



| NSW Department of Education

# Printer

From the simplest to the most challenging designs, printers help clients bring their ideas to life. You'll use a variety of digital, offset, letterpress, lithographic, and flexographic processes as well as bindery equipment to print and bind books, magazines, brochures, posters and other marketing materials.

## What printers do

Printers use their creative and practical skills to produce a range of products including magazines, reports, food packaging, t-shirts, books, and marketing materials.

Before a job goes to press, they analyse the client's digital artwork to ensure any colouring, text or alignment issues are resolved. They then install printing plates on the press, meter the flow of solution, adjust pressure, ink the press, load paper, and adjust the press to paper size.

They monitor the print run as it prints, correcting problems and making minor adjustments as necessary. During the finishing stage, they fold and fasten groups of sheets together and feed them into machines for stitching or perfect binding — an automated process that applies glue to the spine.

In small businesses, printers may also design materials for clients. Printers may also be responsible for customer service, supervising print orders and billing.

## Will I get a job?

It's expected that over the next four years printer jobs will decline by 17% to about 10,000 in Australia.

## What will I earn?

Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

### You'll like this job if...

You're creative. You can work independently. You're physically fit. You have smooth hand-eye coordination. You value accuracy. You can read plans and follow instructions. You're a good communicator. You can concentrate for long periods of time. You have good colour vision. You're good with technology. You're deadline orientated.

### A day in the life...

Work as a printer may involve these tasks:

- set, adjust and monitor substrate-feed mechanisms, delivery mechanisms, inking systems, and other printing machine functions
- mix ink and solvents to standard
- regulate paper and ink supply during print runs
- monitor, evaluate and determine press operations manually and by computer to check print quality standards against proofs and detect malfunctions
- produce a variety of printed products using relief, lithographic, flexographic, and gravure printing presses and in-line finishing systems
- prepare plates, blankets and impression cylinders on small offset lithographic printing presses
- load paper into feeding mechanisms
- monitor machine operations and quality of printing
- undertake maintenance, adjustment, repair, and cleaning of machines
- produce and manage digital print images
- transfer and output images
- set up and operate paper and bookbinding guillotines.

### VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

#### Certificate III in Printing (ICP31215)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%\*



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides](https://education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides).

#### Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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### Roles to look for

- Screen printer
- Print machinist
- Digital printers

### Main employing industries

- Manufacturing
- Information media and telecommunications

### Other jobs you may like...

- Print finisher and screen printer
- Graphic pre-press trades worker