

## Textile Operative

A textile operative works in a technical or clothing textile factory, operating the machinery used to make yarn, fabric and other textiles.

### The Work

You could be:

- using machinery (often computerised) to prepare raw fibre (natural or synthetic)
- overseeing more than one machine at a time
- loading the fibre to be turned into yarn into machinery to clean, comb and twist it
- using a machine to spin the raw material into yarn
- using a machine to weave the yarn into fabric
- using machinery to finish the fabric by colouring it, printing on to it or giving it special treatments to make it heat, crease or stain resistant, for example
- producing technical textiles for use in other industries, such as construction or automotive
- keeping production areas clean and tidy.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates 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 hourly rates can be more.

You may be able to increase your take home pay through piecework (when you are paid for what you produce) and bonus schemes.

### Conditions

- You would usually be based in a factory warehouse environment.
- The work involves a lot of bending and stretching.
- It may be warm, humid and dusty, though most modern factories have good ventilation and dust extraction systems.
- Machinery can be noisy.
- You wear protective clothing such as overalls, masks and ear protectors.
- You may work shifts, including nights, and sometimes overtime.

## Getting In

- You do not usually need formal qualifications, although a good general education is useful.
- You may get direct entry to a job.
- You may enter through a training scheme such as a Modern Apprenticeship which could lead to a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) at SCQF Level 5 or 7.

## What Does It Take

You need to have:

- excellent communication skills
- excellent attention to detail
- good practical skills.

You need to be able to:

- understand and follow health and safety rules
- work accurately with your hands
- concentrate while you are doing repetitive tasks
- adapt to new processes and machinery
- work with others and on your own.

## Training

- Training is usually on the job, working alongside an experience operative.
- You may be able to gain an SVQ in Leather, Sewn Products or Textiles Manufacturing SCQF level 5 at SCQF Level 5 or Leather and Textile Technology at SCQF Level 7.

## Getting On

- With experience you could move on to become a supervisor.
- You might be able to move into quality assurance, machine maintenance or other technical positions.

## Contacts

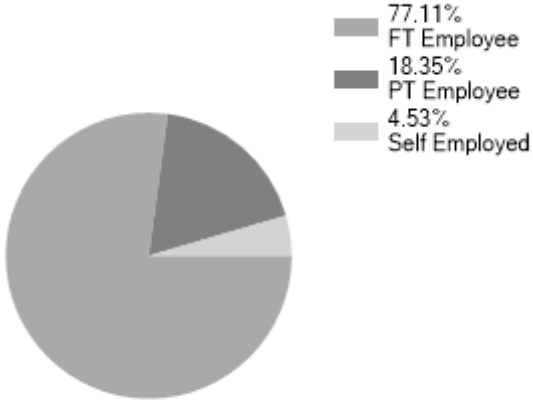
### Discover Creative Careers Finder

Website: [discovercreative.careers/#](https://discovercreative.careers/#)

X: @CreativeCareer5

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

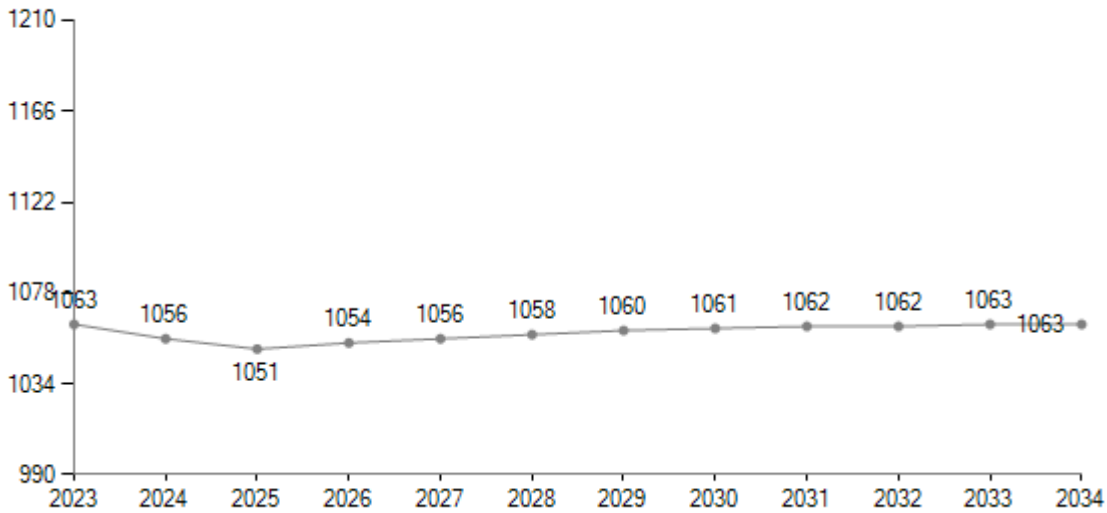


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)