

FOOD AND DRINK MANUFACTURING in Shropshire

A rich heritage in food and drink in Shropshire means the sector offers a wide range of careers across a variety of settings - from production and packaging to testing and transporting. Many of the new roles will be for managers and professionals including social responsibility and sustainability.

Over one third of the **400,000** strong workforce is due to retire by 2020



Around **87,000** graduate engineering jobs are available in the sector every year



Over 109,000 new skilled recruits are required by the food and drink industry by 2024



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.

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.

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find people with the right people or personal skills. In food and drink manufacturing, employers are particularly looking for:

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Team working
- Business knowledge
- Leadership and management skills
- Presentation skills
- Creativity
- Maths
- ICT
- Reliability
- Innovation
- Design
- Languages

What could you earn?

These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in the culture and tourism sectors.*

- Food production operative £18,450
- Butcher £19,250
- Agricultural worker £21,250
- Farmer £25,900
- Quality assurance technician £25,700
- Production technician £29,550
- Biological scientist £36,850
- Production engineer £38,650



*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50



The local picture

Our strengths include:

dairy • meat • confectionery • fruit and veg • fresh and frozen products • storage and distribution

The wide range of food produced in the area means that there are small-scale opportunities in this sector as well as roles within large companies. The Ludlow Food Festival showcases the area's reputation for celebrating high quality food and there are plenty of smaller food festivals and local farmer's markets where local food and drink producers can tap into both local and visitor trade.

Linked to the sector is a well-established supply chain in food packaging, equipment manufacturing, materials innovation development and specialist storage and logistics services providing a host of interesting careers.

Jobs in demand:

food technologist • **chocolatier** • marketing professional • **quality technician** • design engineer • **cheese maker** • microbial scientist • **production planner** • environmental technologist • **butcher** • machinery and equipment technician • **line manager**



Large and valued companies in the area include:

Orchard Valley Foods • Cold Move • Kerry Group • Arla • Dairy Crest • Müller • Palethorpes (Pork Farms) • Ornua Ingredients • Ludlow Food Centre • Grocontinental • Alcontrol Laboratories • Culina Group



Finding out more

www.tastycareers.org.uk
www.brightcrop.org.uk
www.tastesuccess.co.uk
www.lantra.co.uk
www.growcareers.info
www.edge.careers



Routes in



There are so many different types of jobs in food and drink that your pathway will depend on where you're heading or you could start out and see where it takes you! Many companies offer apprenticeships and others will be looking for graduates who can come up with new ideas or can manage people and production processes. You could consider becoming a technician, or choose a business role such as admin or marketing. Other openings will be for graduates with science qualifications. Many of the local colleges, universities and training centres - such as Harper Adams University which specialises in agri-tech – offer courses and training to support this important local sector. And if you fancy going it alone and setting up your own business, the Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre provides facilities and business support.

Types of apprenticeships include:



Food technologist, food and drink maintenance engineer, food and drink advanced process operator, food and drink manufacturing manager, food industry technical professional, dairy technologist, food and drink process operator, fork lift truck technician, improvement leader, packaging professional.