
Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

Sir Christopher Chope MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 January 2024

Dear Sir Christopher,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of (a) full-time and (b) part-time (i) employed and (ii) self-employed tattoo artists **(26279)**.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects information on the labour market status of individuals through the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is a survey of people resident in households in the UK. The responses allow us to estimate how many people are in employment and their employment type. In addition, working respondents provide a description of their job allowing us to classify their occupation to the appropriate Standard Occupational Classification 2020 (SOC 2020) code¹.

Unfortunately, the job information collected by the APS is not provided by respondents with sufficient detail to give an accurate coding at a low enough level of classification to provide an estimate of the number of people working as tattoo artists. At a less detailed level of classification, tattoo artists are classified as artists (SOC code 3411). However, it should be noted that this occupation classification will also include other artists, such as drawers, painters, illustrators, animators, sculptors and picture restorers.

In the period October 2023 to September 2024, the latest detail available, there were 48,800 people working as artists. Of these, 1,600 were full-time employees and 3,600 were part-time employees. A further 23,000 were full-time self-employed and 19,800 were part-time self-employed.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassifications/oc/soc2020>