

Plasterer

A plasterer mixes and applies plaster or cement to walls, ceilings and floors. There are two kinds of plasterer. A solid plasterer applies smooth wet finishes. A fibrous plasterer produces ornamental shapes from moulds for cornices, centre roses and panelling.

The Work

As a **fibrous plasterer** you could be:

- moulding ornamental plasterwork – cornices, centre roses, decorative panelling – out of plaster and short lengths of fibre (which binds the plaster together so that it keeps its shape)
- working from architects' designs, artists' drawings or photographs of old plasterwork.

As a **solid plasterer** you could be:

- fixing metal strips to corners to give a straight edge and checking them with spirit level and plumb-line
- for internal walls, filling in the area with plaster, using a trowel and brush to build up the plaster in layers
- for external walls, or floors, filling in the area with cement
- using rollers or spray guns to decorate an external wall with finishes such as pebble-dash or stone effect
- fixing moulded pieces of ornamental plasterwork, which a fibrous plasterer has made, to inside walls
- doing restoration work – removing old plaster and putting on the new.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

As of June 2025 the Building and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council (BATJIC) recommends the following rates for a 4-year apprenticeship in Scotland based on a 39-hour week are:

Year 1 – £303.28 (£7.78 an hour)

Year 2 – £401.70 (£10.30 an hour)

Year 3 – £490.48 (£12.58 an hour)

Year 4 – £490.48 (£12.58 an hour) (without SCQF Level 6)

Year 4 – £546.71 (£14.02 an hour) (with SCQF Level 6).

Please note these rates may vary if the Apprentice is 21 years old or over and has completed the first year of their apprenticeship. National Minimum Wage (NMW) and National Living Wage (NLW) will apply.

Newly qualified plasterers earn around £30,000 a year rising to around £54,000 a year with experience. Overtime and shift allowances will increase earnings.

Conditions

- Work is mostly indoors but you might sometimes work outside.
- As a fibrous plasterer you could work from either a workshop or on site.
- You often work at heights on scaffolding or ladders.
- Conditions may be messy, dusty and damp.
- You wear protective gear: a hard hat, overalls and sometimes gloves, a face mask and safety glasses.
- You travel to different sites and may sometimes have to live away from home.
- Some jobs are temporary.
- You would work around 39 hours a week.
- You might have to work evenings and weekends to suit clients.

Getting In

- The normal entry route is through a Modern Apprenticeship in Construction: Building (Plastering).
- You do not always need formal qualifications, but some employers ask for some subjects at National 4 or 5 including English, Maths and a science or technological subject.
- You could study the Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction (SCQF Level 4 and 5) in S3-S6, which can help to get into a relevant Modern Apprenticeship.
- You usually have to sit an aptitude test as part of the application process.
- A driving licence is useful and may be necessary.
- You must hold a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card or equivalent. You must pass a health and safety test to qualify for this scheme.

Look for vacancies with building contractors or local authorities. Fibrous plasterers usually work for firms specialising in ornamental work.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- good hand to eye co-ordination
- practical skills and ability to pay attention to detail
- artistic skill if doing fibrous work
- customer care skills when working in people's homes
- an awareness of health and safety procedures.

You need to be able to:

- work carefully, neatly and quickly – plaster dries fast
- use maths to calculate materials needed
- work as part of a team.

Training

- Training during a Modern Apprenticeship is mainly on the job with off the job training, you would work towards SVQ Plastering (Construction) at SCQF Level 6.

Getting On

- With experience you could move on to supervisory work.
- You might become a craft instructor.
- You might become self-employed.

More Information

For more information please see the organisations listed below:

- [Construction Industry Training Board](#) (CITB)
- [Worshipful Company of Plasterers](#)

Contacts

GoConstruct

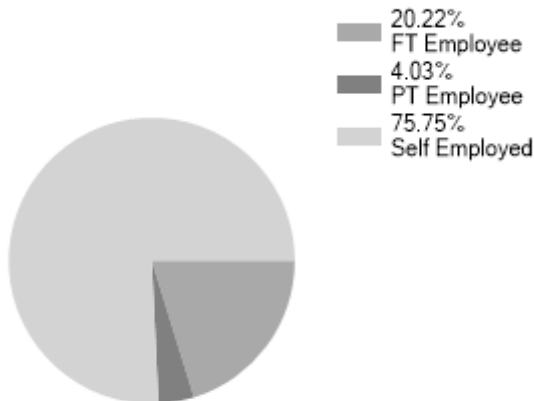
Website: www.goconstruct.org

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Statistics

Employment Status UK %

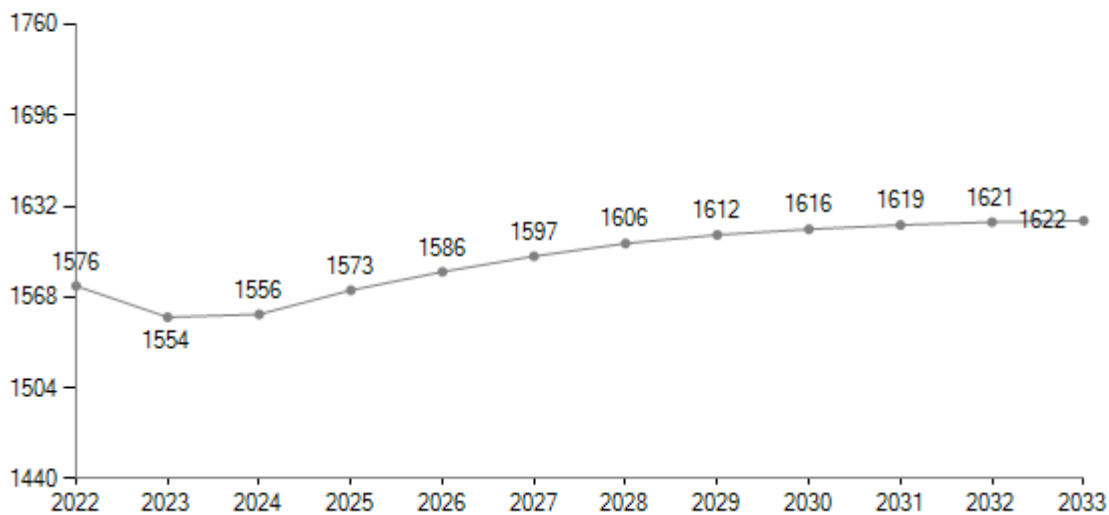


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)