

What's this job all about?

Storage and transportation managers direct the pickup, transport, and storage of goods. Transportation managers work for airlines, trucking companies, railroads, and other shipping organizations. They decide which routes their company will cover. Storage managers coordinate the activities in warehouses. Storage and transportation managers interview, select, and train staff and they supervise the activities of workers. For example, transportation managers supervise workers who dispatch, route, and track vehicles. Storage managers oversee workers who receive, store, and ship products.

Many workers in this industry belong to a union so managers have to make sure their companies follow union rules. For example, managers review transportation schedules to make sure drivers will not be overworked. If you work in this field in Alaska you will most likely work for a large company. Since Alaska is becoming an international transportation hub for shipping, the need for people who can manage and oversee the workers who receive, store and ship products is growing as well. While many managers come into the field with a college degree, you can also work your way up through the job ladder by starting out at entry level positions and learning the field over time. Some people in the field take course work toward a higher degree while they are working their way up.

Here's what Transportation, Storage and Distribution Managers do:

- Develop procedures for workers to follow to accomplish their jobs.
- Consider job duties, government and union rules, and other information when creating these procedures.
- Develop manuals for workers.
- Plan, develop, and apply safety programs.
- When accidents occur, work with the government agencies that inspect them.
- Responsible for their buildings, equipment, and vehicles.
- Inspect vehicles and buildings to make sure they are safe.
- Order repairs, develop plans for warehouse expansions, and purchase new equipment.
- Research equipment and negotiate contracts.
- Analyze financial reports.
- Use the reports to improve services and increase profits.
- Consult with their supervisors to develop new ways of operating.
- Represent their companies at hearings or meetings with government agencies and regulators.
- Bill clients and resolve customer complaints.
- Review invoices, work orders, and demand forecasts to estimate how many workers they will need.
- Schedule the pickup, delivery, or distribution of products or materials.

How much money can I make?

Median wage: \$33.75 per hour

In Alaska, the median wage for storage and transportation managers is \$5,850 per month (\$33.75 per hour). Half of all storage and transportation managers earn between \$4,912 and \$7,292 per month (\$28.34 and \$42.07 per hour). Nationally, the median wage for storage and transportation managers is \$5,760 per month (\$33.23 per hour). Half of all storage and transportation managers earn between \$4,399 and \$7,491 per month (\$25.38 and \$43.22 per hour). Pay varies by the worker's level of experience. New staff are paid less than experienced employees. Storage and transportation managers who work full

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

If you are interested in this field you should take courses in high school that help you enter college. Here are some of the high school courses that can help prepare you. While you don't have to take all of them, you should consider them in your planning. Some of these classes are also available at colleges and technical schools.

Business

Computer and Information Sciences
Business Computer Applications

English Language and Literature

English and Language Arts (Four years)
English Composition, Technical Writing
Business and Applied English
Public Speaking

Marketing

Marketing
Warehouse Operations
Marketing Management

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra, Algebra
Geometry
Advanced Algebra
Probability and Statistics
Business Math; Advanced Business Math

Social Sciences and History

World Geography, Geography
Economics, Advanced Economics
Consumer Law, Business Law
Social Science
Psychology, Advanced Psychology
Organization Studies

time usually receive benefits. Typical benefits include health insurance, paid vacation, and sick leave. Some also receive a retirement plan.

How long does it take to receive training?

To work as a storage or transportation manager, you must have years of work experience in a related occupation or have a bachelor's degree and experience, be self-confident and persuasive, be able to direct and motivate people, and have strong communication skills. Most storage and transportation managers prepare for this field by earning a bachelor's degree, however many learn through extensive on-the-job experience or training. While education is important to prepare for this occupation, work experience is just as important. Some storage or transportation managers begin in entry-level positions, with only a high school degree or GED. The military is a good source of training for this occupation.

When I'm ready to work, will there be job openings?

In Alaska, the outlook for job openings for storage and transportation managers is good to 2014. Average growth in this field is projected. Nationally, the number of jobs for storage and transportation managers is expected to grow about as fast as average through the year 2014. Growth in this industry closely follows the national economy. When the national economy is doing well, there is an increase in the production and sale of goods. This increases the need for storing and moving goods from suppliers to consumers. When the economy is weak, the demand for these services decreases. Competition is strong in the storage and transportation of goods. The fastest growth for managers will be with courier services, such as UPS and Fed Ex. With more people buying goods over the Internet, more delivery drivers will be needed to deliver these goods. More supervisors will be needed to monitor delivery of these goods. Growth will also be good in the warehousing and storage industry.

Please see the Training Programs section of this booklet to find out more about training in these career fields in Alaska.

