

CTE: DEVELOPING THE TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS WORKFORCE

Career and technical education (CTE) supports America's transportation, distribution and logistics needs by

preparing learners to enter this critical workforce, which employs more than **6.7 million**¹ people nationwide, with approximately **1.9 million**² workers needed each year to keep up with demand.

CTE programs in transportation, distribution and logistics develop students' technical, academic and employability skills through work-based and hands-on learning, ensuring that they are prepared to enter a **high-wage, in-demand** career in areas such as automotive, aviation and distribution and logistics.

This infographic describes a small sample of the career opportunities available in the transportation, distribution and logistics workforce.

DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS

- The warehousing and storage field employs more than **870,000**³ individuals.
- There is a shortage of **80,000**⁴ truck drivers nationwide, potentially rising to a shortage of **160,000** by 2030, including long- and short-haul drivers.
- The highest-earning heavy truck drivers make more than **\$75,000**⁵ annually, while transportation, storage and distribution managers earn a median salary of around **\$100,000**.⁶
- Apprenticeships, industry credentials such as commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), postsecondary certificates and degrees can help individuals **break into and advance** in this sub-sector.



AUTOMOTIVE

- The automotive industry employs more than **4 million**⁷ people, including automobile dealers, repair and maintenance workers, and manufacturing employees.
- The median annual salary for an automotive technician is almost **\$47,000**,⁸ up to **\$75,000** for the top **10%** of earners, while diesel technicians can earn **\$86,000**.⁹
- Almost **25,000**¹⁰ job openings for diesel service technicians and mechanics are projected each year, on average, through 2032.
- Apprenticeships, industry credentials, postsecondary certificates and degrees can help individuals **achieve career success** in the automotive field.



AVIATION

- U.S. airlines employ more than **800,000**¹¹ people who earn wages **39%**¹² higher than the average private sector worker.
- Jobs in the U.S. passenger airline industry, such as pilots, air traffic control specialists and drone operators, are **growing more than twice**¹³ as fast as overall U.S. job growth.
- Jobs for flight attendants are projected to grow by **11%**¹⁴ – much faster than average – through 2032 and pay a median salary of almost **\$64,000**¹⁵ per year.
- Postsecondary certificates, degrees, apprenticeships, industry certifications and Federal Aviation Administration credentials can help individuals build a **fulfilling career** in aviation.



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MORE JOBS

IN TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS

In addition to the careers already profiled, CTE prepares youth and adults for these further occupations in transportation, distribution and logistics:

- **Aviation technician**
- **Freight broker**
- **Port manager**
- **Safety director**
- **Product engineer**
- **Dispatcher**
- **Forklift driver**
- **Food distributor**
- **Automobile dealership owner**
- **Chief marine engineer**

The National Academy of Railroad Sciences, a partnership between Johnson County Community College in Kansas and BNSF Railway, has offered training for the rail industry since 1988. Participants can earn conductor and extended-track conductor certificates through their choice of a face-to-face or hybrid program with instructors who are former rail conductors. Learning takes place in a facility equipped with a laboratory and simulation capabilities.

HOW CTE PREPARES THE
TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS WORKFORCE

CTE programs of study and career pathways prepare secondary, postsecondary and adult learners for the transportation, distribution and logistics workforce in many ways:

- **Courses** in warehouse operations, automotive service, marine mechanics, aircraft airframe, hybrid engines and more spanning secondary and postsecondary education.
- Opportunities to earn **postsecondary certificates and degrees** in marine technology, supply chain management, automotive technology, transportation planning and more.
- Opportunities to earn **industry credentials** from the Association for Supply Chain Management, NATA, National Coalition of Certification Centers, National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, NRF Foundation, Snap-on, U.S. Department of Transportation and a variety of automotive manufacturers, among many others.
- **Work-based learning experiences** like job shadowing, internships and apprenticeships.
- Competitive events, service learning and leadership development through **career and technical student organizations** such as SkillsUSA and the Technology Student Association.
- **Activities** that build technical, academic and employability skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving.

Learn More

This Sector Sheet highlights just a few occupations within the transportation, distribution and logistics workforce. To learn more, please visit the U.S. Department of Labor at www.CareerOneStop.org / ExploreCareers and MyNextMove.org.

Citations

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- ³ Data USA. (N.d.). *Warehousing and storage*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/naics/warehousing-storage>
- ⁴ American Trucking Associations, Inc. (2021, October). *Driver shortage update 2021*. Retrieved from https://www.trucking.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ATA%20Driver%20Shortage%20Report%202021%20Executive%20Summary.FINAL_.pdf
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- ⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023, September). *Occupational outlook handbook: Automotive service technicians and mechanics*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/automotive-service-technicians-and-mechanics.htm#tab-5>
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- ¹¹ Airlines for America. (N.d.). *The airline industry supports over 10 million jobs across America*. Retrieved from <https://www.airlines.org/jobs/>
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023, September). *Occupational outlook handbook: Flight attendants*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/transportation-and-material-moving/flight-attendants.htm>
- ¹⁵ Ibid.