



# Career Opportunities in Somerset

If you are looking for work in Somerset, there are some great career opportunities. Read on to learn about some of the key industries in the county.

## AGRICULTURE

Somerset has traditionally had a strong agricultural sector and this is set to continue, supplying both large scale food manufacturers and the increasing locally sourced food market. The sector offers many seasonal and some year-round roles.

As well as practical skills and technical knowledge, the agricultural sector requires business skills and adaptability to changing practices and regulations.

The growing agritech sector explores innovative ways to develop farming processes. Opportunities include:

- agronomists – working to improve soil productivity and quality
- biochemists – checking biochemical interactions on crops and food products
- robotics and artificial intelligence – developing and implementing AI solutions to improve efficiency and quality

### What skills do I need?

[www.tastycareers.org.uk](http://www.tastycareers.org.uk) gives an excellent insight into careers across the food, drink and agriculture sectors.

## FOOD AND DRINK PRODUCTION

There are over 9,000 full-time jobs in food and drink production in Somerset and the opportunities continue to grow. This is no surprise with Somerset also having a strong agriculture sector and with a growing trend for locally sourced food.

Jobs in this sector are diverse and include:

- Creating the finished product – butchery, bakery, brewing
- Developing and testing new products – buyers, food scientists
- Product management – buyers, category managers

Key Somerset employers in this sector include Muller, Somerset Larder, Yeo Valley Family Farm

### What skills do I need?

If you are looking for a production role then most food and drink employers can train you in the skills needed. This can lead to further opportunities. There are more technical roles for which a specific background will be required.



## CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

This diverse sector requires the skills to take a project from an initial idea through to its final delivery. As Somerset continues to develop more housing, employment sites and transport links these skills will remain in demand. Just a few of the roles at each stage of a large project are listed below.

Land surveyors, planners and architects will identify suitable sites and propose designs. Engineers, project planners and quantity surveyors will create a deliverable project plan. Skilled construction workers will deliver the final development supported by engineers and surveyors.

Construction companies often work together on larger projects or individually for smaller projects such as individual home improvements.

For a good overview of construction roles visit [www.goconstruct.org](http://www.goconstruct.org). There are many construction firms of different sizes and specialisms across Somerset.

### What skills do I need?

To work on a construction site, you will require a Construction Skills Certificate - visit [www.cscs.uk.com](http://www.cscs.uk.com) for more information. This will enable you to access general labouring roles. You can then work with your employer or a training provider to develop specific skills.

## ENERGY & UTILITIES

The energy and utility sector serves every household and business in the UK. To meet demand the industry needs to recruit 221,000 people by 2030. This includes 50,000 engineers to secure power supplies.

Industries in this sector include water and waste management and energy production and supply across gas, nuclear and renewables. Jobs may be in offices, at laboratories, production or processing sites. For some there is travel between sites or even offshore.

Some of Somerset's key employers are Hinkley Point C, Magnox, SSE & Wessex Water. For more information visit [www.energyutilitiesjobs.co.uk](http://www.energyutilitiesjobs.co.uk)

### What skills do I need?

These employers may look for construction, maintenance and engineering skills. A keen awareness of safety and an aptitude for problem solving are also important.



## ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING

Somerset's advanced engineering and manufacturing sector contributes more than twice the national average to our local economy. This is because the county is home to key employers in the aerospace, photonics and robotics industries.

Job roles in this sector include:

- Aerospace engineer
- Computer Aided Design technician
- Control and instrumentation engineer
- Production Operator and Production Manager

Many roles are based at the manufacturers premises whilst some might include visiting clients to test or install products and solutions.

Some of Somerset's key employers are Gooch & Housego, Leonardo Helicopters, Numatic & Singer Instruments.

### What skills do I need?

This will vary according to the product manufactured and the roles available. Many manufacturers can provide training to fulfil the roles they have available. This may then allow progression to more skilled roles. A willingness and an awareness of safety are important.

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Nine out of ten employers in the South West require digital technology skills – and these skills are needed in all types of industries. The digital technology sector itself is growing rapidly in the South West too. So, there are many opportunities. In the technology industry these include:

- [Software development and testing](#)
- [Data analysis and data science](#)
- [Artificial intelligence and robotics](#)

Among Somerset's key digital employers are the Claims Consortium Group, MK Test Systems, Shearwell Data and the UK Hydrographic Office.

Many companies now rely on digital marketing and so there are opportunities both in specialist digital marketing agencies and as a digital marketing specialist in other businesses. Opportunities include:

- [Web developer and Web designer](#)
- [Search Engine Optimisation](#)
- [Digital content creator](#)

Visit [Teapot Creative](#) and [Evosite](#) to see just two of Somerset's growing number of digital marketing agencies.

### What skills do I need?

This will vary according to the area of technology you are interested in. For examples, software developers would need to be familiar with coding packages whilst web-designers will need to be comfortable with creative software.

Attention to detail and an ability to meet deadlines are also important.



## TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

This is a key employment sector in Somerset, accounting for 9% of all jobs in the county. Employers in this sector include hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions.

Many roles are seasonal, offering a great opportunity to gain work experience. There are also long-term career opportunities with strong demand for well-skilled chefs in Somerset.

Several new hotels have recently opened in Somerset with job opportunities at many levels.

Key Somerset employers include Butlins, Somerset County Cricket Club and the South West Heritage Trust along with many successful privately-owned businesses such as the Castle Hotel in Taunton and Lanes Hotel in West Coker.

### What skills do I need?

A welcoming and helpful manner which delivers excellent customer care is vital in this sector.

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

This is a key employment sector in Somerset – helping people to stay well, get better and maintain independent lives.

Whilst some roles, such as Doctors, nurses and paramedics are visible and well-known, there are many other opportunities in this sector. Community roles include occupational therapists, care workers and social workers. Hospital-based roles include radiographers and theatre technicians. Other allied roles include biomedical scientists, speech therapists, nutritionists – and the list goes on.

The NHS is the largest employer in this sector, whilst Somerset County Council also has many roles available.

### What skills do I need?

This sector requires people with a passion to care for others. Care providers will provide training for people who can demonstrate this. There are good opportunities for progression in both the health and social care sectors.

## WHERE CAN I GET CAREERS ADVICE AND FIND OUT ABOUT TRAINING?

To find out more about learning opportunities in Somerset please contact Jane Parker, Learning & Skills Advisor at SkillUp Somerset: [j.parker@skillupws.org.uk](mailto:j.parker@skillupws.org.uk)

You can also contact the National Careers Service at [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)