PASTRY/BAKING

Job growth in the field of baking is expected to grow faster than the average through the year 2021. A growing number of stores that sell cookies, bread, and other specialty baked goods, will spur demand for bakers, particularly in grocery and other specialty stores, but increased use of off-site contract bakers with larger baking capacities will offset increased demand and cause employment to show little or no change. However, the need to replace experienced workers who transfer to other occupations or leave the labor force should generate additional job openings.

The skills needed to be a baker are often underestimated. Bakers need to learn how to combine ingredients and to learn how ingredients are affected by heat. They need to learn how to operate and maintain a range of equipment used in the production process. Courses in nutrition are helpful for those selling baked goods or developing new recipes. If running a small business, they need to know how to operate a business. All bakers must follow government health and sanitation regulations.

Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2016, bakers held an estimated 1,167 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 1,278 projected by 2021 (+10%).

**State:** Bakers held an estimated 1,596 jobs in Kansas in 2016, with 1,762 jobs projected by 2021 (+10%). All together 166 opening are anticipated.

**National:** Bakers held 210,733 jobs in 2016, with 229,104 jobs projected by 2021 (+9%). Approximately 18,371 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Bakers employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $10.73 in 2016.

**State:** Bakers in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $10.52 in 2016.

**National:** Bakers working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $11.67 in 2016.

**JCCC Placement and Salary Information**

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. One-hundred percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16 were employed in a related field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $12.00.

September 2017
Note: Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.