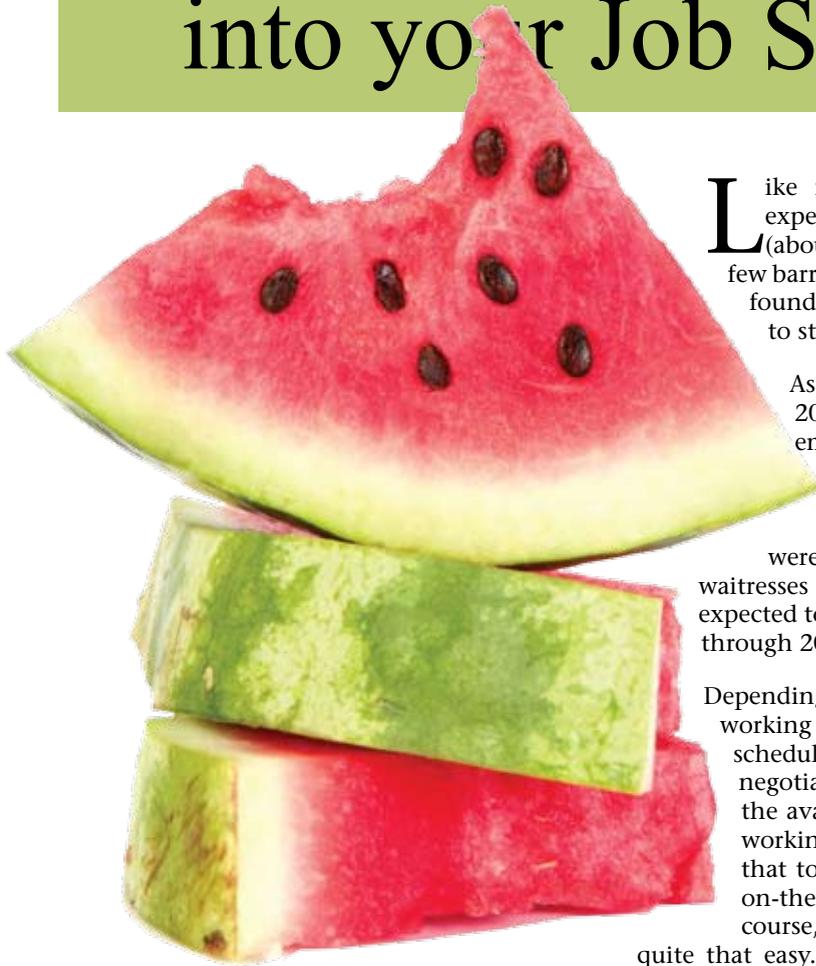


BITE

into your Job Search

Food service can be a great place to start your job search.



Like many sectors, the food services industry has experienced employment losses over the last year (about 2.5 percent statewide). However, with relatively few barriers to entering many of the common occupations found in the industry, food service can be a great place to start your job search.

As of May 2008, waiters and waitresses comprised 20 percent of the food service industry's total employment. Further, job openings within the occupation occur more frequently than in many other occupations. The fourth quarter 2008 Job Vacancy Study estimated that there were approximately 500 openings for waiters and waitresses in metro Utah, and waiters and waitresses are expected to have 1,400 average annual openings in the state through 2016.

Depending on what you want out of a job, advantages to working as a waiter or waitress include, a flexible work schedule—at some restaurants it is typical to be able to negotiate your schedule or trade shifts with coworkers—the availability of part-time work and the possibility of working nights. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that to successfully perform a waiter's tasks, short-term on-the-job training is generally all that is required. Of course, we all know that finding the "right" job is never quite that easy. To land a job as a waiter or waitress you will likely need a food handlers permit, may need to learn the ropes by starting as a host/hostess or by bussing tables, and if you're applying to work at an upscale restaurant, you may need related work experience.

Another occupation commonly found in food service is combined food preparation and serving workers, which make up almost 25 percent of the industry's employment. Like waiters and waitresses,

openings for combined food preparation and serving workers are frequent compared to openings for most other occupations and the position generally requires no more than short-term on-the-job training.

Along with making money, working as a waiter, waitress or food preparation worker can provide you with valuable experience, that, when coupled with other requisite skills, could make you a strong candidate for a supervisory or managerial occupation within the food service industry. Utah's first-line super-

visors of food preparation and serving workers had a median wage of \$14.04 an hour in 2008. Additionally, food service managers posted a median wage of \$23.64 an hour, and that occupation is determined to be a five-star job (five-star jobs have a strong employment outlook and relatively high wages).

If you'd like to obtain the necessary post secondary vocational training to be a chef or head cook, that occupation earned a median \$19.71 an hour in 2008, however, job openings can be hard to come by.

It is important to note that while the above occupations are frequently found in the food services industry, they can also be found in other industries (for example, a food service manager could be managing food operations at an elementary school or nursing care facility). So, when conducting your job search, taking a less than conventional approach can sometimes yield better results. Nevertheless, opportunities in the food service industry can be plentiful, so get out there and take a bite out of your job search! 🍉

Occupation Title	Inexperienced Wage	Average	Median	Middle Range	Training
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$14.88	\$21.64	\$19.71	\$16.23 to \$26.10	Post secondary vocational training
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	\$6.79	\$8.03	\$7.68	\$6.81 to \$9.00	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	\$10.28	\$14.42	\$14.04	\$11.45 to \$16.89	Work experience (in related occupation)
Food Service Managers	\$17.63	\$25.91	\$23.64	\$19.15 to \$30.08	Work experience (in related occupation)
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.75	\$9.23	\$7.90	\$6.86 to \$10.63	Short-term on-the-job training

Note: The above occupational wage data was collected prior to the federal minimum wage increase to \$7.25 per hour.

For more information on these occupations and others, visit <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccinfo.do>

