

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (SOC 53-3032)

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers transport goods from one location to another. Most tractor-trailer drivers are long-haul drivers and operate trucks with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) capacity—that is, the combined weight of the vehicle, passengers, and cargo—exceeding 26,000 pounds. These drivers deliver goods over intercity routes, sometimes spanning several states. May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license.

Example of reported job titles: Auto Carrier Driver; Cement Truck Driver; Moving Van Driver; Over-the-Road (OTR) Driver; Semi-truck Driver; Log Truck Driver



Job Responsibilities

- Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order.
- Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting dangerous goods.
- Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure.
- Maintain logs of working hours or of vehicle service or repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations.
- Secure cargo for transport, using ropes, blocks, chain, binders, or covers.
- Maneuver trucks into loading or unloading positions, following signals from loading crew and checking that vehicle and loading equipment are properly positioned.
- Operate equipment, such as truck cab computers, CB radios, phones, or global positioning systems (GPS) equipment to exchange necessary information with bases, supervisors, or other drivers.

New Hampshire Outlook

- Average Hourly Wage*: \$21.35
- Estimated Employment 2016: 6,935
- Projected Employment 2026: 7,505
- Expected 10-Year Growth: 8.2%
- Projected Average Annual Openings: 817

Top industries in NH for this occupation:

- Truck Transportation
- Nonstore Retailers
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Specialty Trade Contractors

* Wage estimates based on surveys conducted from November 2013 to May 2016 - aged to June 2017.

Education and Training

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers usually have a high school diploma and attend a professional truck driving school. They must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).

Interests (Holland Code): RCI

- **Realistic** — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.
- **Conventional** — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.
- **Investigative** — Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.

Career Cluster: Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Work Environment

Working as a long-haul truck driver is a major lifestyle choice because these drivers can be away from home for days or weeks at a time.

Additional Information Sources**

American Trucking Association
<www.trucking.org/>

To Find a Job

Contact the nearest NH Employment Security office or go online to www.nhes.nh.gov

** Inclusion of this information is intended to provide a convenient resource for research, but in no way constitutes an endorsement for any organization, nor is the list all-inclusive.

Source:

NH Employment Projections, base year 2016 to projected year 2026
Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics



For more information:
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau
(603) 228-4124
elmi@nhes.nh.gov