

Everything You Need to Know To Become An Over The Road Driver



So you want to be a truck driver...Read this first.:
Everything you need to know to become an over the road driver. by Jason Hogan

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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If you're thinking about a career change and a life on the open road, becoming an over-the-road (OTR) driver could be the perfect fit for you. OTR drivers haul freight across the country, delivering everything from food and clothing to cars and machinery. It's a challenging and rewarding career that offers good pay, benefits, and the chance to see the country.

What Does an OTR Driver Do?

OTR drivers are responsible for safely and efficiently transporting goods from one location to another. They typically drive large semi-trucks that can haul up to 80,000 pounds of cargo. OTR drivers may work for a variety of companies, including trucking companies, shipping companies, and manufacturers.

The job of an OTR driver can be demanding, but it also offers a great deal of freedom and flexibility. OTR drivers are able to set their own schedules and work as much or as little as they want. They also have the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country and see new things.

How to Become an OTR Driver

To become an OTR driver, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Have a valid driver's license
- Pass a physical exam
- Obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL)

You can obtain your CDL by taking a course at a truck driving school. CDL courses typically take 4-8 weeks to complete. Once you have your CDL, you can start applying for OTR driving jobs.

What are the Benefits of Being an OTR Driver?

There are many benefits to being an OTR driver, including:

- **Good pay:** OTR drivers can earn good wages, especially if they are willing to work long hours.
- **Benefits:** Many OTR trucking companies offer benefits such as health insurance, dental insurance, and vision insurance.
- **Flexibility:** OTR drivers can set their own schedules and work as much or as little as they want.

- Travel: OTR drivers have the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country and see new things.

What are the Challenges of Being an OTR Driver?

There are also some challenges associated with being an OTR driver, including:

- Long hours: OTR drivers often work long hours, including nights and weekends.
- Time away from home: OTR drivers are often away from home for extended periods of time.
- Physical demands: OTR driving can be physically demanding, especially if you are hauling heavy loads.
- Stress: OTR driving can be stressful, especially when you are dealing with tight deadlines or bad weather.

Is Being an OTR Driver Right for You?

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career that offers good pay, benefits, and the chance to see the country, then being an OTR driver could be the perfect fit for you. However, it is important to be aware of the challenges associated with the job before you make a decision.

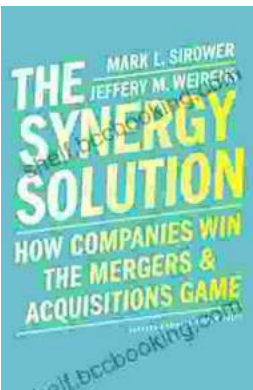
If you are interested in becoming an OTR driver, I encourage you to do your research and talk to other drivers to learn more about the job. You can also visit the website of the American Trucking Associations (ATA) for more information.



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