

Food Processing

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The Right Place. The Right Pace.

The food processing sector continues to grow within the Piedmont Triad region's manufacturing cluster and has a significant presence in the workforce. Approximately 9,000 of the Triad's workers are employed in industries associated with the processing or distribution of food products. Currently, more than 350 establishments in the food manufacturing, farming and distribution industries operate in the Piedmont Triad.



Harvest Time Bread produces a variety of premium quality, par-baked breads and rolls using a cheese-enrobed process for frozen food distribution.

North Carolina ranks among the top five US states in:

- Sweet Potatoes
- Hogs and Pigs
- Turkeys
- Cucumbers, Processing & Fresh Market
- Strawberries
- Broilers
- Peanuts

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2008

The Region's food and related companies produce, package and distribute a variety of products including baked goods, meats, snacks, spirits, soft drinks, sauces and condiments. Along with the array of products and services provided, resident companies enjoy the benefits of North Carolina's exceptional business climate – ranked #1 by Site Selection magazine.

Support for the industry: Education and Research

The Research Stations Division of the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services operates 18 research farms throughout the state including the Upper Piedmont Research Station in Rockingham County. Each station has unique climate and soil conditions, providing researchers a "living laboratory" to explore a variety of area-specific crops, forestry, aquaculture, livestock and poultry. These research stations operate through the unique partnership and cooperative efforts of the Piedmont Triad's North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the United States Department of Agriculture.

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University operates a Cooperative Extension Program providing research-based support to assist individuals, companies and communities with training and educational programs. These services are designed to assist with launching successful businesses and to provide processors with information to enhance product quality and profitability while meeting state and federal regulations.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro houses research facilities for the study of nutrition including The Dickson/Harris Teeter Cellular and Molecular Nutrition Laboratory and The Cemala Foundation Human Nutrition Research Laboratories. Along with state-of-the-art equipment, the Department of Nutrition consists of doctorally-trained researchers who provide instruction for the undergraduate and graduate programs.



Malt-O-Meal manufactures a variety of hot wheat and ready-to-eat cereals.

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Major Food Processing Employers in North Carolina's Piedmont Triad Region

Company	Employment
Miller Brewing Company <i>Beer & ale manufacturer</i>	639
Keystone Foods LLC <i>Chicken Processor</i>	450
Crestwood Farms <i>Poultry Processor</i>	267
Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated <i>Bottled & canned soft drinks manufacturer</i>	244
Pepsi-Cola Metropolitan Bottling <i>Bottled & canned soft drinks manufacturer</i>	200
Flowers Bakery of Winston-Salem <i>Fresh bakery cakes, cookies & crackers manufacturer</i>	190
Flowers Bakery of Winston-Salem <i>Premium cookies & crackers manufacturer</i>	172
Malt-O-Meal <i>Private label cereal manufacturer</i>	164
Flowers Baking Co. of Jamestown <i>Fresh & frozen bread manufacturer</i>	163
Alamance Foods Inc <i>Cream, distilled & spring water, fruit flavored pops & drinks manufacturer</i>	160
Dairy Fresh Inc <i>Milk & dairy product processor</i>	150
Hunter Farms <i>Dairy products & milk processor for store brand</i>	140
Harvest Time Bread <i>Bread products manufacturer for wholesalers & restaurants</i>	108



Piedmont Triad Food Processing Employment & Wages

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Estimated Entry Wage	Estimated Average Wage
Team Assemblers	13,960	\$8.38	\$12.75
Managers of Production Workers	5,780	\$15.33	\$23.11
Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	5,320	\$8.40	\$15.50
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers	5,020	\$9.44	\$13.60
Helpers-Production Workers	4,680	\$8.29	\$10.98
Industrial Production Managers	1,410	\$25.57	\$38.24
Mixing and Blending Machine Operators	1,240	\$11.27	\$16.17
Bakers	580	\$8.02	\$10.72
Butchers and Meat Cutters	390	\$10.36	\$14.16
Chemical Technicians	320	\$13.94	\$19.17
Slaughterers and Meat Packers	220	\$7.52	\$9.65
Food Batchmakers	150	\$8.89	\$12.58
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	60	\$12.67	\$20.35

Source: NC Employment Security Commission, Occupational & Wage Survey, 2009

