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Student Project

Topic: Career opportunities in the Logistics sector

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Introduction:

Careers in logistics have many similarities to the responsibilities of the line haul industry, however, logistics jobs don't solely focus on the movement of freight. Logistics is the movement and organisation of goods and inventory from one destination to another to meet the demand of suppliers and consumers. This includes the movement of raw materials and goods into products, and it can range from manual duties to clerical administration and information-based duties. Careers in logistics can be carried out as an in house employee or for a third-party that manages the contracting of logistics services to other businesses.

Logistics work covers the following areas:

Customer service: This is vital in all stages of logistics as the customers' needs are required to be met for the duration of the product lifecycle. Depending on the product and service, customers may also be notified when their order is being processed and completed as seen in the automotive industry.

Procurement: Purchasing, or procurement, is a key component of logistics and encompasses the sourcing of materials necessary to manufacture products. This part of the supply chain is responsible for sourcing and purchasing raw materials, auxiliary supplies, and operating supplies to aid the manufacturing process.

Warehousing: This is the safe storage of goods within a warehouse where packaging and preparation for shipment takes place.

Storage: Related to warehousing, storage is key to enable the supply of goods to meet demand in a timely fashion where it can be sourced easily.

Inventory: This is a complete list that tracks all the contents, items and products the business wishes to sell, in one main place or database.

Transportation: Transportation includes the final stages of logistics work is the movement of goods from one location to another via various forms of transportation.

Skills are needed for careers in logistics:

Logistics jobs require a multitude of different skill sets to cover various roles, some of the main skills that would be beneficial are:

- a) **Innovation:** Logistics depends on innovation to find new and more efficient ways of working. The sector is continuously evolving and improving, so an innovative mindset is valuable.
- b) **Communication:** Communication skills enable clarity and efficiency in logistics. You can use written and verbal communication to collaborate with and inform various teams throughout the supply chain.
- c) **Data analytics:** Working out complex mathematical formulas to solve a problem is important within logistics. Data plays an important role in the logistics and supply chain sector, so being able to analyse and understand data sets is beneficial.
- d) **Leadership:** Leadership is beneficial in most jobs as the ability to lead a team or process to provide continuity and improvements to supply chain is useful. Effective leadership skills can help you to advance your career into senior positions.
- e) **Critical thinking:** Critical thinking can be a useful way to trial a new process. Logistics jobs require innovation to improve the supply chain, making the ability to critically examine a new process to resolve potential issues vital.
- f) **Results Driven:** Employees within the logistics sector work towards targets to gain results. Constantly finding new ways to reach and exceed these results in faster and better ways is always a plus.
- g) **Adaptability:** Adaptability and agility are useful in logistics as processes are ever changing. The ability to adapt to new ways of working and new processes is a highly beneficial skill.
- h) **Teamwork:** Logistics is reliant on multiple teams and individual employees to make the supply chain run smoothly. Being able to work with various teams harmoniously is an essential skill in logistics.

- i) **Accountability:** Everyone in the team plays a vital role and without accountability processes struggle to run smoothly. Being responsible and holding yourself accountable within your respective role upholds the overall success of the supply chain.

What qualifications are beneficial to pursue logistics jobs?

There are career options in logistics available for all education levels, and requirements depend on your career aspirations. Some of the qualifications required are:

High school diploma or SSCE: You can start your career in logistics by working as a warehouse assistant or administrator. To progress and seek promotions to higher level jobs, you may wish to partake in further education to set yourself apart from other.

TAFE: Technical and Further Education (TAFE) offers courses for recognised qualifications in warehouse operations and a forklift license, which is an asset in the logistics industry.

Associate degree: An associate diploma in logistics can enable access to more opportunities than a high school diploma or SSCE, especially opportunities in inventory and logistics.

Bachelor degree: With a four-year bachelor of business degree in logistics and supply chain management, you may enter into management roles.

Master degree: Further education as the master's levels provides access to opportunities that have larger responsibilities, such as supply chain management and procurement and purchasing management.

11 careers in logistics

Here are 11 jobs that may interest you if you are looking for a career in logistics:

1. Logistics administrator

Primary duties: Logistics administrators work to facilitate the movement of goods from one place to another. They are heavily involved in the facilitation of incoming and outgoing shipments for a company. To ensure an efficient and timely shipment process, they communicate between the sales, distribution and manufacturing teams to collaborate and manage their respective responsibilities.

2. Warehouse manager

Primary duties: Warehousing managers train and manage warehouse employees to enable the processing of shipments. They communicate with other logistics teams to enhance the shipment process. They're responsible for analysing data and managing the budget to identify ways to improve warehouse operations.

3. Inventory manager

Primary duties: Inventory managers forecast and manage inventory levels through data analysis to make sure companies have sufficient inventory to cater to their manufacturing and supplier needs. They also oversee the transportation of goods from warehouses to stores or consumers while tracking inventory and shipments. Inventory managers also oversee a team of inventory and logistics employees.

4. Load Planner

Primary duties: Load planners are responsible for compiling consumer orders into truckloads. They also plan efficient routes for the transportation fleet team to deliver the goods to their destination.

5. Purchasing & procurement manager

Primary duties: Purchasing managers work with suppliers to source and order inventory for the business. They're essential in strategically purchasing and sourcing goods while building a strong rapport with vendors. Some purchasing and procurement managers also maintain the inventory database for companies.

6. Demand and inventory planner

Primary duties: Demand and inventory planner duties overlap with purchasing managers as they also utilise the inventory database to improve efficiency and aid logistics professionals on supply and demand. Data analysis skills are useful for demand and inventory planners to understand consumer demand to inform future purchases.

7. Logistics analyst

Primary duties: Driven by data, logistics analysts utilise data to uphold the quality of a company's logistic process. They often use data to inform their innovative ideas to increase productivity and streamlining process. Organisations also use their data analysis in periodic reports to support logistics operations and improve procedures.

8. Logistics manager

Primary duties: Logistics managers aid the storage and transportation of goods. Their duties include processing and preparing orders for shipment. They collect feedback from customers, vendors and manufacturers to improve customer satisfaction and productivity.

9. Supply chain manager

Primary duties: Supply chain managers are involved with inventory, storage and transportation at all parts of the production process. They also build rapport with vendors to improve the supply chain and maximise efficiency.

10. Fleet & transportation manager

Primary duties: Fleet and transportation managers purchase and maintain vehicles for the distribution of goods and service. They're responsible for managing the maintenance and registration records of their vehicles to ensure the safety of employees and inventory. They also track the timely shipment and arrivals of deliveries to maintain productive transportation flows and reducing bottlenecks.

11. Land Manager

Primary duties: Land managers work to purchase and negotiate land-use deals for logistics companies. Their deep knowledge of productive land rights, laws and regulations ensure companies are compliant with government agencies and legislation on land-use.

Conclusion :

Finding the right career can be challenging, especially when you're faced with so many different options. Once you broaden your professional skills and interests, however, you shouldn't have such a tough time succeeding in your job search.



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