

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers

SOC: 11-3071 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$102,010

Median Salary

216,700

Employment

+6.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.2/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	Investigative	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Customer service skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Organizational skills, Problem-solving skills, Time-management skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers are logistics leaders who plan, direct, and coordinate **the movement, storage, and delivery of goods across supply chains**. They ensure products move efficiently from suppliers to warehouses and ultimately to customers—on time, safely, and cost-effectively. Their work is critical to commerce, manufacturing, retail, and global trade.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy operations management, problem-solving, and coordinating complex systems that keep goods flowing.

What Do Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers Do?

These managers oversee logistics operations and optimize how goods are transported and stored.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning and managing transportation routes and schedules
- Overseeing warehouse, storage, and distribution operations
- Coordinating shipments with carriers, suppliers, and customers
- Monitoring inventory levels and delivery performance
- Managing logistics staff, drivers, and supervisors
- Controlling transportation and warehousing costs
- Ensuring compliance with safety, labor, and transportation regulations

Key Areas of Logistics Management

Transportation, storage, and distribution managers may focus on specific logistics functions:

- Transportation Management: Managing truck, rail, air, or maritime shipping.
- Warehouse and Storage Operations: Overseeing inventory handling and facility operations.
- Distribution and Fulfillment: Ensuring timely order picking, packing, and delivery.
- Supply Chain Coordination: Aligning logistics with purchasing and production.
- Safety and Regulatory Compliance: Meeting transportation, labor, and environmental standards.

Skills and Abilities Needed

These managers combine operational expertise with leadership and analytical skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires a combination of education and logistics experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (common): Logistics, supply chain management, business, or related fields
- Relevant Work Experience: Transportation, warehousing, or operations roles
- Supervisory or Management Experience: Required for advancement
- Professional Certifications (optional): Supply chain or logistics credentials
- Continuous Learning: Staying current with logistics technology and regulations

Where Do Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers Work?

They are employed across many goods-moving industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Companies
- Retail and E-commerce Organizations

- Transportation and Logistics Firms
- Warehousing and Distribution Centers
- Wholesale and Trade Companies

Work environments may include offices, warehouses, ports, or distribution hubs.

How Much Do Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers Earn?

Earnings vary by industry, scale of operations, and experience:

- Mid-Level Managers: Typically earn strong operations management salaries
- Experienced or Regional Managers: Often earn higher compensation
- Large Supply Chain or Network Leaders: May earn premium pay due to scope and responsibility

Compensation often includes bonuses tied to performance and efficiency.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is fast-paced and responsibility-heavy. Managers must respond to delays, supply disruptions, labor challenges, and cost pressures while maintaining service levels. The challenge lies in coordinating many moving parts while balancing speed, cost, and reliability.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy managing operations and logistics
- Are comfortable making decisions under pressure
- Like coordinating people, systems, and schedules
- Are detail-oriented and data-driven
- Want a career central to commerce and supply chains

How to Prepare Early

- Study business, logistics, or supply chain fundamentals
- Learn basic data analysis and inventory concepts
- Gain experience in warehousing, shipping, or operations roles
- Develop leadership and communication skills
- Explore logistics or supply chain degree programs and certifications

Transportation, storage, and distribution managers keep the world moving—transforming complex supply chains into efficient, reliable systems that ensure goods arrive where they're needed, when they're needed, every day.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/transportation-storage-and-distribution-managers.htm>