

## 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)

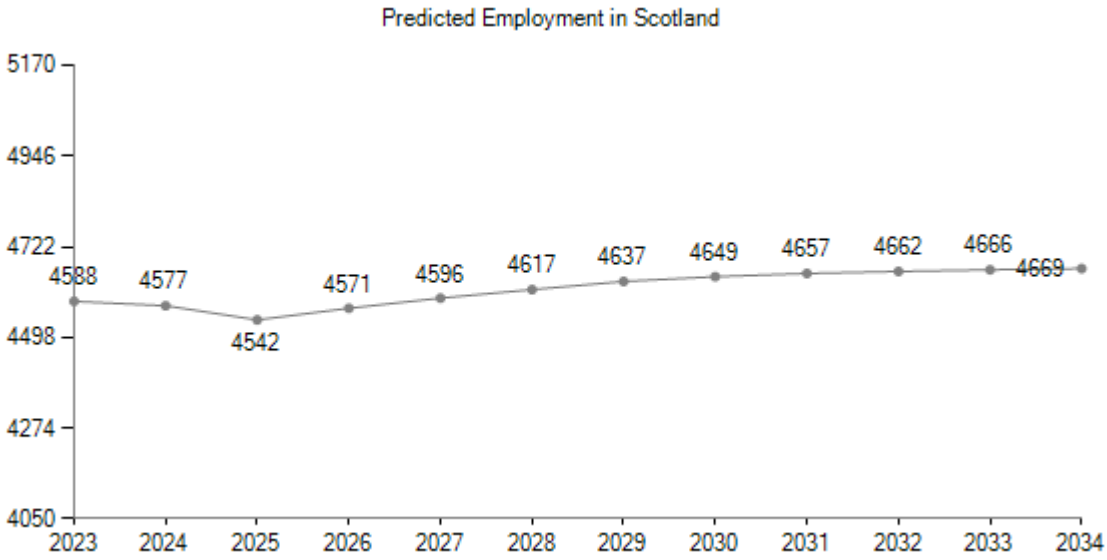
## Contacts

**Statistics**

Employment Status : Not available this career.

**Past Unemployment - Scotland**

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



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