

# Delivery & Courier Service Drivers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## **Delivery & Courier Service Drivers [NOC 2021: 74102 & 75201 / NOC 2016: 1513 & 7514]**

***Delivery & Courier Service Drivers*** may also be called:

- *courier service driver*
- *delivery driver*
- *mail service courier*
- *newspaper delivery driver*
- *pizza delivery driver*
- *route driver*
- *vending machine driver-supplier*

***Couriers & Messengers*** may also be called:

- *delivery person*
- *mail courier*
- *runner*

### **1. What Would I Do?**

***Delivery drivers:*** drive automobiles, vans and light trucks to pick up and deliver various products.

***Courier service drivers:*** Couriers, messengers and door-to-door distributors pick up and deliver letters, parcels, packages, newspapers, flyers and other items within and between organizations.

**Delivery and courier service drivers'** duties may include:

- operate and drive vehicles (cars, vans and light trucks) to pick up and deliver various products, such as fast food, newspapers, magazines, bakery and dairy products, and items such as dry cleaning, envelopes, packages and parcels
- perform pre-trip and post-trip inspection of vehicle
- plan delivery travel schedules and service routes
- load and unload cargo, goods or merchandise
- provide customer service by selling products, delivering over established routes and accepting or making payments for goods

**Couriers & Messengers** duties may include:

- pick up messages, letters, packages, cheques and other items from customers and hand-deliver them within a set period of time
- collect payment for items delivered
- record deliveries
- may drive a vehicle (car, van or truck) or ride a bicycle
- inspect vehicle at the start and end of each shift to report any damage
- load and unload packages into vehicle or bicycle
- plan delivery schedule and travel routes

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Delivery and Courier Service Drivers**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **WorkBC Career Profile for Couriers & Messengers**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **Career Cruising (Profile for 'Courier/Messenger')**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

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## 2. Am I Suited For This Job?

***Delivery and courier service drivers should have:***

- Good communication skills
- knowledge of local geography
- ability to navigate streets and follow directions

***You should be:***

- polite, friendly, and courteous
- physically fit

**Bicycle messengers** working in downtown urban areas may find the work is physically challenging. **Delivery and courier service drivers** working in urban areas may find the work is stressful due to heavy traffic and difficult parking regulations.

Both vehicle drivers and bicycle messengers may work evenings and weekends and work outdoors in all kinds of weather.

Sources: WorkBC Career Profiles & Career Cruising

## 3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

The annual median salary for **Couriers & Messengers** in BC is \$31,701.

In BC's regions **couriers & messengers** can expect to make:

Community/Area	Low (\$/hour)	Median (\$/hour)	High (\$/hour)
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	16.75	16.75	31.92
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	16.75	16.75	31.92
<a href="#">Thompson–Okanagan Region</a>	16.75	16.75	31.92
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	16.75	16.75	31.92

Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

## Delivery & Courier Service Drivers A guide for newcomers to British Columbia

The median annual salary for **Delivery & Courier Service Drivers** in BC is 35,038.

In BC's regions **delivery & courier service drivers** can expect to make:

Community/Area	Low (\$/hour)	Median (\$/hour)	High (\$/hour)
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	16.75	17.95	28.00
<a href="#">Cariboo Region</a>	16.75	16.75	29.72
<a href="#">Kootenay Region</a>	16.75	17.95	28.00
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	16.75	17.50	27.00
<a href="#">North Coast Region</a>	16.75	17.95	28.00
<a href="#">Northeast Region</a>	16.75	17.95	28.00
<a href="#">Thompson–Okanagan Region</a>	16.75	17.95	28.00
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	16.75	18.75	24.00

Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Some couriers are paid a flat rate according to the number of deliveries you make in a day. Others are paid a percentage of each sale made and many couriers work on a simple, hourly rate.

Independent owner-operators have the highest earnings potential. However, you have to pay for your own expenses, including gas, out of their earnings.

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

## 4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

JobBank Canada reports that employment outlook will be moderate for **Delivery & courier service drivers** in British Columbia for the 2022 to 2024 period.

Most jobs are found in the Mainland/Southwest region of the Province. The majority of job openings will come from the need to replace retiring workers.

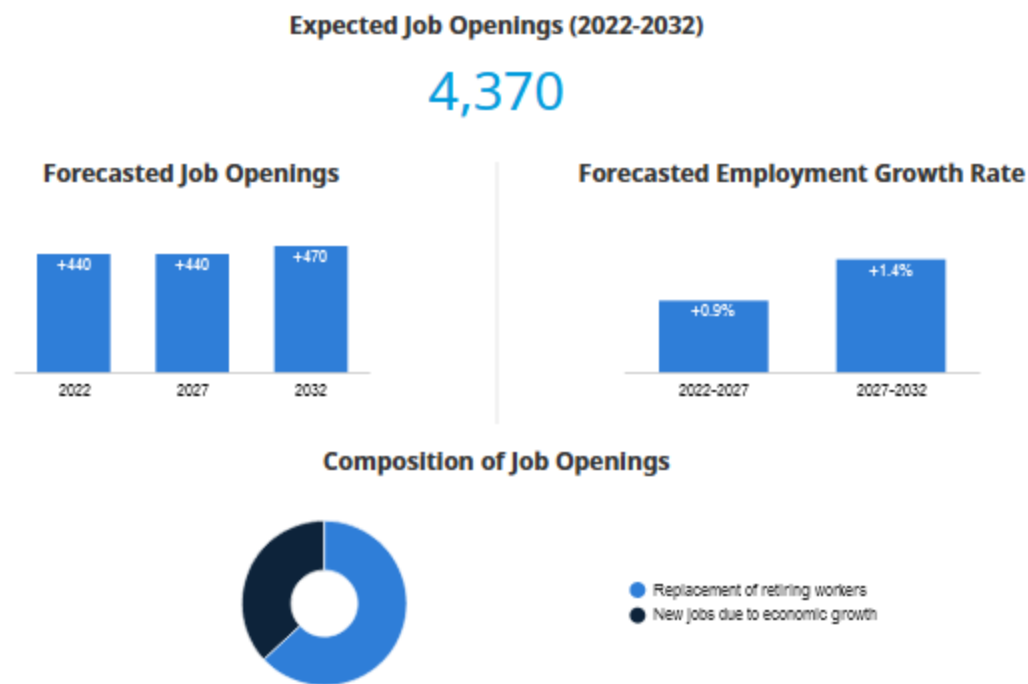


Chart from WorkBC

JobBank Canada reports that employment outlook will be good for **Couriers & messengers** in British Columbia for the 2022 to 2024 period.

## Couriers & Messengers

Expected Job Openings (2022-2032)

1,590

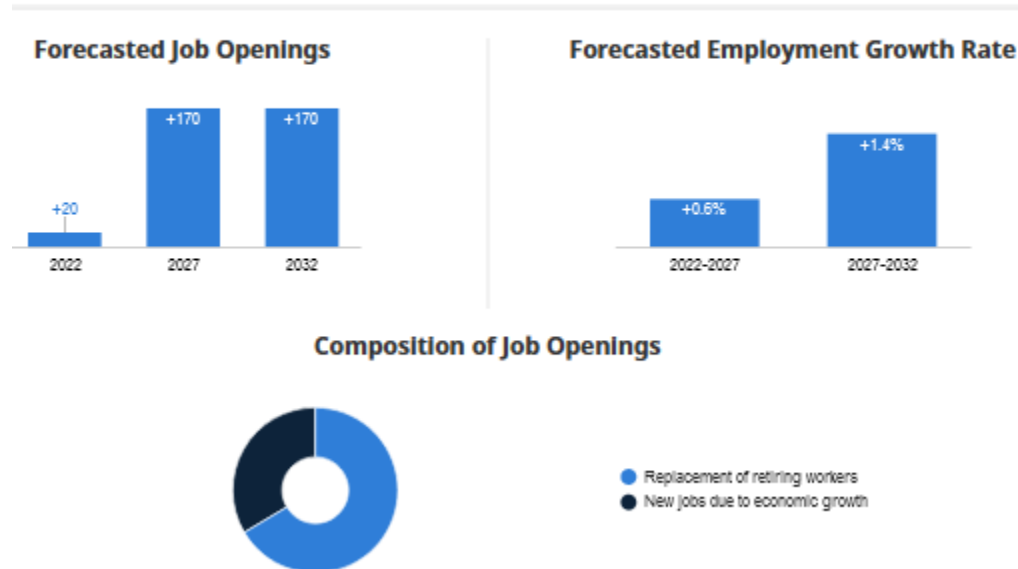


Chart from WorkBC

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profiles
- JobBank Canada, Job Outlook

<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-job-outlooks>

## 5. How do I become a Delivery & Courier Services Driver

In B.C. there is no certification required to be a delivery driver / courier but you must have a driver's license appropriate to the class of vehicle being driven. Employers often require a minimum of one year safe driving experience and completion of secondary school. Employers may also require you to be bonded. Although most couriers are trained on the job, you may also be asked to obtain certification in Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG).

For information on TDG training, see:

- <https://bc.sjatrainning.ca/TDG.php>
- <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/product/transportation-of-dangerous-goods/>

You may also be asked to supply your own car or bike, and take care of any maintenance.

If you intend to be a bike courier in the *City of Vancouver* you must:

- be 19 years of age or older
- obtain a bike courier licence valid for the City of Vancouver by:
  - successfully writing an exam
  - obtaining a bike courier plate for an annual fee

For more information, see:

- **City of Vancouver Bike Couriers License**  
<https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/bike-couriers.aspx>

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

## 6. How Do I Find A Job?

### ***Where would I work?***

- *courier and messenger services, law firms, hospitals, government agencies, and businesses of all types*
- *dairies, drug stores, newspaper distributors, take-out food establishments, dry cleaners, mobile caterers*

### ***Finding Advertised Jobs***

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.



### **Local Newspapers**

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

### **Online Job Postings**

- **Indeed.ca**  
[https://ca.indeed.com/advanced\\_search](https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search)
- **WorkBC**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search>
- **BC Trucking Association**  
<https://www.bctrucking.com/careers/job-postings>
- **BC JobConnect**  
<https://bcjobconnect.ca> \*\*must have permanent resident number\*\*  
newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

### **Finding "Hidden Jobs"**

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this "hidden" job market.*

### **Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers**

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in this industry. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BC Trucking Association**  
<https://www.bctrucking.com/services/find-a-transporter/trucking> [find a transporter]
- **Better Business Bureau (BBB)**  
<http://www.bbb.org/mbc/> [select 'category' and search for 'courier' , your location, and clear box 'BBB accredited only']

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "courier services" OR "delivery service" OR "messenger service" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

**NOTE:** You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).

### **Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies**

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

**Networking and the Hidden Job Market:**

*When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.*

### **Volunteer opportunities**

- **Volunteer BC**

<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

- **GoVolunteer.ca**

<https://govolunteer.ca/>

- **Seniors On the Move - Volunteer Programs**

<https://www.seniorsonthemove.org/volunteer-ride-programs> (volunteer drive programs in Metro Vancouver)

- **Canadian Red Cross**

<https://www.redcross.ca/volunteer/discover-volunteer-opportunities-for-you> (volunteer opportunities for meal delivery, drivers for the Health Equipment Loan program)

*For additional tips see:*

- **Networking for Employment**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

## 7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

*For more information see:*

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

## 8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Progression to supervisory positions or to non-driving occupations, such as driver trainer or dispatcher, is possible with additional training or experience. For couriers/messengers, you may move into other delivery occupations such as delivery drivers. Progression to supervisory positions may be possible with experience.

## 9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **BC Trucking Association**  
<https://www.bctrucking.com/>
- **Customized Logistics and Delivery Association [US]**  
<https://clda.org/>
- **Working as a Driver, Randstad.ca**  
<https://www.randstad.ca/job-seeker/job-profiles/driver/>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.**

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>