

Shoe Repairer

Shoe repairers mend shoes and bags. Some also cut keys, replace watch straps and watch batteries and engrave items such as nameplates and pet tags.

The Work

You could be:

- replacing or repairing soles and heels using pincers and glue or staples
- using machines to cut keys and engrave items
- using equipment such as sewing machines, finishing machines and staple guns to work on leather items
- mending and possibly dyeing leather goods such as shoes, bags, belts or cases
- keeping records of customers handing in and collecting items
- selling shoe care products, bags and other items
- taking payments from customers
- maintaining equipment and servicing machinery.

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.

Conditions

- You will work indoors in a large store, shop or small workshop.
- There will be fumes from the glue and adhesives.
- You will probably work daytime hours but might work some weekends.
- You might be able to work part time.
- You might have to wear protective overalls, which the employer will provide.

Getting In

- You do not always need formal qualifications, but a good basic education is useful.
- You need numeracy skills to handle money.
- You must be able to deal with orders, receipts and invoices.
- You need a good eye for detail.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- good at working with your hands
- able to pay close attention to detail
- accurate and methodical in your work
- honest and polite
- good with customers
- able to work on your own and as part of a team
- aware of security matters when cutting keys
- able to follow health and safety procedures.

Training

Training is on the job.

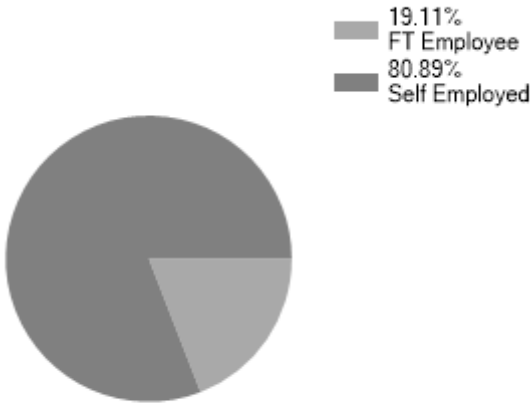
Getting On

- If you work for a large chain of shoe repairers you might gain promotion to supervisor or to manager.
- Alternatively you might decide to specialise in repairing orthopaedic footwear, or become self-employed.

Contacts

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

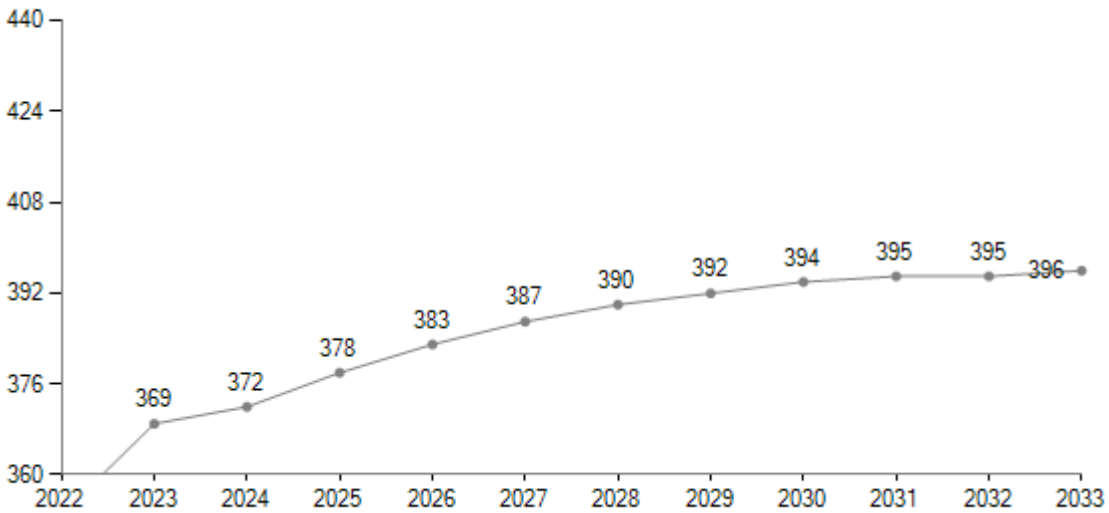


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)