

## Bus Driver

### WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

#### New York City

2006 Entry-level hourly wage	\$12.82
2006 Median hourly wage	\$21.18

#### New York State

Job growth outlook 2004–2014 (from 25,590 in 2004)	+8%
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### JOB CHARACTERISTICS

#### What do bus drivers do?

- Inspect vehicles, and check gas, oil, and water levels prior to departure.
- Drive vehicles over specified routes or to specified destinations according to time schedules in order to transport passengers, complying with traffic regulations.
- Park vehicles at loading areas so that passengers can board.
- Assist passengers with baggage and collect tickets or cash fares.
- Report delays or accidents.
- Advise passengers to be seated and orderly while in vehicles.
- Regulate heating, lighting, and ventilating systems for passenger comfort.
- Load and unload baggage in baggage compartments.
- Record cash receipts and ticket fares.
- Make minor repairs to vehicle and change tires.

#### In what type of *conditions* do bus drivers work?

- **Contact with others.** Requires contact with others (face-to-face, by telephone, or otherwise).
- **Work in enclosed vehicles.** The job requires working in a closed vehicle or equipment.
- **Decision-making.** Must frequently make decisions that affect other people, the financial resources, and/or the image and reputation of the organization.
- **Impact of decisions.** Decisions made have an impact on co-workers, clients, or the company.
- **Deal with external customers.** Must work with external customers or the public.
- **Distracting or uncomfortable sounds or noise levels.** Requires exposure to sounds and noise levels that may be distracting or uncomfortable.

### EMPLOYEE CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

#### How much *education* must a bus driver have?

Usually requires a high school diploma or GED and may require some vocational training or job-related course work. Optional bus driver training is also available from professional driving schools.

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### What kind of *licensing* must a bus driver have?

Must have a valid New York State commercial driver's license with a passenger endorsement (CDL-P).

### How much *work experience* should a bus driver have?

Some previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience may be helpful in these occupations, but usually is not needed.

### What type of *job training* does a bus driver need?

Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees.

### What are the most important *abilities* a bus driver should have?

- **Near vision.** The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- **Depth perception.** The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object.
- **Far vision.** The ability to see details at a distance.
- **Reaction time.** The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
- **Control precision.** The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.

### What are the most important *skills* for a bus driver to have?

- **Active listening.** Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Operation monitoring.** Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.
- **Social perceptiveness.** Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Equipment maintenance.** Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining type and timing of needed maintenance.
- **Operation and Control.** Controlling operations of equipment or systems.

### RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Cargo and Freight Agents
- Couriers and Messengers
- Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services
- Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs
- Rail Yard Engineers, Dinkey Operators, and Hostlers
- Subway and Streetcar Operators
- Transportation Vehicle, Equipment/Systems Inspectors, Except Aviation
- Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators

SOURCE O\*NET Summary reports and occupational databases. Retrieved May 2008, from <http://online.onetcenter.org/>.