

Can You Really Make up to \$100,000 per Year as a Truck Driver?

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By John Kaufman

You've heard about the money to be made by becoming a truck driver. And stop at any truck stop and you'll notice that there are countless trucking job magazines filled with advertisements from trucking companies looking for truck drivers. Many companies are advertising the possibility of making up to \$100,000 per year as an owner operator.

It's true, that you can make a very good living with a trucking job. Why is this? For starters, there is a growing shortage of truck drivers in the USA. With the growth of shipments of goods from overseas, there is an added demand to get these goods to and from ports. This also creates a higher demand for efficiency in domestic manufacturers to get goods shipped to their customers more quickly. There is also a decline in the number of people that are entering the trucking field due to school curriculums pushing college as the only way to secure a good job. This has created an environment in which you can make a very good living in a job that you'll enjoy.

Driving a truck for a living is a very different lifestyle than an office or factory job. You will be able to travel as much or as little as you like depending on the job you select. You are responsible for your keeping your own schedule, and records, and with many companies you can take your spouse, or even your dog on the road with you. That's the reason that many people opt for trucking as their preferred method of making a living.

There are three major distinctions in the types of trucking jobs that are available.

1 – Owner Operators: An owner operator is a trucker that owns or leases his own tractor (semi truck) and is paid to haul goods for a single company that he is contracted to for a set amount per mile. This is typically the highest paying and most popular type of truck driving job because the driver will be building equity in his own truck, and has some control over the profits he or she can make. An owner operator is usually responsible for paying some or all of his fuel, and repair expenses for his truck.

2 – Company Drivers: A company driver is a trucker that is an employee of the trucking company that he drives for. A company driver may be paid by the hour, a flat rate per week, or by the mile, but will generally not have the same level of control over his income that an owner operator has, however, he

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is usually not responsible for purchasing or repairing his own truck.

3 – Independent Truckers: An independent trucker owns his own truck and hauls only the loads that he finds for himself, typically using websites like

<http://FindAHauler.com>

where he can search and bid on

loads himself. He is generally not contracted to any particular company, and has all of the risks and responsibilities of running a trucking company himself, while driving a truck. Many truckers prefer the Owner Operator role in order to have a steady supply of loads, and the corporate support from their contracted trucking company.

What will you need to get started?

The most important thing you'll need is a CDL (Commercial Drivers License) which will be granted by the state and give you the right to operate a commercial semi truck. Standards for a CDL are set by the federal government, but are issued by your state license bureau. The CDL exam consists of a written

as well as a skill component just like your regular driving exam. Most truckers attend a truck driving school where they will receive training on how to drive a Semi, as well as training on the written portion of the exam. Typically upon your completion of the driving school, you will be able to get your CDL. Many trucking companies run their own training programs for prospective drivers, so you may be able to complete your job search and then get some on the job training instead.

Searching for a Trucking Job:

There are several steps you can take when looking for a truck driving job. You can rely on your driving school to place you in a trucking job, however, finding your own job will give you the greatest choice of schedule, territory, and pay. To search for a trucking job, you may go to truck stops, and pick up a trucking magazine, there will be many advertisements there by companies looking for drivers. You may call some local trucking companies in your area, or you may wish to search for a truck driving job on the internet.

The internet has emerged as one of the best ways to look for a trucking job. There are websites such as

<http://www.findowneroperators.com>

that specialize in placing truckers with trucking companies.

Here a prospective trucker can search through currently available jobs, by type, location, and more.

Trucking can be a very rewarding career choice, both financially and emotionally. Having the freedom

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to travel the country, while making more money than you could with most college degrees has made truck driving a very hot career choice for the new millenium.

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<http://FindOwnerOperators.com>

Trucking Jobs for Owner Operators and Company Drivers

Why Become A Truck Driver?

By Joe Regan

There are a great number of good reasons for someone to become a truck driver. First and foremost among those reasons would be the great pay. Did you realize that most truckers, their first year out on the road, earn an average of \$35,000 a year? And, that after just a few years out, those same truckers are making an average of \$45,000–\$50,000 annually? And finally, veteran drivers who own their own trucks make average salaries that are over \$100,000 a year. What other profession can you get into, where the pay is that good?

One other great reason to get into trucking..... is the chance to see some of this great country of ours. How many states have you been to? Are you one of those people who haven't been to very many places? Well, get into trucking and you will have the opportunity to explore America. See why most people consider this to be not only the greatest country in the world, but also the most beautiful one as well. What other country has sights like The Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, the Great Smoky Mountains, the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, New England in the fall, and so much more? Want to explore America? Become a trucker.

One other great thing about being a trucker is the camaraderie that you feel with your fellow truckers. It's a special bond, much like the bond that people who are in the military feel. You and your fellow truckers know that you are doing a job that is vital, Vital for the country. For without trucking, we would be in a heap of trouble. Do you have any idea how many products that you use, that are delivered by truck? The percentage of products delivered by truck is around 78%. So think about something that you use (car; food; pharmaceuticals; etc.) and there's a really good chance that it got to you, by truck.

Trucking is not an easy job. I won't try to make it seem like it is. For one thing, you're away from home a lot. But even that, you do have some control over. For example, if you're the type who likes to be home quite a bit, there are truck driving jobs where the drivers are home every weekend, and in some cases, there are trucking jobs where the drivers are home every night. It must be noted though, that some of those jobs don't pay as well as the long haul jobs do.

Is trucking for you? Only you can decide that. If you think that it is for you, the first step is to enter a truck driving school. There are great schools located in every region of this country.

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Joe Regan

Find a Truck Driving School near you.

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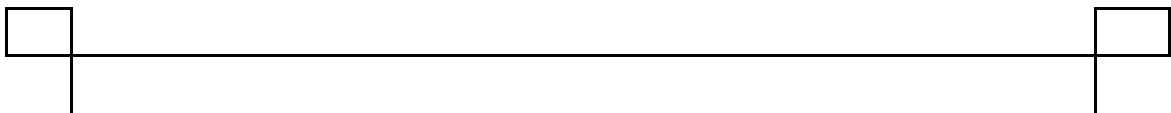
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