

# Why Is There Such a Need for Flatbed Shipping?

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It's always good to be working in an industry that's in demand. When it comes to flatbed trucking, drivers and fleet owners have never been more in demand. There are many factors driving the flatbed demand in a post-pandemic landscape. In an industry where traditional demand could often be seasonal in nature, flatbed trucking is on the rise due in part to increases in demand for **construction equipment transport**.

## More Demand In The Construction Industry

**Freight transportation companies** have certainly seen the dramatic rise in **flatbed transport** demand since the world has slowly crept back to "normal" after the COVID-19 pandemic. **Construction equipment shipping** is on the rise as contractors, tradespeople, builders, and governments get back to the business of building things. For companies shipping materials and equipment on open deck trailers, there is a challenging market landscape for flatbeds. Here are some of the factors that are currently impacting the flatbed trucking industry.

- Industry influencers and economic realities. Various industry sectors are also seeing growth post COVID. Housing and construction, for example, remains strong despite rising interest rates cooling off the hot housing market. There is still a major housing shortage in most major Canadian cities, so construction remains strong as does its need for **construction equipment transport**. Manufacturing and the auto industry is also seeing positive growth now that some of the parts (like computer chips) are becoming available. Oil and gas companies are also seeing growth as economies chug back to life. Oil fluctuates in the best of times, and with war in Ukraine gas prices are on a weekly roller coaster ride. However, the industry does require flatbeds to help keep the industry mobile. Finally, industrial and agriculture machines are in demand as many producers look to replace old fleets with more efficient equipment.
- Regulatory changes. The new electronic logging device (ELD) mandate is now five years old in the United States. While different carriers are affected in different ways, there are some commonalities. Freight is still often project-based, which means carriers have to maximize limited opportunities to build their networks. Flatbed carriers often operate with a 1:1 tractor to trailer ratio, which often eliminates the economics of scale benefits dry van fleets often enjoy. The simple task of picking up freight and delivering it to job sites, industrial complexes, and out-of-the-way locations like mines often results in a lot of wasted time for drivers. Additionally, the driver shortage is also being driven by regulatory change as many seasoned drivers opt out of the industry.
- Continuing legislative changes. Freight transportation companies are used to the ebb and flow of legislative changes that come when governments in Canada and the United States change. Regime change never happens without impacting various sectors of industry, and shipping is one of them. There are many decisions made at provincial, state, and federal levels that send ripples through the industry. For example, tax reform can drastically alter a company's balance sheet, forcing it to make decisions that could affect flatbed trucking chains. Political maneuvers could also impact the energy sector, driving up costs and reducing profit margins for flatbed trucking carriers. Governments making huge investments in infrastructure can also mean that flatbed trucking will remain high. Conversely, higher interest rates could slow the industry, disrupting construction projects and reducing requests for steel and materials.

## Where Is Flatbed Trucking Heading In The Next Five Years?

Demand for **flatbed equipment** is subject to normal cyclical patterns. Supply and demand will always be in flux given seasonal peaks and demand imbalances. Working with a qualified 3PL to ensure you have access to an on-demand flatbed trucking network could be critical in ensuring your flatbed needs are always met.

**NATS Canada** has been in the 3PL **business** long enough to know how to mitigate the issues related to seasonal trucking demands. Even with the often hectic demands during the COVID pandemic, **NATS Canada** was able to ensure our customers needs were met. Our team can ensure that high demands driven by construction equipment transport activity are never problem. The logistics involved in facilitating **construction equipment transport** via flatbed requires a company with a proven track record of safe, reliable, affordable delivery. **NATS Canada** is a **3PL company** with expertise in coordinating all types of flatbed transport including **construction equipment shipping**. We can oversee your end-to-end ground



transportation needs in collaboration with our vast network of flatbed transport companies across Canada and the United States. The demands on such carriers have never been greater, so it's critical for businesses requiring such services to work with a company known for having a solid reputation amongst **flatbed transportation carriers**.

Staying on top of legislative and regulatory changes in the trucking industry is critical to ensuring companies remain in compliance when facilitating flatbed trucking projects. We can take care of all the elements involved in booking your flatbed. **Learn more about the variety of services available through NATS Canada.**

**Source:** <https://www.nativesnewsonline.com/why-is-there-such-a-need-for-flatbed-shipping/>