

Bridges to the Future

History - In the 1950's the Central Susquehanna Valley was booming with many shops, mills, and with a growing transportation system. The 60's brought the "Keystone Shortway" now known as Interstate 80. In the 70's, business and industry expanded with the help of active Chambers of Commerce, expanding transportation infrastructure and the abundance of truck carriers to "Deliver the Goods". The 80's brought federal deregulation changing the way transportation did business. Further changes developed in the transportation industry in the 90's with drug testing, commercial driver license (CDL's) requirements, and an even bigger change in business industry.



Brick Kepler, Director

Today - The new century has found the transportation system quickly expanding with dozens of carriers serving the Central Pennsylvania valley. The promise of a new highway system to by-pass congestion and traffic on US Route 15, the major highway to points south and north of Pennsylvania, also connects to Interstates 80 and 99.

Pennsylvania was dubbed the "Keystone State" for good reason. Our valley has long been known as the crossroads of the northeast. Our close proximity places our region within one third of the nation's population where truck drivers can deliver goods from our hub easily within a day's drive. Maybe Susquehanna Valley's new transportation network will be known as America's Artery. Major airports are expanding along with rail lines to complete the transportation system.



"We are proud to have been training professional truck drivers since 1975," said Brick Kepler, Director of Training of PDA. "Our one-on-one road instruction yielding hundreds, even thousands, of miles of driving experience is what our six- and 12-week graduates say prepares them the most for the real truck driving career they came here to achieve."

The Professional Drivers Academy has trained truck drivers in Milton since 1975, graduating over 1,000 students to date. 2005 celebrates our 30th year and has been our best, helping over 50 people in their new career.

The third generation of Kepler's involved in truck transportation and have all enjoyed success in different avenues of the trucking industry. We see the Central Pennsylvania Region changing from an industrial base to services like warehousing, remanufacturing, and transportation.

There is a tremendous need for qualified and skilled truck drivers nationwide and we are stepping up to help meet that need by providing the training required. We assist carriers with responsibilities to maintain safe drivers through defensive driver courses, evaluation trips, road tests, refresher training, and various other safety consulting aspects to ensure responsible professionals to haul our nation's goods.

Brick Kepler
Director of Professional Drivers Academy

PENNSYLVANIA FAST FACTS

Population and State Rank:

12,281,054; 6th, 12/00

Area and State Rank:

46,058 sq miles, 33rd
 Land 44,820 sq miles, 32nd
 Water 1,239 sq miles, 28th
 Great Lakes 749 sq miles, 7th

Roadway Extent and Use:

In 2000, Pennsylvania had
 119,642 miles of public roads

Trucking use of Pennsylvania's
 public roads was 12.1 billion miles

In 2000, 12% of all state roadway
 traffic were trucks.



Trucking Industry Employment and Wages

In 2000, Pennsylvania's trucking industry provided 428,200 jobs
 Total trucking industry wages paid exceeded \$14.7 billion
 With an average trucking industry salary of \$34,448

User Fees and Taxes Paid By Trucking Industry

In 2000, trucking industry in Pennsylvania paid approximately \$1.4 billion in Federal and State road taxes
 Trucking industry paid 39% of all federal and state roadway user fees and taxes

Trucking Industry Contribution to Gross State Product


Estimated the trucking industry activity in Pennsylvania contributed 6.4% to state gross products in 2000.

Leading Economic Sectors/Products Produced:

Agriculture: dairy products, poultry, cattle, nursery stock, mushrooms, hogs, hay
 Industry: food processing, chemical products, machinery, electric equipment, tourism

Source: Robert C. Pitcher, Esq: Publisher of the State Laws Newsletter, Annandale, VA.

Trucking Industry Employment and Wages in Pennsylvania

	Year	Trucking Industry Employment	Trucking Industry % of State Employment	Trucking Industry Wages (\$000)	Average Weekly Trucking Industry Wages	Average Annual Trucking Industry Wages
1997	387,630	7%	\$12,116,914	\$601	\$31,259	
1998	402,042	7%	13,056,712	625	32,476	
1999	416,324	8%	14,077,574	650	33,814	
2000	428,260	8%	14,752,686	662	34,448	
2005	Estimates are: Annual wages are at least				\$37,000	