

## Train Driver

### What is it?

A Train Driver operates trains, transporting passengers and freight safely and efficiently from one destination to another. They are responsible for ensuring the train runs on time, following safety protocols, and managing the train's controls, such as speed, brakes, and signals. The role involves long hours, attention to detail, and an understanding of railway safety.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

Typically, a minimum of GCSEs (or equivalent) in Maths and English is required.

Some train companies require applicants to have passed an advanced apprenticeship or trainee train driver program. Driver training is provided once employed by a train company, including classroom-based learning and practical driving experience. Many drivers start as conductor or station staff or through the Train Driver Apprenticeship scheme.

### What the Work Involves:

Operating trains, ensuring safety, and adhering to timetable schedules. Checking the train before departure for safety, operational issues, and proper loading of passengers or freight. Monitoring signals, track conditions, and train systems throughout the journey. Responding to emergencies or irregularities, including reporting malfunctions or accidents. Collaborating with other railway staff, including station staff, signallers, and engineers. Managing the communication with passengers or control centres.

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Train drivers are in demand in the UK. Career progression may include moving into supervisory roles, becoming a trainer or instructor, or transitioning to higher-level operational roles. Future developments in the rail industry, such as high-speed rail projects or electric trains, may increase job opportunities.

**Annual Salary £22,000 - £60,000**

**Typical weekly hours: 35 hours – you are expected to work holiday periods and weekends**

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Enjoy working independently and have a keen interest in transport and engineering. Have strong attention to detail and can work under pressure. Are able to handle responsibility and work with high safety standards. Enjoy routine work but are flexible enough to manage irregular hours. Have good problem-solving skills and can remain calm in emergencies.

### Money/Wage Guide:

**Starting salaries** range £22,000 to £30,000 per year

**Experienced Train Drivers** can earn between £35,000 and £50,000.

**Senior or specialist roles** may earn over £60,000

### Related Opportunities:

- Conductor/Train Guard
- Signaller
- Station Manager
- Railway Engineer

### Further Information:

**Railway Training partnership**

<https://www.railwaytp.com/>

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