


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery SOC # 53-3033	
Regional	850	950	11.80%	25		
Texas	72,300	84,850	17.40%	2540		
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	\$11.00	6.0%	39.8	Average	Replacement

JOB DESCRIPTION

Drive a truck or van with a capacity of under 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW), primarily to deliver or pick up merchandise or to deliver packages within a specified area. May require use of automatic routing or location software. May load and unload truck.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

Couriers
 General Freight Trucking
 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
 Automotive Parts, Accessories, and Tire Stores
 Furniture Stores
 Specialized Freight Trucking
 Building Material and Supplies Dealers
 Warehousing and Storage
 Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods Merchant Wholesalers
 Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers
 Florists
 Consumer Goods Rental

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 490205 Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operation

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

- * Administration and Management
- * Customer and Personal Service

MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION

- * Production and Processing

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

- * Mathematics

TRANSPORTATION

- * Transportation

IMPORTANT SKILLS

CONTENT

- * Active Listening
- * Reading Comprehension
- * Speaking

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- * Time Management

SOCIAL SKILLS

- * Coordination
- * Social Perceptiveness

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- * Equipment Maintenance

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

CONTROL MOVEMENT ABILITIES

- * Multilimb Coordination

IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES

- * Problem Sensitivity

PHYSICAL STRENGTH ABILITIES

- * Static Strength

SPATIAL ABILITIES

- * Spatial Orientation

VISUAL ABILITIES

- * Far Vision

NATURE OF THE WORK: Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery

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.

Light or delivery services truck drivers operate vans and trucks weighing less than 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). They pick up or deliver merchandise and packages within a specific area. This may include short "turnarounds" to deliver a shipment to a nearby city, pick up another loaded truck or van, and drive it back to their home base the same day. These services may require use of electronic delivery tracking systems to track the whereabouts of the merchandise or packages. Light or delivery services truck drivers usually load or unload the merchandise at the customer's place of business. They may have helpers if there are many deliveries to make during the day, or if the load requires heavy moving. Typically, before the driver arrives for work, material handlers load the trucks and arrange items for ease of delivery. Customers must sign receipts for goods and pay drivers the balance due on the merchandise if there is a cash-on-delivery arrangement. At the end of the day drivers turn in receipts, payments, records of deliveries made, and any reports on mechanical problems with their trucks.

Some local truck drivers have sales and customer service responsibilities. The primary responsibility of driver/sales workers, or route drivers, is to deliver and sell their firm's products over established routes or within an established territory. They sell goods such as food products, including restaurant takeout items, or pick up and deliver items such as laundry. Their response to customer complaints and requests can make the difference between a large order and a lost customer. Route drivers may also take orders and collect payments.

The duties of driver/sales workers vary according to their industry, the policies of their employer, and the emphasis placed on their sales responsibility. Most have wholesale routes that deliver to businesses and stores, rather than to homes. For example, wholesale bakery driver/sales workers deliver and arrange bread, cakes, rolls, and other baked goods on display racks in grocery stores. They estimate how many of each item to stock by paying close attention to what is selling. They may recommend changes in a store's order or encourage the manager to stock new bakery products. Their duties also may include soliciting new customers along their sales route. After completing their route, driver/sales workers place orders for their next deliveries based on product sales and customer requests.