

Sport

Are you interested in helping people to stay fit and lead a healthy lifestyle? Maybe your dream is to take part in sport at a professional level, or coach and advise those who do? If this sounds like you this career area may be just what you're looking for.

The sport industry in Scotland is still enjoying a high profile, thanks to the success of major international sporting events in recent years, including the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 2015 Open Championship at St Andrews and the 2018 European Championships. Still to come is the 2019 Solheim Cup at Gleneagles, and in 2020 Glasgow is one of 13 cities to host the European Football Championships, as well as the 2020 World Men's Curling Championship.

The latest figures report that around 371,800 people work in the UK sports and fitness industry, across 176,000 businesses and organisations.

What areas can I work in?

There are many different types of work in sport, including: coaching and instructing, sports development, leisure centre operations and management, sports science and therapy and, of course, professional sport performance.

There are also sport-related jobs in other career areas, for example: sports journalism, retailing (clothing, footwear and equipment), administration, facilities management and event management.

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- local authorities – community sport, schools and leisure centres
- private gyms and health clubs
- large sports clubs – such as football clubs and golf clubs
- sports councils and governing bodies.

What's the job market like?

Employment levels are expected to rise in the coming years, however, these may vary across the different sectors of the industry.

Growth is being driven by factors such as Scottish Government initiatives to encourage people to take part in sport, investment in new sporting facilities and an increase in the number of people with an awareness of the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

There are job opportunities throughout Scotland, particularly in and around major cities and towns with large populations. In rural areas there are opportunities in outdoor activities, such as climbing, canoeing, riding or skiing, although these can be mostly seasonal.

It is important to remember that young people joining the industry often start in low-skilled, entry-level jobs that

are low paid. You have to be prepared to work your way up by developing your skills and knowledge of the industry. There are many opportunities to volunteer in this sector to get the necessary experience.

Facts and figures

- From the academic year 2016/17, 42.9% of sports science graduates were in full time employment 6 months after graduating and 21.8% went on to further study.
- In 2017 there were 19,500 people employed in the operation of sports facilities and other sports activities in Scotland.
- The country sports tourism sector in Scotland is estimated to be worth around £155 million per year.
- Scottish athletes won 44 medals at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Want to find out more?

SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure, Learning and Well-being. You can find more information about the sectors it covers and related careers and training pathways on the [SkillsActive Careers](#) website.

[Sportscotland](#) is the national agency for sport in Scotland and provides a wide range of information on issues such as funding in sport, getting involved in volunteering, individual sports and sporting developments in your local area.

Sources

- What do graduates do? Prospects in association with HECSU and AGCAS (2018/19)
- 'Game for Growth' Country sports tourism in Scotland: Delivering sustainable growth 2016-2020: A strategy (www.countrysportscotland.com) (2017)
- Growth Sector Statistics: Table 2.5 – Employment, Scotland 2009-2017, [Scottish Government](#) website (June 2019)
- Team Scotland (www.teamscotland.scot/games/gold-coast-2018)
- [SkillsActive](#) website
- [Sporting Events in Scotland](#) website.