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Professional Concerns and a Solution: Autonomous Vehicles

* In 2015, some 15.5 million workers in the US worked in jobs related to driving, and of those 15.5 million, 3.8 million operate trucks or taxis.
* Truck drivers are extremely vulnerable to automation since they drive mainly on highways, which it is easier to automate that navigation than city streets.
* There is already a shortage of truck drivers in the US, so truck drivers won’t be affected immediately but, in the future, it is likely to become fully automated
* However, autonomous vehicles will open up more jobs relating to engineers, technicians, software developers, and designers to build the vehicles
* Individuals in driving-related jobs could be converted to other transportation related positions, such as receiving the deliveries, communicating with delivery recipients, and providing assistance to passengers
* Passenger transport vehicles will require ongoing servicing that will need to be undertaken by humans in the foreseeable future
* Universal replacement of drivers could be heavily delayed or prevented by the demand for human-delivered transport services because of the innate need for human interaction and communication
* However, individuals in former driving position jobs are classified as low-skill workers (with driving being their main skill), so finding a new job could take a while and cost of retraining could be high

Links:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/10/autonomous-vehicles-are-creating-jobs-heres-where.html>

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/195694434.pdf>