

# FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

# 137,000

The sector is looking to hire 137,000 new recruits over the next few years

You could earn up to **£50,000** per year as a food scientist

Food and drink manufacturing in the UK is a **world leader** (50% of the industry is made up from exports)



Food and drink is the largest manufacturing sector in the UK

There are **9,300** Food and drink workplaces in the UK

There are **opportunities** waiting for you.....

**£10 billion** of food was exported by the UK in 2011



**325,000** people are employed in this sector in the UK

**THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROSPECTUS**

[www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk](http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

## Careers Insight

Want to taste success in the country's largest manufacturing sector? The food and drink sector is booming, and it needs new recruits like you!

This sector is about taking what's grown by farmers and transforming it into our favourite foods. It takes a lot of people working together to make this happen, which means loads of career paths on offer. Depending on what you like to do, you could be processing ingredients, fixing machines on the production floor, processing meat or testing product quality.

Here are some entry-level jobs you could get, right now:

### Production

Production workers play a key role in manufacturing all kinds of food products. They might measure and add ingredients, check for faults or weight samples to maintain quality standards.

**Job/salary:** Production operative (£10,000 – £15,000 starting salary)

### Packaging

This covers work on the production line in a factory. The job may include packing finished food products into containers, adjusting settings of machines, and responding to any problems with the machinery.

**Jobs/salary:** Packaging operative, bottling operative (£12,000 – £15,000 starting salary)

### Distribution

From bringing the raw ingredients to the factory to delivering the finished product to shops around the country, this area deals with the movement and storage of goods.

**Job/salary:** Warehouse worker (£11,500 – £14,000 starting salary)

### Finding a job

Check your local newspaper or Job Centre for vacancies in the industry. There are jobs listed on the Careers in Food and Drink website too ([www.careersinfoodanddrink.co.uk](http://www.careersinfoodanddrink.co.uk)).

## GET QUALIFIED

There are some great vocational routes into this sector...

### Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a good route into this sector; both of these frameworks are NVQ level 2:

- Food Manufacture
- Sea Fishing

### Advanced Apprenticeships

You can also do an advanced Apprenticeship; both of these are NVQ level 3:

- Food Manufacture
- Sea Fishing

### A Levels

Here are some A Level subjects relevant to the sector:

- Food Technology
- Home Economics
- Sciences

### Foundation Degrees

A Foundation Degree is a university-level qualification that is equivalent to the first two years of an Honours Degree. They are different from Honours Degrees as they involve learning in the workplace as well as at university or college.

### College Courses

A college course can also be a great route into this sector. To see which colleges have relevant courses in your region check out [www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk](http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk).

## USEFUL LINKS

- [www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk](http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk) - The best careers site on the web.
- [www.improveltd.co.uk](http://www.improveltd.co.uk) - ImproveSkills (the Sector Skills Council).
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) - Home to a fantastic library of free careers videos.