

# Food Processing Operator

Average salary: \$49,400

Career trend: medium growth

## Job description

Food and drink factory workers use their mechanical knowledge and love of machinery to perform routine tasks in the manufacturing of food and beverages. You'll know your product inside out and be proud to see something you made sitting on the shelf.

## What food & drink factory workers do

Food and drink factory workers help produce and ship products to suppliers and consumers. They perform repetitive manual labour on a variety of processing and production machines in a timely and efficient manner. They're often rotated around machines so they can experience variety and avoid injury.

Some of their most common jobs involve production, quality assurance and transportation as well as those related to packaging, shipping and receiving. Physical stamina is important, as they are often required to lift heavy weights.

As factories are becoming more automated, food and drink factory workers need to continually learn and adapt to new technologies. They also need excellent communication skills so they can collaborate with their warehouse team, take direction and ensure health and safety while being around moving equipment and machinery.

## You'll like this job if...

You're good with your hands. You're comfortable following the rules. You're organised. You're a natural communicator. You like to focus on details. You're able to stand for hours and lift heavy items. You work quickly and methodically. You can concentrate for long periods while doing repetitive tasks.



## Will I get a job?

- medium growth in this occupation is predicted in the next four years, with 5,200 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 36,100.

## What will I earn?

- \$950 to \$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- process worker
- food production assistant
- Line operator
- Line attendant
- Brewery worker
- Confectionary maker
- Dairy products maker
- Grain mill worker
- Sugar mill worker
- Grain Operator
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## A day in the life...

Work as a food and drink factory worker may involve these tasks:

- weigh, measure, mix, dissolve, and boil ingredients
- add materials, such as spices and preservatives, to food and beverages
- operate heating, chilling, freezing, pasteurising, carbonating, sulphuring, and de-sulphuring plants
- monitor product quality before packaging
- take samples and adjust treatment conditions when necessary
- operate machines to peel, core, slice, dice, pit, and juice fruit and vegetables
- clean equipment, pumps, hoses, storage tanks, vessels and floors
- maintain infestation control programs
- regulate speed of conveyors and crusher rollers, and adjust tension of rollers to ensure total extraction of juice from sugar cane
- move products from production lines into storage and shipping areas
- package and bottle products.

### Main employing industries

- Food Processing
- Food Manufacturing

### Other jobs you may like...

- Meat, poultry and seafood process worker

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

### Certificate II in Food Processing (FDF20111)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 80.2%\*

### Certificate III in Food Processing (FDF30111, FDF30117)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 70.8%\*

## VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

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**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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