

Transport Dispatcher

Match loads to drivers, fix problems on the road, and keep a whole fleet moving from one desk.

TYPICAL PAY

\$58,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$87k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Trucking company offices, courier depots, transit control rooms, min...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 is the normal ask. Strong written communication matters more than marks.
- 2 Get near the industry** 6 months to 2 years
 Warehouse, customer service, driver helper or office administration at a carrier. Many dispatchers are promoted from inside.
- 3 Optional college training** 1 to 2 years
 A one or two-year logistics or transportation certificate at a college such as Conestoga, Mohawk or a regional polytechnic. It shortens the wait but is not required.
- 4 First dispatch desk** Immediately after hiring
 You start on a smaller board, usually nights or weekends, with someone senior nearby.
- 5 Build a specialty** Years
 Cross-border, refrigerated, flatbed, hazardous goods or courier. Specialists get paid more and are harder to replace.

Pros and cons

- + You can start with no tuition and no licence
- + Indoor, year-round, stable work
- + A clear path into operations management
- Stressful, and the phone does not stop
- Nights, weekends and on-call rotations are common
- Drivers and customers will both be angry at you on the same day

Good to know

Trucking is the backbone of Canadian trade

The Canadian Trucking Alliance describes trucking as vital to Canada's economy and works through seven provincial associations. Most of what reaches a Canadian store shelf spent part of its trip on a truck...

Hours of service are the law, not a guideline

Federal rules cap how long a commercial driver can work and drive, and electronic logging devices record it automatically. A dispatcher cannot ask a driver to bend those hours without exposing the carrier...

Optional boosts

Logistics designation. Supply Chain Canada designation. Dangerous goods certification. Customs and cross-border training.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Dispatcher, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Canadian Trucking Alliance
 Supply Chain Canada
 Conestoga College

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/transport-dispatcher>



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