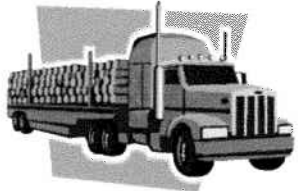


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings		
Regional	1500	1750	16.70%	50	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer SOC # 53-3032	
Texas	146,000	175,400	20.10%	5530		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Regionally	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
< 1 year	Yes	\$14.78	6.0%	39.8	Average	Equal Growth/ Replacement

JOB DESCRIPTION

Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW), to transport and deliver goods, livestock, or materials in liquid, loose, or packaged form. May be required to unload truck. May require use of automated routing equipment. Requires commercial drivers' license.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

General Freight Trucking
Specialized Freight Trucking
Cement and Concrete Product Manufacturing
Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
Support Activities for Mining

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 490205 Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operation

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

* English Language

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

* Law and Government

* Public Safety and Security

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

* Mathematics

* Transportation

IMPORTANT SKILLS

CONTENT

* Active Listening

* Reading Comprehension

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

* Time Management

SOCIAL SKILLS

* Coordination

SYSTEMS SKILLS

* Judgment and Decision Making

TECHNICAL SKILLS

* Equipment Maintenance

* Troubleshooting

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

CONTROL MOVEMENT ABILITIES

* Control Precision

* Multilimb Coordination

IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING

ABILITIES

* Problem Sensitivity

VISUAL ABILITIES

* Depth Perception

* Far Vision

NATURE OF THE WORK: Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer

Truck drivers are a constant presence on the Nation's highways and interstates. They deliver everything from automobiles to canned food. Firms of all kinds rely on trucks to pick up and deliver goods because no other form of transportation can deliver goods door-to-door. Even if some goods travel most of the way by ship, train, or airplane, almost everything is carried by trucks at some point in its journey.

Before leaving the terminal or warehouse, truck drivers check the fuel level and oil in their trucks. They also inspect the trucks to make sure that the brakes, windshield wipers, and lights are working and that a fire extinguisher, flares, and other safety equipment are aboard and in working order. Drivers make sure their cargo is secure and adjust the mirrors so that both sides of the truck are visible from the driver's seat. Drivers report equipment that is inoperable, missing, or loaded improperly to the dispatcher.

Once under way, drivers must be alert in order to prevent accidents. Drivers can see farther down the road because large trucks seat them higher off the ground than other vehicles. This allows them to see the road ahead and select lanes that are moving more smoothly as well as giving them warning of any dangerous road conditions ahead of them.

The duration of runs vary according to the types of cargo and the destinations. Local drivers may provide daily service for a specific route or region, while other drivers make longer, intercity and interstate deliveries. Interstate and intercity cargo tends to vary from job to job more than local cargo. A driver's responsibilities and assignments change according to the type of loads transported and their vehicle's size.

New technologies are changing the way truck drivers work, especially long-distance truck drivers. Satellites and the Global Positioning System link many trucks with their company's headquarters. Troubleshooting information, directions, weather reports, and other important communications can be instantly relayed to the truck. Drivers can easily communicate with the dispatcher to discuss delivery schedules and courses of action in the event of mechanical problems. The satellite link also allows the dispatcher to track the truck's location, fuel consumption, and engine performance. Some drivers also work with computerized inventory tracking equipment. It is important for the producer, warehouse, and customer to know their product's location at all times so they can maintain a high quality of service.

Heavy truck and tractor-trailer drivers operate trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). They transport goods including cars, livestock, and other materials in liquid, loose, or packaged form. Many routes are from city to city and cover long distances. Some companies use two drivers on very long runs—one drives while the other sleeps in a berth behind the cab. These "sleeper" runs can last for days, or even weeks. Trucks on sleeper runs typically stop only for fuel, food, loading, and unloading.

Some heavy truck and tractor-trailer drivers who have regular runs transport freight to the same city on a regular basis. Other drivers perform ad hoc runs because shippers request varying service to different cities every day.

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires that drivers keep a log of their activities, the condition of the truck, and the circumstances of any accidents.

Long-distance heavy truck and tractor-trailer drivers spend most of their working time behind the wheel, but also may have to load or unload their cargo. This is especially common when drivers haul specialty cargo, because they may be the only ones at the destination familiar with procedures or certified to handle the materials. Auto-transport drivers, for example, position cars on the trailers at the manufacturing plant and remove them at the dealerships.