

Producer – TV, Film or Video

A producer is the manager responsible for the overall production of a television programme, a film or a theatrical show. This includes the budget, casting, location settings and special effects.

The Work

You could be:

- developing ideas for projects and selecting screenwriters and editors
- raising advance funding for the show
- approving casting, sets, costumes, locations and music
- securing the rights to a novel, play or screenplay
- making suggestions to improve the quality of the show
- making sure that productions are completed on time and to budget
- managing the cash flow from different sources
- working with the director, stage manager, and technical crew
- making any necessary adjustments to the show after rehearsals.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual salaries vary, depending on:

- which medium you are working in
- the size of the organisation you work for
- whether you are freelance.

Trainee producers can earn around £18,000 to £24,000 a year. With experience this can rise to around £45,000 a year.

The Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU) website also publishes recommended freelance rates of pay for members. Rates vary considerably depending on experience and whether you are working on a small budget television programme, or a Hollywood feature film.

Conditions

- You would work irregular hours, including evenings and weekends.
- You might have to travel and spend time away from home, while on location.
- When working abroad you need to find out about local working practices.
- You would work under heavy pressure, having to meet tight deadlines and keep within financial restrictions.

Getting In

- Most producers nowadays have a degree or a Higher National Diploma (HND). Subjects such as film and

media studies, broadcasting or multimedia may be useful.

- Wide experience of drama, broadcasting or amateur theatre is more important than educational qualifications.
- Most producers start off as runners, production assistants or researchers (See [Runner](#), [Production Assistant](#) or [Researcher - Broadcasting](#)). Some start as actors.
- Some background in law or finance is useful. Financial management and an understanding of trade union agreements, insurance and legal issues are important.

Look for vacancies on www.mandy.com and [Production Base](#) websites as well as in trade journals such as **Broadcast** and **Stage, Screen and Radio Magazine**.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- creative, driven and determined
- decisive
- enthusiastic and motivational
- visionary
- able to prepare budgets
- a good negotiator
- organised
- able to work well under pressure
- a good problem solver.

You should have:

- excellent communication and presentation skills
- awareness of health and safety regulations
- leadership skills
- knowledge of legal issues, such as copyright.

Training

- Training is often on the job.
- Creative Skillset and the British Film Institute (BFI) both list relevant courses on their websites.
- It is important to check that courses offer opportunities for using the latest equipment, and for gaining work experience and making contacts in the industry.
- ScreenSkills has also set up a network of screen academies across the UK. Each offers a range of courses, summer schools, master classes and online resources. See the ScreenSkills website for details.
- There are some training schemes with other television companies but entry is highly competitive, with a range of qualifications acceptable.

Getting On

- There are some jobs in radio and television, but entry is highly competitive.

- In broadcasting, knowledge of Gaelic can open more doors.
- Most producers work freelance and earn a fee for each job.
- With experience, you might produce more ambitious types of programmes, and eventually develop your own production company.

More Information

If you are aged 18 or over you may be interested in [The Network](#). The Network is held each year alongside the TV Festival in Edinburgh. If selected you would attend for four free days of masterclasses and workshops which will provide you with the skills, knowledge and contacts to start a career in TV. You can usually apply from January to April.

BBC Scotland runs an apprenticeship scheme for people who are keen to get into a career in the media industry. The closing date for applications is usually sometime in April or May. The one-year apprenticeship is based in Glasgow and pays £14,250 a year. As well as learning on the job at BBC Scotland at Pacific Quay in various departments, you will study towards a Level 3 Diploma in Creative and Digital Media at a Glasgow college. Ideally applicants will have National 5 English and Maths, good IT skills and a keen interest in media. You must be at least 18 at the start date of the apprenticeship. Entry is very competitive as places are limited. The selection process includes an assessment day and tests in English and Maths. For any questions and updates by following @BBCGetin on Twitter. If you would like to find out more or check on application deadline dates visit [BBC Scotland Apprenticeships](#).

Young Scot and Creative Scotland operate the 'Nurturing Talent - Time to Shine Fund', which aims to support young people aged 11-25 and interested in developing creative or artistic skills. Both individuals and groups can apply for funding ranging from £50 to £1,000. For more information see the Young Scot website.

Contacts

BBC Academy

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/academy

Twitter: @BBCAcademy

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bbcacademy

BECTU Scotland (Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union)

Email: info@bectu.org.uk

Website: www.bectu.org.uk

Twitter: @bectu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BECTUOfficial

British Film Institute

Website: www.bfi.org.uk

Twitter: @BFI

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BritishFilmInstitute

Creative and Cultural Skills

Tel: 020 7015 1800

Email: info@ccskills.org.uk

Website: www.ccskills.org.uk

Website (2): ccskills.org.uk/careers

Twitter: @CCskills

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccskills

Edinburgh TV Festival

Tel: 020 7278 9515

Email: info@thetvfestival.com

Website: www.thetvfestival.com

Twitter: @EdinburghTVFest

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ThisIsEdinburghTVFestival

IWC Media

Tel: 0141 353 3222

Email: mailglasgow@iwcmmedia.co.uk

Website: www.iwcmmedia.co.uk

Twitter: @IWC_Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/iwcmmedia

National Film and Television School

Tel: 01494 671234

Email: info@nfts.co.uk

Website: nfts.co.uk

Twitter: @NFTSFilmTV

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NFTSFilmTV

Scottish Drama Training Network

Tel: 0141 270 8349

Website: sdtn.org

Twitter: @SDTNTweets

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sdtnofficial

ScreenSkills

Email: info@screenskills.com

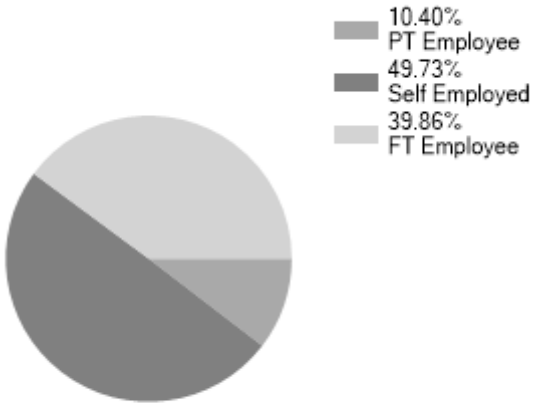
Website: www.ScreenSkills.com

Twitter: @UKScreenSkills

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UKScreenSkills

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



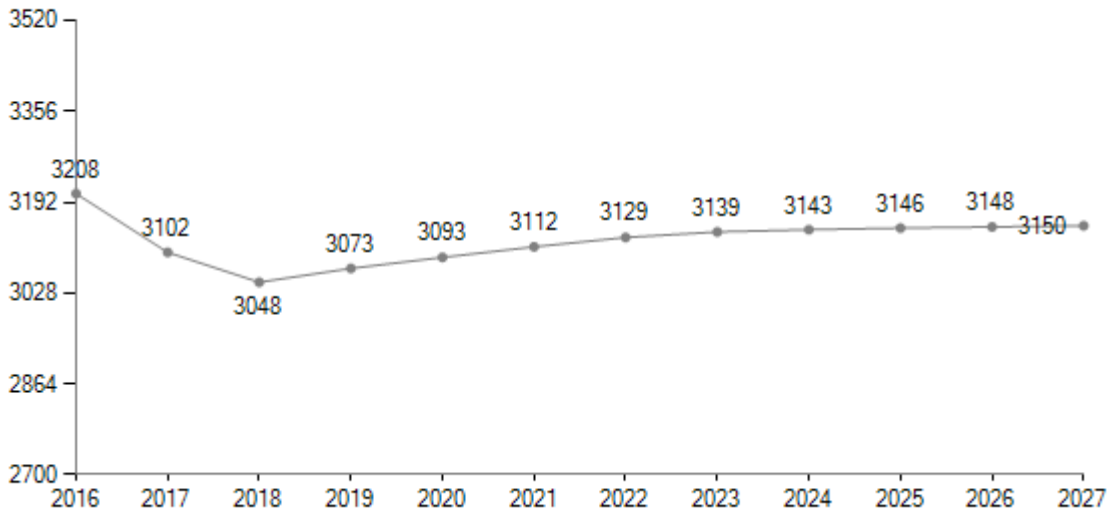
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2016	0.22%
Dec 2018	0.07%
Mar 2019	0.07%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)