

Truck driver

Average salary: \$57,252+

Career trend: strong growth

Job description

From food, clothing and cars to livestock, fuel and furniture, truck drivers deliver the products Australians can't live without. You'll see our country from behind the wheel of a big rig, tow truck or tanker as you transport bulky goods or liquids to their destination.

What truck drivers do

Truck drivers provide an essential service to industrialised societies. They collect goods from retail centres or manufacturing plants and deliver them safely and on time to customers or businesses.

Truck drivers are responsible for the load they carry along with the truck's efficiency, operation, and safety. When they get their shipment to its destination, they check the manifest sheet, ensure the load matches and unload the truck. They travel long distances and may be gone for weeks at a time. They know how to connect/disconnect the cab from the trailer and have knowledge of basic repairs.

Flatbed trucks haul everything from airplanes to scaffolding to military equipment. Tanker trucks carry milk, airplane fuel or explosive gases. Reefer trailers move refrigerated goods. Bulk haulers move livestock and auto haulers move vehicles.

Some drivers work for a company while others own or lease their truck and haul loads for many clients.

You'll like this job if...

You like working alone. You have great time management and organisational skills. You're self-reliant and resourceful. You have good navigational skills. You're polite, calm and courteous. You can relate to all kinds of people. You're responsible and dependable. You have excellent defensive driving skills. You're comfortable following the rules.



Will I get a job?

- Strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 16,200 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 200,400.

What will I earn?

- \$1,101–\$1,350 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Truck driver
- Aircraft refueller
- Furniture removalist
- Tanker driver
- Tow truck driver

A day in the life...

Work as a truck driver may involve these tasks:

- manoeuvre vehicles into position for loading and unloading
- load and unload vehicles using lifting and tipping devices
- observe safety requirements when loading and unloading vehicles
- Make regular quality checks of vehicles to ensure they can be driven safely
- estimate weights to comply with limitations and ensure safe distribution of weight
- ensure goods are stowed and securely covered to prevent loss and damage
- verify documents, check the condition of goods and obtain certification of deliveries.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Driving Operations (TLI21216)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 86.2%*

Certificate III in Driving Operations (TLI31216)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate IV in Driving Operations (TLI42116)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94.8%*

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Main employing industries

- Transport, postal and warehousing
- Electricity, gas, water and waste services
- Mining

Other jobs you may like...

- Automobile driver
- Train and tram driver
- Delivery driver

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Industry or the user's independent adviser.