

Know Your Numbers Before You Start

This breakdown gives you a clear picture of what it costs to launch a carrier company. Use this as a planning tool — not a guarantee. Costs vary by location, equipment, and situation.

FIXED & COMPLIANCE COSTS

Item	Cost	Notes
USDOT Number	Free	Apply at fmcsa.dot.gov
MC Authority Fee	\$300	One-time FMCSA filing fee
BOC-3 Filing	~\$25	Process agent requirement
UCR Registration	\$60/year	Annual — ucr.gov
DOT Medical Card	\$80–\$150	Certified DOT examiner
Insurance Down Payment	\$1,000–\$3,000	Liability + Cargo required
DAT / Load Board	\$49–\$199/mo	Essential for finding freight
Total Fixed Costs	\$1,514–\$3,734	<i>Before equipment</i>

EQUIPMENT COSTS

Option	Upfront Cost	Pros / Cons
Rent a Truck	\$500–\$1,500	Lower barrier to entry. Shop around and negotiate. Less risk while building credit history.
Purchase a Truck	\$20,000–\$40,000	Own your asset. Builds equity. Requires financing or cash. Higher monthly commitment.

TOTAL STARTUP INVESTMENT SUMMARY

Scenario	Estimated Range
Renting a truck (recommended to start)	\$2,014 – \$5,234
Purchasing a truck	\$21,514 – \$43,734

Minimum possible start (renting, lowest costs)

As low as \$2,014

** Costs vary by state, equipment condition, insurance history, and freight type. Always get multiple insurance quotes. Factor in fuel, registration, and licensing fees not listed above.*

Doing this on your own?

A \$99 strategy call with Truck4Ward walks through your specific situation step by step — so you don't waste money on mistakes that are easy to avoid. The \$99 is applied toward any service. truck4ward.com | (980) 485-5544