



Iowa 80 Trucking Museum Presents

Jobs in Trucking

Introduction

Trucking is a vital industry. All sorts of cargo are transported on trucks each day. Truckers haul everything from groceries to lumber to gasoline to wind turbine blades! Because of the great variety in items that need to be moved, there are several different types of trucking jobs.





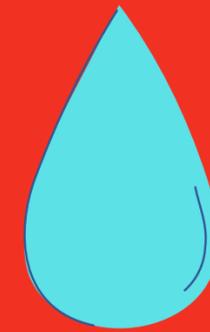
Dry Van

Dry van truck drivers carry a trailer that is rectangular and enclosed. The trucks are called 'dry vans' because they typically hold dry goods that are in boxes or on pallets. This is one of the most common trucking jobs available, and many truck drivers begin as dry van haulers.

Freight

There are many items that need to be transported besides dry goods. Anything that isn't considered dry van hauling falls under freight hauling. Freight haulers carry things that are hazardous, liquid, or oversized.

Hazardous



Liquid

Oversized

OVERSIZE

Tanker

A tanker is specifically designed to carry liquids or gases such as water, fuel, milk, propane, and fertilizer. Though not always the case, cargo can be hazardous, so tanker haulers have to be prepared to act in case of an emergency.



Flatbed

Flatbed truck drivers haul items that are too big or awkwardly-shaped to fit in a standard enclosed trailer. Instead, the cargo is fastened to a flat platform. You may see lumber, vehicles, heavy-duty equipment, tubing, or any number of other things on a flatbed truck. Flatbed truck drivers have to be very good at making sure their load is properly strapped down so they don't lose their cargo!



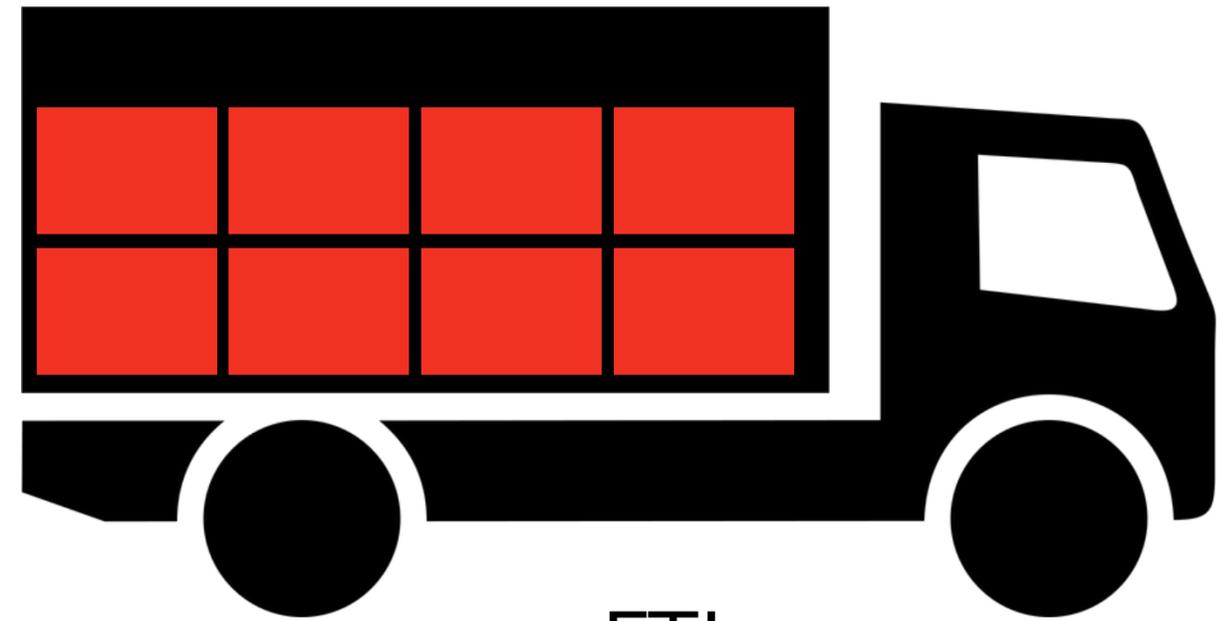


Refrigerated Freight

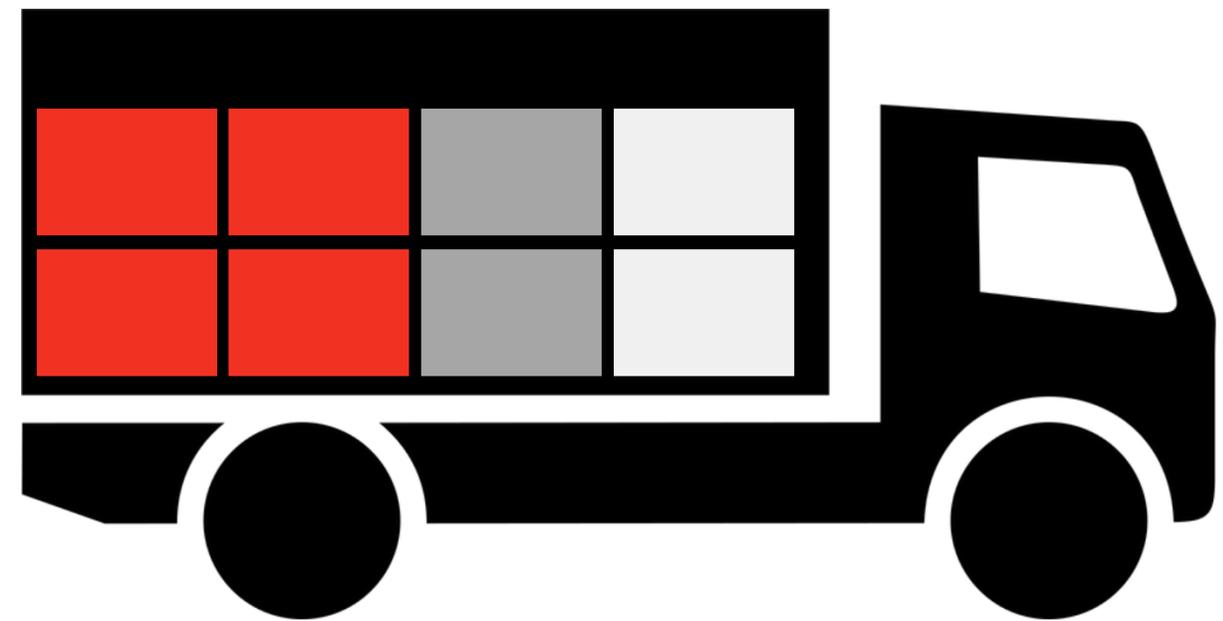
How do truck drivers keep ice cream and other frozen or refrigerated goods cold as they drive across the country? Well, they use a special temperature-controlled trailer. Refrigerated freight haulers must know how to set and check the temperature in the trailer to make the cargo stays in good condition.

Less Than Truckload

Sometimes companies have small shipments that do not take up a full truck. They may decide to use a Less Than Truckload (LTL) hauler. Unlike Full Truckload (FTL) drivers who carry goods from a single shipper, LTL drivers carry multiple smaller shipments from different shippers at the same time.



FTL



LTL

Local or Regional



Many truck drivers carry goods long distances. Often they have sleeper cabs so they can sleep in their truck before continuing on the next day.

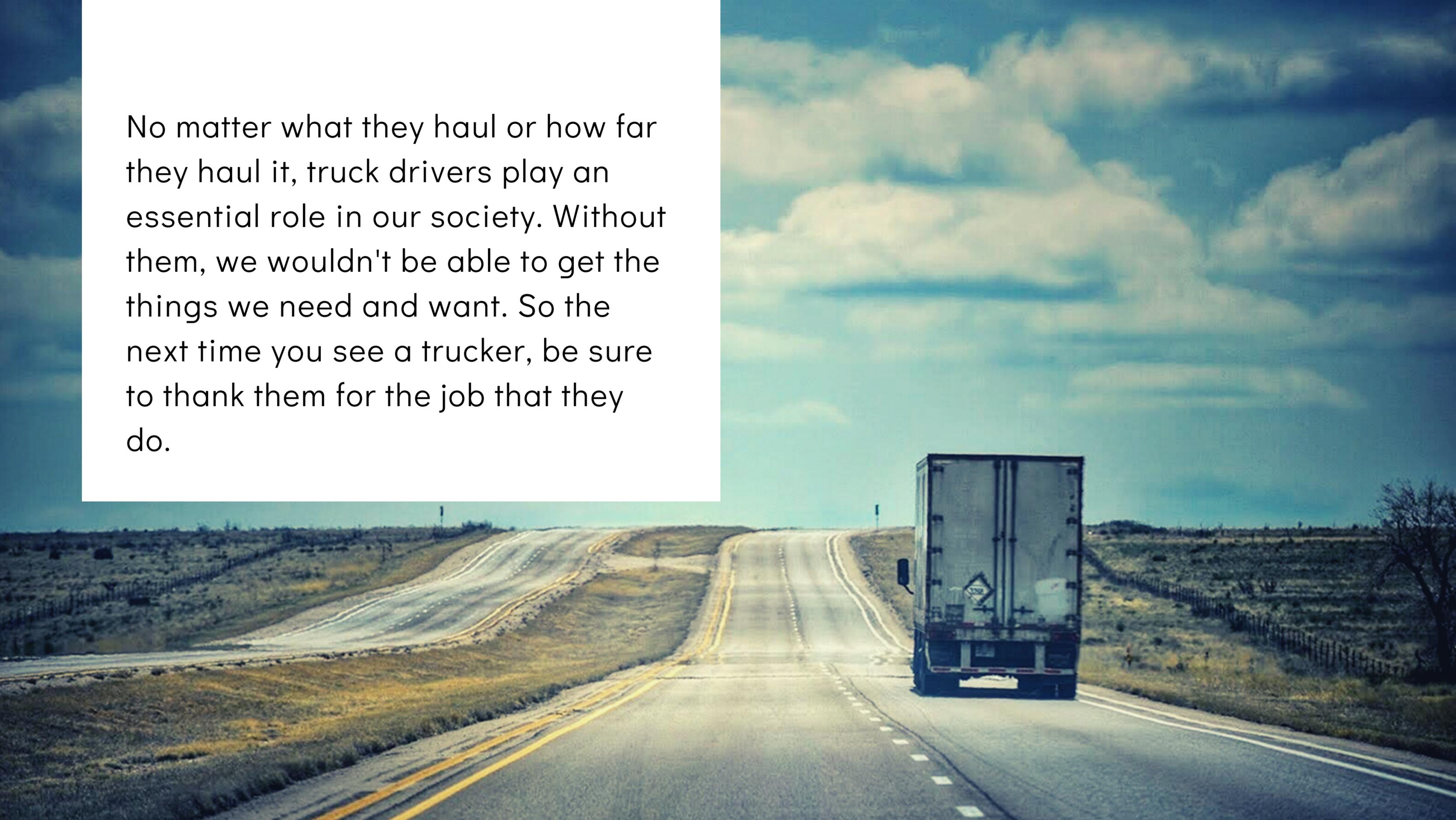
Local or regional haulers, on the other hand, transport cargo over a smaller area and are usually able to come back home each night. Because of the shorter distance, these truck drivers can often carry more than one load in a single day.

Hotshot

Hotshot truck drivers carry goods that need to be delivered very quickly. Usually, they drive a small truck that has a small flatbed trailer attached to it. Hotshot haulers may travel short distances or they may drive across many states to deliver their cargo.



No matter what they haul or how far they haul it, truck drivers play an essential role in our society. Without them, we wouldn't be able to get the things we need and want. So the next time you see a trucker, be sure to thank them for the job that they do.



Thanks for Watching

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