



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Supply Chain & Transportation



Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators

Standard Occupational Code 53-7051

What They Do

Operate industrial trucks or tractors (such as forklifts) equipped to move materials around a warehouse, storage yard, factory, construction site, or similar location.

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.

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.

- Control Precision
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Far Vision
- Response Orientation
- Manual Dexterity
- Rate Control
- Depth Perception
- Problem Sensitivity

Work Activities

- Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Handling and Moving Objects
- Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events
- Performing General Physical Activities
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems

Education & Training

Industrial truck and tractor operator positions generally require a high school diploma or an equivalent. In many cases, training is done on the job, including safety procedures and guidelines. 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.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	3
Graphic Literacy	3

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of industrial truck and tractor operators are:

- Food Manufacturing
- Warehousing and Storage
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods
- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,418	1,579	161	11.4%	158	\$47,410	\$48,730

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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Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

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