

CTE: THE KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation, distribution and logistics:

Account for **9.4%** of U.S. GDP¹

Employ **14.8 million** people²

Move **51 million** tons of goods daily³

What is the pathway to these fulfilling and essential careers?

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Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

The transportation, distribution and logistics (TDL) sector:

- moves people and products around the nation and the world
- is the foundation of the U.S. consumer economy
- includes air, freight rail, maritime, truck and public transport; maintenance of vehicles, public highways, rail systems, bridges, seaports and airports; postal, sightseeing and courier services; warehousing; and logistics and supply chain management

What jobs are available in TDL?

Transportation, warehousing and related sectors have long been critical to helping businesses operate, maintaining the supply chain and delivering products to consumers. The COVID-19 pandemic only highlighted the importance of these sectors, which employ nearly 15 million people—9.8% of the labor force.⁴ While TDL providers are increasingly exploring new technologies such as machine learning and drones to speed delivery and improve the supply chain, many occupations are still in demand: Almost 500,000 jobs will be created within transportation and material moving this decade.⁵ The fastest-growing occupations through 2028 include flight attendants, recreational vehicle service technicians and motorcycle mechanics. Despite developments in autonomous or self-driving vehicles, demand will be particularly strong through 2028 for jobs driving and operating vehicles: These occupations are expected to grow by 19.5%.⁶ Opportunities are also expanding in clean vehicle markets.⁷

Jobs in TDL can provide family-sustaining wages for those with a high school diploma as well as middle-skill workers with credentials below the bachelor's degree level. Individuals with these qualifications can earn above the U.S. median annual wage in occupations such as flight attendants, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and maritime positions like ship engineers and operators.⁸ For instance, transportation, storage and distribution managers earn more than \$96,000, on average, while aircraft technicians make almost \$67,000 and diesel service technicians earn about \$50,000 per year.⁹

Careers in this sector increasingly require at least some postsecondary education. Licenses and industry-recognized certifications are also an asset to many employees, including National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence certifications; credentials offered by automotive manufacturers such as Ford, Toyota and others; credentials offered through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Safety Institute; commercial driver's licenses; and Federal Aviation Administration licenses and certificates. Education and credentials prepare individuals in TDL occupations with technical, academic and employability skills in order to perform tasks such as inspecting, maintaining and repairing vehicles and transit routes; managing supply chains; and delivering goods. Here is a small sampling of jobs in this sector:

- subway train operators
- transportation inspectors
- logistics technicians
- water transportation operators
- automotive technicians
- signal and track switch repairers
- warehouse managers
- air traffic controllers

