Butchers and smallgoods makers select, cut, trim, prepare and arrange meat for sale and supply, operate meat and smallgoods processing machines, and manage the processes in the production of smallgoods.

**Job title examples**
- Butcher
- Meat Retailer
- Smallgoods Maker

**Other jobs in this field of work**

**What butchers and smallgoods makers do**
- prepare meat for sale by removing bones, trimming fat and cutting, mincing and grinding meat to shape and size for display or as ordered
- prepare crumbed cuts of meat, and marinate, season and cure special cuts
- select and prepare meat to produce smallgoods
- operate machines to grind, mix, mince and tenderise meat
- make seasonings and pickles by mixing spices, salt and other ingredients
- operate sausage filling machines, smoking chambers, and cooking kettles and vats
- advise customers on the suitability and uses of cuts of meat
- may assist in menu planning and scheduling, and in estimating food production costs

**Main employing industries**
- Retail Trade
Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Meat Processing (Food Services) available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Boning Room) available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Meat Processing (General) available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Rendering) available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) available as an apprenticeship or qualification
Certificate III in Meat Processing (Smallgoods - Manufacture) available as a traineeship or qualification

Apprenticeships and traineeships: Find out how to get an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the Course Finder to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay

- There are around 3,484 butchers and smallgoods makers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report current shortages in regional areas of NSW for experienced butchers and smallgoods makers.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):
- Butchers and Smallgoods Makers: $900
- All occupations: $1,200

Related jobs

- Chef
- Cook
- Meat Boner and Slicer, and Slaughterer

- Meat, Poultry and Seafood Process Worker

To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit the Job Guides Homepage.

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0
Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16
Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23