



Which Trucking and Delivery Companies Are Sued Most Over Crashes in Federal Court

Original analysis of 54,045 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2016–FY2025 (Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2025).
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FedEx companies were the first-named defendant in 276 new federal motor-vehicle injury lawsuits filed in fiscal years 2016 through 2025, 1.7× as many as Swift Transportation (164), the next company among the 55 trucking, delivery and truck-leasing companies we tracked. Together those companies account for 5.0% of the 51,863 motor-vehicle injury suits filed in federal district courts in that period; fleet size is not taken into account.

276

Suits naming a FedEx company first, FY2016–FY2025

1.7×

FedEx companies combined vs. next company (Swift)

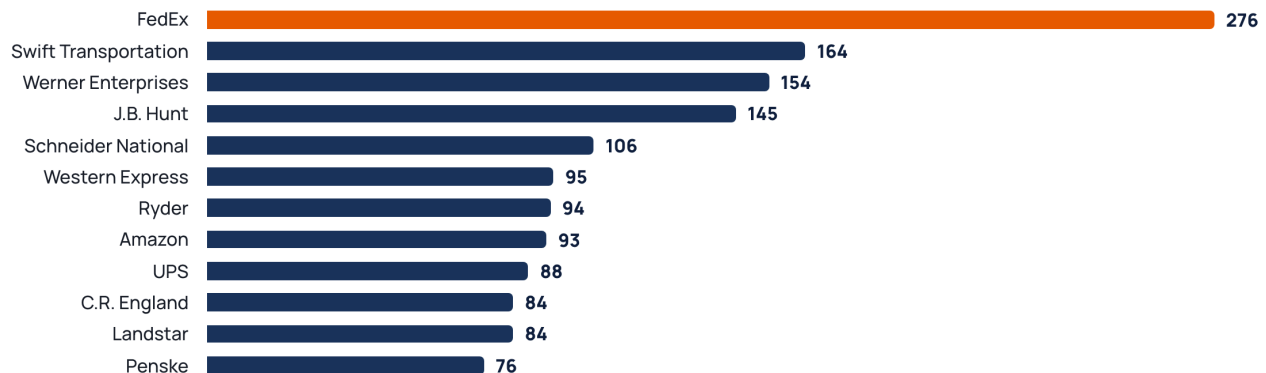
25

Suits naming Amazon first, FY2025 (2nd among tracked)



New federal crash suits by first-named defendant, FY2016–FY2025

Top 12 of 55



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center
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What the federal docket shows

- FedEx leads the decade.** FedEx entities were named first in 276 suits, ahead of Swift Transportation (164), Werner Enterprises (154) and J.B. Hunt (145).
- FedEx filings more than doubled.** Suits naming a FedEx company first rose from 19 in FY2016 to 45 in FY2025, a factor of 2.4×.

3. **Amazon arrived after 2020.** Amazon companies were the first defendant in 6 suits in FY2016–FY2020 and in 87 in FY2021–FY2025; in FY2025 only FedEx (45) had more than Amazon (25).
4. **Most cases come from state court.** 71% of the suits against the tracked companies reached federal court by removal from state court, compared with 55% of all federal motor-vehicle injury suits.
5. **Settlement is the usual ending.** Of 2,415 closed suits against the tracked companies, 52% were coded as dismissed after settlement and 1.7% ended in a trial verdict.

How we measured

Data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of federal civil cases, in the release covering filings through June 30, 2026, as stored in our database on October 10, 2026. The IDB is built from case data the district courts report to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Of 54,045 filing records with nature of suit 350 (Motor Vehicle, under Other Personal Injury) dated October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2025, we analyzed every record.

A lawsuit is a record with origin code 1 (original proceeding) or 2 (removed from state court); the filing date (field filedate, not the tape year) decides the fiscal year. All other origin codes (remanded, reinstated or reopened, transferred, multidistrict and the later reopening codes) describe a case that is already counted and are left out. 33 repeated records with the same district, office and docket number were counted once, keeping the record with the earliest filing date. That leaves 51,863 lawsuits.

Companies are matched by the first-named defendant, the only defendant the IDB records. The field is upper-cased, a trailing "et al" is removed and every character other than a letter or digit becomes a space; a company is assigned when the field begins with one of the following whole words (first match wins): FedEx: FEDEX, FED EX or FEDERAL EXPRESS · UPS Ground Freight: UPS FREIGHT or UPS GROUND FREIGHT · UPS: UNITED PARCEL SERVICE or SERVICES, or a field that is exactly UPS or UPS INC · Amazon: AMAZON (any Amazon entity) · DHL · Evans Delivery · Swift Transportation: SWIFT TRANSPORTATION or SWIFT LEASING · Knight Transportation: KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, KNIGHT REFRIGERATED or KNIGHT SWIFT · Werner Enterprises: WERNER ENTERPRISE or ENTERPRISES · Schneider National · J.B. Hunt: J B HUNT or JB HUNT · Western Express · C.R. England: C R ENGLAND or CR ENGLAND · New Prime · Crete Carrier · U.S. Xpress: U S XPRESS or US XPRESS · Landstar · KLLM · TransAm Trucking · Melton Truck Lines: MELTON TRUCK LINE or LINES · Stevens Transport · CRST · Celadon · P.A.M. Transport: any field beginning P A M TRANSPORT or PAM TRANSPORT (including Transportation) · Annett Holding or Holdings · Quality Carrier or Carriers · Marten Transport · Hirschbach · Heartland Express · Dart Transit · Covenant Transport: any field beginning COVENANT TRANSPORT (including Transportation) · Roehl Transport · Paschall Truck · Mercer Transportation · Greenwood Motor · MVT Services · HL Motor · Cardinal Logistics · Contract Freighters · PGT Trucking · Panther II · USA Truck (not USA Trucking) · Old Dominion Freight · Yellow/YRC: YRC, YELLOW CORPORATION or YELLOW FREIGHT · Saia · ABF Freight · XPO · Estes Express · Averitt · A. Duie Pyle: A DUIE PYLE or DUIE PYLE · Southeastern Freight · Central Transport · AAA Cooper · Penske: PENSKE TRUCK, PENSKE LOGISTICS, PENSKE LEASING or PENSKE CO · Ryder: RYDER followed by another word. That makes 55 companies; the company CSV lists all of them and the CSV of name variants lists every defendant entry assigned. Misspellings (for example Swift Transporation), bare names without a company word (Hunt, Knight, Ryder, Schneider, Werner) and other firms sharing a brand word (Werner Transportation, Penske Automotive Group, UPS Machinery Services, USA Trucking) are not assigned. We reviewed all frequent defendant names in the period: no trucking, parcel or truck-leasing company outside the list has more suits than the 25th-ranked company (28), so the top 25 is complete, while smaller carriers further down are not all listed. Rideshare companies, bus lines, transit agencies, rental-car firms, insurers and retailers with private fleets are not part of the list; Amazon is included as a delivery company.

To check the data, we recounted all NOS 350 filing records for FY2024 and FY2025 and compared them with Table C-2 of the judiciary's Judicial Business statistics. Our FY2025 count (6,920) is 0.10% below and our FY2024 count (6,399) 0.08% above the published figures.

Checked against published figures

- Motor Vehicle (personal injury) cases commenced, FY2025 (12 months ending Sept. 30, 2025): published 6,927, our count 6,920 (0.10% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Motor Vehicle (personal injury) cases commenced, FY2024 (12 months ending Sept. 30, 2024): published 6,394, our count 6,399 (0.08% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Motor Vehicle (personal injury) cases commenced under diversity of citizenship, FY2025: published 5,491, our count 5,484 (0.13% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Motor Vehicle (personal injury) cases commenced with the U.S. as defendant, FY2025: published 992, our count 993 (0.10% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)

Limitations

- Only the first-named defendant is recorded. A suit that names a carrier second, after its driver or an insurer, is not counted for that carrier, so every count is a lower bound.
- The defendant field holds about 30 characters and is often truncated; spelling varies. Contractors that deliver for FedEx Ground or Amazon under their own names are not counted for FedEx or Amazon; most of them are not on the list at all.
- Counts are not adjusted for fleet size, miles driven or crashes. A higher count does not mean a company is less safe, and a lawsuit is an allegation, not a finding of fault.
- The data covers federal district courts only. Crash suits filed and kept in state courts are not included, so the counts describe federal litigation, not all litigation against a company.
- Records for FY2025 come from the release after the fiscal year closed; according to the FJC, records are not updated after the end of the fiscal year, so later changes to a case's coding may be missing.

Data files

- [Calibration against U.S. Courts Table C-2](#) (CSV, 4 rows)
- [Defendant name variants assigned to each company](#) (CSV, 271 rows)
- [Federal motor-vehicle crash lawsuits by trucking and delivery company](#) (CSV, 55 rows)
- [Federal motor-vehicle crash lawsuits by fiscal year](#) (CSV, 10 rows)

How to cite

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