

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers

Table of Contents (*scroll or use links below to navigate document*)

| | |
|--|--|
| What They Do | Trends |
| Tasks | Training |
| Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities | Where Do I Find the Job? |
| Work Environment | Where Can the Job Lead? |
| California's Job Outlook and Wages | Other Sources |

What They Do

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers plan, direct, or coordinate the transportation, storage, or distribution activities of organizations. They supervise workers in shipping and receiving departments and may participate in hiring and training decisions. Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers preside over the flow of materials within the company and products coming in and being shipped out of the company. There are various distribution and shipping methods available. Products may be transported by tractor trailer trucks, ships, trains, or airlines. Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers examine products or materials in order to estimate quantities or weight and type and container required for storage or transport. They analyze the numerous shipping choices and select the most cost-effective option. Managers negotiate with carriers, warehouse operators, and insurance company representatives for services and preferential rates. They plan shipping routes and issue instructions to ensure that delivery times and locations are well-coordinated.

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers also manage and control inventory materials and products to fill customer orders while avoiding the unnecessary costs of storing overstock items. They respond to customer's or shippers' questions and complaints regarding storage and distribution services. Managers also monitor spending to ensure that expenses comply with approved budgets.

Tasks

Transportation Managers

- ▶ Direct activities related to dispatching, routing, and tracking transportation vehicles, such as aircraft and railroad cars.
- ▶ Plan, organize and manage the work of subordinate staff to ensure that the work is accomplished in a manner consistent with organizational requirements.
- ▶ Direct investigations to verify and resolve customer or shipper complaints.
- ▶ Serve as contact persons for all workers within assigned territories.

Storage and Distribution Managers

- ▶ Supervise the activities of workers engaged in receiving, storing, testing, and shipping products or materials.
- ▶ Plan, develop, and implement warehouse safety and security programs and activities.

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers

- ▶ Review invoices, work orders, consumption reports, and demand forecasts in order to estimate peak delivery periods and to issue work assignments.
- ▶ Schedule and monitor air or surface pickup, delivery, or distribution of products or materials.

Detailed descriptions of these occupations may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.

Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ▶ Control Precision — The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.
- ▶ Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.
- ▶ Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
- ▶ Time Management — Managing one's own time and the time of others.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Management of Personnel Resources — Motivating, developing, and directing people as they work, identifying the best people for the job.
- ▶ Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- ▶ Transportation — Knowledge of principles and methods for moving people or goods by air, rail, sea, or road, including the relative costs and benefits.
- ▶ Customer and Personal Service — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- ▶ Administration and Management — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
- ▶ Mathematics — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- ▶ Problem Sensitivity — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- ▶ Speech Recognition — The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.

Work Environment

Most Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers work in large manufacturing plants, warehouses, distribution centers, or trucking terminals. They may be exposed to extremes and changes in temperature, and noisy or dusty environments. Managers are exposed to hazards from working near conveyor belts, and moving and transportation equipment, but the work is generally safe for those who take reasonable care and adhere to safety rules.

Generally, Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers work 40 hours per week. Large plants or distribution centers may require shift work to provide oversight and support to staff working evening or swing shifts.

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers

California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California Outlook and Wage table below represents the occupation across all industries.

| Standard Occupational Classification | Estimated Number of Workers 2004 | Estimated Number of Workers 2014 | Average Annual Openings | 2006 Wage Range (per hour) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | | | | |
| 11-3071 | 10,400 | 12,300 | 390 | \$27.64 to \$44.79 |

Wages do not include self-employment.

Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.

Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov, Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

Trends

Employment of Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations over the 2004–2014 period. Opportunities will continue to arise from the need to replace the managers who retire or leave the labor force for other reasons. Also, the continuing increase of Internet purchases will create a continuing need for shipping services and Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers.

Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ▶ Bachelor's degree
- ▶ Vocational school
- ▶ Community college programs or certificates
- ▶ Extensive on-the-job training

Educational requirements vary greatly from a bachelor's degree to a high school diploma or equivalent, depending upon the employer's requirements. Many community and state colleges offer education programs for Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers. A voluntary professional certification program for transportation and logistics is available through the American Society of Transportation and Logistics. (Refer to *Other Sources of Information*.)

Many community colleges offer manufacturing technology and machine shop certificates or degrees. Some community colleges offer tool design technology courses. Programs accredited by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) are listed at their Web site.

Recommended High School Course Work

High school preparation courses in language arts, general business, business mathematics, and computer technology are helpful.

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers

Where Do I Find the Job?

Direct application to employers remains one of the most effective job search methods.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to locate employers in your area. Search under the following industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ▶ Couriers
- ▶ Freight Transportation Arrangement
- ▶ Fruit and Vegetable Merchant Wholesalers
- ▶ General Freight Trucking, Local
- ▶ General Line Grocery Merchant Wholesale
- ▶ Line-haul Railroads
- ▶ Offices of Bank Holding Companies
- ▶ Offices of Other Holding Companies
- ▶ Other Grocery Product Merchant Wholesale
- ▶ Packaged Frozen Food Merchant Wholesale

Search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- ▶ Air Cargo & Package Express Service
- ▶ Freight Forwarding
- ▶ Packing & Crating Service
- ▶ Railroad Companies
- ▶ Ships & Ship Operation
- ▶ Trucking-Motor Freight
- ▶ Trucking Transportation Brokers

Where Can the Job Lead?

Advancement opportunities are better for those with a bachelor's degree. Experienced Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers may promote to plant manager or general manager with larger companies. They may also become self-employed as freight or distribution consultants providing inventory control or shipping guidance to clients.

Other Sources of Information

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
www.iamaw.org

American Society of Transportation and Logistics
www.astl.org

Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
www.cscmp.org

International Warehouse Logistics Association
www.iwla.com

American Institute for Shippers' Associations
www.shippers.org

The International Air Cargo Association
www.tiaca.org