

Production Worker

A production worker is involved in the manufacture and packaging of goods such as food and drink products or pharmaceuticals.

The Work

You could be:

- working on a conveyor line, picking and packing food items
- operating machinery for a specific task, such as bottling drinks or sorting pill types
- measuring out ingredients, chemicals or other materials
- putting products into containers
- wrapping and labelling products
- carrying out basic quality checks
- packing finished items (see also [Packer](#))
- keeping work areas clean and organised.

For working in an engineering or electronics firm, see the specific job profiles for [Assembler - Electronics](#) or [Engineering Assembler](#).

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.

Starting pay is often based on the National Minimum Wage (NMW) or the National Living Wage (NLW).

As of 1 April 2026 the National Minimum Wage is £8.00 an hour for workers under 18, £10.85 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20. The National Living Wage for those aged 21 and over is £12.71 an hour. With experience you may earn up to £11.00 an hour or more.

There may be a chance to boost your income through piecework or bonuses.

Conditions

- You will work in a factory, usually at a workbench or conveyor belt.
- Factories are often noisy and dusty.
- The working week is usually 37-40 hours but you may have to work shifts and overtime.
- You usually work as part of a team that has a shift leader.
- You would have to work quickly.
- Work can be repetitive, where you might be doing the same thing over and over.

- You might have to lift heavy objects.
- You may have to wear protective clothing such as goggles, masks, gloves, hats and overalls.

Getting In

- You do not usually need formal qualifications but a good general education is useful. Some employers may prefer you to have English and Maths at National 4 or 5.
- You may have to sit an aptitude test to show your practical skills.

What Does It Take

You should have:

- the ability to follow instructions
- good practical skills
- patience
- good hand skills.

You should be able to:

- work well on your own and in a team
- follow health and safety rules
- work carefully, quickly and accurately with your hands
- concentrate well, as work may be repetitive.

Training

- Training is on the job and sometimes at a local training centre.
- You would complete in-house training courses including health and safety.
- You could do an employer's training scheme where you may be able to gain Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs).

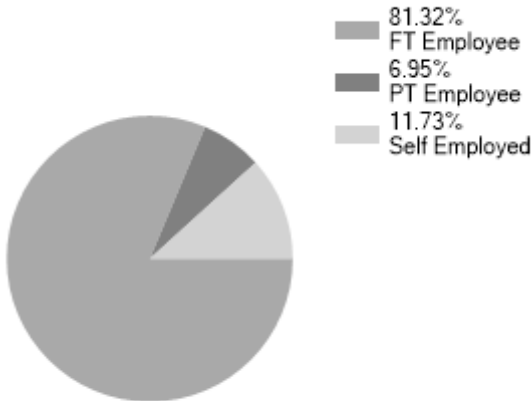
Getting On

- With experience you might gain promotion to be a supervisor, chargehand or inspector.
- You might be able to move into specialised types of work.
- You might be able to move on to work in distribution, transport or warehouses.

Contacts

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

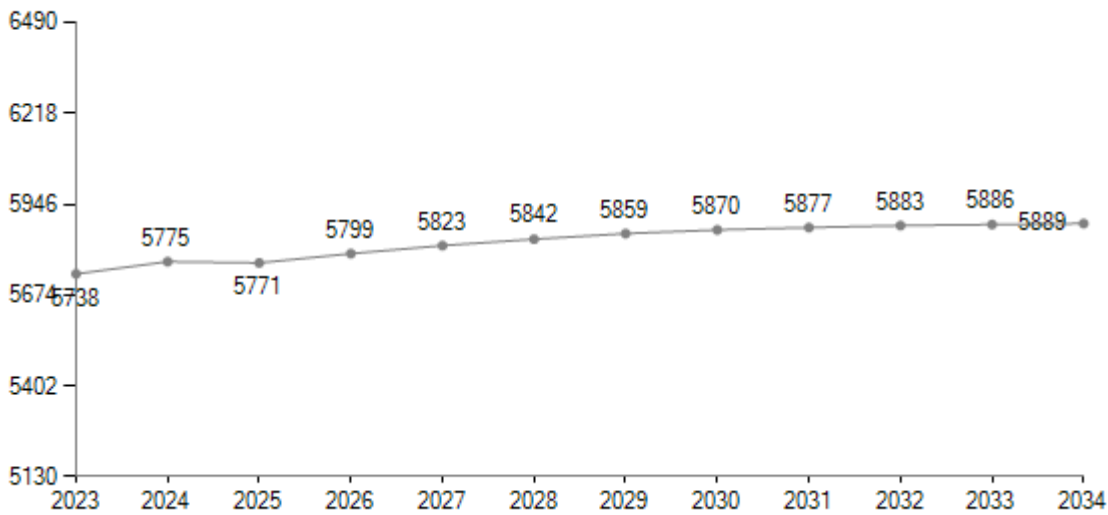


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)