

DECEMBER 2025

HAULAGE & TRANSPORT UPDATE



Market and Freight Pricing

According to the TEG Price Index, November 2025 saw the biggest ever rise in freight prices since the index began in 2019.

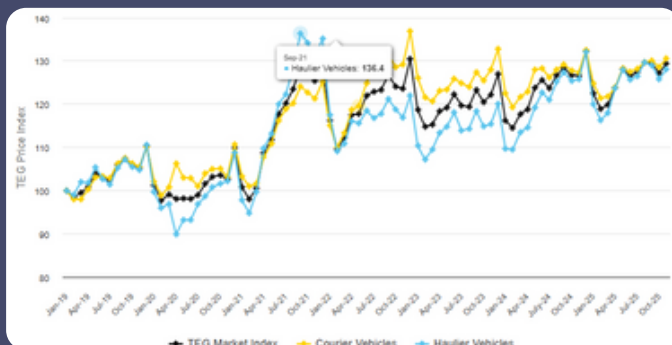
The “Haulage Index” rose 2.3 points (1.83%) to 128.1. Artic-vehicle rates also increased ~1.9%.

At the same time, carrier availability plunged by 22.4%, even as demand rose, tightening capacity across the market.

This combination, rising demand + falling availability is putting real pressure on rates, delivery costs, and overall margin stability

Takeaway:

Takeaway for hauliers & shippers: expect winter-season pricing pressure, tighter capacity, possibly longer lead times.





Regulation, Costs & Budget Impacts

The recently announced UK Autumn Budget 2025 has significant implications for haulage and logistics operations: fuel duty reductions introduced earlier are set to be reversed gradually from Sept 2026 onward; HGV related taxes and levies (like Vehicle Excise Duty, HGV levy) are expected to rise with inflation from April 2026.

On the positive side, the Budget offers tax allowances, including a 100% first year allowance (FYA) for zero emission HGVs and EV charging infrastructure (valid until March 2027). This could make investments in new trucks, trailers or charging infrastructure more financially attractive if timed properly.

Key Tax & Duty Changes Affecting HGV Operators

Fuel duty is currently frozen and will remain at the present rate until September 2026, but the temporary reduction (from the 5p-per-litre cut) will be reversed in stages:

- +1p per litre from 1 September 2026
- +2p per litre from 1 December 2026
- +2p per litre from 1 March 2027

In summary:

operating costs - fuel, licence/levy, tax on vehicles are set to climb over the next 18—24 months.

For operators already running on tight margins, this amplifies financial pressure.





What December Means for Hauliers & Stakeholders

- Expect tight capacity and rising rates in the run-up to Christmas and through winter plan ahead, secure contracts early, and budget accordingly.
- For operators considering electrification: the arrival of public eHGV charging hubs could be the catalyst to start or accelerate fleet electrification.
- Capital investment window is open with Budget tax allowances, those upgrading fleet or infrastructure before March 2027 can gain a cost advantage.
- But financial caution is warranted: structural pressures on many smaller hauliers suggest risk, risk mitigation, efficient operations and diversification may be necessary to survive a tough market.

Strategic Outlook

- Winter 2025 could accelerate industry consolidation, favouring well-capitalised, flexible, and forward looking operators.
- Hauliers who balance short-term operational planning with long term strategic investment, particularly around electrification and efficiency, are likely to emerge stronger.
- December isn't just about managing the current peak; it's about positioning your business for 2026, when costs rise and green infrastructure begins to reshape competitive advantage.

