

## Manufacturing Industries

If you have good practical skills, an eye for detail, or enjoy working with tools or machinery, then you may well consider a career in manufacturing.

Scotland's manufacturing industry is diverse and specialises in the areas of food, computer, electronic and optical products, chemicals and chemical products.

The manufacturing industry in Scotland employs 195,000 people, about 6.9% of the Scottish workforce.

### What areas can I work in?

Manufacturing involves many products from chemicals to computers, with many jobs on production lines and packing work. Clothing and textile jobs range from machine operation to production management and includes design-related and technical posts. In food and drink, you could be working in confectionery and bakery, meat processing or food science technology.

There is also work within engineering, chemicals and furniture manufacture, not to mention the printing industry.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

### What kind of companies can I work for?

There are a wide variety of employers including:

- engineering tools and chemical manufacturers
- food processing and manufacturing
- breweries, distilleries and drink manufacturers
- clothing, knitwear and textiles companies
- computers and electronics manufacturers
- furniture manufacturers.

### What's the job market like?

Many Scottish firms produce some high quality products, particularly for export, like whisky, seafood, Scotch beef, cashmere and other luxury textiles, providing a significant number of jobs in Scotland.

Scottish food and drink manufacturing, still the largest exporter in the Scottish economy, employs around 44,000 people, 24% of the Scottish manufacturing workforce. To keep up with industry demands, it predicts that 19,000 new recruits are needed in its workforce by 2024.

In June 2019, Baker Hughes GE opened a multi-million-pound manufacturing centre of excellence in Montrose, creating jobs and providing investment in the sector. The site includes test and assembly, research and development and workforce training facilities and pioneers cutting edge manufacturing processes to produce subsea technology.

Manufacturing for the space sector is a growing area in Scotland. More small satellites are built in Glasgow than anywhere else in Europe and a fifth of all space jobs are in Scotland. It is thought that the industry could be worth £4 billion by 2030. A £14.7 million investment in a Glasgow based satellite company (Spire Global) will help create 260 new jobs.

## Facts and figures

- 54% of Scotland's international exports are from manufacturing.
- There are 1,080 food and drink manufacturing businesses in Scotland.
- There are 525 textile companies in Scotland, employing 8,000 people.
- Nine in ten distilling jobs in Britain are based in Scotland and the average turnover across all Scottish distilleries was approximately £5.3 million in 2019.
- The chemical manufacturing sector employs 11,000 people over 240 companies.

## Want to find out more?

[Tasty Careers](#), hosted by the National Skills Academy, is a great resource for careers in the food and drink manufacturing industry

## Sources

- Workforce jobs by industry section, Labour Market Profile, Nomis (December 2019)
- Scotland's Textile Facts, [Scottish Enterprise](#) (Feb 2020)
- Scotland's Chemical Sciences Facts, [Scottish Enterprise](#) (Feb 2020)
- Facts and Stats, [Food and Drink Federation Scotland](#) (June 2019)
- Brewing and Distilling in Scotland – Economic Facts and Figures, Scottish Parliament (Nov 2019)
- Scotland's £4 billion Space Sector, Scottish Government news article (March 2019)
- Investment of £14.7 million into the Space Sector, Scottish Government news article (September 2019)