

# Transport & Logistics



**OVER  
90,000  
WORK IN THE COURIER  
INDUSTRY (5% OF  
THE UK LOGISTICS  
WORKFORCE)**

**5,600  
STORAGE &  
WAREHOUSING  
WORKPLACES IN THE  
UK**

**41%  
OF THE WORKFORCE  
IS UNDER 35 YRS  
OLD**

Imagine sending a letter to the USA; what happens after you pop it in the post box? That letter could travel by rail, sea, road or air – or all of them! Transport and logistics is all about the movement of goods and people from one place to another. The man who delivers your mail in the morning isn't just a postman, he's a logistics technician. His work involves planning, organising, troubleshooting, communicating and management. Whether it's somebody's order from eBay, a freighter full of oil or a plane full of passengers, the process of transporting goods and people is much more complex than what we see as customers.

## You ask us...

### WHAT'S THE TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

With more transactions taking place online, retailers are relying more on logistics companies to deliver the products to the customers, instead of the customer having to come and collect it (in fact, we can buy just about everything we need without leaving our homes! However, the process of delivering that product involves packaging, storing, sorting, loading, transport, unloading, filing, recording and a whole host of jobs that you wouldn't even think of!

### WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

There's a large range of salaries in this sector; you can progress quickly if you can move into a management or supervisory role. A starting salary is usually between **£10,000** and **£17,500**, but you'll find progression just as easy in smaller companies as you would in larger, better known ones, such as Network Rail or Royal Mail.

### WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

Because this industry involves transporting goods and people, you could be in a variety of different locations. The first thing to consider is how the transportation is going to take place; it could be by road, rail, sea or air. Storage, packaging and sorting takes place in a warehouse, which could be at a business park if the delivery is by road, a port if it's by the sea or an airport/airstrip if it's by air. If you're working as part of a passenger transport company, you could find yourself working on a train, plane or even a ferry to different countries!

### HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

The logistics sector currently employs over **2.3 million** people across the UK, contributing **£96 billion** to our economy. This makes it the **5th largest** sector in the UK. Because logistics is relied so heavily upon by other sectors, there's an ever increasing demand for skilled workers – by 2020 **900,000** new starters will be needed.

### WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

Again, this depends on which part of the industry you work in. Transport by air will probably see you based at a major airport, many of which are found in the London area. Marine based logistics will see you based at a port, such as Southampton, Portsmouth, Liverpool or Dover. Land based logistics companies are scattered across the country, but you'll tend to find them closer to major motorways such as the M1 and the M25 because it's quicker to get the goods out across the country. Many logistics companies are international, so there's a range of opportunities and travel to work abroad.



## Careers Choices

It's probably fair to say that logistics is one of the most important sectors in the country; without it business couldn't get their products out to their customers, clients couldn't travel to important meetings and the country as a whole wouldn't function. Everything from rail networks and delivery companies to commercial airlines are covered in this sector, so if you want to a career that's going places, look no further!

### RAIL SERVICES & OPERATIONS

Rail Services covers passenger and freight transport, as well as the maintenance of the tracks they run on. Trains can carry any number of things, from people to plutonium and running the network so that the two don't collide is a difficult task. You could be working on the trains themselves, or repairing the tracks and signals that they rely on. Starters in this line of work can expect to start out on around **£13,000** for passenger rail services, while you can expect to start on between **£10,000** and **£14,000** in rail freight job roles. With advancement in both industries you could be on double that in no time.

### PASSENGER SERVICES

We probably take public transport for granted, but without it millions wouldn't be able to get around. Driving buses and coaches isn't easy; it takes plenty of training to be able to manoeuvre a vehicle of that size. It's certainly a job that gets you satisfaction and if you're a people person, then you'll really enjoy it! Starting salaries are usually around the **£13,000** mark, but overtime or extra shifts will give you more.

### WAREHOUSE & STORAGE

When you order something off the internet, chances are it's coming from a warehouse somewhere in the world. Warehouses are used to store goods before they are shipped out to customers. They're found all over the place, but mostly near areas that have access to various forms of transport, such as ports, motorways and airports. The staff in warehouses require training to use machinery, such as forklifts, and there are also admin and management roles available. Starting salaries are usually around **£10,000** to **£14,000** for floor staff, but with training and experience can expect to earn well over **£20,000**.

### GOODS TRANSPORTATION

We've all seen lorries on the motorway, probably without giving much thought as to what they're carrying. Drivers travel all over the country delivering loads and carrying products from one area to another and if you're a fan of travelling you'll really get a kick out of this career. You could also find yourself behind the wheel of a van, or delivering by bike or motorcycle. If you're in a truck, there's also a strong possibility that you'll have to drive to somewhere in Europe, such as Holland, Belgium and

France, as the UK relies on international logistics to import its goods from elsewhere. You can expect to earn around **£11,000** when starting out, but the salary for a fully qualified HGV tanker driver is **£35,000**.

### MAIL SERVICES

This isn't just being a postman (sorry, logistics technician). While the delivery of products is an important part of this industry, it's not the only part. Mail has to be sorted, processed, and security checked before it is delivered and there are job roles from the sorting floor to right up to your front door (see what I did there?!). Salaries usually start out between **£10,000** and **£15,000**, but jobs in the sorting office tend to offer a little bit more (around **£14,000** to **£15,500**) and have better prospects for advancements.

### AIR FREIGHT & TRANSPORT

Everybody always thinks of pilots when they think of airlines, but cabin crews are just one cog in the smoothly oiled machine that is an airline company. Ground support staff, baggage handlers, air traffic controllers and customer service staff all work in unison to make sure passengers (and their luggage!) get to their destination on time safely. Moving freight by air is also a huge part of logistics, especially for high value goods

such as fine art, machinery or even animals! Salaries start out between **£10,000** and **£15,000**, rising to between **£15,000** and **£24,000** when you're fully qualified.

### SEA FREIGHT & TRANSPORT

As well as air, road and rail, goods can be moved by sea, both across the UK and around the world. People working in these industries will work closely with port authorities to make sure the valuable loads keep moving and arrive on time. You could work as a crane operator moving heavy containers or as a port operative helping with the movement of passengers and cargo. Salaries start at around **£12,000**, but experienced operatives can earn in excess of **£20,000** a year.

### REMOVALS & MOVING HOUSE

When the time comes to make a big move, you'll be hard pressed to get everything in the back of a Ford Fiesta. This is why we have the removals service, who load up our possessions carefully and transport them to a new location. Salaries usually start out around the **£12,000** mark, but increases with experience.

## Where to begin

### APPRENTICESHIPS

If you are 16 or over then you can enter an Apprenticeship, which would teach you the skills that you need while you work, you'll also earn a salary. On your Apprenticeship, your time will be split between doing the job and learning in the classroom. Listed below are the Apprenticeship frameworks for this sector, which when completed will give you a Level 2 qualification in the form of a BTEC, Diploma or NVQ:

**International Trade and Logistics Operations • Warehousing and Storage • Logistics Operations • Rail Services • Rail Engineering (Track) • Rail Infrastructure Engineering • Driving Goods Vehicles • Bus and Coach Engineering and Maintenance • Commercial Moving • Mail and Package Distribution • Port Operations • Traffic Office**

### ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

These are equivalent to A-Levels and can usually be joined after you complete the associated Intermediate Apprenticeship. Advanced Apprenticeships are perfect for those who want a practical role as they learn while gaining relevant employment experience. People with Advanced Apprenticeships often progress up the career ladder faster than those without, because the skills that they learn are more suited to management or supervisory roles. Here are some of the Apprenticeship Frameworks for this sector, completing any of these will result in a Level 3 qualification such as a BTEC, NVQ or Diploma.

**Warehousing and Storage**  
• Logistics Operations  
• Rail Services • Driving Goods Vehicles • Bus and Coach Engineering and Maintenance • Rail Traction and Rolling Stock  
• Purchasing and Supply Management

### A-LEVELS

A-Levels are the most popular route into University and are sought after by most employers. The following A-levels provide a great path into this sector:

**English Language • Maths • IT • Geography • Business Studies • Foreign Languages • Chemistry • Physics • Technology**

### FOUNDATION DEGREES

A foundation degree combines the University lifestyle with practical, hands on work. It's basically a cross between an Apprenticeship and an Honours Degree. They are both used as gateway qualifications to a full time Degree because they count towards the first two years of your Honours Degree. Foundation Degrees normally take about two years to complete and you will be in both the work place and on the university site. There are some very specialized degrees available, such as **Air Transport Management**.

### COLLEGE COURSES

A College course is another good way to get into the Transport and Logistics sector. To find out more about these courses, have a look at [www.careersworld.co.uk](http://www.careersworld.co.uk). **CW**