

# **Port Operative**

Port operatives are based in small or large ports and harbours and carry out a range of tasks involving handling cargo, passengers or marine craft. This can involve operating equipment and driving vehicles.

# The Work

There are three main areas that come under the term port operative:

- stevedoring transferring cargo between ship and shore
- marine operations working on marine craft and assisting with movements
- passenger operations assisting the movement of passengers to and from vessels such as ferries and cruise ships.

As a stevedore you could be:

- loading or unloading cargo using cranes, conveyor belts or pipes
- · positioning and securing containers on freight ships
- using forklift trucks, electric trolleys or other machinery to move cargo to storage areas on shore
- · tying and untying the ships' ropes when arriving and leaving port
- maintaining equipment and machinery.

As a marine operative you could be:

- moving buoys and markers in and out of the water
- fuelling vessels
- operating vessels and using radio and radar systems, usually under supervision
- transporting passengers and crew from shore to ship.

As a passenger operative you could be:

- loading and unloading baggage to and from the ship
- directing vehicles and assisting passengers getting on and off the ship
- checking travel documents
- providing travel information on sailing times, weather and local facilities.

# 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.

The starting salary for port operatives is usually around £25,000 a year. This can rise up to around £35,000 or





more with experience.

### **Conditions**

- Stevedore and marine operation duties are outdoors, in all weathers, and indoors in ship cargo holds and storage areas onshore.
- Work can be physically demanding and you may have to work at heights.
- Passenger operative duties can be outdoors and in a harbour or port office.
- In all cases, you would work shifts, including early mornings, evenings and weekends, and you may be on call.

# **Getting In**

- Formal qualifications are not usually required, but a good level of general education is useful.
- You could get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in Maritime Occupations: Port Operations at SCQF Level 5.
- A driving licence may be useful or even necessary, depending on your specific role.
- Due to some restrictions on the operation of equipment, you may need to be 18 years old before undertaking stevedore or marine operation duties.
- Depending on your role, you may need to have a medical.

### What Does It Take

### You need:

- good communication skills
- good teamworking skills
- a reasonable level of fitness
- customer service skills, especially working as a passenger operative
- good practical skills
- an awareness of health and safety procedures
- the ability to follow instructions and explain them to others
- to be willing to work flexibly.

# **Training**

- Training lasts around 15 months and involves both on the job and off the job training.
- You would study for SVQ Port Operations at SCQF Level 5.
- You might undertake additional courses that include health and safety awareness and first aid.
- Depending on your duties, you may undergo training for the operation of forklift trucks, cranes and other equipment.

# **Getting On**

- With experience and qualifications you could become a supervisor.
- You could do the Diploma in Supervision of Ports and Maritime Operations Level 3 to help you progress.



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• You might move into port operations management.

# **Contacts**

# **Maritime Skills Alliance**

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# **Port Skills and Safety**

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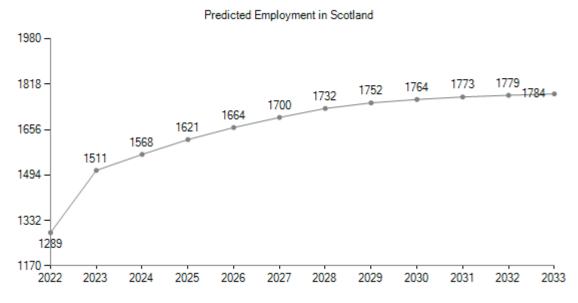
# **Statistics**

# Employment Status UK % 100.00% FT Employee

# **Past Unemployment - Scotland**

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by LMI for All



LMI data powered by <u>Lightcast</u>

