

Scrap Dealer

A scrap dealer buys and sells scrap materials such as metal, paper or furniture, for recycling or for resale. They may work for a large waste management company, a small local firm or be self-employed.

The Work

You could be:

- clearing scrap from buildings which are being demolished
- collecting items from business clearances such as factories or offices
- reading newspapers to find out about house clearances
- separating different materials, particularly metals
- using machines to cut up or crush waste metal
- operating machinery, such as a fork lift truck, to lift and move materials
- keeping accounts and legally required paperwork for all transactions.

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.

Pay can rise to around £9.00 an hour or more.

Conditions

- You will sometimes work outside in all weathers.
- You may sometimes work indoors in dusty conditions.
- You may handle dirty, rusty and decaying material as well as broken glass.
- You will probably have to carry heavy objects.
- You should wear protective clothing, such as gloves, overalls, boots, goggles and a safety helmet.
- You may drive about to local sales and clearances.
- You may work irregular hours including evenings and weekends.

Getting In

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

- You need to be over 18 to work crushing machines.
- You should be physically fit.
- You will usually need a driving licence.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- good at bargaining with people
- good at judging the value of things
- good at numbers
- able to make decisions quickly
- prepared to get dirty
- able to work alone or in a team
- responsible when it comes to health and safety.

Training

Training is on the job, working with an experienced scrap dealer.

Getting On

- Many jobs are with small local firms, where there are few opportunities for promotion.
- There are large scrap contractor companies which recycle glass, paper and fabrics. If you work for one of these, you might gain promotion to management.
- To become a self-employed scrap dealer you need a licence from the council for any premises where you will be dealing in or processing metal. A licence is also required to deal in other second-hand goods. You also must register with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) as a carrier or manager of waste. There are restrictions on the recycling or disposal of electrical goods such as refrigerators.

Contacts

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Tel: 03000 99 66 99

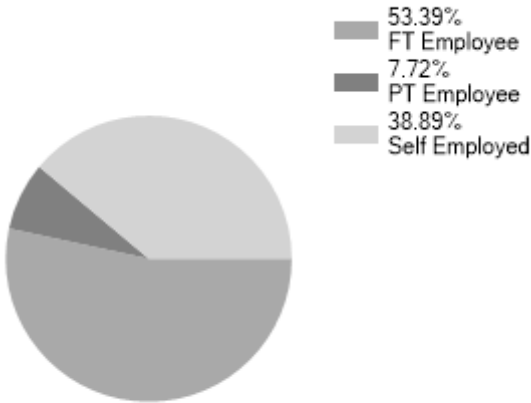
Website: www.sepa.org.uk

X: @ScottishEPA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Scottish-Environment-Protection-Agency-SEPA/170274626335436

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

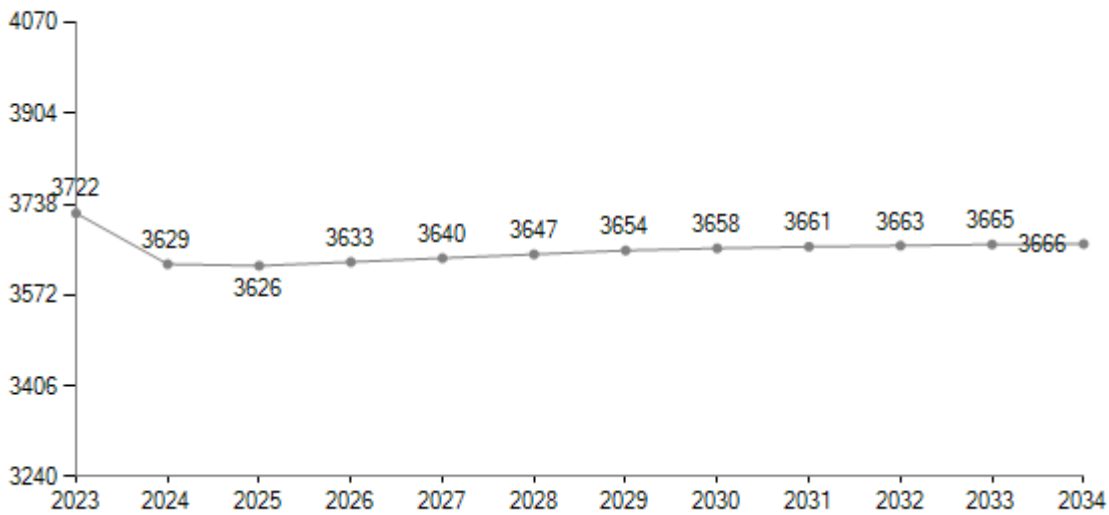


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)