

Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists, and work either in a community or retail pharmacy or in a hospital or clinical pharmacy.

The Work

Community or Retail Pharmacy Technician

You could be:

- checking details of prescriptions, weighing or counting pills or measuring liquids
- preparing labels
- selling medicines and other items, such as cosmetics, to customers
- advising customers on how to take a course of medicine
- checking stocks and ordering supplies
- referring customers to the pharmacist if need be
- keeping records of customers and stock
- handling cash.

Hospital or Clinical Pharmacy Technician

You could be:

- preparing medicines and delivering them to hospital departments
- checking that dosages are correct and that each department has the correct supplies
- making up medicines, diet substitutes and intravenous medication
- checking stock and ordering supplies
- keeping records as required.

Pay

Within the NHS Agenda for Change scales, pharmacy technicians' salaries are usually on Band 4, £23,709 to £25,982 a year. This can rise to Band 5, £26,104 to £32,915 a year with experience. The current pay scales are from April 2021.

Starting salaries for pharmacy technicians who work outside the NHS are often based on the National Minimum Wage. Starting pay is often based on the National Minimum Wage (NMW) or the National Living Wage (NLW).

As of 1 April 2022 the National Minimum Wage is £4.81 an hour for workers aged 16 to 17, £6.83 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20 and £9.18 an hour for workers aged 21 to 22. The National Living Wage is £9.50 for workers aged 23 and over.

With experience this can rise up to around £12.00 an hour.

Conditions

- Community pharmacy technicians work in shops, where hours are regular and may include weekends or evenings.
- Hospital pharmacy technicians work in hospital laboratories or dispensaries or in health centres and may have to work shifts.
- All pharmacy technicians have to wear a white lab coat or other protective clothing.

Getting In

- You would start by applying for a job as a trainee pharmacy technician or work your way up from a post as a [Pharmacy Support Worker](#).
- To become a qualified pharmacy technician you would need to complete the Technical Apprenticeship in Pharmacy Services at SCQF Level 8. While completing this apprenticeship you would be employed as a pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician.
- You would complete SVQ Pharmacy Services at SCQF Level 8 and Pharmacy Services (PDA) at SCQF Level 7.
- To work as a pharmacy technician you need to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). You can do this on completion of the necessary qualifications and two years' work experience (see 'Training' below).

What Does It Take

You should be:

- numerate and good at calculations
- accurate when measuring medicines and keeping records
- able to explain information clearly
- a good organiser
- able to follow written instructions
- discreet in dealing with confidential information
- able to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- patient and empathetic when dealing with members of the public.

Training

- Training is on the job with part time study leading to an SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF Level 8 and Pharmacy Services (PDA) at SCQF Level 7.
- These qualifications are accredited by the GPhC and meet the knowledge and competence requirements for registration.
- Successful completion of the qualifications and completing two years of consecutive work experience (minimum of 14 hours a week) leads to state registration with the GPhC.

Getting On

- You will be required to keep your skills and knowledge up to date by undertaking continuous professional development (CPD) courses throughout your career.

- You could do extra training and study to become an Accuracy Checking Technician (ACT). [Buttercups Training Ltd](#) run courses.
- You could work in quality control in a hospital.
- In larger retail pharmacies, you could specialise in marketing or sales.
- You might move on to work as a manager.
- There is a graded promotion scheme in the National Health Service (NHS).

Contacts

General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

Tel: 0203 713 8000

Email: info@pharmacyregulation.org

Website: www.pharmacyregulation.org

Twitter: @TheGPhC

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheGPhC

National Pharmacy Association (NPA)

Tel: 01727 858687

Email: npa@npa.co.uk

Website: www.npa.co.uk

Twitter: @NPA1921

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Supportyourlocalpharmacy

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland

Tel: 0845 257 2570

Email: scotinfo@rpharms.com

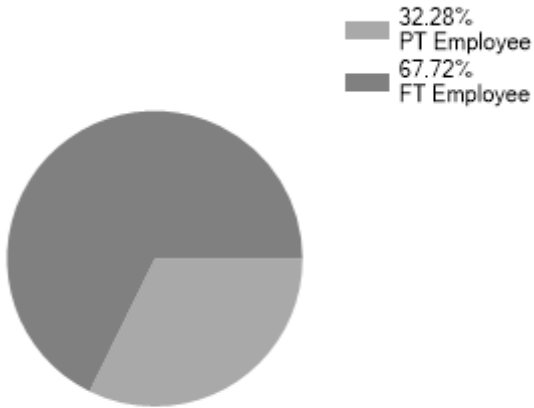
Website: www.rpharms.com

Twitter: @rpharms

Facebook: www.facebook.com/royalpharmsoc

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

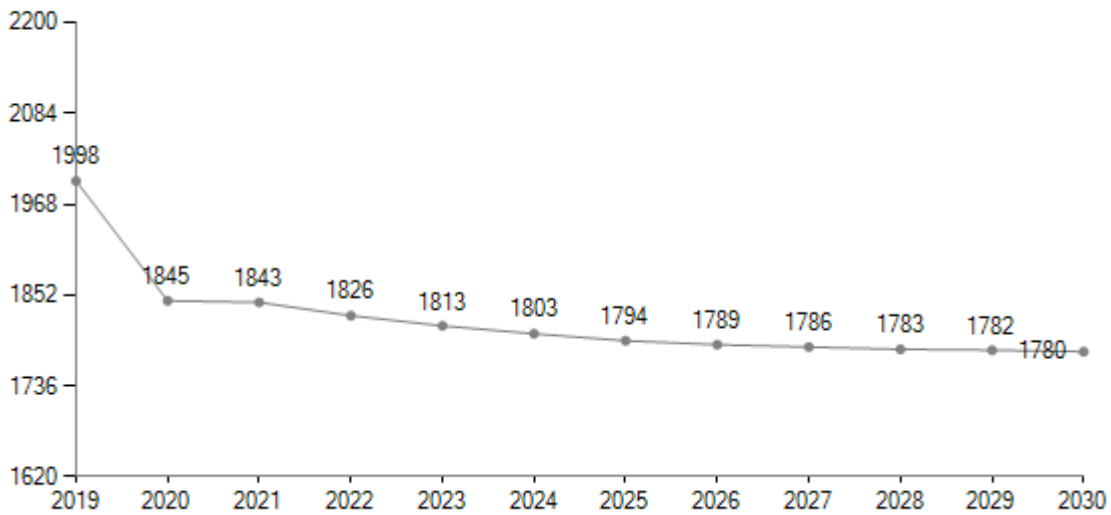


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)