

Museum Technician

Museum technicians do practical work setting up exhibitions and displays. They also pack, unpack and prepare objects for transporting.

The Work

You could be:

- building display stands and units
- carrying out carpentry, lighting and maintenance work on display areas
- hanging paintings or handling old or fragile valuable objects
- moving exhibits to new sites in the museum when needed
- packing objects or materials to send to other places
- unpacking objects or materials sent from other museums
- making sure that equipment is maintained, serviced or repaired
- setting up special displays and exhibitions, including any audio-visual equipment
- making sure that materials are stored safely.

Pay

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

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

Starting salaries for museum technicians with appropriate qualifications range from about £16,000 to £19,000 a year. For senior positions this could rise to around £26,000 a year.

Conditions

- Your duties will vary greatly depending on the size and type of the museum you work in.
- Most work is indoors; however, if you work in a museum with industrial, farming or heritage themes much of the work may be outside.
- You may have to learn how to lift heavy or fragile, valuable objects.
- You usually work a 35-hour week. This may include evenings and weekends.
- The job is likely to involve physical work and possibly working on ladders.

Getting In

- Most entrants have some subjects at Standard grade or National 4 or 5 as well as a National Certificate (NC), National Qualification (NQ) or Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ). This is usually in a craft or technical subject such as carpentry, painting or engineering.
- Entry to museum work is very competitive.

- If you do temporary or voluntary work in a museum, this may lead to a full time job.
- You must be prepared to do some heavy lifting.
- For many posts you will need experience of setting up audio visual equipment such as plasma, LCD projectors, lighting and sound.
- You must be fit, as you will be on your feet a lot.
- For some posts you will need a driving licence.

What Does It Take

You need to be:

- flexible and adaptable
- careful, accurate and methodical
- reliable
- able to carry out instructions
- able to work to deadlines.

You need to have:

- the ability to work alone or as part of a team
- good communication skills
- an eye for shape, colour and design
- basic computer or IT skills
- good hand skills and practical abilities.

Training

- Training is normally on the job with an experienced member of staff.
- Some museums provide training for SVQs in subjects relevant to museum work.
- You will need to keep up to date with developments in the industry.

Getting On

- With experience, you may be able to move into more specialised work such as helping museum conservators and restorers.
- Most job opportunities are in the larger museums in towns and cities.
- Promoted posts are limited. You may have to move to another area.

More Information

According to the Museums Galleries Scotland website, there are over 400 museums and galleries in Scotland. They vary in size from the National Museum of Scotland, with many employees, to small local museums and galleries.

The Creative and Cultural Skills website has a careers section called [Creative Choices](#) which covers careers information, jobs and opportunities in the heritage and culture sector, including archive work.

Contacts

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Tel: 0131 668 8600

Website: www.historicenvironment.scot

Facebook: www.facebook.com/historicenvscotland

Institute of Conservation (ICON)

Tel: 020 3142 6799

Email: admin@icon.org.uk

Website: www.icon.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Institute-of-Conservation/367081813346500

Museum Jobs: cultural sector recruitment

Website: www.museumjobs.com

Museums Association

Tel: 020 7566 7800

Email: info@museumsassociation.org

Website: www.museumsassociation.org/home

X: @MuseumsAssoc

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MuseumsAssoc

Museums Galleries Scotland

Tel: 0131 550 4100

Email: admin@museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Website: www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

X: @MuseumsGalScot

National Trust for Scotland (NTS)

Tel: 0131 385 7490

Website: www.nts.org.uk

X: @N_T_S

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalTrustforScotland

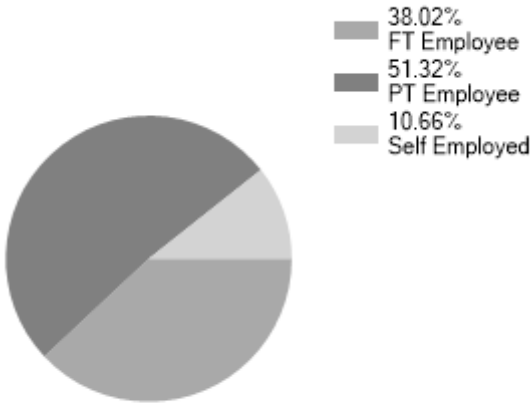
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)

Tel: 0131 662 1456

Website: www.rcahms.gov.uk

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

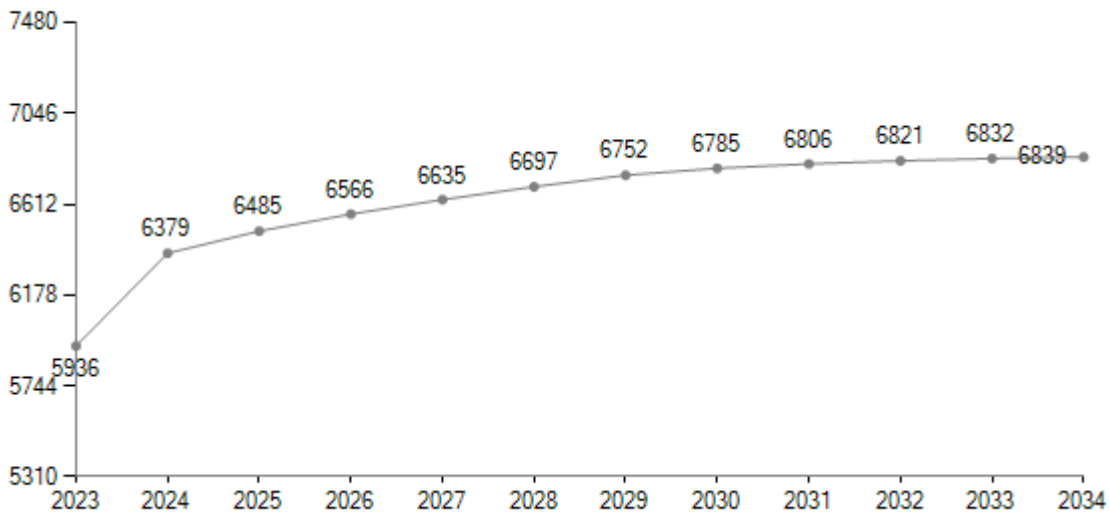


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)