

## Florist

Florists manage shops, selling flowers. They also make and sell artistic arrangements of flowers and plants, such as bouquets and wreaths.

They are sometimes called floral designers.

### The Work

You could be:

- going to markets, often in the early morning, to choose and buy flowers or order from a supplier by phone
- monitoring stock and working out what is required for customer orders
- creating floral displays, wreaths and bouquets using flowers, plants, dried flowers, wire, tape, and foam — based on either your own designs, from design books or customers' requirements
- selling cut flowers, flower arrangements and perhaps pot plants or related products to customers
- arranging delivery to customers
- set up displays on site, for example at conferences, churches, weddings or in funeral parlours
- advising customers on choosing flowers suitable for an occasion
- keeping the shop clean and tidy
- handling payments, and keeping accounts.

### 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
- whether you are freelance
- 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 2025 the National Minimum Wage is £7.55 an hour for workers under 18, £10.00 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20. The National Living Wage for those aged 21 and over is £12.21 an hour.

A florist with some experience and preferably some training could expect around £9.00 an hour or more.

### Conditions

- You will be in a shop with adjoining workshop.
- The workplace is usually cool to keep the flowers fresh.
- You will travel to markets and perhaps deliver to the customers.
- You will work early mornings and many Saturdays.
- You might work longer shifts at busy periods, such as around Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.

- Part time work is common in floristry.
- Floral displays can be heavy as well as fragile to lift and carry.
- You will spend a lot of time standing.

## Getting In

- To get some beginner's experience and to show you have a keen interest, you could ask a local florist for some work experience.
- Experience in a florist's shop through, for instance, a Saturday job, is often required.
- You could attend college full time and study for the City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Floristry (SCQF Level 5).
- This is available at North East Scotland College. Subjects at National 4 may be required.
- You could try getting a position as a trainee florist and train on the job whilst attending college on a part time basis.
- You should be able to lift heavy displays.
- A driving licence is useful and may be necessary.

## What Does It Take

You should have:

- knowledge of how to look after and handle different flowers and plants
- artistic flair and a good eye for shape and colour
- gentle, skilful fingers for handling the delicate flowers
- patience
- good communication skills with a wide range of people
- number skills for dealing with money
- a sympathetic manner when dealing with a bereavement
- the ability to work quickly, carefully and to tight deadlines
- business acumen, if you run your own business.

## Training

- As a trainee florist, you would attend college in the evenings or on a day release basis while you work.
- For those who already have a Level 2 qualification, you could go on to do the City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Floristry.

## Getting On

- When you have experience, you can sit the City and Guilds Level 4 Higher Diploma in Professional Floristry and the Level 5 Master Diploma in Professional Floristry. These qualifications would give you the skills required to run your own flower business.
- Most vacancies are in small shops with an owner-manager. There are a few jobs with large chains and hotels, where you might progress to supervisor or manager.
- The best chance of progression is to raise enough capital to open your own shop.
- There are a few vacancies in teaching, full time or part time, in colleges of further education.

## Contacts

### **British Retail Consortium (BRC)**

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Email: [info@brc.org.uk](mailto:info@brc.org.uk)

Website: [www.brc.org.uk](http://www.brc.org.uk)

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X: [@the\\_brc](https://twitter.com/the_brc)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/thebrc](https://www.facebook.com/thebrc)

### **Lantra Scotland**

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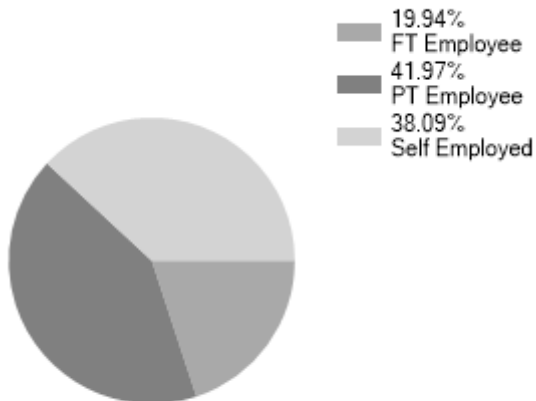
Email: [scotland@lantra.co.uk](mailto:scotland@lantra.co.uk)

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## Statistics

Employment Status UK %

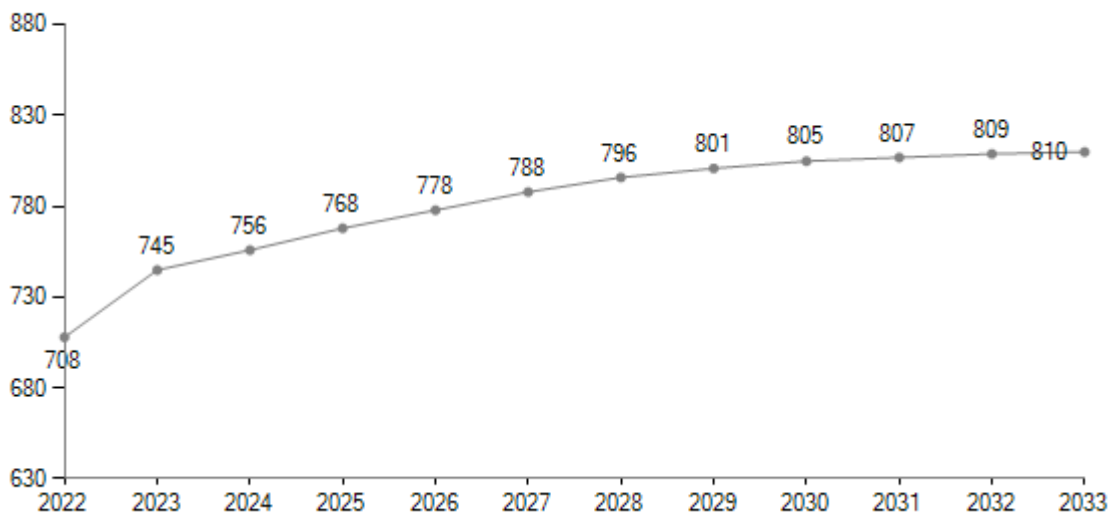


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)