



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Supply Chain & Transportation



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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Cautiousness — A tendency to be careful, deliberate, and risk-avoidant when making work-related decisions or doing work.

Attention to Detail — A tendency to be detail-oriented, organized, and thorough in completing work.

Dependability — A tendency to be reliable, responsible, and consistent in meeting work-related obligations.

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

- Far Vision
- Control Precision
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Rate Control
- Response Orientation
- Spatial Orientation

Work Activities

- Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Getting Information

Education & Training

Some type of postsecondary education or training program in truck driving is recommended in South Dakota. A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

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:

- Truck Transportation
- Self Employment
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
6,848	7,507	659	9.6%	786	\$58,690	\$58,550

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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