

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Retail Assistant

What does a retail assistant do?

A retail assistant works in a variety of retail settings, this could be a shop, a department store, a supermarket, or a petrol station, for example. Their primary responsibilities include assisting customers, processing transactions, restocking shelves, and maintaining the cleanliness and organisation of the store. A retail assistant may also help with stock management, product displays, and providing information about products or promotions to customers. They play a crucial role in ensuring a positive shopping experience for customers and contributing to the overall success of the retail business. With experience, a retail assistant could progress to become a supervisor, store manager, or an area manager, or move into other retail sector roles such as in visual merchandising or buying.



What can I expect to earn as a retail assistant?

The starting salary for a retail assistant is typically around £18,000 to £20,000 per annum. With experience this is likely to increase to between £24,000 and £28,000 per annum. Some employers may also pay a commission or bonus, which can increase this figure further. Store or area managers can earn significantly higher than this.

What subjects should I study to become a retail assistant?

There are no formal academic qualifications required to become a retail assistant, but some employers may want you to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including maths and English.

How can I start my career as a retail assistant?

There are several ways to start a career as a retail assistant. You could complete a retail or customer service course at college and then apply for work, you could complete a retail apprenticeship, or you could apply directly to a retail organisation for work.

If you do not have any retail experience, you could volunteer, apply to work on a temporary basis, or apply to work on a part-time basis, to get experience before applying directly to an employer for permanent work.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a retail assistant, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Useful websites to find out more about a career as a retail assistant:

National Careers Service <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/sales-assistant>

British Retail Consortium <https://www.brc.org.uk/>



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www.skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk