



Job Situation

Mostly on the road as transport driver. Some time in small home office. Phone fax and computer. Self-directed. irregular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$3,600

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$250

Duties

Plan routes, drive. Do basic vehicle maintenance. Keep records, accounts. Promote your business. Negotiate contracts. Plan business strategy.

Prospects

Build up trucking fleet by hiring other drivers. Driver education. Management position in larger firm.

Job Title

Transport Truck Owner-Operator

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

7411

Job Description

The Transport Truck Owner-Operator enjoys the same interesting lifestyle as drivers employed in company fleets but with some added responsibilities, and more self-direction. Keeping files, records and account books is legally required and necessary for planning purposes too. Owner-operators find that industry newspapers, websites, and conventions keep them informed and help them plan effectively.

The owner-operator usually has a substantial loan payment to cover monthly and this means constantly looking for opportunities to put your truck to work. It makes a lot of sense to have at least one month's payment stashed in the bank, or to buy loan insurance in case of unforeseen problems. Vehicle maintenance is an important issue too—the rig is your livelihood and taking care of it is an investment in your future.

You try to arrange routes and schedules so that the trailer is never empty on the return trip. This can be accomplished by networking with other drivers, watching industry papers and magazines and occasionally doing an advertising mailout to wholesalers, distributors, marketing boards and any other companies that you identify as potential clients. Truckers have bulletin boards on the Internet these days, where jobs are sometimes posted, and there are many drivers who have computers in their trucks alongside their coffee makers and their sound systems.

You combine the jobs of driver, dispatcher, fleet manager and entrepreneur. You are responsible for yourself, your job, and the materials in your truck. If you can pull it off you can earn very good wages while enjoying independence, travel and the satisfaction of being your own boss. Owner-operators who find they have a talent for business might consider investing in more rigs and building a transport company.