

SECTOR FOCUS:

# Chemicals Industry in Cheshire and Warrington

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Warrington

The Chemicals Industry is focused on the research, development and manufacture of different products such as toiletries, medicines, dyes, fuels, building materials and plastics. Like many areas of manufacturing there is a growing emphasis on the use of new technologies, such as nanotechnology, and on reducing the environmental impact of the different processes used by industrial plants.

Cheshire and Warrington is an area with a strong history in the Chemicals Industry, in part due to the large salt mines in the area which supply salts and raw materials to chemical manufacturers all over the world. Unilever, a global producer of everything from Dove to Domestos, has its roots in Warrington and the Essar Oil site at Ellesmere Port produces around 16% of the UK's road fuels. The industry is a significant source of local employment, with multiple opportunities for those interested in science and technology based careers. However you don't need to be a scientist to work in the sector, there are opportunities for individuals looking to enter business support roles, such as sales, supply chain and logistics.

## What types of jobs are available?

Average annual salaries in the sector include:



CHEMICAL PLANT OPERATOR  
£15,000 TO £35,000



HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER  
£22,000 TO £70,000



CHEMICAL ENGINEER  
£29,000 TO £60,000



TRAINING OFFICER  
£15,000 TO £35,000



MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN  
£18,000 TO £40,000



PLANT MANAGER  
£30,000 TO £65,000

## Fast Facts

about the Chemicals Industry in Cheshire and Warrington:



The Essar Oil complex at Stanlow has around 900 staff and CF Fertilisers in Chester employs around 400.



Compass Minerals, based in Winsford, is the largest rock salt provider in the UK.



Nationally around 1 in 10 engineers are female, the government has set targets to tackle this.



On average, in the UK engineering related apprentices earn over double the national minimum apprentice wage.



The Science Industry Partnership forecasts that nationally the chemicals sector needs up to 45,000 new recruits by 2025.



The area is home to Thornton Science Park, a research hub with state of the art science facilities.



## What companies are based in Cheshire and Warrington?

Examples of local employers in the Chemicals Industry include:

- Compass Minerals, Winsford
- Tata Chemicals Limited, Northwich & Middlewich
- Essar Oil, Ellesmere Port
- CF Fertilisers, Ince
- Unilever, Warrington
- Perstorp UK Ltd and Solvay Interlox Ltd, Warrington Industrial Park
- Thor Specialities (UK) Limited, Northwich

## How do I get into the sector?

There are opportunities to enter the sector at all levels. Those looking for a technical career will find a range of laboratory, manufacturing and engineering related apprenticeship vacancies. There are great opportunities for science and engineering graduates and for those wishing to transfer from other science related careers. For entry level opportunities a fork lift truck licence may be of value. Business support roles will be open to people with a range of skills and experience.

## Colleges and Universities

There are a wide range of colleges and universities in the area that offer programmes in science and engineering subjects. Maths and Physics are particularly important for future engineers. To search for a local course you can use the National Careers Service course search tool at:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/course-directory/home>  
or to find out more about university courses go to [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk).

## Apprenticeships

Many large companies and other smaller businesses offer apprenticeship opportunities, which allow you to study and work at the same time. Recent developments in apprenticeships means there are more opportunities to complete Higher and Degree Apprenticeships in Science and Engineering related subjects, however study of science and maths subjects at school or college will be required. Apprenticeships are open to both young people and adults and are available at all levels. Recent examples of local apprenticeship vacancies have included:

- Apprentice Technical Operator
- Apprentice Multi skilled Engineer
- Apprentice - Supply Chain Management
- Advanced Apprentice in Engineering Operations
- Mechanical Engineering Apprentice
- Apprentice Maintenance Engineer

## How do I find out more about careers in the Chemicals Industry?

National Apprenticeship Service: <https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

Sector Skills Bodies: [www.cogentskills.com](http://www.cogentskills.com)

Information on engineering for young people: <http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/from-idea-to-career/>

Graduate career information: [www.prospects.ac.uk/](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/)

Chemical Industries Association: <https://www.cia.org.uk/Careers/Careers-in-the-chemical-industry>

National Careers Service

Help is available online, or with one of our careers advisers by phone or in person.

For more information call 0800 100 900 between 8am to 10pm 7 days a week or search online for National Careers Service.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>