



Logistics

Whether using rail, road, sea or air, the logistics department is responsible for all the movement, handling and storing of retail products.



The department also co-ordinates transport links and drivers, scheduling deliveries and managing warehouse stock levels. Logistics and distribution managers oversee the product supply chain from the point of manufacture and storage to the High Street shop or customers home address. The team also liaises with external suppliers and internal merchandising and operations departments to make sure all products are available at the right place and at the right time.

Working in a senior position involves everything from organising transportation, monitoring stock levels, training staff, conducting performance reviews and the management of administrative aspects, such as filling in accident reports forms and insurance claims. As with the operations team, the logistics department offers opportunities at all levels, from school leavers and graduates to older workers returning to employment and many people that start on the warehouse floor can rise up quickly into logistics management.

Great communication and organisational skills, knowledge of how the retail industry works and the ability to multi-task under pressure are all essential requirements for logistics workers.

What can I earn?

Starting salary on the warehouse floor might range from £16,000 to £21,000. Supervisors and logistics managers range between £23,000 and £35,000 per year with senior logistics strategists/managers on £55,000+.

Routes in (click for links):

Retail Apprenticeships (England, Wales, NI) Modern Apprenticeships (Scotland)
Diploma in Retail Business (England from 2010)
Job websites (UK): in-retail, Total Jobs, retailcareers, jobsinretail, RetailChoice
National Skills Academy for Retail skills shops (England)
Check out logistics courses at universities and colleges throughout the UK