

Personal and General Services

If you are a hands on practical person and like to work with other people, then you might find yourself working in this broad ranging but very necessary career sector. Work ranges from providing services for others or helping to keep the environment clean to making sure we all live and work in safe and healthy conditions.

What areas can I work in?

You could work in general services within environmental or public health such as pest control, waste disposal and recycling, including cemetery and crematorium work.

If you prefer to work directly with people you could work in personal services, which ranges from clothes alterations, dry cleaning and laundry work, photograph processing, shoe, clocks or watch repair to funeral services.

What kind of companies can I work for?

There are a wide range of organisations you can work for including:

- local authorities environmental or civic amenity departments
- specialist recycling or waste disposal companies
- private burial and cremation companies
- retail outlets such as jewelry shops, shoe repair shops or dry cleaners
- supermarkets and pharmacy outlets
- private pest control companies
- small and large chain funeral director services.

What's the job market like?

Job opportunities vary depending on the area you live in and the job you want to do.

Competition for jobs in waste management and recycling with local authorities, the main employers, are competitive. Many jobs are at entry level and are manual or practical based, but there are good opportunities to work up to management level jobs.

Due to the nature of the funeral services, cemeteries and crematorium industry, employment demand is stable and immune to economic downturn. This is despite the decline in death rates in recent years due to medical advances and people leading healthier lives.

Facts and figures

- Funeral services, cemeteries and crematorium and its related services employ around 23,993 people across some 1,886 businesses in the UK.
- The UK pest control industry market value continues to grow, with a revenue of just over £487 million. It employs 6,997 people across 688 businesses.

- In 2018 2.4 million tonnes of household waste was collected by local authorities across Scotland. Of this 44.7% was recycled.

Want to find out more?

[Energy and Utility Skills](#) is the Sector Skills Council for the electricity, gas, waste management and water sectors. Their website has a section aimed at 14 to 19 year olds on careers in waste management and recycling.

Sources

- Funeral Activities - UK Market Research Report (snapshot, January 2019) ([IBISWorld](#))
- Pest Control - UK Market Research Report (snapshot, July 2019) ([IBISWorld](#))
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Household Waste Data (2018)