ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

The transport industry is a large, business. Professional drivers are important throughout the country and they drive long distances annually across the road networks of Norway and abroad.

COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT: GOODS AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Being a commercial driver can be demanding and it is more than just driving a truck or bus from one place to another. Drivers must also be able to deal with different types of agreements and documents as well as having good knowledge of traffic regulations and driving conditions in general.

Drivers in passenger transport must also be able to deal with customers and passengers. As a driver, one must be familiar with regulations that apply to the industry, including rules associated with driving hours and rest times, securing dangerous cargoes and requirements for having chains on board. Knowledge of Norwegian language is very important in regards to passenger transport.

A good place to find relevant information about working in Norway is www.workinnorway.no.

DEMAND WITHIN THIS SECTOR

There is a demand for drivers in both goods and passenger transport sectors in Norway.

LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Most Norwegian employers want to employ people who understand and make themselves understood in Norwegian or another of the Scandinavian languages. As a rule Norwegian/Scandinavian is appropriate within the transport industry – whether in the goods or passenger transport field.
Drivers drive large, heavy vehicles and so carry huge responsibilities. Across the board, the transport industry is concerned with its responsibilities and there is a major focus on traffic safety within the industry.

The new requirements are in accordance with the EU’s driver directive and mean that drivers driving commercially must, in addition to holding the necessary driving licence and driving ticket, carry out 240 hours of additional training before they can work as passenger transport drivers (applicable from autumn 2008) and in goods transport (applicable from autumn 2009). Arrangements are being made for drivers to complete a compulsory 35-hour refresher-training course every five years.

**Driving licence and age limits**

A class C and CE driving licence is required for commercial goods transport, and a class D and DE driving licence for passenger transport. In order to drive a bus, drivers must be at least 21 years of age, but goods transport can be driven from the age of 18 years. The maximum age limit for goods and passenger transport drivers is 70 years.

**Driving ticket/route memory test**

Professional drivers of goods or passengers must have a work ticket as well as a driving licence. A work ticket confirms that the driver meets the special conduct and health requirements. Applications are to be sent to the police district where the driver lives and must be accompanied by a doctor’s certificate on the prescribed form (obtainable at the doctor’s). The doctor’s certificate must not be more than six months out of date. In some police districts, there is also a requirement to pass a route memory test in order to drive a taxi. Get in touch with the police to find out whether there is a requirement for a route memory test in your district.

**Own formations/permits**

Those wishing to drive goods transport with a vehicle over 3500 kg or professional passenger transport, must have a permit. The government has the overall responsibility for the permit scheme. The scheme covering joint permits for international road transport is administered by the Directorate of Public Roads, while the county authorities have the administrative responsibility for permit schemes covering goods transport, taxis, tour buses/coaches and scheduled passenger transport within county boundaries.

**Other knowledge that may be useful**

Special training relating to the transportation of dangerous goods and truck driver certificates could be useful when applying for a job as a commercial transport driver. Computer skills are also important because both manual and electronic tools are used to process transport documentation, communications, and for carrying out transport assignments efficiently.

**How to find work in the transport industry?**

Most vacancies are advertised on the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service (NAV) website ([www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no)). Go to:

- Go to [www.nav.no/stillinger](http://www.nav.no/stillinger)
- Select “Finn ledige jobber”
- Select the category “Transport, logistikk, kommunikasjon og IT”
- and the sub-category “Vegtrafikk” to find jobs within commercial and passenger transport.
Employers and job seekers may contact the National contact point, NAV Service Centre EURES (NSSE) on tel.: +47 75 42 64 04 (Monday- Friday, 08:00 am to 15:30 pm) or e-mail: eures@nav.no to enquire about vacancies. On Mondays and Fridays (10:00 – 13:00) the EURES services in Norway is available on chat.

Wages

A new collective wage agreement for the transport industry is currently being prepared. Pay varies and may for example, be on an hourly basis, per assignment or on a daily rate. Goods transport drivers currently receive between NOK 165 to 200 per hour. Bus drivers have somewhat less, but it is expected that this will rise to NOK 168 per hour or more.

Taxes

Visit www.workinnorway.no or www.taxnorway.no to learn more about paying taxes in Norway.

Work contracts

Read your rights as an employee and find copies of English contracts on www.workinnorway.no

Preparing for relocation

Visit www.workinnorway.no to get general information about working and living in Norway and step by step guide on how to prepare before relocation. For additional information visit www.nav.no/englisheures.

Trade unions

In Norway trade unions play an important role in the workplace. You may wish to contact them. One of the most important in the transport sector is Norsk Transportarbeiderforbund (Norwegian transport workers association) www.transportarbeider.no

Employee organisations

- Norwegian Transport Workers Union the largest trade union for the transport industry with about 19000 members
- Commercial Traffic Union covering some commercial transport workers and about half of all bus drivers.
- Norwegian Union of General Workers covering those driving for the Public Roads Administration.

Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees

- "Fagforbundet i Norge" local authority transport sector, waste collection, internal transport and others.
- Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions transport linked to the shipyard industry
- **Norwegian Union of Food, Beverage ad Allied Workers** primarily in the transportation of milk.

### Employer organisation

- Federation of Norwegian Transport Companies
- Norwegian Hauliers’ Association
- Norwegian Logistics and Freight Association
- Transport Users Association
- National Association of Authorised Traffic Schools

### Related Information

- Yrkestrafikk
- Transportforum
- Samferdsel
- Statens vegvesen