

Checkout Operator

Checkout operators put customers' purchases through the till, take the money or card details, and give out change and receipts.

The Work

You could be:

- using a computerised till with a barcode scanner
- keying in prices on the checkout computer
- weighing fruit and vegetables so the till can work out the cost
- handling cash, credit and debit cards, vouchers and coupons
- helping customers to pack purchases
- changing paper till rolls and keeping the checkout area tidy
- using special tools to remove security tags
- making sure you don't sell certain products, such as alcohol, to underage customers.

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.

This may rise to around £7.60 an hour.

Conditions

- You will work in a supermarket, wholesale cash and carry, DIY store or other large shop.
- You may be sitting in one place throughout your shift.
- You will probably work different shifts including some evenings and weekends.
- Part time work is common.
- You usually wear a uniform, which the employer provides.
- You may get a discount on goods you buy from the shop.

Getting In

- You do not need formal qualifications but a good general education is useful.

- You should be fast and accurate in basic maths.
- You may be able to get into a Modern Apprenticeship in retailing in some areas.
- If you work in a premises that sells alcohol you will need to be at least 18.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- good at working with the public
- able to work under pressure — sometimes the queue may continue all through the day
- friendly and helpful
- smartly presented
- honest
- good with numbers and able to handle money.

Training

- Training is on the job.
- Any staff selling alcohol must have completed at least 2 hours training in line with government guidelines. Your employer would usually provide training for the BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Licensed Premises Staff.

Getting On

- If you are working for a big company, your employer might offer you training for a supervisory post. From there you might go on to train as a manager.
- You could also go on to train other checkout operators.
- You might have to move to other parts of the country to get promotion.

Contacts

British Retail Consortium (BRC)

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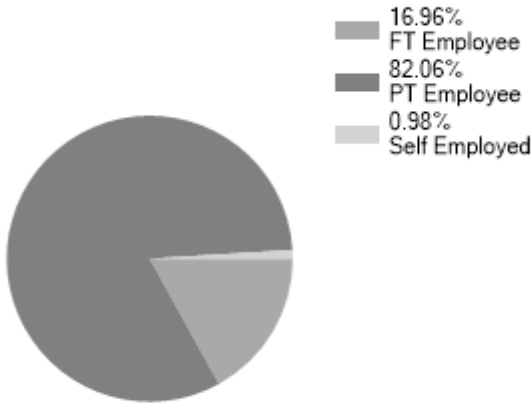
Website (2): www.rethinkretail.org.uk

X: @the_brc

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebrc

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

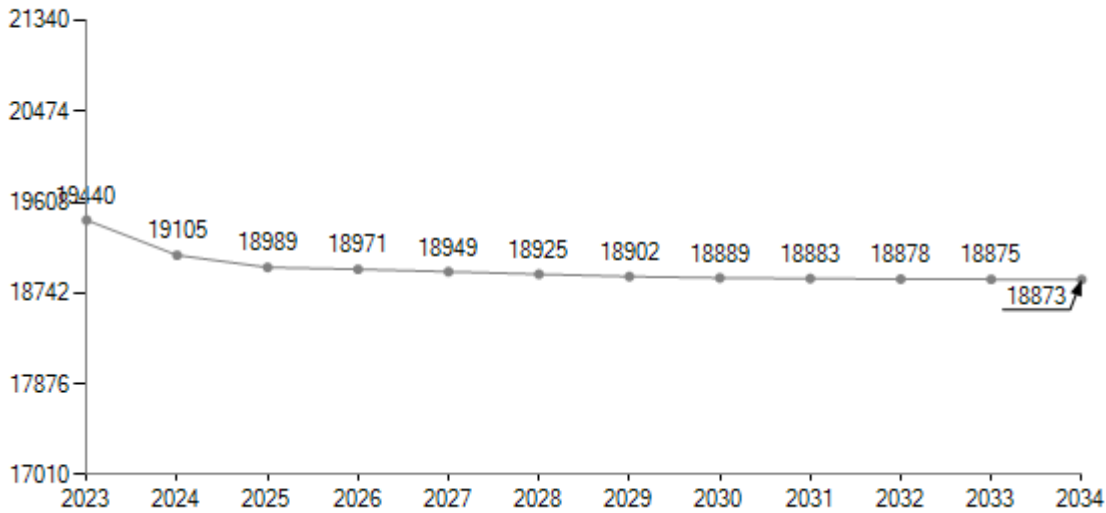


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)