S.O.T. Systems of Timor
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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Tailor / dressmaker

Alfaiate / kostureira

Manufacturing & food processing · ISCO-08 7531

Tailors and dressmakers make, fit, change and repair clothes such as suits, shirts, skirts and dresses, often made to measure for each customer. Technical secondary schools in Timor-Leste teach clothing design and making.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Technical secondary school** ESTV clothing course
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No published demand data yet
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$276 / month** Average for all craft & trades workers in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Measure and plan: Take the customer's measurements; Choose or change a pattern to fit the customer; Help the customer choose the fabric, colour and style.

Cut and sew: Lay the fabric on the pattern and cut it to shape; Sew by machine and by hand; Make suits, shirts, skirts, blouses and dresses.

Fit and alter: Try the clothes on the customer and adjust them; Change styles, for example make trouser legs narrower; Repair torn or worn clothes.

Other work: Make costumes for shows and events; Make and decorate hats; Make wigs and hairpieces.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 7531, Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters.

WHERE YOU WORK

Tailor shops (Made-to-measure clothes and repairs); Home workshops (Working for yourself); Clothing makers (Bigger orders, such as uniforms); Theatre & events (Costumes, also listed by the ILO).

You sit at a sewing machine for long hours. You need good eyesight, steady hands and patience with small details.

Many tailors work for themselves. In 2017, employment centres helped 25 people start as self-employed tailors, 19 of them women.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Careful, exact work, Measuring, Working with your hands, Patience, Listening to customers.

You like: Clothes and fashion, Colours and fabrics, Making things yourself, Being your own boss.

Basic maths helps you take measurements and work out how much fabric you need.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Técnico de Estilismo, Modelagem e Confeção de Vestuário** · Technical secondary school course (ESTV)
- **No national certificate listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no sewing course, and that list is incomplete.

Course length and fees: to confirm with the Ministry of Education and each school. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Sewing helper** · Learn by helping a tailor
- **Tailor / dressmaker** · ESTV clothing course
- **Pattern maker or designer** · Designs clothes and makes the patterns
- **Your own tailor shop** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese workers for this job yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit group 7531 Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. Diploma Ministerial 8/ME/2013: technical secondary courses (ESTV). Whether the 2013 list is still current: to confirm https://mj.gov.tl/jornal/?q=node%2F3983
3. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
4. SEJT, Labour Market Outlook No. 7, Feb 2018 (self-employment support at employment centres, 2017) https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/LMOFeb2018en.pdf
5. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
6. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/tailor-dressmaker/?lang=en