



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Train Driver

**Job description:** Train drivers operate trains on the rail network, carrying passengers and freight around the country.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Train driver, you'll:

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



**Skills required for this job (core competencies):**

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Career Path and Progression for Train drivers:**

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.

**Salary:** Train drivers are typically paid a starting wage of £20 000, this increases with experience; experienced train drivers can expect to earn approximately £60 000 per year.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 35-40 hours per week. It is likely that you will work during evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays on a shift system.

**Qualifications to become a Train driver:** You can get into this job through: an apprenticeship; working towards this role and training with professional bodies

**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 (A\* to C), 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.

**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 (A\* to C) in English and maths, or equivalent qualifications.

**Training can last between 12 and 24 months.**

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Train Driver, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

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

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to grow by 0.1%, creating 0 jobs; in the same period, 69.1% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 17 400 job opportunities.

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[www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

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GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>

