

## Furniture Polisher or Finisher

A furniture polisher or finisher stains, polishes and finishes new or old wooden furniture, doors or panelling.

### The Work

You could be:

- preparing the wood by sanding and filling in holes and chips
- removing old paint spots, varnish or lacquer using paint stripper or sandpaper
- mixing the stain and applying it to the wood, using a brush or by spraying it on
- finishing the wood with varnishes, waxes and lacquers, and perhaps a fire-retardant finish which complies with the Health and Safety and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) legislation
- if required, polishing the wood with French polish (shellac dissolved in methylated spirits), using a padded cloth
- keeping up to date with new techniques and equipment.

You may also repair and restore antique furniture using specialist methods such as marquetry or gilding.

### 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 salaries for furniture polishers can be around £17,000 a year. With some experience this can rise to around £23,000. With a number of years' experience, possibly in a specialist area, earnings can be around £30,000 a year. Income may be increased by overtime and bonuses.

### Conditions

- You might work at home or in a workshop, factory or studio.
- You may visit customers' homes to carry out repairs.
- Factories and workshops are often noisy and dusty.
- Some materials used are toxic and very strong smelling.
- You may wear protective clothing and a face mask and ear protectors.
- You have to bend and stretch and sometimes lift heavy weights.
- You might have to work overtime including weekends.

### Getting In

- You may get direct entry to a job through a training scheme such as a Modern Apprenticeship.
- You may complete a full time college course in subjects such as furniture craftsmanship, furniture

restoration or furniture production and design. These include polishing and finishing. You could do an NC, NQ (SCQF Levels 4-6), HNC (SCQF Level 7) or HND (SCQF Level 8). Entry requirements for NC or NQ courses vary from no formal qualifications to 2-4 subjects at National 4 or 5. For entry to HNC or HND courses you need 1-2 Highers.

- You could also start out by taking a short course at college. City of Glasgow College offers relevant courses, including Furniture Restoring: Polishing. This could help you build up the necessary experience for entry to a full time course.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- good at working with your hands
- accurate
- able to pay close attention to detail
- good at solving problems
- good at taking measurements
- patient and methodical
- good at matching colours.

If you are self-employed you need good business skills.

## Training

- Training may be on the job through the employer's training scheme. You may be able to do day or block release classes at college leading to SVQs.
- Membership of a professional body such as the [Guild of Master Craftsmen](#) can help you establish and build up a professional reputation. See their website for more details.

## Getting On

With experience and qualifications you may go on to:

- a management post with a company that makes furniture
- develop specialist skills which would let you work with antique dealers or furniture restorers
- become self-employed.

## Contacts

### Furniture Makers' Company

Tel: 020 7256 5558

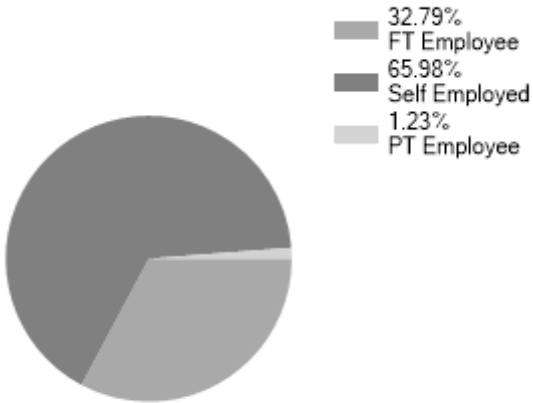
Email: [hello@furnituremakers.org.uk](mailto:hello@furnituremakers.org.uk)

Website: [www.furnituremakers.org.uk](http://www.furnituremakers.org.uk)

Website (2): [myfurniturecareer.org.uk](http://myfurniturecareer.org.uk)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

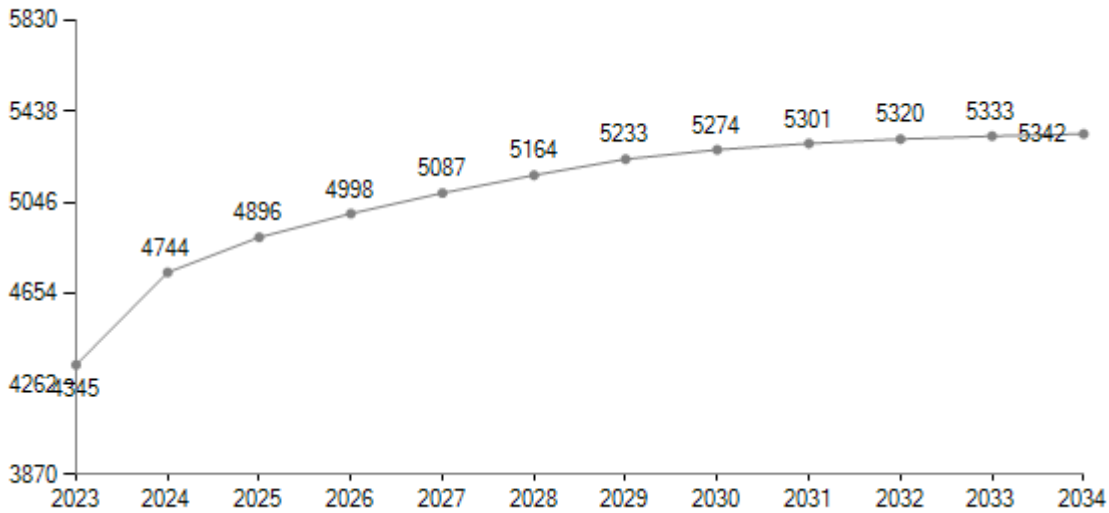


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)