

Picture Framer

Picture framers frame paintings, prints, photographs, certificates, textiles and collages to protect them from dirt and damage. They also frame 3D items such as dried flower arrangements, medals, sports trophies and museum pieces.

The Work

You could be:

- discussing types of frame and materials with the customer
- giving the customer a price and estimating how long the work will take
- measuring and using equipment such as mitre cutters to cut materials for the frame and backing, and making them the right shape
- assembling the frame, cutting glass to fit, mounting the artwork, glass and backing together, using frame tighteners and clamps
- fixing the whole assembly securely, using pins, staples, tape or glue
- attaching hooks or struts for hanging or standing
- restoring old or damaged frames and framing pictures that need to be preserved
- packing and perhaps delivering finished items
- selling artwork and art materials.

Pay

Pay rates vary, depending on:

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

Starting salaries for picture framers in the UK can vary greatly, but a trainee starts on around £20,000 a year. Experienced framers may expect to earn in the range of £25,000 to £30,000 a year. Specialist framers may earn more. Many picture framers run their own business. They charge a fee, which varies depending on the item framed. It is not always easy to make a good income.

Conditions

- You could work for a frame maker or shop, an art gallery or museum or a photographer.
- You could be self-employed working in your own shop.
- You would usually be based in a workshop or in a shop with a workroom.
- You would work regular hours, but, if in a shop, this is likely to include Saturdays.
- You may have to travel to visit customers.
- You might have to wear protective clothes – perhaps overalls and masks – when cutting wood or glass.
- You may wear special gloves if you handle valuable artwork.

Getting In

- A good general education is useful. In addition, English, Art and Design or a technological subject at National 4 or 5 may be helpful.
- You could take a private picture framing course or gain experience in a related craft industry before taking up this job.
- Some picture framers take a college course in art or design first. Courses are available at different levels. NC/NQ (SCQF Level 4-6), HNC (SCQF Level 7), HND (SCQF Level 8) or degree (SCQF Level 9-10) .
- It is helpful to have a driving licence.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- artistic, with a good eye for visual effect
- good with your hands
- patient
- able to concentrate and pay attention to detail
- able to work alone
- neat, accurate and methodical
- aware of current designs
- able to work to deadlines.

You also need:

- good business skills if you are self-employed
- good number skills for taking and calculating measurements
- good customer service skills
- health and safety awareness.

Training

- Training is usually on the job, under the supervision of an experienced member of staff.
- You could prepare for the Guild Certified Framer (GCF) qualification from the Fine Art Trade Guild.
- The [Fine Art Trade Guild](#) also offers advanced framing qualifications in textiles and mount design and function.

Getting On

- In larger organisations, it may be possible to gain promotion to a supervisory or management position.
- You could become a specialist in framing fine art, conservation items or high value limited edition prints.
- After suitable experience, you might be able to set up your own business. Some picture framers work part time, and have another job to supplement their income.
- Building strong links with local art organisations such as galleries and studios will help you establish yourself in self-employment.

More Information

For more information on creative careers visit the [Discover Creative Careers website](#).

Contacts

Discover Creative Careers Finder

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

X: @CreativeCareer5

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

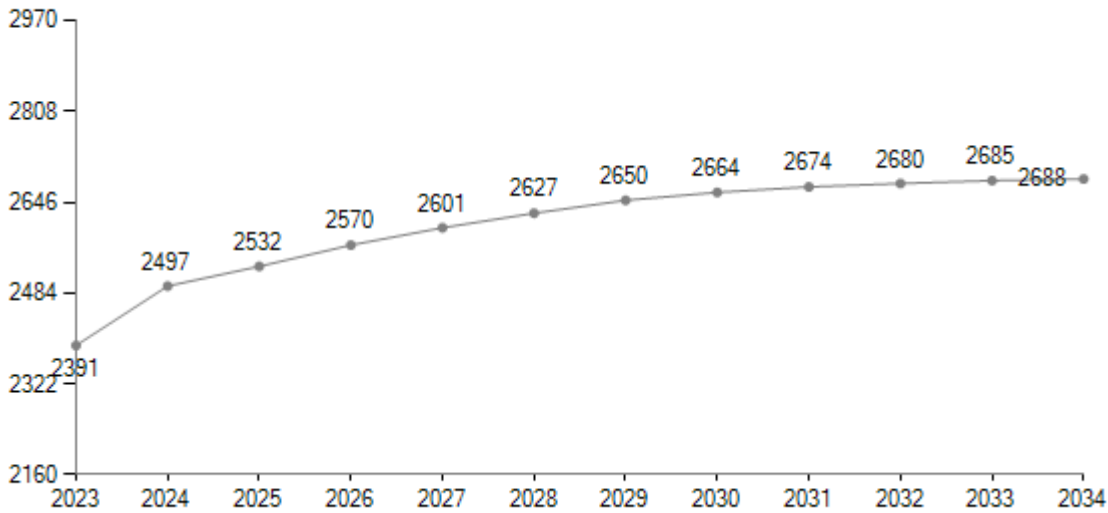


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)