

Food Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as a Food Technologist and Technician [NOC 2021: 22100 / NOC 2016: 2211]

Job Description

Working as a Food Technologist or Technician may perform some or all of the following duties:

- Develop and test new food products, and search for new food sources
- Ensure quality and flavour remain consistent
- Determine the fat, sugar, vitamin, or mineral content of products
- Research ways to improve testing, preservation, packaging, and manufacturing methods
- Some enforce health and safety regulations

More information:

- **Career Cruising database** (Profile for Food Scientist).

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library

Industry Overview

This is a relatively new and growing occupation sector.

Food research is expected to increase because the public is more aware of nutrition and food safety. There are currently 260 members registered with British Columbia Food Technologists, the organization representing food scientists and technologists in the province.

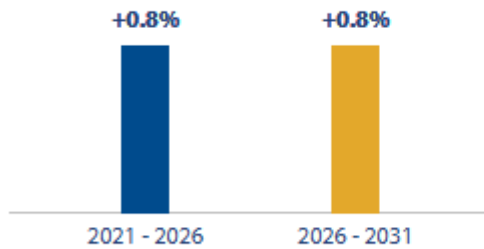
Across Canada, there are 1200 members of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology.

Source: BC Food Technologists <https://www.bcft.ca/>

Job Outlook in BC

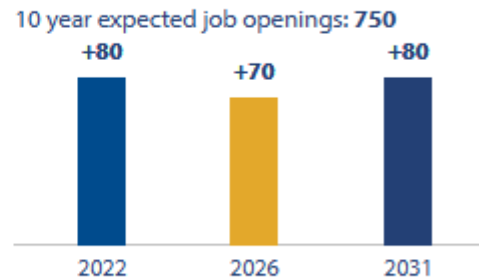
Chemical Technologists & Technicians, including Food Technicians & Technologists

Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

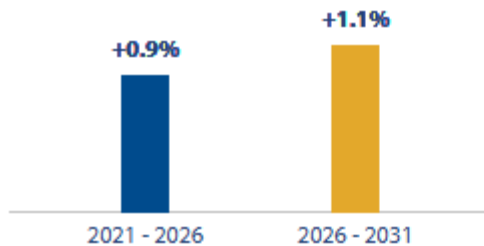


Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Chart from WorkBC

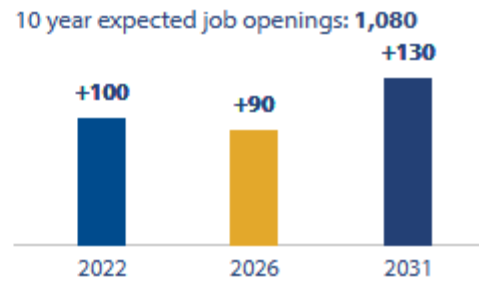
Biologists & Related Scientists, including Food Scientists (NOC 2121)

Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Chart from WorkBC

Employment outlook by BC region:

Chemical technologists & technicians, including food technicians and technologists

Cariboo		Kootenay	
Employment in 2021:	80	Employment in 2021:	130
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.2%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.3%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	20	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	30
Mainland / Southwest		North Coast & Nechako	
Employment in 2021:	1,870	Employment in 2021:	60
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.9%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.0%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	600	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	10
Northeast		Thompson-Okanagan	
Employment in 2021:	60	Employment in 2021:	220
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.3%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.7%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	20	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	60
Vancouver Island / Coast			
Employment in 2021:	210		
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.5%		
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	50		

Table from WorkBC

Employment outlook by BC region:
Biologists & Related Scientists, including food scientists

Cariboo		Kootenay	
Employment in 2021:	200	Employment in 2021:	200
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.1%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.0%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	20	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	50
Mainland / Southwest		North Coast & Nechako	
Employment in 2021:	2,100	Employment in 2021:	110
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.0%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	0.9%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	550	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	20
Northeast		Thompson-Okanagan	
Employment in 2021:	90	Employment in 2021:	540
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.0%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.0%
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	20	Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	120
Vancouver Island / Coast			
Employment in 2021:	1,010		
Average annual employment growth(%) 2021-2031:	1.1%		
Expected number of job openings 2021-2031:	310		

Chart from WorkBC

You can learn more about working in the food technology sector in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profiles** [Search Chemical Technologists & Technicians; Biological Technologists & Technicians; and Biologists & Related Scientists]
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

Types of Employers

Food scientists work for universities, colleges, government-run research agencies, and private companies in the food processing industry.

Salary

Entry-level positions may start at approximately \$35,000 a year. With experience, food scientists can earn \$40,000 to \$80,000 a year, though some in senior positions make as much as \$115,000 a year.

Full-time food scientists usually receive benefits such as dental coverage, paid vacation, and sick days.

Source: *Career Cruising* database (Profile for Food Scientist).

In BC's regions, **Chemical technologists and technicians, including food technologists and technicians**, earn:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	15.65	21.00	33.00
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	15.65	21.00	33.00

Source: Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

In BC's regions, **Biologists and related scientists**, including **food scientists**, earn:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	22.53	40.87	53.85
Cariboo Region	22.53	40.87	53.85
Kootenay Region	22.53	40.87	53.85
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	22.53	40.87	53.85
Thompson–Okanagan Region	22.53	40.87	53.85
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	22.53	38.21	56.57

Source: Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Working Hours

Food technologists and technicians generally work a standard 35 to 40 hours per week. However, evening and weekend shifts may be required in order to meet deadlines. Most work on a full-time basis.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Ability to communicate technical information clearly
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to analyze
- Good eye for detail
- Patience and persistence
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Creativity

Education and Experience

Food technologists are usually required to have completed a two or three-year college program in chemical, biochemical, or chemical engineering technology or a related discipline.

Food technicians are usually required to have completed a one or two-year college program in chemical, biochemical, or chemical engineering technology.

Food scientists are required to have completed a bachelor's degree in food science or a related scientific discipline, such as biology or chemistry as a minimum. However, a master's degree will increase one's chances of advancement, and is important for those aiming for senior research or management positions.

Some people enter food science with related college diplomas. However, they are usually limited to food technician positions in the private sector.

Sources: WorkBC Career Profiles [Chemical Technologists & Technicians and Biologists] And *Career Cruising* database (Profile for Food Scientist).

Qualifications

Licensing Requirements for Food Technologists & Technicians

Food technologists and technicians can apply for professional certification through the **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. (ASTTBC)**.

The following criteria must be met:

- *Applied Science Technologist (AScT)* designation - completion of an accredited diploma program and two years of industry work experience
- *Certified Technician (CTech)* designation - completion of an accredited certificate program and two years of industry work experience
- *One year of the work experience must be in Canada for both designations*

Internationally trained professionals. If you have equivalent education and work experience in other countries, but have not achieved the required work experience in Canada, you may be granted “Trainee” registration.

For more information:

- **ASTTBC**
<https://www.asttbc.org>
- **Trainee Registrants**
<https://asttbc.org/registrants/trainee/>

3. Finding Jobs

You’ll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations’ publications.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Government of Canada Jobs**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities/government.html>
Search by organization for jobs with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Indeed.com**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards

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Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **British Columbia Food Technologists**
<https://www.bcft.ca/jobs>
- **Institute of Food Technologists**
<https://www.ift.org/career-development/job-postings>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a range of different job titles that are relevant.

For **food technologists & technicians**, look for these related job titles:

- Agricultural Technician or Technologist
- Food Processing Quality Control Technician or Technologist
- Food Bacteriological Technician or Technologist

For **food scientists**, look for these related job titles

- Food Products Bacteriologist
- Food Products Scientist
- Food Research Scientist

Source: NOC <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of companies who employ food technologists & technicians in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Feed BC Directory**
<https://feedbcdirectory.gov.bc.ca/>
- **BC Specialty Food Directory**
<https://www.bcspecialtyfood.ca/>

- **Food in Canada**

Buyers' guide in the October issue. Available at the Central Library 664.05 F6861 and online

<https://www.foodincanada.com/buyers-guide/>

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "food" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume (curriculum vitae) and a cover letter. These should identify the position you are applying for and summarize your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

- **Networking for Employment**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations for food technologists and technicians in BC and Canada provide assistance to individuals. Registration and fees are required for membership.

- **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. (ASTTBC)**

<https://asttbc.org/>

- **British Columbia Food Technologists**

<https://www.bcft.ca/>

- **Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology**

<https://cifst.ca/>

- **Chemical Institute of Canada**

<https://www.cheminst.ca/>

- **Institute of Food Technologists**

<https://www.ift.org/>

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. You'll find recent editions at the Central Library:

- **Food in Canada** / Maclean-Hunter

Available at the Central Library, 664.05 F6861

<https://www.foodincanada.com/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library, Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.