

Bus Driver

Licensed in a few months, then hired by a transit system that trains you and pays a pension.

TYPICAL PAY

\$52,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$36k to \$78k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**City transit routes, school runs,
coach tours, garages**

How you get there

- 1 Get a full car licence and a clean record** Before you start
 Job Bank says employers want about a year of safe driving experience, and they check your driving abstract.
- 2 Meet the minimum age** Age 18 or older
 You must be 18 or older to hold a commercial class licence in Ontario. Many transit systems want 21.
- 3 Upgrade your licence** 4 to 8 weeks
 In Ontario that is a Class B, C, E or F licence depending on the size of the bus and whether it is a school bus. Every other province uses a Class 2 licence. An air brake endorsement is usually needed too.
- 4 Pass the medical and the tests** Weeks
 A doctor confirms you are fit to drive commercially, then you write the knowledge test and take a road test in a bus.
- 5 Get hired and do company training** 1 to 3 months
 Job Bank says employers usually give up to three months of on the job training, including classroom time, before you take a route alone.

Pros and cons

- + Earning within a few months of leaving school
- + Pension and union protection at transit systems
- + Predictable routes and home every night
- Split shifts and early starts, especially when you are junior
- Sitting all day is hard on your back
- Difficult passengers and occasional abuse

Optional boosts

Air brake endorsement. A truck licence. Training or supervisor roles. Maintenance training.

Good to know

The job is mostly people

Job Bank lists secondary school and a year of safe driving as the requirements, but transit systems screen hardest on how you handle passengers. Driving the bus is the part they can teach in weeks.

Yukon pays the most

Job Bank's wage data puts the highest median for bus operators in Yukon at about \$36 an hour, with British Columbia next at about \$31. Saskatchewan is the lowest at about \$22.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Bus Operator in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Bus operator, job requirements

Ontario: Official Ministry of Transportation Driver's Handbook, licence classes

Job Bank: Bus operator, job prospects

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/bus-driver>



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