



# Truck Driver

## **JOB OUTLOOK<sup>1,2</sup>**

The job outlook for truck drivers is projected to grow faster than the average rate compared with all professions. In the petroleum industry, employees may begin careers as truck drivers and then advance to higher-level positions, particularly after receiving specialized certifications. As a result, opportunities for truck drivers may arise as other employees advance into new positions.

## **SALARY RANGE<sup>2</sup>**

\$32,020 – \$34,730

## **WHO ARE THEY?<sup>1,2</sup>**

Truck drivers are alert, safety-minded, conscientious professionals who transport goods and materials from one place to another. They are able to concentrate for long hours while driving and operating large vehicles in tight spaces. They have strength and stamina for working long hours and handling heavy objects when loading and unloading cargo from trucks. They are willing and able to closely follow safety rules and regulations. Truck drivers are able to drive safely in a variety of weather and road conditions.

## **WHAT DO THEY DO?<sup>1,2</sup>**

Truck drivers operate large vehicles that deliver products to needed locations. For example, a truck driver may transport resources to oil and gas production sites and facilities, as well as other types of construction and work sites. These deliveries include pipes, tools, and other heavy objects as wells are being drilled; and petroleum, water, and chemicals once the wells are in operation. Truck drivers can also transport gasoline from refineries to gas stations, or deliver other items from distribution centers to retail locations. Truck drivers closely follow safety guidelines and regulations for operating vehicles and maintain accurate maintenance and repair records. They are often involved with loading and unloading materials before they begin delivery trips and again when they reach their destination. They are responsible for handling paperwork, including receipts and delivery confirmations.



## Truck Driver (Continued)

### **EDUCATION/ TRAINING**

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Completion of training for earning a commercial drivers' license.
- Vocational training, mathematics, and automotive mechanics courses are helpful.

### **HOW DO I BECOME ONE?<sup>1,2</sup>**

Most truck drivers begin working after receiving their high school diploma or equivalency, although some opportunities may be present for individuals who have not completed high school. They are required to obtain a commercial driver's license for operating large trucks.

Truck drivers also need the patience and willingness to work long hours alone; alertness and strong hand-eye-foot coordination for controlling vehicles in often-small spaces; mechanical skills for performing minor maintenance and repairs; and organizational skills for maintaining paperwork.

<sup>1</sup> "Truck Driver." Video from the American Petroleum Institute.

<sup>2</sup> "Delivery Truck Driver." Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/transportation-and-material-moving/delivery-truck-drivers-and-driver-sales-workers.htm>.