

# How to Choose a Line-Haul Job That Pays (And Avoid the Ones That Don't)

A Free *TopTip* Report by Roy Eagan

This Report is a Supplemental **FREE** Download for the Book :

**Driven: How to Earn \$100,000 Yearly as a Line-Haul Truck Driver**

## Introduction & The Big Mistake Most Drivers Make

If you're a Professional Truck Driver looking to earn over \$100,000 a year, here's the truth: not all line-haul jobs are created equal.

Many Drivers chase miles without understanding how companies really pay. They end up in roles that promise big checks but deliver empty promises. The key to earning top dollar as a line-haul Driver isn't just in grinding long hours—it's in choosing the right job with the right setup.

This short guide will show you how to identify high-paying opportunities, avoid the low-value ones, and ask smart questions that get real answers in your next interview.

## 5 Key Factors That Determine Line-Haul Earnings

### 1. Pay Structure Transparency

Not all companies pay the same per mile—and not all explain their pay clearly. Look for:

- *Mileage pay clarity (e.g., \$0.70–\$0.85 CPM)*
- *Whether it's hub miles or practical miles (you want practical miles)*
- *Bonuses (e.g., safety, performance, on-time delivery)*
- *Layover and breakdown pay*
- *Break and Hook pay*

▶ **Red flag:** *If a recruiter dances around the numbers or avoids giving clear breakdowns, move on.*

## 2. Miles Consistency

Some companies promise “up to 3,000 miles a week,” but rarely deliver it. Ask:

- *“What’s the average weekly miles over the past 6 months?”*
- *“Are there slow seasons or certain times where miles drop?”*

✅ **TopTip:** *Talk to current Drivers if you can. They’ll tell you what’s real.*

## 3. Drop-and-Hook vs. Live Load/Unload

Time is money. Line-haul work that’s mostly drop-and-hook means you spend less time waiting and more time earning. Avoid jobs with:

- *Frequent dock delays*
- *Long waits at distribution centers*

## 4. Terminal Proximity & Home Base

Your home terminal can make or break your weekly schedule. The closer you are to a busy, *well-managed* terminal:

- *The quicker you get rolling*
- *The easier it is to maximize your miles*
- *The less unpaid time you waste*

## 5. Company Culture & Turnover Rate

Companies with high Driver turnover often have poor support, unreliable routes, or broken pay promises. Look for:

- *Average Driver tenure (more than 2 years = good sign)*
- *How dispatchers treat Drivers*
- *Equipment maintenance responsiveness*

## Top Questions to Ask in Your Next Line-Haul Interview

*Use this checklist to find out what they're really offering:*

### ✓ Pay & Miles

- "What's the exact mileage rate start?"
- "When does a driver hit Top-Pay?"
- "Do you pay practical or zip-to-zip miles?"
- "What's the average miles per week right now?"

### ✓ Route & Freight

- "Is this a dedicated route or variable?"
- "How much of the freight is drop-and-hook?"
- "What's the average wait time per Hook?"

**Note:** This last question applies to those terminals that hook and break sets for you)

### ✓ Time & Home Life

- "How many days off do Drivers typically get?"
- "What's the average time between dispatch and return?"

### ✓ Bonuses & Benefits

- "Are there performance bonuses? If so, how are they earned?"
- "Do you offer retirement contributions or 401(k) matching?"
- "How long before benefits kick in?"

**Note:** Timing of your start date is important. Example: my start date was June 1<sup>st</sup>, and my medical benefits started July 1<sup>st</sup>. If I had started on June 2<sup>nd</sup> my benefits would have started on July 1<sup>st</sup> — see the difference even one day can make?

### ✓ Reputation & Stability

- "What's your Driver turnover rate?"
- "Can I speak with a current Driver about their experience?"

## Final Thoughts

The road to six-figure income as a line-haul Driver isn't just about hustling—it's about making smart career choices. Choose companies with consistent miles, clear pay, and a strong Driver support system.

## Choosing the right line-haul job is just the beginning!

*Want the full roadmap?*

## The DRIVEN Truck Driver Trilogy

Learn how to pick the right job, control your time, master your money, and build a future worth driving toward. So, if you're ready to learn how to maximize your Truck Driver Career, check out:

### The DRIVEN Truck Driver Trilogy:

**Driven: How to Succeed as a Professional Truck Driver**

**Driven: How to Earn \$100,000 Yearly as a Line-Haul Truck Driver**

**Driven: Inside the Mind of a Millionaire Truck Driver**

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