

Hotel Receptionist

A hotel receptionist takes bookings, checks guests in and out of the hotel, allocates rooms and keys, and is the main point of contact between the guests and the staff.

The Work

You could be:

- taking bookings and cancellations, usually by phone, email or face-to-face and recording the information on computer
- checking in guests, allocating rooms and handing over keys
- answering questions about hotel facilities and about local transport, places of interest and entertainment
- using sales skills to promote additional hotel services and facilities
- dealing with special requests, such as room service, taxi bookings or wake-up calls
- passing on messages to guests and taking mail for posting
- passing on any guests' problems to the appropriate member of staff
- answering the phone, operating the switchboard and dealing with the email and mail
- checking out guests, adding up their bills and taking their credit, debit card or cash payments.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting pay is often based on the National Minimum Wage (NMW) or the National Living Wage (NLW).

As of 1 April 2026 the National Minimum Wage is £8.00 an hour for workers under 18, £10.85 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20. The National Living Wage for those aged 21 and over is £12.71 an hour.

The apprentice rate, for those aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship, is £8.00 an hour (1 April 2026).

Hourly pay for qualified hotel receptionists can rise to £11 or more. Benefits can include a free uniform, free on-shift meals and discounts on hotel rates.

Conditions

- You work shifts including early mornings, nights and weekends.
- The job may be seasonal.
- Part time work is common.
- You stand or sit at the reception counter in the lobby.

- You may wear a uniform provided by the hotel.
- Some hotels are in remote areas, such as the Highlands and Islands.

Getting In

There is no single way into this career.

- You do not need formal qualifications but a good general education is useful.
- Some employers may expect you to have some subjects at National 4 or 5 including English and Maths.
- It could be helpful to do a full time course at college such as an NQ (SCQF Level 2-6) or an NC (SCQF Level 2-6) in administration and information technology, business or hospitality.
- It helps to have good IT skills.
- You might train through a Modern Apprenticeship in Hospitality at SCQF Level 5.
- You could study the Foundation Apprenticeship in Hospitality (SCQF Level 4 or 5) in S3-S6, which can help to get into a relevant Modern Apprenticeship.
- For some jobs you need experience of using a switchboard and using a computer.
- You may need knowledge of computerised reservation systems.
- Knowledge of foreign languages is helpful.
- You must be over 18 if the job includes serving in the bar.

Tourism and catering are growth areas. There are hotels in every Scottish town and city as well as in rural areas. There is usually a good range of vacancies online and in jobcentres.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- a smart appearance
- a friendly, helpful manner
- an enthusiastic, flexible attitude
- excellent communication skills and a good telephone manner
- the ability to remain calm under pressure
- confidence to make decisions
- the ability to multitask
- good computer skills.

Training

- Training is on the job.
- If employed as a Modern Apprentice you would complete the SVQ Hospitality Services at SCQF Level 5.

Getting On

- Larger hotels offer more promotion prospects. You could move on to posts such as shift leader, supervisor and head receptionist.
- You could also move into different areas of hotel work such as sales, human resources or events and

banqueting services.

- With further qualifications or experience you might move into management.

Contacts

Springboard

Email: info@springboarduk.org.uk

Website: careerscope.uk.net

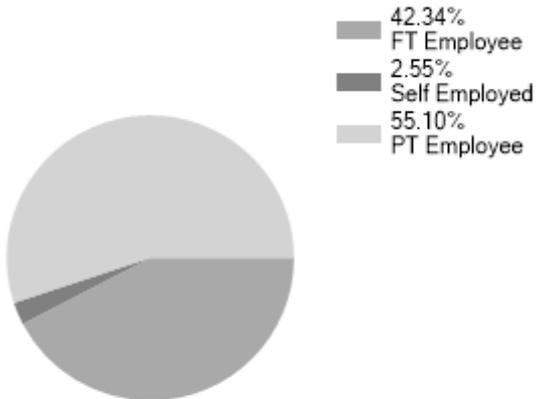
Website (2): springboard.uk.net

X: [@CareerScope_](https://twitter.com/CareerScope_)

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Statistics

Employment Status UK %

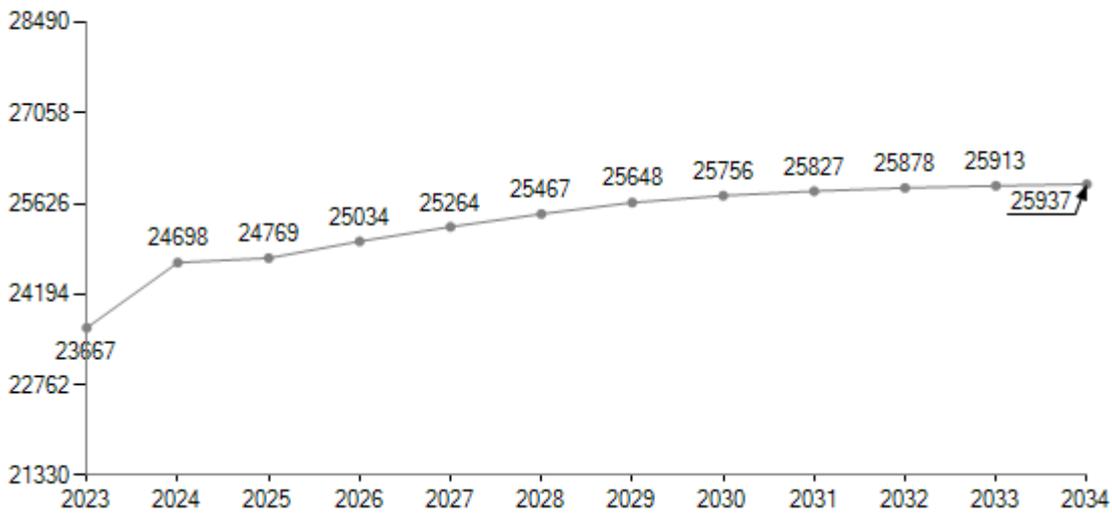


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)