

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner

A carpet and upholstery cleaner cleans carpets, chairs, sofas and other soft furnishings in offices, shops and private homes.

The Work

You could be:

- checking what kind of cleaning is needed
- giving a written estimate of cost
- using industrial cleaning machines, such as steam heat or hot water cleaners
- choosing a cleaning fluid and a hose attachment suitable for the type of fabric you are treating
- filling the tank of the machine with water and adding the cleaning fluid
- spraying the solution on to the material and vacuuming up the dirt and water
- using chemical dry-cleaning processes
- applying special treatments after cleaning, such as stain repellents, flame retardants and anti-static chemicals
- doing specialist cleaning after flood or fire damage.

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 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. This can rise to £9.00 an hour. Income often depends on commission.

Conditions

- You would travel to client's premises.
- You carry the heavy equipment into the premises and move furniture around.
- You spend most of the time on your feet and will bend, stretch and kneel.
- You work regular hours, but might have to work mainly in the evenings or weekends while the buildings are not in use.
- Part time work is common.
- You wear protective overalls and perhaps a mask and gloves.
- Your income may depend on commission and therefore vary widely according to the number of contracts you get.

Getting In

- You do not need formal qualifications but a good general education is useful.
- You usually need a driving licence as you have to take the equipment to different premises.
- Jobs are mainly with private cleaning companies.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- honest
- reliable
- practical
- aware of health and safety procedures
- able to follow instructions
- able to work alone or in a team
- physically fit and energetic.

You should have:

- a careful, methodical approach
- a basic understanding of cleaning chemicals
- number skills to work out prices
- good communication skills and a pleasant manner.

Training

- Training is usually on the job.
- The National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA) runs 2-day basic training courses in carpet and upholstery cleaning. They also run courses in spot and stain treatment and removal, leather and hard floor cleaning.
- Some firms who sell cleaning machines and carpet shampoos run short courses in their use.
- You could also work towards a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Cleaning and Support Services at SCQF Level 5.

Getting On

- If you work for a large company you might be able to move into supervision or management.
- You might set up in business for yourself.
- Some companies have a franchise system where they help you to set up your business, and let you use their product and name. You have to pay money up front to do this.

Contacts

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National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA)

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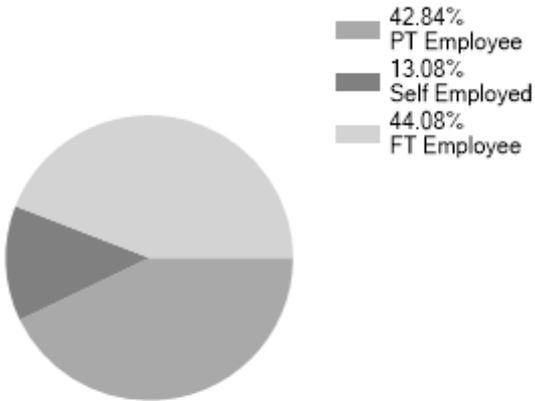
Website: www.ncca.co.uk

Twitter: [@NCCA__](https://twitter.com/NCCA__)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NCCAcarpetcleaning

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

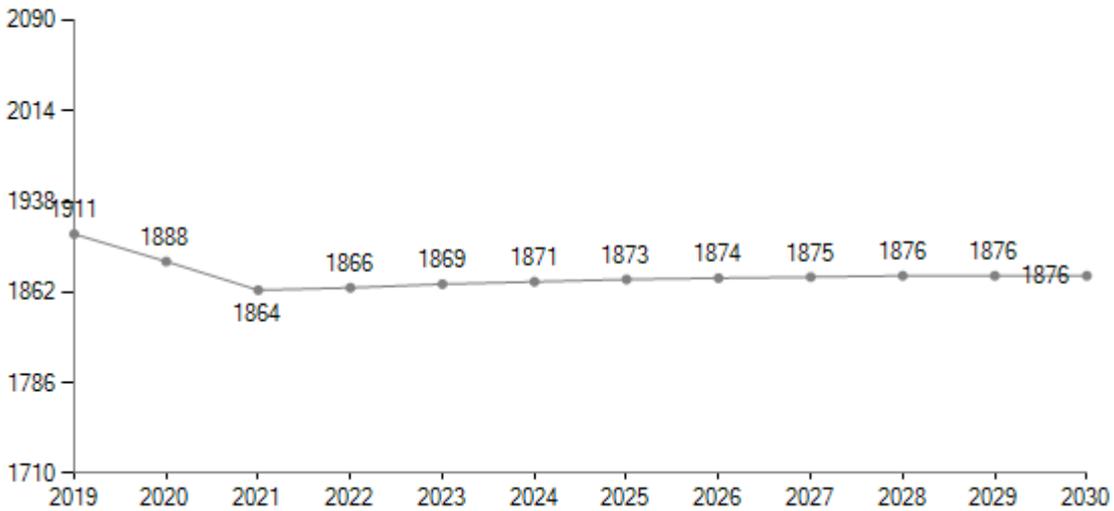


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)