

Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Support

Occupations

Description

Food counter attendants and food preparers prepare, heat and finish cooking simple food items and serve customers at food counters. Kitchen helpers, food service helpers and dishwashers clear tables, clean kitchen areas, wash dishes, and perform various other activities to assist workers who prepare or serve food and beverages. They are employed by restaurants, cafés, hotels, fast food outlets, cafeterias, hospitals and other establishments.

Duties:

Food counter attendants and food preparers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Take customers' orders
- Clean, peel, slice and trim foodstuffs using manual and electric appliances
- Use deep fryer, grill, oven, dispensers and other equipment to prepare fast food items such as sandwiches, hamburgers, fries, salads, ice cream dishes, milkshakes and other beverages
- Portion, assemble, and wrap food or place it directly on plates for service to patrons, and package take-out food
- Use equipment to prepare hot beverages such as coffee and tea specialties
- Serve customers at counters or buffet tables
- Stock refrigerators and salad bars and keep records of the quantities of food used
- May receive payment for food items purchased.

Kitchen helpers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Wash and peel vegetables and fruit
- Wash work tables, cupboards and appliances
- Remove trash and clean kitchen garbage containers
- Unpack and store supplies in refrigerators, cupboards and other storage areas
- Sweep and mop floors, and perform other duties to assist cook and kitchen staff.

Food service helpers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Clear and clean tables and trays in eating establishments
- Bring clean dishes, flatware and other items to serving areas and set tables
- Replenish condiments and other supplies at tables and in serving areas
- Remove dishes before and after courses
- Perform other duties such as scraping and stacking dishes, carrying linen to and from laundry area and running errands.

Dishwashers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Wash dishes, glassware, flatware, pots and pans using dishwasher or by hand
- Place dishes in storage area
- Scour pots and pans, and may clean and polish silverware.

Other titles:

- Dishwasher
- Cook's Helper
- Food Preparer
- Cafeteria Counter Attendant
- Sandwich Maker
- Food Service Helper
- Fast-Food Preparer

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills



Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Some secondary school education is usually required

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Not required

Certification

- On-the-job training is provided

Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as food counter attendants and in related support occupations are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

Median Wages and Salaries (POR)	Average Wages and Salaries (POR)	Median Wages and Salaries (POW)	Average Wages and Salaries (POW)
\$7,291	\$10,839	\$8,355	\$11,807

Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
413 Food, beverage and tobacco wholesaler-distributors	20	20
6220 Hospitals	185	230

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Sector Report)