



TRUCK DRIVER

JOB DESCRIPTION

Truck drivers transport goods via local, national, or international road networks. In this role, you may be responsible for planning a delivery schedule and devising a route, keeping an accurate record of trips, checking and maintaining your vehicle, and loading and unloading items. With additional licenses you can drive specialized trucks, such as tankers and hazardous-substance vehicles.



SALARY

Novice truck driver ★★★★★
Experienced truck driver ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Employers range from small haulage companies to multinational logistics firms • High demand for truck drivers • Union jobs command highest pay levels

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Driving • Transportation • Travel and distribution • Motor vehicle engineering • Vehicle mechanics • Health and safety



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS While there are no formal educational requirements, a full driving license is required to start training as a truck driver.



LIFESTYLE Driving hours are regulated, with rest breaks required for safety. Most drivers work 42 hours a week, driving by day or night as required.



LOCATION Truck drivers spend the majority of their driving time inside the truck's cab. Long periods away from home are common.



THE REALITIES Driving long-distance is physically exhausting, and overtime pay can be limited. Long periods of time may be spent away from home.

CAREER PATHS

A full car driving license is required before taking the specialized theory and practical examinations required to gain a truck driver's license. After qualifying, it is common for drivers to move between employers in different sectors.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

You can become a truck driver from the age of 18. Studying mechanics or transportation at high school or college may improve your prospects.



CAREER CHANGER

You can take the various truck driver's tests while working in another job, then switch careers once you have the necessary qualifications.



▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **RAILROAD ENGINEER** *see pp. 222–223*
- ▶ **CAR FLEET MANAGER** Manages a fleet of company cars for a business, overseeing servicing and maintenance of the vehicles, their safe and secure storage when not in use, and replacing them after they have reached a set mileage.
- ▶ **DISPATCH DRIVER** Transports and delivers items that require urgent, secure, or confidential delivery by motorcycle, car, van, or bicycle.
- ▶ **FORKLIFT TRUCK DRIVER** Uses a forklift truck to move heavy goods around warehouses, factories, and industrial premises, or to load and unload goods onto trucks, container units, or into industrial storage.

SKILLS GUIDE



Good writing skills for maintaining accurate records of trips, cargo, and maintenance.



Flexibility to deal with route changes, bad weather, traffic conditions, and breakdowns.



Good organizational skills for planning routes and delivery schedules efficiently.



Manual dexterity for loading, securing, and handling unusual goods safely.



Physical and mental resilience to concentrate for long periods while driving, often on the same routes.



Attention to detail for following route directions and delivery instructions correctly.

HAZARDOUS LOAD DRIVER

Transports potentially dangerous chemicals, fuels, and hazardous waste. Hazardous load drivers need specialized training and must also hold an appropriate license.



TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Manages the work of drivers by planning routes and schedules, liaising with customers, and organizing contracts with staff and clients.



CONSTRUCTION/ MINING PLANT OPERATOR

Specializes in driving industrial vehicles—such as dump trucks, diggers, and earth-movers—in various sectors, from mining and construction to waste management.



TRUCK DRIVER As a truck driver, you will need to retake a driving test every four years in order to keep your license. You can drive different types of truck, such as hazardous-load tankers, by obtaining specialized licenses.

**In the US, 80 percent
of all transported goods
are moved by truck.**

