



Truck Driver

Education and Training

Truck Drivers must have a driver's license appropriate to the class of vehicle they are driving. Drivers who operate vehicles equipped with air brakes must have air brake endorsements. Drivers who deal with hazardous products or dangerous goods must be certified by their employers. With experience or additional training, they may progress to supervisory positions or to non-driving occupations such as truck driving instructor, and safety officer.

Nature of Work

Truck drivers often work long hours, primarily behind the wheel. They drive in all kinds of weather, traffic and road conditions. Truck drivers' workloads and schedules vary depending on the goods being transported and the distances traveled. Some local truck drivers start out in the morning with a loaded truck and make deliveries all day, returning with an empty truck to the warehouse or plant at the end of the day. With other products such as lumber local drivers may return to the yard to reload after each delivery.

Long distance truck drivers move goods between cities and across the continent. They often work long hours and travel at night. On relatively short runs, drivers may transport loaded trailers to nearby cities, pick up different loads for the return trip, and return to their starting points in the same day. On longer runs, drivers may be away for a week or longer.

Earnings

Low:	\$40,000
Average:	\$65,000
High:	\$75,000

Main Duties

- Operate trucks and sometimes maneuver them in tight spaces.
- Routinely inspect brakes, tires, lights, horns, and cooling and refrigeration equipment before leaving the warehouse or terminal.
- Load trucks to maximize the use of space and distribute weight accordingly, and to ensure safety on the road.
- Secure cargo on the truck and place protective padding around articles to prevent damage during transit.
- Conduct security checks and inspections en route.
- Make emergency roadside adjustments and repairs.
- Follow local and interprovincial highway safety regulations.
- Have the weight of the entire unit checked as directed by weighing officials at highway scales.
- Keep records of loads delivered and picked up, arrival and departure times, and maintain vehicle log books (fuel consumption, mileage).

Typical Employer

Firms such as Reimer Express, Consolidated Fastfrate, Shell and Purolator

Additional Information

Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council
www.truckingcareers.ca/want_to_drive.php
 Teamsters Canada
www.teamsters.ca
 Get Your Career on the Road
www.getyourcareerontheroad.com

Essential Characteristics

- Manual Dexterity
- Attention to detail
- Effective communication skills

