

# Truck Drivers, Heavy



## Occupational Profile

### WHAT THEY DO

Drives a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. Belongs to the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics cluster and Transportation Operations pathway.

### IS THIS FOR YOU?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.
- **Conventional** – You are an "organizer". Keeping things neat and organized is important to you. You like working with charts and reports, and work well with power and authority.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Independence**—It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.
- **Support** – It's very important to you to know the company stands behind its workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.

**Aptitudes** reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Eye-Hand Coordination**
- **Manual Dexterity**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>



### SKILLS YOU NEED

#### Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

#### Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers): High level

- Operating trains, buses, or trucks to transport people or freight

#### Medium level

- Following travel directions
- Inspecting vehicles
- Loading and unloading materials
- Preparing and maintaining work logs and reports

#### Workplace Skills:

##### High level

- Operation and Control

##### Medium level

- Judgment and Decision Making
- Operation Monitoring
- Repairing
- Time Management
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	133,170	150,785	17,615	1.3	4,675
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	42,685	50,715	8,030	1.9	1,485

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## 2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	16.13	33,552	9.50	19,761	19.45	40,448
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	19.93	41,451	13.73	28,564	23.03	47,895

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Postsecondary	None	Short-Term On-The-Job

State and federal regulations govern the qualifications and standards for truck drivers. All drivers must comply with federal regulations and any state regulations that are in excess of federal requirements. Truck drivers must have a driver's license issued by the state in which they live, and most employers require a clean driving record. Drivers of trucks designed to carry 26,000 pounds or more -- including most tractor-trailers, as well as bigger straight trucks -- must obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) from the state in which they live. All truck drivers who operate trucks transporting hazardous materials must obtain a CDL, regardless of truck size. Taking driver-training courses is a desirable method of preparing for truck driving jobs and for obtaining a CDL. High school courses in driver training and automotive mechanics also may be helpful. Many private and public vocational-technical schools offer tractor-trailer driver training programs. Iowa licensing information can be found at

[http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom\\_state\\_data/iowa\\_licensed\\_occupations/53-3032.htm](http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/53-3032.htm)

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3
Locating Information	4
Reading for Information	4



This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where Truck Drivers, Heavy Employed?)

Merchant Wholesalers  
Agriculture  
Truck Transportation  
Food Mfg  
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction  
Specialty Trade Contractors  
Support Activities for Transportation  
Management of Companies  
Administrative and Support  
Waste Management

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>