

Delivery Driver

Drive a van or light truck, run a route, and get paid without a degree or a license exam.

TYPICAL PAY

\$44,860

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$80k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Delivery vans, warehouses and depots, residential streets, loadin...

How you get there

- 1 Get a regular driver's license** Age 16 to 18
 Your ordinary state license is enough for a van. Keep the record clean from day one, because it is the whole hiring test.
- 2 Wait until employers will insure you** Up to a few years
 Many delivery companies set a minimum age of 21, and some want a year of licensed driving behind you.
- 3 Apply in hiring season** Weeks
 Parcel carriers hire heavily from September for the holiday peak. Seasonal work is the normal way in.
- 4 Learn the route** 1 to 2 weeks
 A few days riding with an experienced driver, then your own route with a scanner and a stop list.
- 5 Move up if you want to** 1 to 5 years
 Seasonal to permanent, then to a union route, a bigger truck with a commercial driver's license, or a dispatch job.

Pros and cons

- + You can be earning within weeks of leaving high school
- + No tuition, no exam, no debt
- + Nobody is watching over your shoulder once you leave the depot
- Hard on the body: knees, back and shoulders take the damage
- Ten to twelve hour days in peak season, in any weather
- Gig work has no benefits and you pay your own vehicle costs

Optional boosts

A CDL (commercial driver's license). Hazardous materials endorsement. Forklift certification. Bilingual ability.

Good to know

Some vans are built to avoid left turns

Large parcel companies plan routes that favor right turns, because waiting to cross oncoming traffic burns fuel and causes crashes. Route software at one major carrier has been doing this since the 20...

The last mile is the expensive mile

Moving a package across the country by plane and truck is cheap per item. Driving it to one front door is the single costliest leg of the trip, which is why so much money and technology is aimed at this job.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Light Truck Drivers (53-3033.00)
 California Department of Motor Vehicles: commercial driver licenses
 United States Postal Service careers
 Apprenticeship.gov: Registered Apprenticeship, United States Department of Labor

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/delivery-driver>



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