

## **Motor Carriers of Freight Survey – Historical Notes**

For the 1999 reference year, changes were made to the derivation of certain financial variables from the administrative tax files. The variables for which historical comparison may be affected are transportation revenues, fuel expenses, Owner-operator expenses and miscellaneous expenses.

Effective for the 1998 reference year, the survey underwent a major redesign. The redesign involved major changes to the frame creation process, the sample design and the estimation strategy. The frame for 1998 was created from Statistics Canada's Business Register.

In order to improve the combined coverage of the trucking industry by the AMCF survey and its complement, the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight (QMCF) survey, a group of large companies will be included in the AMCF, effective for 1998. Since the QMCF uses the annual gross business income from the Business Register, which is not identical to the true annual operating revenues, to define the survey population, some companies in the QMCF target population (those with annual gross business income less than \$1 million, and actual annual operating revenues over \$1 million) are not included in the QMCF survey population. Although these companies do not fall into the target population for the AMCF, it was decided to include them in the AMCF survey population to improve the overall industry coverage of the two surveys. The effect of this is the addition of a small number of large companies to the AMCF survey population. Although the number of such companies is small, their large size leads to a noticeable increase in the survey estimates. In order to facilitate historical comparisons, separate domain estimates will be produced for i) companies with actual operating revenue less than \$ 1 million and ii) companies with actual operating revenue greater than or equal to \$ 1 million.

From 1995 to 1997, the survey covered for-hire carriers and owner operators with annual operating revenues greater than or equal to \$30 thousand and less than \$1 million. Starting with 1998, owner operators with annual operating revenues greater than or equal to \$1 million will also be covered.

From 1990 to 1995, the survey covered for-hire carriers and owner operators with annual operating revenues greater than or equal to \$25 thousand and less than \$1 million.

The survey data prior to the 1990 survey covered for-hire carriers with annual operating revenues of \$100 thousand or more. Owner operators were not included in the 1989 and preceding surveys.