



# INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT: MANUFACTURING IN NC, SC, & VA

## FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Food Manufacturing (NAICS 311) transforms agricultural products into consumable food products. The sector includes processes such as milling, canning, baking, and packaging to produce a wide range of foods like dairy products, bakery goods, meat, seafood, and beverages. Products are typically sold to wholesalers and retailers for consumer distribution after manufacturing. The average annual wage in the NC, SC, and VA region is \$50,158, and 112,231 people work in the sector.

### Industry Concentration

#### Top 5 MSAs in Location Quotient

1. Harrisonburg–Staunton–Stuarts Draft, VA
2. Rocky Mount–Wilson–Roanoke Rapids, NC
3. Fayetteville–Lumberton–Pinehurst, NC
4. Columbia–Sumter–Orangeburg, SC
5. Asheville–Waynesville–Brevard, NC

### Highest Wages

Virginia Beach–Chesapeake, VA  
\$56,711

### Employment Concentration

#### Top 5 MSAs in Employment

1. Washington–Baltimore–Arlington, VA
2. Charlotte–Concord, NC
3. Harrisonburg–Staunton–Stuarts Draft, VA
4. Columbia–Sumter–Orangeburg, SC
5. Fayetteville–Lumberton–Pinehurst, NC

### Lowest Wages

New Bern–Morehead City, NC  
\$30,630

### Top MSA by Employment Growth

The Myrtle Beach–Conway is the MSA has the highest rate of annual growth in this industry, 1.9%, more than double the SC average of 0.6% and quintuple that of the national average of 0.5%. While it is a fast growing sector in this MSA it has the third lowest employment in the tri-state area and is on the lower end of wages.

### Recent Project Announcements

- Puring, Eden Rockingham County, NC, wet pet food manufacturing and distribution
- HP Hood, Frederick County, VA, dairy and non-dairy beverage processing
- Luray Peanut Company, Hampton County, SC, packaged boiled peanuts

### Site Location Factors

- Proximity to raw materials
- Access to major markets
- Transportation and logistics
- Cost and availability of labor
- Utilities capacity and access

### Industry Forecast

The food manufacturing industry is expected to grow at the rate of 0.6% per year over the next five years in the NC, SC, & VA region. An estimated 3,600 new jobs will be added. This is slightly more growth than was seen over the last five years when the sector added approximately 3,300 jobs.