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