

Front End Developer

Front end developers build the user interface (UI) of interactive or responsive websites, mobile apps, and interactive media on other platforms. They use a number of different programming languages and web technologies.

The Work

You could be:

- taking concepts created by designers and using specialist software and programming tools to develop them
- discussing technical and design requirements with clients and planning prototypes
- creating responsive solutions for different digital platforms, such as the web and mobile devices
- testing programs or applications and fixing faults, known as bugs
- using technologies including HTML5, CSS, JavaScript, PHP and JQuery to create responsive user interfaces
- utilising application programming interfaces (APIs), such as Google Maps, in your developments
- making sure all developments meet web accessibility standards
- liaising with clients and other IT professionals, such as UX or UI designers, web developers and project managers.

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.

The salary for graduate front end developers is around £20,000 to £30,000 a year, rising with experience to between £30,000 and £40,000 a year. A senior developer can earn between £45,000 and £65,000 a year, or more.

If you work freelance, your income will vary, depending on the contracts you get.

Conditions

- You will work from an office or studio.
- You will usually work normal office hours from Monday to Friday, but you might sometimes have to work evenings or weekends to meet deadlines.
- You might have to travel to meet clients from different organisations and possibly have to spend overnights away from home.

Getting In

- Most entrants have a degree (SCQF Levels 9-11) or HND (SCQF Level 8) in a subject such as interactive

media, digital media or web development and design. You should check that the course content is suitable for the career you want to enter.

- There are postgraduate courses available for those with or without a computing-related degree.
- For entry to an HND course you normally need 1-2 Highers plus some subjects at National 5. For entry to a degree course you need 4-5 Highers.
- You might be able to move into front end development from other computing jobs with relevant experience in programming, web or software development or graphic design.
- You might be able to get in without a degree or HND if you have an exceptionally good portfolio of work.
- You might get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in IT and Telecommunications or Digital Applications at SCQF Level 6, then work your way up with experience and further specialist training, or a Technical Apprenticeship at SCQF Level 8.
- Employers often look for specific skills such as XHTML, HTML5, CSS, JavaScript frameworks, such as AngularJS and jQuery, content management systems, version control systems and development frameworks such as Bootstrap.
- As part of the application process, it is common to have to complete a practical test.
- Studying for a relevant Foundation Apprenticeship, such as Software Development, while in fifth and sixth year at school could count towards entry of a course. Entry requirements vary between colleges, but you usually need relevant subjects at National 5 such as Maths, Physics or Computing Science.

Entry is competitive but there is a steady demand for front end developers. Jobs are available in software development companies, multimedia publishers, e-learning companies, digital agencies and the media. They are advertised in the press and on the internet.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- good programming and technical skills
- excellent knowledge of up to date web technologies
- creativity and an eye for colour and shape
- vision to develop ideas to achieve what the client wants
- good communication skills to exchange ideas with colleagues and explain projects to clients.

You need to be able to:

- learn new technologies and languages quickly
- work accurately under pressure, and meet deadlines
- find creative solutions to complex problems
- understand what other specialists do
- work well in small project teams.

Training

- Training can be on the job with part time study.
- You would usually do other short courses whilst working.
- You can take short courses, run by manufacturers, in different types of design software, to fill gaps in your

knowledge and to keep up to date with more advanced packages.

- This is a fast moving industry and you must be willing to learn new programming or scripting languages and technologies.

Getting On

- With experience, you could become a project manager, overseeing a technical team.
- You could work freelance and contract services out to relevant organisations.
- You could move into other areas of information technology.
- You may be able to work abroad.

More Information

If you are considering a career in IT, take a look at the [Tech Future Careers](#) website. You will find the video case studies of workers and general information on the industry useful.

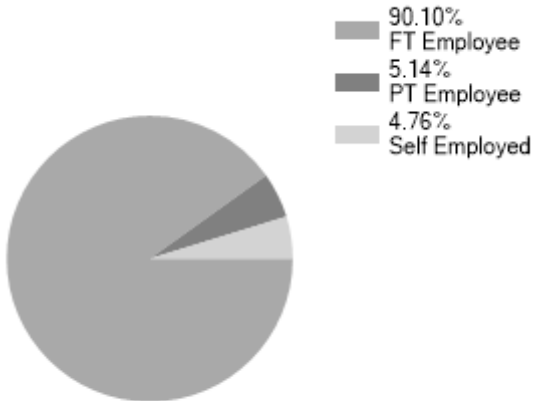
For more information please see organisation below:

[BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT](#)

Contacts

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

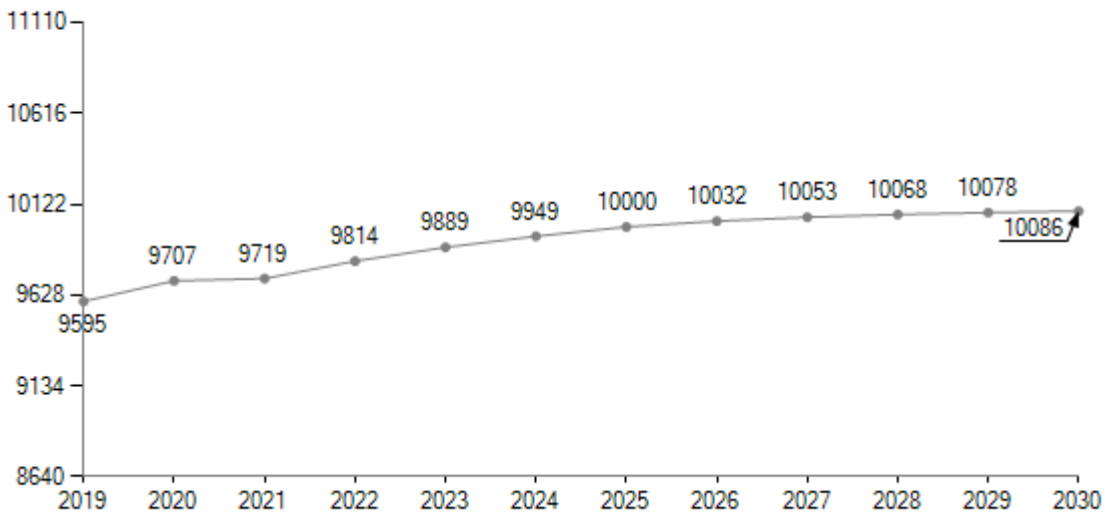


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)