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## 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	\$49,290	\$52,070

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

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

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