

Truck Drivers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Truck Drivers [NOC 2021: 73300/ NOC 2016: 7511]

May also be called:

- Dump truck driver
- Tow truck driver
- Moving van driver
- Flatbed truck driver
- Long haul truck driver
- Shipper/driver
- Heavy truck driver

1. What Would I Do?

As a truck driver you transport goods and materials in trucks and cube vans. Some truck drivers make deliveries on local routes, while others drive long distances all across North America.

As a Local Pick-up and Delivery Driver, you are responsible for picking up and delivering small shipments within a set local area. You will likely drive a smaller truck, such as a pick-up truck or cube van.

As a Short-haul Driver, you'll usually leave your terminal early in the morning, setting out to make a series of deliveries and pick-ups that are usually within a half a day's drive or so. In some instances, short-haul drivers may be responsible for

loading and unloading their trucks, so a reasonable level of physical fitness is required.

As a *Long-haul Driver* you cover long distances, often driving coast to coast or on long international routes all over North America. Long-haul Drivers may also be involved in loading and unloading trucks, and other duties including customer relations and business development.

Other duties for all types of truck drivers include:

- conducting safety checks and maintenance on trucks
- ensuring loads are evenly distributed and secure
- driving cargo to its destination, monitoring traffic and road conditions
- obeying road safety and transportation laws
- maintaining logbooks and delivery paperwork

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Transport Truck Drivers**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **TruckingHR Canada** <https://truckinghr.com/>
- **Career Cruising database (Profile for Truck Driver)**
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from the VPL Digital Library

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Truck Drivers need to

- *Meet minimum age requirements*
- *Have good judgement*
- *Have a clean driving record*
- *May have to pass drug screenings*

You must have excellent driving skills. Good judgment, quick reflexes and an ability to remain focused for long periods of time are also important. You should enjoy meeting new people as well as working alone. Time-management skills and organizational abilities are also recommended.

You are expected to be aware of various regulations governing truck transportation, including:

- record-keeping requirements
- weights and dimensions regulations
- acceptable routes

Truck drivers spend most of their time driving and sitting in seats that are generally comfortable. However, you may develop back or neck injuries from sitting for long periods of time or from loading and unloading cargo. Long hours on the road can also cause fatigue and stress.

As a long haul truck driver you should be comfortable leaving home for long periods of time and travelling alone. You often drive throughout the night when traffic is low, for shifts up to 14 hours. Long-haul Driver must be familiar with customs and border crossing requirements and procedures.

Sources:

- WorkBC & Trucking HR

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the median annual salary is \$54,226. Your wage depends on the distance you drive, the type of vehicle you operate and the where you work.

As a long distance driver you may be paid a certain amount for each kilometre you drive. Local drivers are more likely to earn a set hourly wage.

Truck Drivers

An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia

In BC's regions, you can expect to make:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	17.50	27.00	37.15
Cariboo Region	19.58	28.00	35.50
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	16.10	27.00	38.00
Northeast Region	20.87	32.00	39.00
Thompson–Okanagan Region	18.10	26.22	32.15
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	17.00	25.00	34.56

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

If you work full-time you may receive benefits such as health and dental coverage and vacation.

Sources:

- WorkBC & Career Cruising

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

There are approximately 39,200 people working in this occupation in British Columbia. This is a large occupational group and a large number of job openings are expected.

Industry analysts project 12,860 job openings for truck drivers in BC between 2022 and 2031. Most new job openings will come from the need to replace retiring workers

Employment Outlook

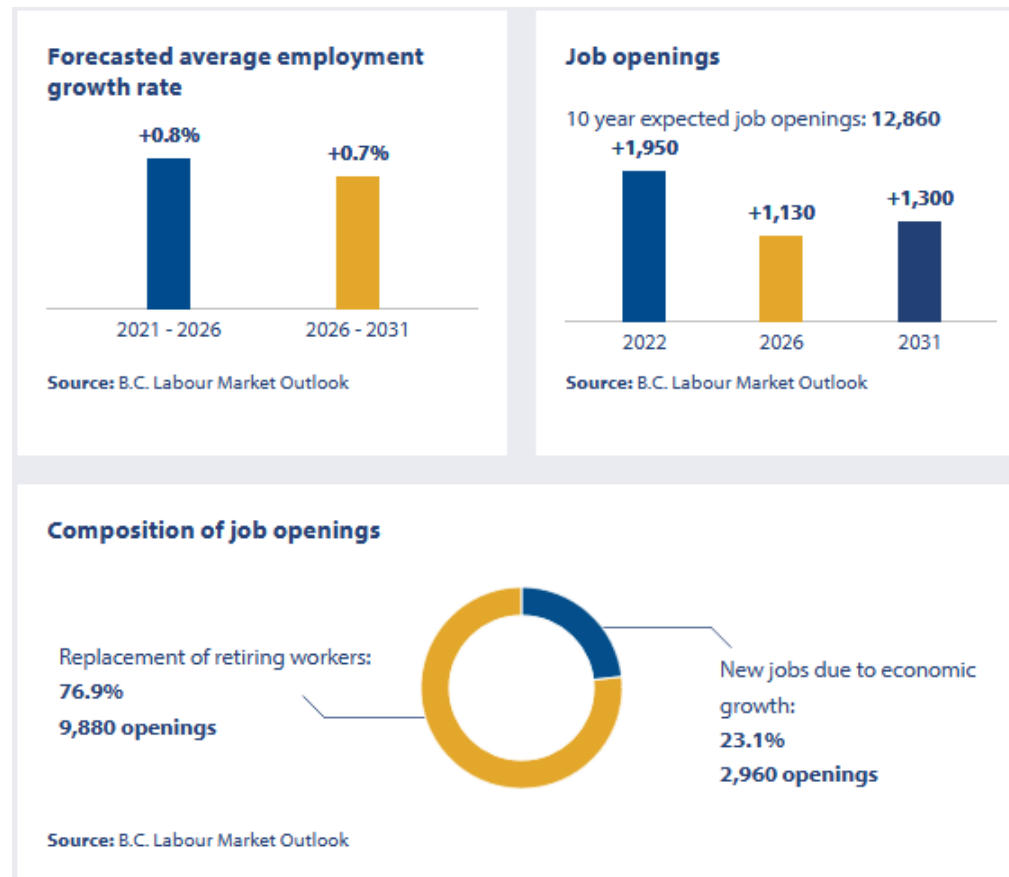


Chart from WorkBC

Sources:

- WorkBC & BC Trucking Association <https://www.bctrucking.com>

5. How Do I Become A Truck Driver?

New Class 1 Commercial Driver's licence applicants must complete **mandatory entry-level training (MELT)**. This program is offered by driver training schools authorized by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC)

In most cases, you'll need some professional driver training to become a commercial driver. Employers usually set their own requirements for hiring. Basic requirements include:

- *Class 3 commercial licence* to operate vehicles with more than two axles, which include smaller commercial vehicles such as tow trucks and dump trucks. You must at least 18 years old for a Class 3 licence
- *Class 1 driver's licence* for trucks with semi-trailers. You must be at least 19. New applicants are required to complete the Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT).
- *An air brake endorsement* to operate a truck with air brakes

All drivers must meet required medical standards before receiving a licence. Vision, hearing and physical and medical conditions are screened before licensing.

If you make deliveries to the United States you must be at least 21 years of age, pass a standard drug test, and participate in an on-going random drug and alcohol testing program.

Other useful qualifications for all drivers include:

- a good driving record and no criminal history
- the ability to read and write English fluently
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods certification for drivers who transport hazardous products or dangerous goods

For information about types and classes of driver's licences in B.C., go to:

- **Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC)**
<https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/types-licences/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Getting Your Commercial Driver's License (ICBC)**
<https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/types-licences/Pages/Get-your-commercial-driver-licence.aspx>

Many British Columbia colleges and private institutions offer truck driver training programs. Standard programs are typically three to four weeks in length, but programs offering more in-depth training can last from 12 to 14 weeks.

For more information about training programs see:

- **ICBC Driver Training**

- <https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/driver-training/Pages/Commercial-and-airbrakes.aspx>

- **Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council**

- www.truckinghr.com/

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where do Truck Drivers Work?

Truck drivers work for variety of businesses including:

- Trucking and transportation companies
- Manufacturing companies
- Mining or forestry companies
- Shipping companies
- May be self-employed

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

- **BC Trucking Association**
<https://www.bctrucking.com/careers/job-postings>
- **Indeed.com**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
- **WorkBC Job Postings**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers.aspx>

Finding "Hidden Jobs"

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

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use company directories to produce lists of employers who employ truck drivers in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BC Trucking Association – Trucking Company Locator**
<https://www.bctrucking.com/services/find-a-transporter/trucking>
- **Fleet Directory.com**
<https://www.fleetdirectory.com/bylocation/canada/britishcolumbia.htm>
- **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 "trucking" 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.

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?

You can progress to driving heavier equipment by upgrading your Class of Licence.

With additional training or experience you may advance into supervisory or management positions, or into non-driving occupations such as dispatcher, safety officer or driving trainer.

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Career Trek BC – Truck Driver**
<https://www.careertrekbc.ca/episode/truck-driver>
- **Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council**
<https://www.truckinghr.com>
- **Canadian Trucking Alliance**
<http://www.cantruck.ca>
- **STEP BC [Skilled Trades Employment Program]**
<https://www.stepbc.ca/>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides/job-search-resources>
- **Fastest Growing Industries: Transportation**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides/industry-profiles>
- **Fastest Growing Industries: Supply Chain**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides/industry-profiles>

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/>.

