



INDUSTRY SECTOR

Maritime

Overview

Scotland's marine economy includes all activities that relate to the oceans, seas, bays, estuaries and other major water bodies in Scotland or within Scottish waters. This includes commercial fishing, ship building, marine tourism, offshore wind, oil and gas, water transportation services and aquaculture.

Seafaring offers a stimulating, fulfilling and well-paid career for people who enjoy the associated challenges and responsibility and who want more from a career than the usual 'nine to five' routine. A career at sea brings with it a wealth of opportunity, providing individuals with the training and travel opportunities for a lifetime of rewarding challenges, which can be achieved either at sea or ashore.

What's the job market like?

Scotland's marine economy provides an important source of income and employment. The last few years have been challenging for the sector, with Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis all having an impact, however the industry has bounced back and has recently (May 23) benefited from a £14m boost from the Scottish Government, in a bid to increase economic growth. It is hoped that the funding can balance the sustainable use of marine resources for economic growth and support livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine ecosystems. Scotland benefits from a diverse and successful ports sector that contributes significantly to the international and national economies in which they operate. At least one third of Scotland's total freight tonnage is carried by water. With many ports reporting pre-pandemic business levels, the demand for infrastructure is increasing. Work is due to be completed on the £400million Aberdeen south harbour extension in the coming weeks (Spring 2023) to capitalise on the likes of transportation, cruise ships, oil and gas, renewables and decommissioning opportunities.

- In 2020, the marine economy generated £4 billion in gross value added, 2.8% of the overall Scottish economy.
- In 2020, the marine economy employed 68,600 people (headcount), 2.6% of the total Scottish employment.
- The turnover from the Scottish offshore wind farm industry has increased by 466% over the last 6 years, demonstrating the growth in this subsector.
- An extensive study commissioned by British Marine Scotland found that the country's economy recorded a multi-million pound boost thanks to marine tourism during 2022.

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Roles within the Marine Sector

There is a variety of jobs on shore and offshore within the marine sector. Broadly speaking, the sector falls into 4 main categories; Shipping, Marine, Ports and Marine Business Services.



Shipping Industry

The shipping industry consists of various activities, including shipbuilding and maintenance, and transportation of passengers and freight on both inland and international waters. Seafaring covers a range of safety, practical, technical and management skills – across navigation and electrotechnical disciplines. Expertise is required not only in deep sea waters with commercial shipping and fishing fleets, but also in all sectors where people work on specialised vessels such as tugs, workboats, large commercial yachts, Royal Navy ships or lifeboats.

Shipbuilding continues to thrive in Scotland with Royal Navy ships being turned out both on the Clyde and at Rosyth on the River Forth. Engineers play a pivotal part in shipbuilding; they are involved in the design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance and repair of the main propulsion engines and auxiliary machinery and systems found in all kinds of ships, boats and offshore installations. A number of engineering disciplines – such as mechanical, electronic and structural – are involved and engineers need to understand the effects of wind, waves and corrosion. Marine engineers employed by merchant shipping companies work on engines and different kinds of vessels, from cruise ships to tankers. The average salary for a Senior Engineer is £45,000 with plenty of opportunities to progress.



Marine Industry

The Marine industry consists of a variety of divisions, grouped within this report as Leisure Marine and Scientific Exploration. Subsectors include, boatbuilding (leisure marine vessels), marine renewable energy, marine support activities for offshore oil and gas, engineering and mining, recreational marine activities, marine finance and legal and marine science and academic activities, including government vessels and technical consulting. SSE Renewables, Shell and Scottish Power are key employers in this subsector.



Ports Industry

In this context, the ports industry comprises all those activities undertaken in ports, including warehousing and storage; port activities and management, cargo and passenger handling and border agency operating in ports. As an island nation, the UK requires everything from deepwater container ports to small harbours. Ports support the needs of oil and gas tankers, liquid and dry bulk, ferry and cruise companies, and every kind of commercial, military and leisure use of the sea imaginable. This variety of port facilities provides opportunities for every possible port-based career. Ports form an essential part of the UK logistics chain, which means – as well as marine disciplines – there are opportunities for maritime professionals in port operations, engineering, warehousing, transport, planning, safety, security, and a host of other business areas.



Maritime Business Services

The Maritime Business Services industry consists of various highly-productive activities, including financial, legal, insurance, shipbroking, education, accountancy and consultancy activities. More vessels are fixed through UK based shipbrokers, more capital provided via London banks and funds, and more vessels insured here than in any other location in the world. This range of activities means the UK is often seen as a 'one stop shop' for marine matters. Many people enter these sectors after a career at sea, but many more choose to enter shipping having established themselves in professional services.

Within each of the 4 categories, there is a growing requirement for transferable roles such as project management, health and safety, logistics, supply chain, procurement and quality assurance; salaries start at £45,000 and can rise to £70,000 + for more senior roles.

Scottish Military Employers

Many companies in the Marine sector are huge supporters of the experience, skills and values veterans have gained during their time within the Armed Forces.



Military Transferable Skills and Attributes

Service leavers and veterans from the Navy are well equipped to adapting to life at sea; living and working in tight conditions with limited supplies for long periods of time can be challenging and requires a certain mindset. It's paramount that seafarers are team players in order to ensure the successful completion of tasks and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the crew.

- Judgment and Decision Making
- Working under pressure
- Leadership
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Time Management
- Teamwork
- Project Management
- Human Resource Management
- Marine Engineering Maintenance
- Site Safety Supervision
- Quality Assurance
- Warehousing and Storage
- Health and Safety

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