

Car Valet

A car valet, also known as valeter, cleans the inside and outside of cars. It takes a few hours to give a car a full valet.

The Work

You could be:

- checking the car with the customer to agree what should be done
- using a high pressured washer to clean the outside of the car
- steam cleaning the car engine, wheel arches and the vehicle frame
- cleaning the windows
- vacuuming and shampooing the upholstery
- waxing and polishing car surfaces, perhaps using a polishing or buffing machine
- collecting and returning cars
- travelling to customers in order to clean cars on their premises
- keeping a daily work log.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organization 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. Overtime and bonuses can increase your pay.

Recently job postings have advertised salaries of around £15,000 to £25,000 a year.

Conditions

- You will probably have to work in the evenings and weekends to get work done on time, and meet the needs of the customers.
- You will probably be working on a forecourt and will usually work outdoors.
- Work can be physically exhausting.
- You may wear protective waterproof clothing.

Getting In

- No formal entry requirements necessary, but a good general education is useful.
- A full driving licence may be necessary.
- Some employers ask for driving experience.
- You have to be able to work with chemicals and not be allergic to them.

You could find work with a car valet company, a car dealer company or a car rental firm. You could start up your own mobile valet business.

What Does It Take

You need to be:

- able to follow instructions closely
- careful and attentive to detail
- friendly and polite with customers
- honest and reliable
- aware of health and safety
- able to work carefully to deadlines
- able to work on your own or as part of a team.

Training

- Training is normally on the job.
- At first you will work with an experienced car valet until you are able to work on your own.
- [The British Institute of Cleaning Science](#) (BICSc) offer a course in Car Valeting which covers the correct knowledge and procedures involved in working in workshops and external areas.

Getting On

After gaining experience, you could move on, for example to self-employment.

More Information

For more information please see organisation below:

- [Institute of the Motor Industry](#) (IMI) (Scotland)

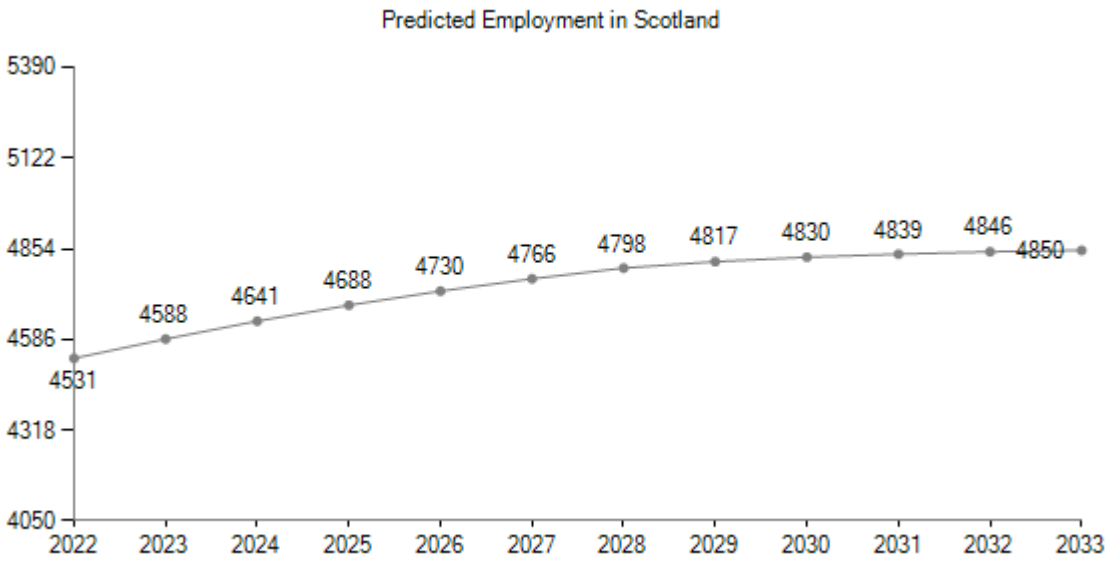
Contacts

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



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