

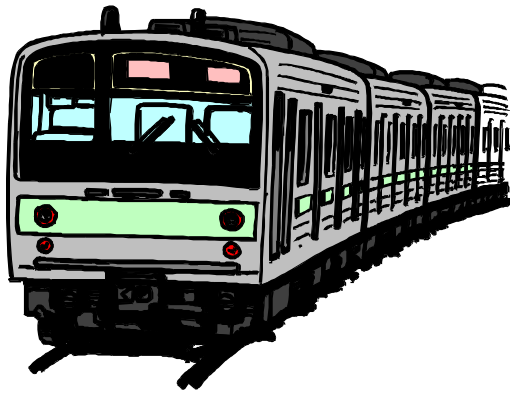
GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Employment as a railroad conductor or a yardmaster can be found all throughout the United States within the railroad transportation systems and companies.

Sources:

www.bls.gov/oco/print/ocos244.htm

<http://dothr.ost.dot.gov/careers/conductor.htm>



IS THIS A POSSIBLE CAREER FOR YOU?

Railroad Conductor/ Yardmaster



NATURE OF WORK:

The job of a railroad conductor entails many tasks, which includes managing activities of the train's freight as well as the passengers. They maintain the train's freight by going over the schedules, switching orders, way bills, and shipping records to obtain cargo loading and unloading information. The conductors assist the passengers by collecting their tickets and fares, organizing the meal and maid services, and overall making sure the passengers are safe and comfortable. Another duty includes, discussing alternative routes with the engineer if there is an obstruction on the rail line. They receive this type of information from dispatchers, engineers, and other conductors on trains by monitoring two-way radios and mobile phones. In addition, an electric monitoring device is attached to the train that detects any problems that might be on the rail or the train itself.

Yardmasters, also known as yard conductors, duties are very similar to that of a railroad conductor. They coordinate activities for the workers that are involved in railroad traffic operations. Such activities include the makeup or breakup of trains and switching inbound or outbound traffic to a specific section of the line (1). They also inform engineers where to move cars in order to fit the planned train configuration.

QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED/ TRAINING/ EDUCATION:

- Must have a minimum of a high school degree or equivalent
- Generally filled by employees with experience in rail transportation who have passed tests covering signals, timetables, operating rules, and similar subjects
- Seniority is the main factor in obtaining this job position, most start out working in the yards, then transfer to freight or passenger service

JOB OUTLOOK:

Jobs are expected to decline within the railroad industry through the year 2010.



EARNINGS:

2000 HOURLY EARNINGS FOR RAILROAD
CONDUCTORS & YARDMASTERS

Median	\$18.86
Middle 50%	\$15.47 and \$22.08
Lowest 10%	Less than \$12.92
Highest 10%	More than \$31.03