

This leaflet covers jobs in food and drink manufacturing and processing. Workers are involved in the preparation, production and packing of a wide variety of food and drink items. Companies may specialise in products including dairy, meat and poultry, fish and shellfish, grain milling, bakery goods, fruit and vegetable processing, convenience foods, confectionary, brewing, distilling and soft drinks. Food and drink manufacturing employs around 59,800 people in the Yorkshire and Humber region, which has one of the largest shares of jobs in the sector in England.

Job titles include:

- Food processing operative
- Food packing operative
- Packer/canner/bottler
- Baker/confectioner
- Cake decorator
- Butcher
- Fish filleter
- Poultry dresser
- Cheese maker
- Brewery worker/technician
- Food scientist/technologist
- Quality assurance technician
- Team leader/supervisor
- Maintenance engineer
- Refrigeration engineer
- Production manager
- Plant manager

There were **590** food and drink manufacturing employers in the region in 2013, **110** of them employing over **50** people

64% of employees work in organisations with between one and ten staff

MUST HAVE

All production employees work to high standards of hygiene and wear clean, protective clothing and a hat or hairnet.

To work as a slaughterman or woman, you will need to be licensed and aged 18 or over.

Skills in demand

There are shortages of food technologists and scientists. In the meat industry there are shortages of butchers, boners and meat cutters.

In fish processing there are shortages of fish filleters and smoke house operatives.

West and North Yorkshire and the East Riding all have large food industries. About **70%** of manufacturing jobs in these counties are in food and drink

Shift work is common, with many production lines open 24 hours a day. Most jobs are full-time

Pay range:

Bakers	£13,772-21,211
Butchers	£13,666-22,891
Food, drink and tobacco process operatives	£12,711-27,830
Packers, bottlers, canners and fillers	£12,250-22,357
Planning, process and production technicians	£21,680-39,077
Production and process engineers	£27,856-46,163

ASHE 2013 all full-time employees
(provisional)

Education and training

For production and packing jobs, no particular qualifications are generally required, although some may want you to have some GCSEs. A good standard of numeracy and literacy would help. Once in the job, training will generally cover health and safety, food hygiene, and technical aspects of the production line process.

Food technologists or scientists will generally have an HND/HNC or degree in a subject such as food science, food studies or food technology, although entry through an apprenticeship scheme may be possible.

Skills - for production, packing etc:

Numerate literate able to follow instructions able to work quickly good at identifying problems high standards of hygiene and safety able to stand for long periods able to lift for some jobs happy with repetitive tasks

The Coca-Cola plant in Wakefield operates 10 lines, employs 500 people and runs 24 hours a day.

Major employers in the region include:

Allied Bakeries in Bradford and Wakefield
Arla Foods in Leeds
Coca-Cola in Wakefield
Cranswick in Barnsley, Hull, Malton and Sherburn-in-Elmet
Nestle in Halifax and York
Fox's Biscuits in Batley
Icelandic in Grimsby
John Smith's in Tadcaster
McCain in Hull and Scarborough
Theakstons in Masham
Timothy Taylor in Keighley
Young's Seafoods in Grimsby
But don't forget that almost 800 firms in the region employ less than 50 people.

Jobs - where to look

Many larger companies will advertise vacancies on their own websites.

Production, packing and similar jobs are advertised in local papers, and with Jobcentre Plus: **www.direct.gov.uk/jobsearch**.

Various recruitment agencies specialise in food and drink manufacture – search under 'recruitment consultants' in **www.yell.com**.

Specialised websites tend to recruit more experienced or highly qualified candidates:

www.careersinfoodanddrink.co.uk;

www.foodindustryjobs.co.uk;

www.yourfoodjob.com; www.foodmanufacture.co.uk;

www.foodindustry careers.co.uk; www.mds-ltd.co.uk

(for graduate training schemes).

Future trends

Between 2010 and 2020, there are predicted to be 38,000 vacancies in the Leeds City region, for process, plant and machine operatives because of retirements, illness and job changers. This is despite the fact that there have been widespread job losses in the industry since the recession. A third of the current food and drink manufacturing workforce will be eligible to retire in the next 20 years.

More information...

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

See 'job profiles' for information on different jobs in the construction industry

Improve Ltd, the industry sector skills council:

www.improveltd.co.uk

www.themanufacturer.com - manufacturing news

Further help...

National Careers Service advisers are available in your local area to provide information, advice and guidance on learning and work. See the website or call 0800 100 900.

