

CAREERS

Trucking

More than 3 million truck drivers travel the roads of the United States. Some are local drivers. They work in one town or city. Others drive long distances. Are you a good driver? Do you like to work on your own? Being a truck driver might be the job for you.

- **LOCAL DRIVERS** need to drive in heavy traffic, move into tight parking spots, and back up to loading docks. Most drivers load and unload their trucks. They get receipts from their customers.

- **LONG DISTANCE DRIVERS** may drive to a nearby city with one load. Then they pick up another loaded trailer and return home the same day. They may also drive so far that they spend days away from home. They must drive safely and well at steady speeds. They fill out reports when their trip is done. All truck drivers need to check their trucks so they will run well and be safe.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The state and federal governments set the rules for truck drivers. Truck drivers must have a regular driver's license from the state they live in. They need a good driving record.

Most truck drivers will need a commercial driver's license. The U.S. Department of Transportation has rules for long distance drivers who travel across state lines. These drivers must be at least 21 years old.

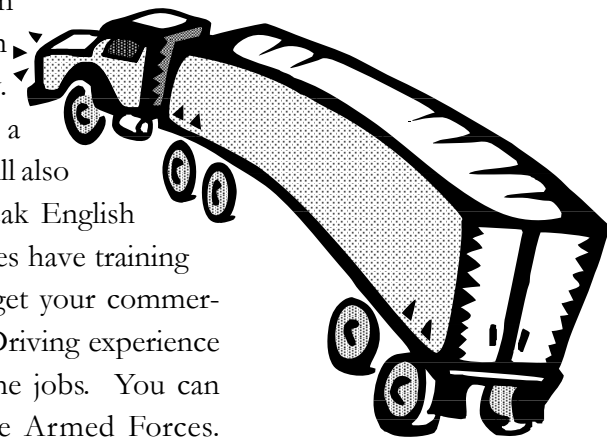
You need to ask your state motor vehicle department how to get a commercial driver's license. You will have to pass a written test and show you can drive a truck safely. You will have to pass a physical exam. You will also need to read and speak English fairly well. Many states have training courses to help you get your commercial driver's license. Driving experience can help you get some jobs. You can get experience in the Armed Forces. Some people start as driving helpers. Others start as dock workers. Many long distance drivers start as local drivers.

JOB OUTLOOK AND EARNINGS

Usually there are many job openings each year. Pay varies. The average income in 2000 was between \$9.00 to \$19.00 an hour. The amount you get paid depends on the kind of job you get. Drivers of large trucks usually earn more. Long distance drivers usually are paid by the mile.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can contact a local trucking company or your local state employment agency for more information. ■