

Taxi & Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Taxi & Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs [NOC 2021: 75200/ NOC 2016: 7513]

Taxi & Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs may also be called:

- *airport limousine driver*
- *taxicab driver*
- *private chauffeur*
- *company chauffeur*
- *funeral chauffeur*
- *funeral driver*
- *taxi owner-operator*
- *cab driver*

1. What Would I Do?

Taxi & Limousine Drivers drive automobiles and limousines to transport passengers. **Chauffeurs** drive automobiles and limousines to transport personnel and visitors of businesses, government or other organizations or members of private households.

Taxi & Limousine Drivers' duties can include:

- pick up passengers and drive them to destinations in taxicabs or limousines
- help passengers with luggage and with boarding and exiting vehicles and assist passengers with special needs
- collect flat-rate or taximeter fares

- maintain travel logs and record cash and credit transactions
- maintain contact with taxi dispatch unit
- clean and make minor repairs to vehicle or take vehicle for servicing
- may provide pick up and delivery services on request

Chauffeurs' duties can include:

- pick up or meet employer as per request, appointment or schedule
- drive employers to destinations in automobiles or limousines
- run errands (business or personal) for the employer (e.g., pick up mail, business documents or parcels)
- clean and do minor repairs to vehicle or take vehicle for servicing, as well as keep an accurate written time log
- must maintain a high level of professionalism and social etiquette

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Taxi & limousine drivers & chauffeurs**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profile for 'Taxi Driver').
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Taxi & Limousine Drivers should have:

- strong driving skills and communication skills
- organization and time-management skills for co-ordinating passenger pick-ups
- a thorough knowledge of the areas you drive in
- good judgment when deciding who to allow in the vehicle

You should be:

- good with people
- patient
- self-motivated
- responsible

Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs should also have:

- professional and social etiquette and professional appearance

Taxi & Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs mostly work inside a vehicle; your day may be stressful due to city traffic. You may work evenings, weekends and holidays when demand for your service is highest.

Chauffeurs' hours are usually dictated by the client and may require being on-call much of the time.

Taxi drivers work either day or night shifts for 12 hours at a time. The National Safety Code prohibits taxi drivers from working more than 60 hours per week. Taxi drivers generally have more flexible work schedules than both chauffeurs and limousine drivers.

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the median annual salary for **Taxi & limousine drivers & chauffeurs** is \$33,891.

In BC regions you can expect to make:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	15.20	16.25	25.17
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	15.20	17.31	26.00
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	15.20	15.20	25.00

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

Many taxi drivers own their vehicle. They are called “owner-drivers” and they pay a taxi company a monthly fee to use their dispatching service.

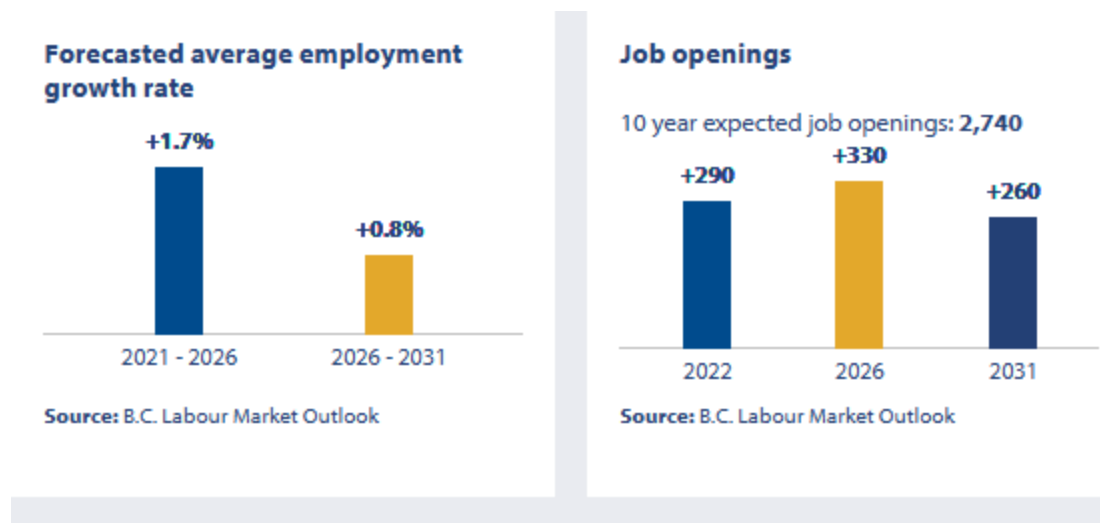
Other drivers pay a taxi company a fee per day (or per shift) to use a car, and keep the rest of the money they earn. You may have to pay fuel costs out of your earnings.

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Demand for transportation services in growing urban areas may cause a shortage of drivers.

The supply of workers in this industry is closely associated with the economic climate. When the economy is booming, employers have difficulty finding enough qualified drivers to meet the company needs. However, when the economy is in a recession, there are more individuals willing to work in this industry. This is perhaps due to the minimal qualifications required to work.



Composition of job openings



Source: WorkBC Career Profile

Ride-Hailing Services

There may be a significant impact on the employment outlook for Taxi & Limousine Drivers & Chauffeurs by the arrival of UBER, Lyft and other ride-hailing services. The Vancouver Taxi Association reports that as of 2021, about 90 per cent of its member drivers have left to operate ride-hailing vehicles. Taxi business has dropped by about 70 per cent over the past year.

For more information, see:

- **Ride Hailing Services**, Passenger Transportation Board
<https://www.ptboard.bc.ca/tns.htm>
- Drivers fleeing and business plummeting for Metro Vancouver taxi industry, Association says
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/drivers-fleeing-and-business-plummeting-for-metro-vancouver-taxi-industry-association-says-1.5913228>

5. How do I become a Taxi & Limousine Driver or Chauffeur?

Training and requirements include:

- some secondary school education is usually required
- must be at least 19 years of age
- minimum Class 4 British Columbia driver's license is necessary
- passing a criminal record check
- completing a driving record check

More information:

- **Passenger Directed Vehicle Drivers Requirements in BC**, BC Ministry of Transportation
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/vehicle-safety-enforcement/services/passenger-transportation/guidance-resources/pdv-driver-requirements>

Contact your local municipality* where you wish to work as a driver to obtain details on all additional licenses and permits required

For example, in the **City of Vancouver**, see:

- **Vehicle for Hire Licences:**

<https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/vehicles-for-hire-licence.aspx>

*A list of BC municipalities is available at:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/member-directory/local-government-member-directory>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

- *Taxi & limousine drivers are employed by taxi and other transportation service companies, or they may be self-employed*
- *Chauffeurs are employed by businesses, government and other organizations, or private individuals or families*

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/Limousine-Driver-jobs>

<https://ca.indeed.com/jobs?q=Chauffeur&l=BC&rs=1>

- **WorkBC**

<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search>

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 taxi / limousine companies. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Metro Vancouver Licensed Taxi Companies**

https://taxirights.gov.bc.ca/PDFs/Metro_Van_Passenger_Zones.pdf

- **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 "taxi" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

You can also search on "limousine" and "chauffeur" to find additional listings.

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://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

- **GoVolunteer.ca**

<https://govolunteer.ca/>

- **Meals on Wheels Programs – Volunteer Drivers**

Many communities throughout BC offer a 'meals on wheels' program that delivers hot nutritious meals to those who cannot cook for themselves. *Meals are delivered by volunteer drivers.* Search for your community name AND 'meals on wheels' to see which local organization provides the service. For example,

- **VANCOUVER: Health & Home Care Society of BC, Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers**

<https://www.carebc.ca/volunteering.html?gclid=CIfxt9H57ckCFZRffgodexwM8Q>

- **Surrey / North Delta: Meals on Wheels**

<https://www.sndmow.com/volunteer.html>

- **BURNABY: Meals on Wheels**

<http://burnabymeals.ca/volunteer-or-donate/>

- **Freemasons Cancer Care Program**

<https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/textfiles/cancer.html>

Freemasons of BC & Yukon provide a free driver program for cancer patients travelling to hospitals/cancer clinics for treatments. *Although many of the volunteer drivers and dispatchers are member of the Freemasons, they also accept some non-members as volunteers*

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?

Taxi drivers who work for companies usually start by working night shifts before moving into more flexible or full-time work. Many limousine drivers have previous experience as taxi drivers.

With experience, you may move into managerial or other related jobs such as dispatchers, driving instructors or inspectors. Moving from taxi or limousine driver

to chauffeur is also a possibility. You may also move into other careers in the hospitality industry.

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **BC Taxi Association**
<http://bctaxiassociation.com/>
- **BC Limousine Association**
<http://bclimoassociation.ca/>
- **ICBC Driver Licensing**
<https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/types-licences/Pages/Licence-classes-and-types.aspx>
[click on 'Commercial Licenses' and then scroll down to 'Class 4']
- **Taxi Bill of Rights: Information for Taxi Drivers**
<https://www.taxirights.gov.bc.ca/drivers.html>
- **Passenger Transportation Branch, BC Ministry of Transportation**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/vehicle-safety-enforcement/services/passenger-transportation>
- **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>.