



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

**Career Cluster: Transportation,
Distribution & Logistics**



Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers

Standard Occupational Code 53-3032

What They Do

Transport goods from one location to another. More commonly called semi drivers, these long-haul drivers operate trucks that exceed 26,000 pounds including the vehicle, passengers and cargo. These drivers deliver goods over routes between cities, sometimes spanning several states.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Support — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

Independence — Work on their own and make decisions.

Working Conditions — Job security and good working conditions.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Control Precision
- Far Vision
- Multilimb Coordination
- Near Vision
- Reaction Time
- Response Orientation
- Depth Perception
- Rate Control

Basic Skills You Need

- Operation and Control
- Operations Monitoring
- Time Management
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring
- Reading Comprehension
- Speaking
- Troubleshooting

Education & Training

Some type of postsecondary education or training program in truck driving is recommended in South Dakota. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is required for heavy truck drivers in South Dakota. For more information, visit the Department of Public Safety website at <https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/commercial-drivers-license>.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers are:

- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Self Employment
- Waste Management and Remediation Service
- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
7,700	8,392	692	9.0%	945	\$47,753	\$47,642

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

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