

SECTOR FOCUS:

# Manufacturing in Cheshire and Warrington

**National  
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**Cheshire &  
Warrington**

Manufacturing is a diverse sector, covering many different industries, all of which convert raw materials or components into new products. Practically everything we touch will have been through a process of manufacturing, from the food and drink that we eat to the cars that we drive. The manufacturing industry has changed in recent times, with more businesses using technology such as computers, robotics or lasers to design and make their products. This has led to a higher demand for a skilled workforce, although jobs at all levels do still exist.

Manufacturing is a big part of the economy in the Cheshire and Warrington area. There is a particularly strong automotive industry based in both Ellesmere Port and Crewe, and proximity to car and truck production in other parts of the Northwest means businesses that supply the automotive industry are also well established. The Cheshire East area is home to a number of pharmaceutical companies and there are strong employment opportunities in chemical industry over to the west.

## What types of jobs are available?

Average annual salaries in the sector include:



CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN  
£18,000 TO £35,000



AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEER  
£20,000 TO £45,000



ASSEMBLY LINE WORKER  
£11,500 TO £22,000



PRODUCTION MANAGER  
£20,000 TO £40,000



RUBBER PROCESS OPERATOR  
£14,000 TO £20,000



FOOD PACKAGING OPERATIVE  
£12,500 TO £20,000

## Fast Facts

about the  
Manufacturing sector in  
Cheshire and Warrington:



There are approximately 3,900 manufacturing workplaces in the area.



The manufacturing industry employs over 44,000 people locally.



The biggest share are employed in the car industry, with Vauxhall alone employing around 1,600 people.



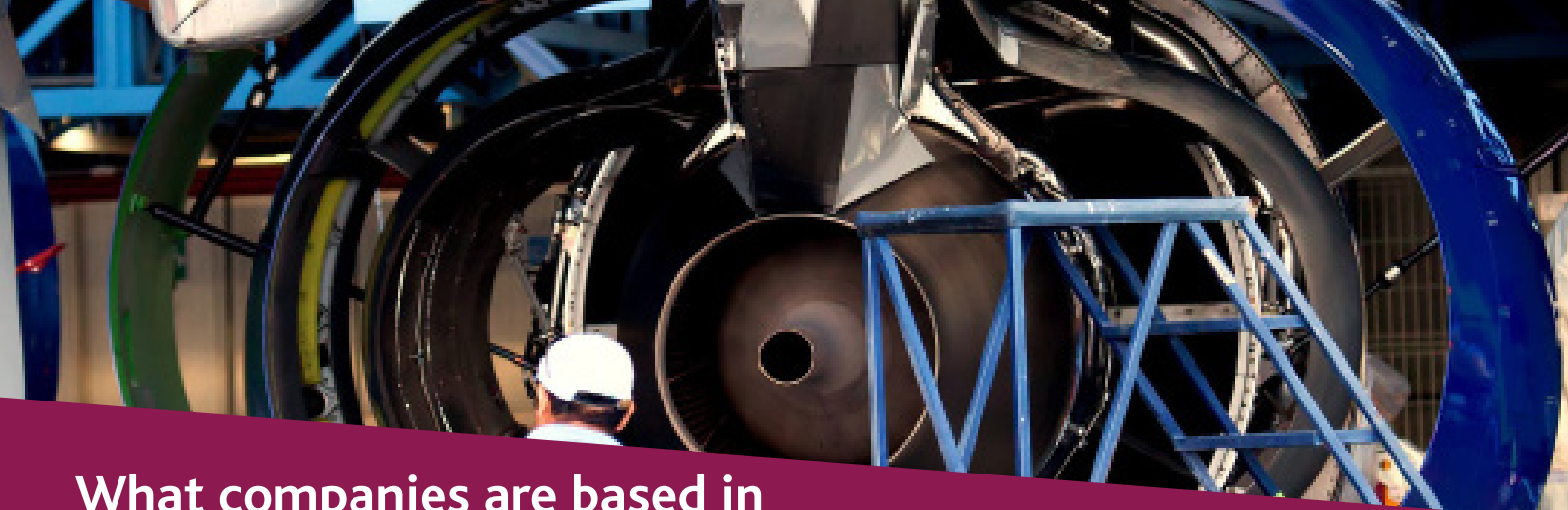
A third of the local manufacturing workforce are qualified to A Level (or equivalent) or above, just under 10% have no qualifications.



The area has a higher proportion of older workers than the national average.



Manufacturing workers across the North West are better paid than those in other regions.



## What companies are based in Cheshire and Warrington?

Examples of local employers in the Manufacturing sector include:

- Bentley Motors, Crewe
- Vauxhall, Ellesmere Port
- Plastic Omnium, Warrington
- Siemens, Congleton
- Essar Oil UK, Ellesmere Port
- Unilever, Warrington
- Waters Corporation, Wilmslow
- Meadow Foods, Chester
- Greencore, Warrington
- Airbus, Broughton

## How do I get into the sector?

There are many routes into manufacturing, the type of training you do will depend on the type and level of job you are looking for. Some roles will be open to those without existing qualifications or experience for which on the job training will be available, other roles will need existing technical skills and a growing number of employers need those with a degree or other high level qualifications.

## Colleges and Universities

There are a range of colleges and universities locally that provide courses related to manufacturing, everything from introductory courses for those wanting an entry level job (such as an assembly or production worker) to degree courses for those wanting to pursue a professional career, for example in engineering. Reaseheath College houses a specialist food technology training centre. 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. Manufacturing related apprenticeships are open to both young people and adults and are available at all levels; opportunities to study at a higher level have been increased by the introduction of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. Recent examples of local apprenticeship vacancies have included:

- Manufacturing Operations Apprentice
- Manufacturing Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship
- Production Engineer Apprentice
- Mechanical Production Engineer
- Fabrication and Welding Apprentice

## How do I find out more about careers in Manufacturing?

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

Sector Skills Councils: [www.semta.org.uk/careers](http://www.semta.org.uk/careers) or <http://www.cogentskills.com/careers/>

Information for young people interested in engineering related careers: <http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/>

### 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>