



# Truck Driver

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## Job Description:

Heavy truck drivers drive large trucks or tractor-trailers to transport goods and materials.

## Gross Monthly Income:

\$3,500

## Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$42,000 a year in Utah.

**Schedule:** May work days, evenings, or weekends. Often away overnight or for days at a time.



**Advancement:** Advancement opportunities are limited for heavy truck drivers. Advancement often takes the form of driving specific routes and cargos that provide increased earnings. Drivers may also be able to advance to their preferred schedules. Some purchase a truck and go into business for themselves. A few may advance to dispatcher or manager

## Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Certification courses in driving trucks
- ◆ Have a commercial driver's license (CDL)

## High

## School Courses:

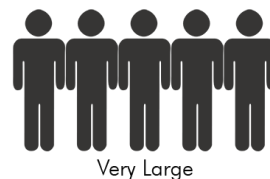
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Physical Education
- ◆ Driver Education
- ◆ Diesel Mechanics and Repair

## Work Conditions:

- ◆ Communicate with others by telephone on a daily basis.
- ◆ Are responsible for the health and safety of others.
- ◆ Work inside an enclosed vehicle while driving and outdoors while loading and unloading.
- ◆ Must be exact in their work and be sure all details are done. Errors could cause accidents on the road that could injure themselves or others.
- ◆ Work in a moderately competitive atmosphere in which daily and weekly deadlines must be met.
- ◆ Set some, but not all, of their daily tasks and goals without talking to a supervisor first.

**Travel:** May spend most of the year away from home

## Job Outlook:



## Hours a Week:

70

## Leisure Time:

Low

## Knowledge:

- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Public Safety
- ◆ Mechanical
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Mathematics

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## Overview

There aren't many things heavier than the Leibherr T 282B. This truck, designed in 2004, weighs in at 203 tons. And this is when it's empty. The truck's capacity is 365 tons, putting the cargo and truck together at well over 500 tons. The diesel-electric engine alone weighs 10 tons. The tires are over 6 meters tall (that's nearly 20 feet)! Can you imagine driving this machine? To do so, you have to climb stairs to get to the cab. Fortunately, most trucks are not this big!

Heavy truck drivers begin their job by reading bills of lading and other instructions to determine how to transport cargo. They also read and interpret maps to determine the best route. Computers and Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) help drivers map the most efficient routes to save fuel. An important consideration is safety. Heavy truck drivers must follow strict safety regulations, both when handling dangerous cargo and when driving.

Heavy truck drivers park their trucks so they can be loaded easily. Parking trucks may require following hand signals from coworkers who direct them to the proper location. Once trucks are in the proper spot, truck drivers load items. They may help wrap large items before they are loaded, or cover the entire load if it is on a flatbed. Truck drivers secure some items with straps, ropes, or chains. Once trucks are loaded, drivers carefully inspect them to insure that they can be driven safely.

On the road, drivers concentrate on their driving and other drivers to prevent accidents. Many truck drivers have two-way radios. They use these to contact their supervisors and give updates on their position. Truck drivers must also keep their trucks filled with gasoline, oil, and other fluids. Trucks may run on electricity or alternative fuels, like biodiesel. Some trucks use different systems to power truck equipment when the truck is not moving. Truck drivers must know how to operate and maintain all of the truck systems.

Drivers keep several types of records and fill out forms. Some forms are used to prove that goods were picked up and delivered. Drivers have customers sign these forms when they receive deliveries. Other forms prove that trucks are being driven safely. Drivers also keep logs of what items they delivered, how much the items weighed, and when deliveries were made.

Pathway:  
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