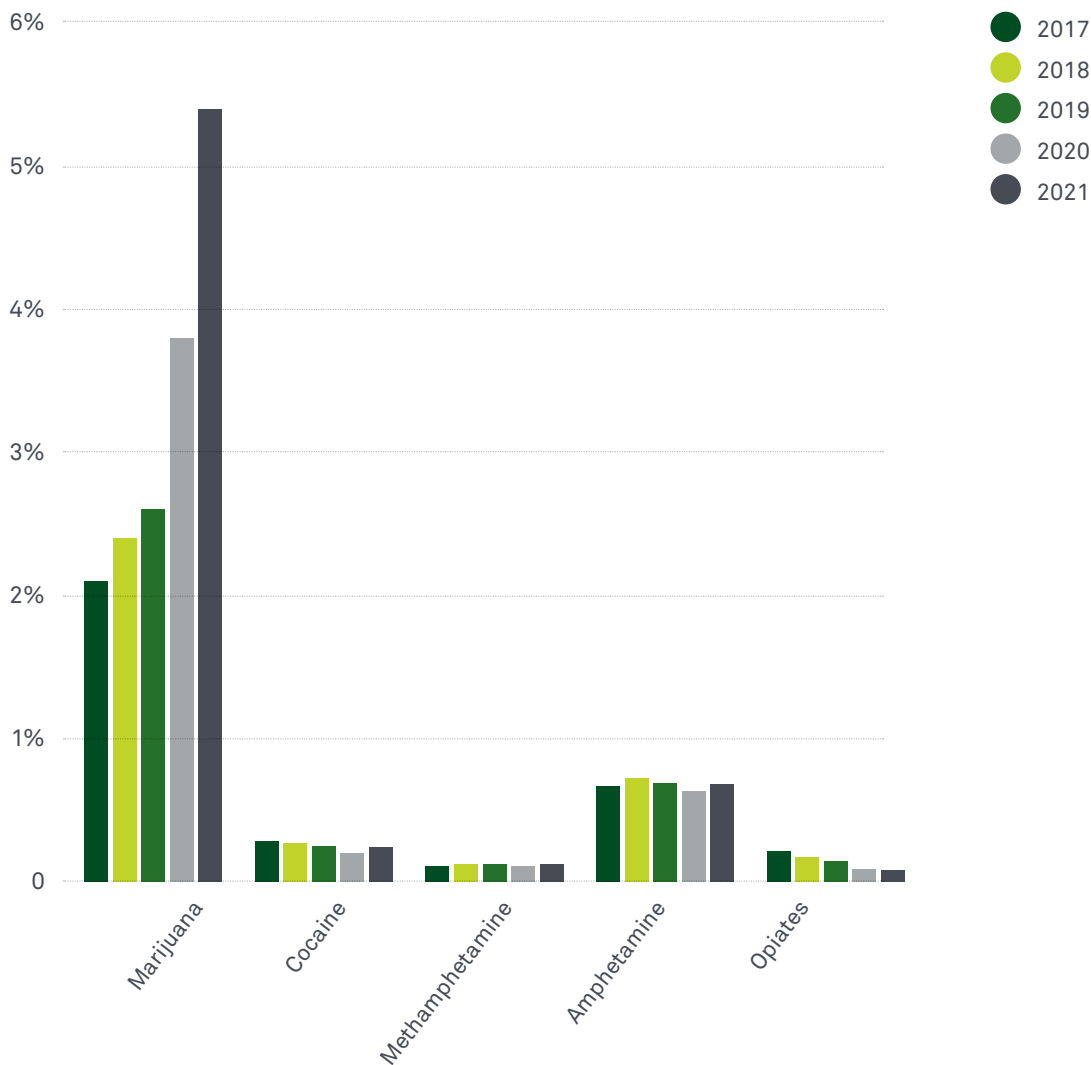
Pre-employment ▲ 47.5%
Post-accident ▲ 57.1%
(vs 2017)



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pre-employment	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.9%	5.9%
Post-accident	3.5%	3.9%	4.0%	4.4%	5.5%
Random	3.6%	3.3%	3.1%	4.0%	4.1%

Comparing transportation workforce positivity from 2017 to 2021

Positivity by drug



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Marijuana	2.1%	2.4%	2.6%	3.8%	5.4%
Cocaine	0.28%	0.27%	0.25%	0.20%	0.24%
Methamphetamine	0.11%	0.12%	0.12%	0.11%	0.12%
Amphetamine	0.67%	0.72%	0.69%	0.63%	0.68%
Opiates	0.21%	0.17%	0.14%	0.09%	0.08%



How comprehensive drug testing can help you keep up

If the 2022 DTI has taught us anything, it's that workplace drug use continues to change with the times, no matter the industry. As companies like yours face rising challenges in recruiting, retaining, and growing staff, you can't afford to compromise on workforce drug testing.

Quest Diagnostics delivers accurate, accessible drug testing solutions you can depend on—including DOT-compliant testing conducted in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-certified labs—to maintain safety and compliance while ensuring confidence in the results.

When you partner with Quest, we'll leverage data-driven insights and cross-industry experience to help you develop a drug testing program that supports your operations, protects your reputation, and empowers you to build and manage a workforce that will meet the emerging demands of today and tomorrow.

Want to learn more?

Visit the Quest Transportation Industry Employer Hub at [**drugtest.questdiagnostics.com/transportation**](https://drugtest.questdiagnostics.com/transportation)

Ready to meet?

Start the conversation about your drug testing needs at [**questdiagnostics.com/letstalkdrugtesting**](https://questdiagnostics.com/letstalkdrugtesting)



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