

## Colour Technologist

Colour technologists work for large manufacturing companies, making colourants (dyes and pigments) for a range of products such as clothing, paints, cosmetics and paper. They source new dyes and create suggested colour ranges.

### The Work

You could be:

- sourcing and producing new dyes and pigments
- testing dyes for colourfastness and stability under different conditions
- deciding on the best treatment to suit different types of surfaces
- developing processes for accurate bulk production of dyes
- checking each stage of the dyeing process to ensure quality control
- looking at ways of producing environmentally friendly dyes
- choosing suppliers and ordering stock
- providing technical advice to design, production and marketing staff.

### Pay

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

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

Starting salaries are usually around £17,000 rising with experience to £22,000 and above. Supervisory positions can pay between £30,000 and £35,000.

### Conditions

- You would usually work in a laboratory or a factory.
- You would work around 39 hours a week Monday to Friday. You may have to work in shifts and sometimes do overtime.
- The atmosphere may be hot and humid though there will usually be ventilation equipment to deal with fumes.
- You would wear protective clothing.

### Getting In

- You will normally need a relevant degree. Relevant subjects include analytical chemistry, applied chemistry, applied physics, chemical engineering, chemistry or textile technology.
- For entry to a degree you would require 4-5 Highers. Chemistry may be required.
- You could get in with a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Applied Sciences. North East Scotland College

offer an HND in Applied Sciences with routes in Biology/Chemistry and Chemistry/Physics.

- For entry to a relevant HND, you would normally require 2 Highers including Chemistry.
- If you want to work with textiles, you might get in at a junior level through a Modern Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles Heritage, leading to the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Manufacturing Textile Products at SCQF Level 7.

## What Does It Take

You need to have:

- a practical and creative approach
- good colour vision for matching shades
- good communication skills
- an interest in chemistry
- good IT skills.

You need to be able to:

- pay attention to detail
- plan and organise work
- work as part of a team or on your own
- take responsibility.

## Training

Once you are in a job, you may be able to do one or more of the courses run by the Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC). These are:

- short professional development courses
- courses to take you through the various levels of their expert-led colour education pathway leading to Chartered Colourist (CCol).

You might also continue your professional development through courses offered by the Textile Institute (TI).

## Getting On

- Taking SDC or TI courses may help you to move into a supervisory or management position.
- You could move into research and development.
- You might specialise in the manufacture of dyes and pigments.
- You could move into marketing or quality control.

## Contacts

### Royal Society of Chemistry Education

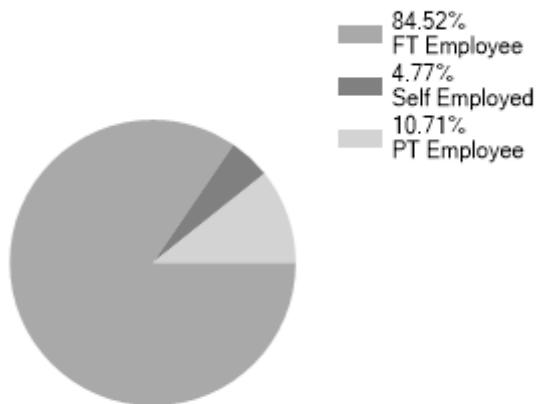
Website: [edu.rsc.org](http://edu.rsc.org)

### Society of Dyers and Colourists

Tel: 01274 725138  
Email: [info@sdc.org.uk](mailto:info@sdc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.sdc.org.uk](http://www.sdc.org.uk)  
X: [@sdc\\_org\\_uk](https://twitter.com/sdc_org_uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sdc.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/sdc.org.uk)

## Statistics

Employment Status UK %

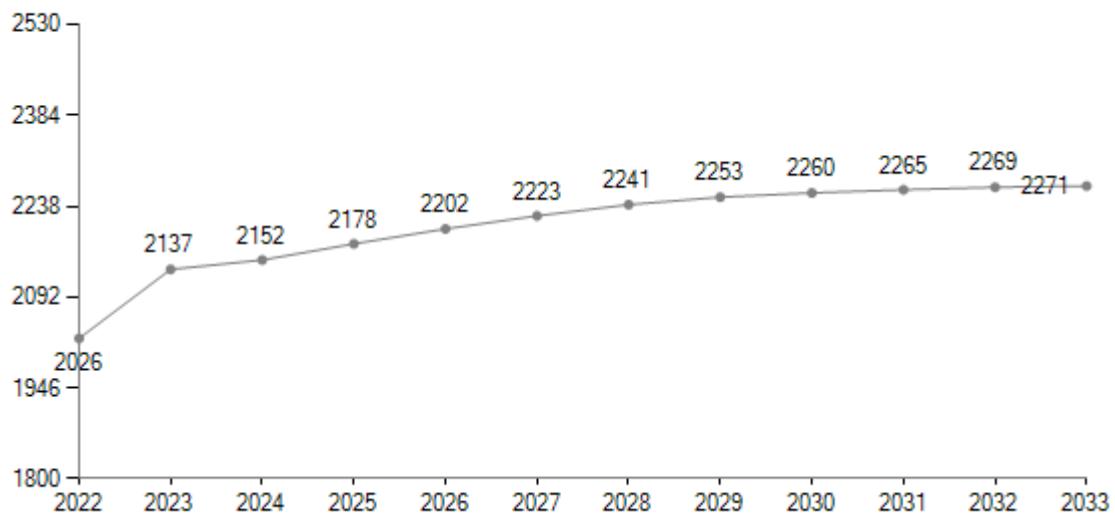


### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)