

Food and Beverage Serving and Related Workers

SOC: 35-3023 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$31,040

Median Salary

5,030,600

Employment

+5.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: No formal educational credential

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 22.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	7.0/10	Investigative	3.8/10
Artistic	4.6/10	Social	7.6/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Customer-service skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Food and Beverage Serving and Related Workers are hospitality professionals who provide **customer service, food delivery, and dining support** in restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, and other food service establishments. They play a key role in creating positive dining experiences by ensuring guests are served efficiently, accurately, and courteously. Their work directly affects customer satisfaction, repeat business, and the overall atmosphere of food service operations.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy fast-paced environments, interacting with people, and working as part of a service-oriented team.

What Do Food and Beverage Serving Workers Do?

Food and beverage serving workers assist customers before, during, and after meals. Duties vary by role and establishment but consistently focus on service quality and efficiency.

Common responsibilities include:

- Taking food and beverage orders accurately
- Serving meals, drinks, and condiments to customers
- Explaining menu items, ingredients, or specials
- Refilling beverages and responding to customer requests
- Clearing tables and maintaining clean dining areas
- Handling payments or assisting with billing processes
- Following food safety and sanitation procedures

Types of Food and Beverage Serving Workers

This occupation includes several related service roles:

- Waiters and Waitresses: Take orders and serve food in full-service restaurants.
- Food Servers (Nonrestaurant): Serve food in cafeterias, schools, or healthcare facilities.
- Counter Attendants: Take orders and serve food at counters or fast-casual locations.
- Baristas: Prepare and serve coffee and specialty beverages.
- Buffet and Banquet Servers: Assist with large events and catered meals.
- Room Service Attendants: Deliver food to hotel guests.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Food and beverage serving workers combine customer service skills with speed and accuracy.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Most food and beverage serving workers enter the field with minimal formal education and receive on-the-job training:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent (often not required): Varies by employer
- On-the-Job Training: Learning service procedures, menus, and POS systems
- Food Safety Training: Certification in sanitation or food handling (often required)
- Customer Service Experience: Helpful for advancement
- Advancement Opportunities: Pathways to supervisory or hospitality management roles

Where Do Food and Beverage Serving Workers Work?

These workers are employed across the food service and hospitality industry:

- Restaurants and Cafes
- Hotels and Resorts
- Bars, Lounges, and Nightlife Venues
- Catering and Event Services
- Schools, Hospitals, and Institutions
- Fast Food and Quick-Service Establishments

Work schedules often include evenings, weekends, and holidays.

How Much Do Food and Beverage Serving Workers Earn?

Earnings vary by role, location, and establishment:

- Entry-Level Service Workers: Typically earn hourly wages
- Tipped Positions: Income may include gratuities from customers
- Experienced or Lead Servers: May earn higher pay or shift-based premiums

Compensation often fluctuates based on hours worked and customer volume.

Is This Career Difficult?

Food and beverage service can be physically demanding and fast-paced. Workers must manage multiple tasks, handle customer expectations, and remain courteous during busy periods. The challenge lies in maintaining speed, accuracy, and a positive attitude under pressure.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a good fit if you:

- Enjoy interacting with people
- Prefer active, on-your-feet work
- Can work well in fast-paced environments
- Like flexible schedules
- Want an accessible entry point into hospitality

How to Prepare Early

- Develop strong communication and customer service skills
- Learn basic food safety and hygiene practices
- Practice multitasking and time management
- Gain experience through part-time or seasonal service jobs
- Observe how professional service teams operate

Food and beverage serving and related workers are essential to the hospitality experience, delivering service, care, and efficiency that turn meals into enjoyable and memorable moments for customers.