

Career Profile

A weekly series devoted to providing information on career exploration

Do You Like

- Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made and asking questions as appropriate?
- Talking to others to convey information effectively?
- Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems?
- Controlling operations of equipment or systems?

Then This Could Be The Career For You!

The Type of Work

- Pick up and deliver freight from one place to another.
- Obey traffic laws, and follow established traffic and transportation procedures.
- Inspect and maintain vehicle supplies and equipment, such as gas, oil, water, tires, lights, and brakes, to ensure that vehicles are in proper working condition.
- Present bills and receipts and collect payments for goods delivered or loaded.
- Load and unload trucks, vans, or automobiles.
- Verify the contents of inventory loads against shipping papers.
- Maintain records such as vehicle logs, records of cargo, or billing statements in accordance with regulations.
- Read maps, and follow written and verbal geographic directions.
- Report delays, accidents, or other traffic and transportation situations to bases or other vehicles, using telephones or mobile two-way radios.

Pathways to Success

Federal and State regulations govern the qualifications and standards for truck drivers. Drivers must comply with all Federal regulations and any State regulations that are in excess of those Federal requirements when under that State's jurisdiction. Truck drivers must have a driver's license issued by the State in which they live. Drivers of trucks with a GVW of 26,001 pounds or more—including most tractor-trailers, as well as bigger straight trucks—must obtain a CDL. In many States, a regular driver's license is sufficient for driving light trucks and vans. Federal regulations require employers to test their drivers for alcohol and drug use as a condition of employment and require periodic random tests of the drivers while they are on duty.

Although most new truck drivers are assigned to regular driving jobs immediately, some start as extra drivers—substituting for regular drivers who are ill or on vacation. Extra drivers receive a regular assignment when an opening occurs. Truck drivers can advance to jobs that provide higher earnings, preferred schedules, or better working conditions.

What Employers Look For

Individuals who possess knowledge of:

- Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment - Running, maneuvering, navigating, or driving vehicles or mechanized equipment, such as forklifts, passenger vehicles, aircraft, or water craft.
- Getting Information - Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
- Performing for or Working Directly with the Public -Performing for people or dealing directly with the public. This includes serving customers in restaurants and stores, and receiving clients or guests.
- Performing General Physical Activities - Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Material - Inspecting equipment, structures, or materials to identify the cause of errors or other problems or defects.
- Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events - Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.

Job Outlook

Overall employment of truck drivers and driver/sales workers is expected to grow 9 percent over the 2008-18 decade, which is about as fast as the average for all occupations. As the economy grows, the demand for goods will increase, which will lead to more job opportunities. Because it is such a large occupation, 291,900 new jobs will be created over the 2008-18 period. In 2006, nationwide there were nearly 1 million people employed as drivers of light or delivery services, with approximately 43,000 employed in the State of Ohio.

Employment of light or delivery services truck drivers should grow 4 percent over the projections decade, which is more slowly than average. Though experiencing slower growth than heavy trucking, light and delivery trucking will similarly be closely tied to the state of the economy. As economic growth occurs, there will be an increasing need for light trucking services, from the distribution of goods from warehouses to the package delivery to households. The number of driver/sales workers is also expected to grow 4 percent between 2008 and 2018, more slowly than average, for the same basic reasons.

Earnings Potential

Location	Year	Pay Period	Low	Median	High
United States	2009	Yearly	\$17,400	\$28,300	\$51,700
Ohio	2009	Yearly	\$16,300	\$26,900	\$52,400
Cleveland Elyria-Mentor, OH MSA	2009	Yearly	\$16,100	\$25,100	\$49,600

O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

TRUCK DRIVER, LIGHT OR DELIVERY SERVICES



DEFINITION:

Drive a truck or van with a capacity of under 26,000 GVW, primarily to deliver or pick up merchandise or to deliver packages within a specified area. May require use of automatic routing or location software. May load and unload truck.

NAME: Paula Boggs

JOB TITLE: Delivery Driver/Service Provider

COMPANY: United Parcel Service (UPS)

LOCATION: Elyria, OH

Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?

A. While I was attending college at Cleveland State, UPS was hiring. It was a great part-time job with a good wage. I worked from 4am to 9am and went to school full-time during the day.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Lorain Catholic High School and have a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cleveland State University.

Q. How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

A. I worked part-time for 22 years, including loading delivery trucks in the morning, unloading trucks on the afternoon shift, clerking during the day and delivering next day air packages. When a full-time driving position became available after all my children were in school, I then started working full-time.

Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

A. As a delivery driver/service provider you need to have great customer service skills. You need to be able to communicate well with customers. You have to have a good knowledge of the area or be comfortable reading a map. You must be able to lift packages up to 150 lbs. You have to have defensive driving skills.

Q. How has the job evolved since you started?

A. Most of the tracking information was written out by hand on paper forms. Now it is all computerized and packages are delivered and scanned using a hand-held DIAD (delivery information access device) board. All the dispatching of packages, tracking of packages and scheduling and routing of drivers is done by computer. In addition, when I started over 30 years ago, there were very few women employed. Currently, UPS, a world-wide delivery system, employs many female workers in a variety of capacities.

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. The best part of my job is the mobility and flexibility during the day. I am outside, working on my own. I am not confined to an office. In addition, I meet a lot of great people on my routes.

Q. Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

A. You must be willing to work hard. This job entails being physically fit and active the whole day. You have to be able to tolerate ALL weather conditions – rain, snow, sleet or extreme heat. You work until you are done – some days it is 8 hours, other days 12 hours. But at the end of the day, it is fulfilling to know that you have done a good job.



Sources: Occupational Information Network, O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>; *U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>