



| NSW Department of Education

Chef

Chefs plan and organise the preparation and cooking of food in dining and catering establishments.

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Job title examples

- Chef de Cuisine – the head or first chef
- Chef de Partie – specialises in a particular area eg pastry cook, fish cook
- Commis Chef – a cook who has just completed an apprenticeship or an equivalent qualification
- Demi Chef de Partie – the second in charge of a section of the kitchen
- Sous Chef/Second Chef – the second in charge of the kitchen

What chefs do

- plan menus, estimating food and labour costs and ordering food supplies
- monitor quality of dishes at all stages of preparation and presentation
- discuss food preparation issues with managers, dieticians and kitchen and waiting staff
- demonstrate techniques and advise on cooking procedures
- prepare and cook food
- explain and enforce hygiene regulations
- may select and train staff
- may freeze and preserve food

Main employing industries

- Accommodation and Food Services

Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery available as an apprenticeship or qualification

Certificate IV in Patisserie 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 26,451 chefs working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report current chef shortages in Metropolitan Sydney.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):

- Chefs: \$1000
- All occupations: \$1,200

Related jobs

- Cook
- Baker and Pastry cook
- Food Trades Assistant
- Kitchen hand
- Fast Food Cook



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

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

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014