

Truck Driver

Licensed in a few months. Everything in every store got there on a truck.

TYPICAL PAY

\$55,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$77k

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

**Highways, warehouses, cities,
cross-border routes**

How you get there

- 1 Full driver's licence** Before you start
 A regular Class G (Ontario) or Class 5 licence, age 18 or older. Cross-border work into the US requires age 21.
- 2 Entry-level training** 1 to 2 months
 Most provinces now require a training course before the Class 1 (called AZ in Ontario) licence test. Ontario's MELT (mandatory entry-level training) is about 100 hours over roughly 4 to 6 weeks.
- 3 Medical and written knowledge test** Days
 A doctor confirms you are fit to drive commercially. Then the written test on rules and air brakes.
- 4 Road test** 1 day
 Pre-trip inspection, backing, and an on-road test in a tractor-trailer.
- 5 First job** Weeks
 Most new drivers start local or regional. Some carriers require a year of experience before long-haul.

Pros and cons

- + Working in months, not years
- + Steady demand and frequent hiring bonuses
- + Independence: no boss over your shoulder
- Long-haul means long stretches away from home
- Sedentary and hard on health
- Winter roads and long hours

Optional boosts

Dangerous goods (TDG certificate). Tanker and heavy haul experience. FAST card (trusted-driver border pass). Owner-operator.

Good to know

One of Canada's most common jobs

Truck driving is among the most common occupations for Canadian men, with roughly 300,000 drivers on the road.

The industry is short tens of thousands of drivers

Trucking HR Canada (an industry group) has projected a gap of tens of thousands of drivers this decade as older drivers retire.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Transport truck drivers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: Official MTO (Ministry of Transportation) Truck Handbook

Trucking HR Canada

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/truck-driver>



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