

Offshore Service Technician

Offshore service technicians work for the oil and gas industry, installing, testing and maintaining a variety of equipment. They are also known as process operation technicians or maintenance technicians.

The Work

Offshore technicians work in the following areas:

- **electrical maintenance** – repairing and maintaining equipment such as power distribution systems, motors and control systems
- **instrument and control maintenance** – repairing and maintaining process control and safety systems
- **mechanical maintenance** – repairing and maintaining equipment such as pumps, engines and turbines
- **process operations** – maintaining the safe operations of oil and gas production.

You could be:

- working offshore, installing new equipment and testing it afterwards
- fault-finding and carrying out routine repairs
- maintaining and modifying existing equipment
- interpreting and working from technical drawings
- working with mechanical and hydraulic equipment such as high pressure pumps, hand tools and specialised mechanical tooling
- taking part in risk assessments
- occasionally working onshore in the company workshop
- completing technical reports with details of work carried out
- when onshore, being on call to go out at short notice to carry out a repair job on a rig, platform or drill ship.

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.

For those on the APTUS Apprenticeship salaries are as follows:

- Year 1 - £11,648 a year
- Year 2 - £15,652 a year
- Year 3 - £21,840 a year
- Year 4 - £24,340 a year.

As a qualified offshore technician, you are paid a basic 'on call' salary plus a bonus for every day you have to spend

offshore. The salary may start at around £18,000 to £25,000, rising to £35,000 a year. Salary increases with the amount of time spent offshore, with average salaries in the region of £40,000 to £50,000 a year.

There may also be additional benefits such as private healthcare and a pension.

Conditions

- You are based onshore in an office or workshop and offshore on an oil or gas platform or oil rig.
- You are on call much of the time and so your actual working shifts are irregular – you might be offshore for 10 days, then home for 5, and then offshore again for another 8 days.
- Onshore, you work regular hours Monday to Friday. Offshore you may have to work irregular hours, including weekends.
- Offshore you work outdoors on the rig where it can be noisy, stormy, cold and dirty. You would travel there by helicopter.
- There is often no mobile phone signal, but there are pay phones and usually broadband internet access.
- Alcohol is banned on rigs, and there is random alcohol and drug testing.
- When offshore you would wear protective clothing and safety equipment such as gloves, boots and a hard hat. You would live in shared accommodation.
- Onshore you spend most of your time sitting at a computer in a clean, comfortable office.
- You may do a lot of travelling all over the world, as you have to go where the project is. Companies often operate at a global level.

Getting In

- The main entry route is the APTUS Apprenticeship which has four disciplines: Electrical maintenance; Instrument and control maintenance; Mechanical maintenance and Process operations. Entry requirements are a minimum of 4 subjects at National 5 including English and Maths. Chemistry, Engineering Science or Physics preferred.
- You first complete an online application. If successful, you are invited to do an aptitude test, which covers numerical reasoning and a situational judgement assessment. If you pass, then you attend a formal interview.
- To work offshore you must pass a medical examination every 2 years.
- You must also pass an offshore survival course such as the Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training Certificate (BOSIET). Contact Cogent for more details.
- You may also have to undertake the Minimum Industry Safety Training (MIST) course.

What Does It Take

You should have:

- excellent communication skills
- good practical skills
- problem solving skills
- self-confidence and good judgement
- a responsible approach to health and safety.

You should be able to:

- understand technical drawings
- work under pressure and meet deadlines
- work within a project budget
- work well in a team.

Training

- The APTUS Apprentice Programme is up to 48 months. You would attend college (in Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Falkirk depending on the specialism) for the first 21 months, followed by 2 years of on the job training with a sponsoring company. You would be working under the supervision of experienced staff.
- During the programme, you complete an SVQ in the relevant discipline at SCQF Level 7.
- After your apprenticeship or course, and further training with your employer, you can work towards registering as Engineering Technician (EngTech) with the Engineering Council.
- There are relevant postgraduate qualifications available at Certificate, Diploma or MSc level (SCQF Level 11).
- You need to keep up to date with new developments throughout your working life.

Getting On

- You could move on to be the manager of a section or a department.
- There may be opportunities to work abroad.

More Information

Find out more about the APTUS Energy Technician Apprenticeship on the [APTUS website](#).

Contacts

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SPE Aberdeen

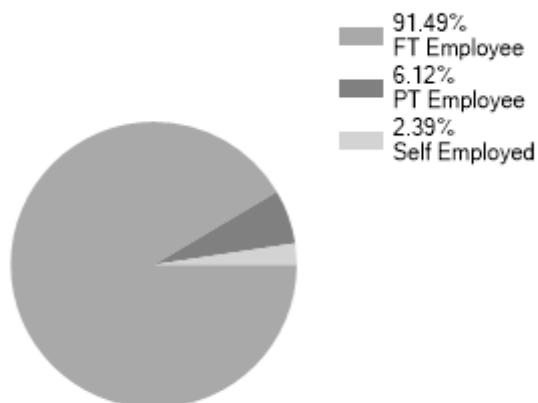
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Website: www.spe-aberdeen.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SPE.Aberdeen

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

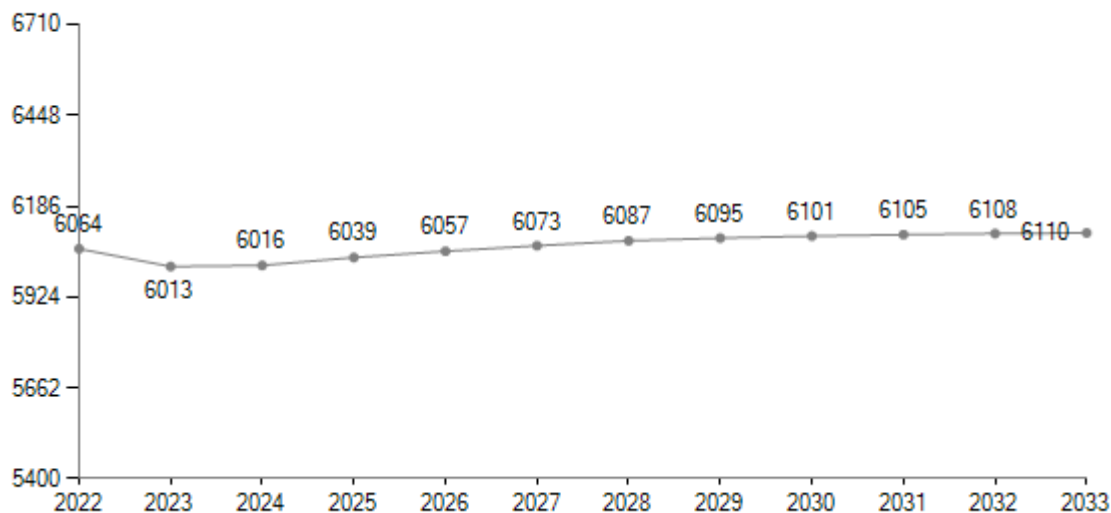


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)