

This area of work accounts for nearly 6 out of 10 jobs in the industry

Vehicle Operations



Public Transportation occupations

Bus Operations

Bus Operator

With the most visible job in Public Transportation, Bus Operators do more than drive. They ensure passenger safety, keep to route schedules, communicate with dispatchers and customers, and perform other duties such as running special trips, helping disabled riders, loading baggage, and collecting fares.

- ★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
- 💰 \$-\$
- 👤 Bus Driver, Motor Coach Operator

Bus Dispatcher

These workers keep buses and bus drivers moving. They make driver and bus assignments and communicate with drivers on the road through a growing array of technologies. They also communicate with maintenance regarding equipment. When buses return, dispatchers check them in and handle trip record keeping. This fast-paced job requires workers who can work well under pressure.

- ★ High school diploma or GED, bus operator experience preferred
- 💰 \$-\$
- 👤 Dispatcher

Bus Traffic Controller

Bus Traffic Controllers oversee bus operators, inspect buses, conduct investigations, and respond to vehicle emergencies. They manage and document accidents in the field, and coordinate with maintenance staff, as needed. Some also monitor bus activity via Automated Vehicle Locating Systems. They may have responsibility for tracking the performance of a subset of operators and communicating with them at scheduled intervals.

- ★ High school diploma or GED and two to five years of experience, supervisory courses preferred, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
- 💰 \$\$-\$\$\$\$
- 👤 Field Supervisor

Bus Operations Manager

These workers oversee the bus operations area and dispatchers and interact with higher-level management to ensure smooth operations. They also oversee budgets and hiring, coordinate policies with agency standards, and develop cost containment procedures. This position usually deals with issues requiring disciplinary action.

- ★ High school diploma or GED and five to seven years of experience
- 💰 \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
- 👤 Manager of Operations Department

Bus Operations Superintendent

Superintendents serve as liaisons between direct hiring managers and division and department leadership. They develop and implement policies and manage day-to-day operations within the bus operations division.

- ★ High school diploma or GED and two to four years of experience, BA preferred
- 💰 \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
- 👤 Supervising Manager

Rail Operations

Rail Yard Engineer/Switch Operator

These workers ensure that rail cars are moved efficiently into, out of, and around the rail yard. Switch Operators operate railroad switches in the yard, while Rail Yard Engineers remotely operate trains to reposition them in the yard.

- ★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
- 💰 \$

Conductor/Yardmaster

Conductors coordinate train crew activities on commuter trains, make announcements, interact with passengers, collect tickets and fares, and issue citations to those without fare. They also often perform Yardmaster duties, moving trains in the train yards and coordinating crews that handle car switches and repairs. Work occurs in shifts, including early morning, late night, and weekend schedules.

- ★ High school diploma or GED, future requirements may include passing a license exam, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
- 💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

Locomotive Engineer

Locomotive Engineers drive trains that are powered by diesel-electric locomotives, though some run on other power sources, including green sources such as biodiesel. They check train equipment and monitor gauges to ensure safe and efficient operation.

- ★ High school diploma or GED and related railroad experience preferred, must pass engineer license exam
- 💰 \$\$-\$\$\$\$
- 👤 Commuter Train Operator

GET moving

SALARY LEGEND:

Below \$30,000 = \$
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SYMBOL LEGEND:

★ Qualifications
💰 Salary Range
👤 Alternate Titles

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Public Transportation occupations

- Heavy Rail/Subway Operator**
 Heavy Rail and Subway Operators operate rail cars on a fixed rail system with frequent stops. Often automated by computers, subway trains are in some ways less involved than locomotives. However, operators of these vehicles must complete extensive training, often work independently, and be alert to track signals, potential maintenance problems, and obstacles on the track. They must communicate with supervisors and dispatchers, and make announcements.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
- Light Rail/Streetcar Operator**
 Operators of these vehicles often work alone and must be alert to track signals, potential maintenance problems, and obstacles on the track. They must make announcements, operate doors, and communicate with dispatchers and supervisors. Light Rail/Streetcar Operators operate in mixed traffic and must be alert for other vehicles and pedestrians as well.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
- Train Dispatcher**
 Train Dispatchers ensure trains arrive safely and on time. Scheduling and monitoring the movements of the train, Dispatchers control train traffic and communicate routine and emergency information to train operators and engineers.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, experience as a train operator is helpful
 - 💰 \$-\$
 - 👤 Dispatcher
- Station Manager**
 These experienced Public Transportation workers ensure the safe and efficient operations of train stations in collaboration with agency staff, customers, and public safety personnel.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED and five to eight years of experience or a BA/BS and experience, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
 - 👤 Station Operator
- Rail Operations Superintendent**
 Superintendents serve as liaisons between direct hiring managers and division and department leadership. They develop and implement policies and manage day-to-day operations within the rail operations division.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED and two to four years of managerial experience plus five to eight years of experience, BA preferred, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
 - 👤 Station Operator, Supervising Manager
- Demand Response Paratransit Operations**
- Paratransit Vehicle Operator**
 Paratransit vehicles can be minibuses, vans, or other smaller vehicles. In addition to driving such vehicles, Paratransit Vehicle Operators generally provide more assistance to passengers, many of whom have a disability, than regular Bus Operators. They may need to operate wheelchair lifts and other specialized equipment.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$-\$
 - 👤 Paratransit Driver
- Paratransit Scheduler**
 Paratransit Schedulers have a complex job. They must schedule customized pickups of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other passengers; plan and schedule driver routes; and communicate with drivers. These workers use specialized scheduling software, ensure adherence to ADA regulations, and use various communications technologies.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, AA degree preferred
 - 💰 \$-\$
 - 👤 Dispatcher
- Travel Training Specialist**
 Travel Training Specialists ensure riders qualify for paratransit services, assess their ability to use Public Transportation, and develop transportation plans for qualified paratransit users. These Specialists may also provide training to paratransit users to help them know how to use the Public Transportation system safely.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, AA degree preferred, valid driver's license, CDL preferred
 - 💰 \$-\$
 - 👤 Assessment Specialist
- Paratransit Manager**
 Paratransit Managers oversee paratransit operations, to ensure safe and efficient service. Responsibilities include scheduling, training, and monitoring paratransit staff.

 - ★ High school diploma or GED, BA degree preferred, three to five years of experience
 - 💰 \$\$\$\$
 - 👤 Paratransit Director

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Ferry Operations

Able-Bodied Seaman

Able-Bodied Seamen report to the Mate or the Captain and are the highest-ranking unlicensed worker. They carry out docking procedures, complete minor repairs, and may watch for obstacles in the path of the vessel.

★ High school diploma or GED preferred, U.S. Coast Guard certificate, Z-card, MMD, or STCW 95

💰 \$-\$\$\$

👤 Boatswain, Quartermaster

Mate

Mates assist with navigation of the vessel and with operations on the deck, including docking of the vessel. There can be up to four levels of mates on a ship, each with successive levels of responsibility. First Mate is the senior mate on a ship and reports directly to the Captain.

★ High school diploma or GED preferred, U.S. Coast Guard License, Z-card, MMD, or STCW 95, experience required

💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

👤 Fourth Mate, Third Mate, Second Mate, First Mate, Assistant Captain

Ferry Captain

Ferry Captains command vessels large and small to carry passengers and/or vehicles across waterways. They also oversee a crew of deckhands, seamen, and others.

★ High school diploma or GED, U.S. Coast Guard License with first-class pilot endorsement, STCW 95 (varies), experience preferred, TWIC card, GMDSS, MMD

💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

👤 Ship Captain

Other Vehicle Operations

Other Motor Vehicle Operator

Some Public Transportation agencies need workers to operate vehicles such as road-based trolleys, taxis, incline vehicles, or other less commonly used vehicles. Training is generally provided and job duties are similar to Light Rail and Subway (Heavy Rail) Operators or Bus Operators.

★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, CDL preferred

💰 \$-\$\$\$

👤 Trolley Bus Operator, Taxi Driver, Shuttle Driver

Other Water Vessel Operator

Besides ferries, which operate with a fairly large crew, some agencies operate shore boats or small craft water taxi services. Small watercraft operators generally work alone on the vessel, or with a deckhand or two, but may be supported by dispatchers, ticket sales workers, and other workers stationed in a central office on land.

★ High school diploma or GED, U.S. Coast Guard certificate, Z-card, MMD, or STCW 95, TWIC card

💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

👤 Water Taxi Operator, Seaman

Security & Police

Security Guard

Security Guards patrol, secure, or monitor Public Transportation buildings to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules. Guards usually work shifts of eight hours or longer and are often on call in case of emergency.

★ High school diploma or GED, no criminal record

💰 \$-\$\$\$\$

👤 Security Officer, Public Safety Officer

Police Officer

Police Officers patrol Public Transportation facilities, investigate suspicious activities, intervene to stop criminal acts, inspect baggage or cargo, enforce fare collection, and screen passengers to detect and prevent potentially dangerous objects from being transported into agency facilities or vehicles. Public Transportation Police may work with trained dogs or have special anti-terrorism training.

★ High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, and firearm qualified

💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

👤 Transit Police Officer

Lieutenant

Lieutenants report to higher-level police administrators and are tasked as zone commanders, watch commanders, or commanding officers of a specific unit. They manage the unit's activities and provide support to other departments, as needed.

★ BA degree, MA preferred, five to eight years of experience, valid driver's license, and firearm qualified

💰 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$

Security Manager

Security Managers supervise security and police personnel. These security professionals may manage multiple locations simultaneously, including off-site locations. They also manage communications with local law enforcement agencies.

★ BA with 6 to 10 years of experience in security management, valid driver's license

💰 \$\$\$\$\$

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- **Police Chief**
Police Chiefs are responsible for managing the agency police force; developing and implementing policy; and developing and maintaining budgets, strategic plans, and emergency management protocols. They communicate with Lieutenants to review and monitor departmental performance, manage community and passenger relations and any complaints, and provide guidance and leadership.
 - ★ BA degree, MA preferred, 8 to 10 or more years of experience, valid driver's license, and firearm qualified

💰 \$\$\$\$\$

- **Technical Operations Training**

- **Technical Operations Trainer**
These workers provide hands-on technical and safety training to Vehicle Operators and other frontline workers in Vehicle Operations. They train workers on company policies and applicable regulations, as well as demonstrate and evaluate operators' skills and qualifications for promotion.

- ★ High school diploma or GED, BA degree preferred, 10 years operator experience preferred, valid driver's license

💰 \$\$-\$\$\$\$

👤 Training or Safety Specialist

- **Technical Training Supervisor**
These workers plan, direct, and coordinate training and evaluation activities in Vehicle Operations. They supervise Technical Trainers, research new training materials, and interact with management staff to understand agency priorities and to communicate on Vehicle Operations training activities.

- ★ BA degree preferred, three to five years of technical training experience in Public Transportation, valid driver's license

💰 \$\$-\$\$\$\$

👤 Training Supervisor

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