



Job Situation

Eighteen wheeler on long-haul trips. Sometimes 2-3 weeks away from home base. Reporting to Fleet Manager. Irregular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$3,400

Student Loan – Owing

\$10,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$215

Duties

Plan routes. Drive. Perform basic vehicle maintenance. Keep records and logs. Communicate with other industry workers.

Prospects

Self employment. Own rig and contract out. Own transport firm. Driver education.

Job Title

Professional Transport Driver

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

7414

Job Description

The professional transport driver is an honest, reliable person who likes to work alone and loves the freedom—and the unpredictability—of the open road. Trucking is now the transport method of choice because only a truck can carry goods right from the supplier's door to the customer's door. The increase in containerized freight means that the system can move cargo door-to-door even when the doors are oceans apart.

The improvement in highway networks has given the trucking industry a boost and the implementation of free trade has led to an increase in international trucking, so the industry is growing. Drivers have a great deal of responsibility, considering the value of their vehicles and the cargoes, and are well paid once they have a good record of honesty, dependability and safety.

You keep several different sets of logs and records. The law requires you to log your hours on the road to ensure that you're getting enough sleep. You keep mileage and maintenance logs for your employer as well as records of delivery receipts, fuel expenditures, stops at weigh stations and highway safety checks. All drivers do some basic maintenance on the road, and you take excellent care of your rig, for safety reasons. Then you can really feel good about turning up the music and enjoying the driving, knowing that problems are unlikely.

People who are on the move so much sometimes find that maintaining a home life can be problematic, but many drivers do enjoy stable relationships. You are also making friends coast to coast and becoming very knowledgeable about other transport systems such as ferries, and other industries, such as agriculture, through your connections across the country. Successful drivers often purchase their own vehicles, and some develop their business skills and become fleet owners and/or managers. It's added responsibility, but it makes sense for an independent person like yourself.