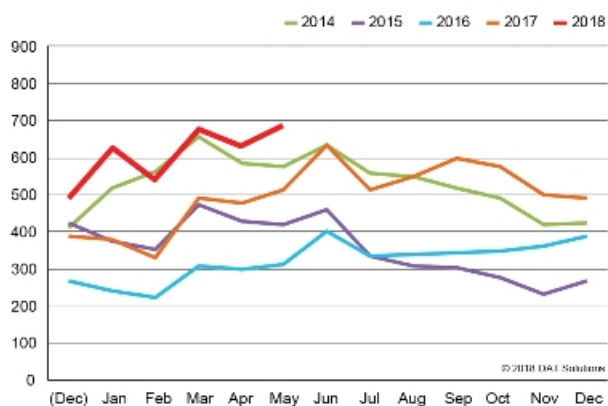


# DAT Freight Index: Seasonal Demand Boosts Freight Rates in May

6/8/2018 9:40:00 AM

PORTLAND, Ore. — Demand for spot market truckload shipments reached new heights in May, according to the DAT North American Freight Index. Seasonal shipments, along with rising fuel costs, pushed freight rates higher in May, with dry van and refrigerated (“reefer”) rates hitting their highest levels since January, and flatbed rates setting a new record.

**DAT Freight Index 2014-2018**



Index: Year 2000 = 100

Spring produce shipments along the southern tier of states contributed to a 9 percent uptick in spot market volumes, a common trend from April to May. Volumes were 34 percent higher than in May 2017, according to the Freight Index, with much of that increase due to a 69 percent spike in flatbed volumes year over year.

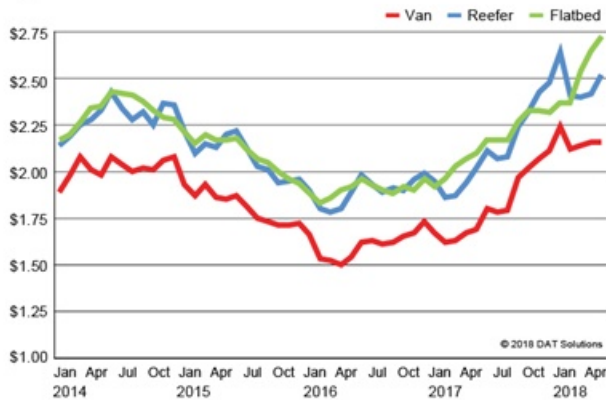
The Freight Index, a monthly measure of demand for spot market freight, is published by DAT Solutions, which operates

North America’s largest [load board marketplace](#).

Flatbed demand has been unprecedented this year, bolstered by increased activity in the energy and construction sectors, and compounded by the tighter hours-of-service limitations that have affected every trucking segment since the implementation of the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate. As a result, flatbed rates have set new records. The national average flatbed rate for May was \$2.73 per mile, an 8-cent increase over the April average and an all-time high. The national flatbed rate was 63 cents higher than in May 2017, which included a 14-cent increase in the average fuel surcharge from a year ago.

The peak shipping season out of Florida helped push the average reefer rate to \$2.52 per mile, 10 cents higher than the previous month’s average and 50 cents higher than last year. Spring harvests contributed to tighter truckload capacity for dry van freight as well, which pushed the average van rate up to \$2.16 per mile in May. That rate was 1 cent higher than the April average and a 47 cent increase from May 2017.

## Spot Market Rates 2014-2018



National Average Rate Per Mile, Including Fuel Surcharge © 2018 DAT Solutions

“Seasonal demand kept truckload capacity tight across the southern half of the country,” said DAT industry analyst Mark Montague. “We can expect the high volumes and strong market conditions to keep rates elevated through June and beyond.”

Established in 1978, DAT operates a network of load boards serving intermediaries and carriers across North America. For more than a decade DAT has published its Freight Index, which is representative of the dynamic spot market.

Referenced rates are the averages, by equipment type, based on \$45 billion of actual transactions, as recorded in DAT RateView. Reference rates per mile include fuel surcharges, but not accessorials or other fees. The DAT Freight Index reflects load posting volume on the DAT network of load boards, and 100 on the Index represents the average monthly volume in the year 2000. Additional trends and analysis are available at [DAT Trendlines](#).

## About DAT Solutions

DAT operates the largest spot freight marketplace in North America. Transportation brokers, carriers, news organizations and industry analysts rely on DAT for market trends and data insights derived from 179 million annual freight matches and a database of \$45 billion of market transactions. Related services include a comprehensive directory of companies with business history, credit, safety, insurance and company reviews; broker transportation management software; authority, fuel tax, mileage, vehicle licensing, and registration services; and carrier onboarding.

Founded in 1978, DAT Solutions, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Roper Technologies (NYSE:ROP), a diversified technology company and constituent of the S&P 500, Fortune 1000 and Russell 1000 indices. [www.DAT.com](http://www.DAT.com)

## Contact

Eileen Hart

Vice President, Marketing & Corporate Communications

DAT Solutions

[Eileen.Hart@dat.com](mailto:Eileen.Hart@dat.com)

[503-672-5132](tel:503-672-5132)