

## MEDIEVAL JOBS: BAKER

The Baker was a common occupation but not as easy as some may think. In the Medieval Ages there was a period when bakers began cheating the public at such a rate that public outcry reached the ears of several kings. As bread was a daily staple of Medieval life, the bakers knew that they could charge a lot of money for minimal portions of their products. As such, kings levied laws against bakers stating that they were to lower their prices and keep honest. In fact the common term "A Baker's Dozen" (meaning 13 instead of 12) came from this time period. Any baker caught selling less than an even dozen was strictly and harshly punished. As a result bakers began adding one extra loaf to be certain their count would be correct or even over the amount decreed by law.

Good bakers were often invited and employed by the rich and elite as personal cooks and chefs inside the safety of castles. Their duties included the preparation of dinners and large feasts. There were exceptional bakers of all classes.

Adapted from:

Carnegie, Julie L. "Medieval Europe: 814–1350: Social Class System and the Economy." *UXL World Eras*, vol. 8: Medieval Europe: 814–1350, UXL, 2016, pp. 45-66. *Gale In Context: Middle School*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3629700115/MSIC?u=mcps&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=688cf364](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3629700115/MSIC?u=mcps&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=688cf364). Accessed 9 Nov. 2021.