

Food and drink production

Worcestershire

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It is expected that 140,000 new recruits into the food and drink industry will be required across the UK by 2024 to meet demand.¹

Over 33,000 people are employed in the food and drink industry in the West Midlands alone.

A wide range of jobs and opportunities available such as picking, packing, assembly and distribution to higher skilled roles in software design, process and product engineering, accountancy and legal services as well as data analysis.

Employers are finding it hard to recruit engineering, quality and management roles in this sector.

Worcestershire overview

This sector employs a higher proportion of workers compared to the West Midlands and Great Britain.

Over 4,500 people are employed in the manufacture of food products in Worcestershire.²



1,500 employed in the processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables.²

1,250 employed in bakery and the production of foods such as flours, cereals and pulses.²

800 employed in the manufacture of dairy products.²

¹NSAFD ²BRES

Future trends

This is one of the most technologically advanced sectors in the UK, especially on production lines and in the growing of crops (agri-tech) meaning plenty of jobs for engineers and technicians.

Therefore, **highly skilled job opportunities are increasing**, linked to the increase in the use of digital technology to help improve productivity.

Businesses will need to be able to recruit individuals with the required knowledge, expertise and skills through apprenticeships and graduate training schemes. There will also be opportunities for training on the job.

There are also roles for **creatives, scientists, innovators** and **managers** as new solutions and materials are developed. We can also expect environmental issues to play an increasingly bigger part in the future of the sector.

Local employers include:

Blue Earth Foods, Kanes Foods, Huegli, Primafruit, Hobsons Brewery, Walsh Mushrooms, Bumble Hole Foods, Vandemoortele Worcester



Job roles in food and drink production include:

Consumer scientist • Chef • Meat process worker • Microbrewer • Baker • Butcher • Food factory worker • Food manufacturing inspector • Food packaging operative • Retail buyer • Research scientist • Farmer • Bottling operative • Chemical engineering technician • Nutritionist • Production worker (manufacturing) • Manufacturing systems engineer • Quality control assistant • Production manager • Packaging technologist • Technical brewer • Brewery worker • Health and safety adviser • Farm worker • Data analyst-statistician • Biotechnologist

Skills and qualities

In food and drink manufacturing, employers are particularly looking for:

Technical and practical skills • **Interest in STEM** • Communication skills • **ICT and digital skills** • Teamwork and interpersonal skills • **Ability to use own initiative** • Ability to manage own time and prioritise tasks • **An analytical and logical approach to solving problems** • Attention to detail • **Presentation skills** • Health and safety awareness

What could you earn?

Packaging technologist **£20,000 - £40,000**

Consumer scientist **£19,000 - £50,000**

Production manager **£20,000 - £40,000**

Quality control assistant **£12,500 - £25,000**

Food packaging operative **£12,500 - £20,000**

Bottling operative **£13,500 - £24,000**

Health and safety adviser **£22,000 - £70,000**

Biotechnologist **£19,000 - £60,000**

Find out more

www.tastycareers.org.uk

www.tastesuccess.co.uk

www.fdf.org.uk

<http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk/>

Routes into this sector

Ways to get into this sector will vary depending on the job role.

Apply directly for roles such as **production worker** – you may need GCSEs at grades 9-4 (A*-C) and basic IT skills. A temporary job may also be a good way in.

Choose a **college course** at level 3 (A level equivalent) or level 4 to add to your qualifications.

An **apprenticeship** could be a good route in – from **food and drink process operator** (intermediate apprenticeship) and **maintenance engineer** (advanced apprenticeship) to **food industry technical professional** (degree apprenticeship). Always check the requirements for each individual apprenticeship.

For some roles, employers will look for someone who has a **university degree** but also check to see if an apprenticeship is an option for a graduate-level job.

Work your way up to roles such as supervisor or manager by training on the job.

For more job profiles and careers information visit the National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> or call 0800 100 900



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