

Job of The Week

Train Driver

Key Skills

- concentration skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to operate and control equipment
- knowledge of public safety and security
- observation and recording skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- the ability to work well with others and on your own

Salary

£24,000 - £65,000

Working hours

35-40 per week
evenings / weekends / shifts/
bank holidays

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Train Driver

Direct Application

You can apply directly to a train operating company to become a trainee driver.

Employers usually expect you to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths, or equivalent qualifications.

Training can last between 12 and 24 months.

Restrictions and Requirements

You'll need to:

- be over 20 years of age
- live within 1 hour's travel of the depot you're applying to
- pass enhanced background checks
- pass a medical check

Apprenticeship

You can apply to a train operating company and begin a train driver advanced apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need GCSEs grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, in English and Maths

Work

You can start as a rail passenger assistant or train conductor, then apply for a trainee driver post. This is also a common way to become a London Underground driver.

Career path and progression

Once you're qualified, you could work on passenger, freight or engineering trains. With experience, you could combine your job with instructing trainee drivers, who are learning new routes and cab controls. You could also become a driver trainer, teaching new starters in the classroom, working with driver simulators and accompanying trainees on journeys. You could move into management, supervising drivers and making sure trains and crew are where they need to be on the rail network. Operations management is another possibility, planning future rail developments.



Day to Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- control automatic doors
- make passenger announcements
- check controls and equipment before a journey
- drive the train between stations or freight depots
- leave platforms and pull into stations safely
- speak with control centres along the route about any issues
- follow track signalling, safety and speed instructions
- position and hand over engines to drivers on the next shift
- record incidents like equipment problems, onboard issues or delays

Working conditions

Your working environment may be noisy and you may spend nights away from home.

You may need to wear a uniform.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Train and tram drivers	
Weekly Pay £1,190	Annual Pay £61,880
Hours/Week 39h	Hourly Pay £31
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.2%	Replacement 69.1%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.2% over the period to 2027, creating 0 jobs. In the same period, 69.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 17,400 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Land transport, etc Warehousing, etc</p>	
More info	Clear card

Rail transport operatives	
Weekly Pay £990	Annual Pay £51,480
Hours/Week 44h	Hourly Pay £23
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.2%	Replacement 69.1%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.2% over the period to 2027, creating 0 jobs. In the same period, 69.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 10,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Warehousing, etc Land transport, etc Repair & installation</p>	
More info	Clear card

Rail construction and maintenance operatives	
Weekly Pay £760	Annual Pay £39,520
Hours/Week 47h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -5.8%	Replacement 59.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -5.8% over the period to 2027, losing 600 jobs. In the same period, 59.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 6,000 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Land transport, etc Warehousing, etc Repair & installation Civil engineering</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information

Train and tram drivers

Job holders in this unit group drive diesel, diesel-electric, electric and steam locomotives that transport passengers and goods on surface and underground railways, and transport passengers in trams.

Common tasks in this job:

- checks controls, gauges, brakes and lights before start of journey and studies route, timetable and track information;
- checks safety equipment, regulates the heating of passenger compartments and records engine defects or unusual incidents on the journey;
- starts train or tram when directed and operates controls to regulate speed;
- watches for track hazards, observes signals and temperature, pressure and other gauges;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

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Rail construction and maintenance operatives

Rail construction and maintenance operatives lay, re-lay, repair and examine railway track and maintain surrounding areas.

Common tasks in this job:

- patrols length of track and visually inspects rails, bolts, fishplates and chairs for distortion or fracture;
- checks tightness of bolts and wedges, replaces damaged rail chairs and repacks ballast under sleepers if necessary;
- lubricates points, examines fences, drains, culverts and embankments and carries out any necessary maintenance;
- spreads ballast and lays sleepers or metal plates at specified intervals;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Rail transport operatives

Rail transport operatives assist drivers in the operation of passenger and goods trains, drive locomotive engines in coal mines, guide wagons and coaches in marshalling yards and sidings to make up trains, operate signals and points to control the movement of rail traffic, and monitor the operation of surface and underground railways.

Common tasks in this job:

- provides crews for breakdown trains, allocates relief and replacement crews as necessary, keeps crews informed of any line repairs or restrictions, and checks train running times for punctuality;
- examines schedules and decides priority of movement of trains, monitors movement of trains and issues instructions to drivers, signal operatives and level crossing keepers;
- operates signals and opens and closes barriers at level crossings as required;
- examines shunting instructions, uncouples wagons and coaches, guides movement of carriages using manual points and wagon breaks, links-up carriages, ensures security of couplings and reconnects brake and heating systems;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Become a trainee
apprentice train driver



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGw2TS0GvSs&pp=ygUUY2FyZWVycyB0cmFpbiBkcmI2ZXI%3D>

A Day in the Life of Alice,
Driver Apprentice at EMR



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAJ3FIVsQ0c&pp=ygUcdHJhaW4gZHJpdmVlGFwchHJlbnRpY2VzaGlwcmw%3D%3D>

Amazing high speed
crossover



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FITr4iOOang&pp=ygUdbG9uZG9uIHVudGVyZ3JvdW5kIGRyaXZlIHp2Xc%3D>

In the Drivers seat



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEWTibHYhM8&pp=ygUdZGF5IGlulHRoZSBSaWZlIG9mIGF0cmFpbiBkcmI2ZXI%3D>

Useful Websites

[Train driver | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Licensed & associate members \(raildeliverygroup.com\)](#)

[How to become a Train Driver | EMR \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](#)

[About our Sixth Form – Bourne Academy](#)

[Home - Rail Engineer](#)

[Careers - Network Rail](#)