

Labour Market Intelligence Series

Your guide to the construction industry



Overview:

Construction is one of the biggest industries to work in, both in the UK and worldwide. There is a role for everyone, whether you're good at maths or science, love woodwork or computers, or are great at organising projects.

Construction includes the building of roads, power stations, bridges, airports, railways, hospitals, schools and houses. Big construction projects involve many different activities which have to be designed, planned and priced involving professional architects, engineers and quantity surveyors. Planners and site managers are required to plan and organise the work. Supervisors and trades people such as building services technicians and bricklayers are required to ensure the work is properly carried out.

Future growth:

The Government's 'National Infrastructure Plan for Skills' highlighted that the UK will need 150,000 more construction engineers and 250,000 more construction workers by 2020.

In Wiltshire it is predicted that there will be a further 1,300 jobs (9% increase) in construction by 2020.

How to get into construction:

There are many ways you can get into construction, and the industry welcomes everyone from newcomers to those with some experience to career changers and military leavers.



Skills shortages/demands:

About one fifth of all vacancies in the wider construction sector are persistent and hard to fill because employers cannot recruit staff with the right skills, qualifications and experience. These shortages are evident mainly in skilled trades and professional occupations. More than half (53%) of employers in the construction contracting sector reported skills shortages in professional or associate professional occupations and some 28% reported skills shortages in trade occupations.

Source: UK Construction: An economic analysis of the sector, July 2013 (Department for Business Skills)

Advertised positions and salaries:

Electrician

– fit and repair electrical circuits and wiring for homes and businesses.

Earn from £17,000 up to £23,000+

Joiner

– make and fit wooden fixtures and fittings.

Earn from £13,000 up to £28,000

Plasterer

– mix and apply different kinds of plaster to walls and ceilings and fit plasterboards, in homes and businesses.

Earn from £14,000 up to £25,000+

Plumber

– fit, service and repair water supplies and central heating systems.

Earn from £16,500 up to £35,000

Roofer

– construct or repair flat or pitched roofs.

Earn from £13,000 up to £24,000+

Civil Engineer

– plan, design and manage construction projects.

Earn from £23,500-£30,000+ up to £82,000+ for Chartered Civil Engineers

Electrical Engineer

– design, build and maintain electrical control systems and machinery.

Earn from £20,000-£25,000 up to £40,000 to £60,000+ per year for Chartered Electrical Engineers

Building Services Engineer

– planning and designing the installation of plumbing, heating, air conditioning and lighting in large buildings.

Earn from £26,000 to £28,000 and from £40,000 to £55,000+ for more experienced engineers

Town Planner

– plan, design, manage housing, roads and public transport growth.

Earn from £18,000 to £25,000 and from £55,000 to £100,000 for Chief Planning Officers

Quantity Surveyor

– manage the costs of building projects from the design to the completion.

Earn from £20,000-£30,000 up to £45,000-£65,000 for Senior Chartered Quantity Surveyors

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector>

Courses related to Sector:

Level 2/BTEC/GCSE

Design and Technology
Maths
Science
Bricklaying
Carpentry
Bench joinery
Site carpentry
Electrical installation
Painting and decorating
Plumbing studies
Construction
Engineering
Construction and the Built Environment

Level 3/A Levels

Maths
Physics
Further Maths
Graphic Design
Electronics

Level 4/HE

Architecture (University of Bath, University of Bristol)
Civil Engineering (University of Bath, University of Plymouth, University of Bristol)
Electrical Engineering (University of Bath)
Coastal Engineering (University of Plymouth)
Construction (University College of Estate Management)

Skills, qualities and qualifications:

Common ways of getting a job in construction include completing an Apprenticeship or gaining a qualification such as a degree, diploma or a vocational qualification.

When applying for a job in construction or a place on a course, general skills picked up in your own time can give you an edge when it comes to applications and interviews. These are called employability skills:

- Communicating well
- Solving problems
- Using computers
- Getting things done on time
- Working in teams
- Leading others
- Understanding instructions
- Time management
- Making decisions
- Getting on with people.



Apprenticeships

Types of Apprenticeships

Plastering, scaffolding and carpentry are just a few of over 30 different Apprenticeships available in construction. You might be familiar with some of the choices, but there are plenty of others that might just surprise you.

Levels of Apprenticeship

- Level 2 - equivalent to GCSE's
- Level 3 - equivalent to A Levels
- Level 4 - equivalent to Foundation Degree

An Apprenticeship to Level 2 takes two years to complete. Apprentices may continue for an additional year to achieve Level 3.

Level 4 is for most who want to progress into Technical, Design and Management careers.

Further information on Apprenticeships visit:
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/apprenticeships/>

Search and apply for Apprenticeships:
www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Apprenticeships in construction include but are not limited to:

<http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

Advanced Carpentry and Joinery, L3

Chartered Surveyor, L6

Civil Engineering Technician, L3

Gas Engineering, L3

Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heat Pump Engineering Technician, L3

For a full list visit:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards#apprenticeship-standards-approved-for-delivery

Views from the sector:

"Historically, the UK construction sector has been a vital sector for the UK economy and a key driver of growth. In spite of the challenges the sector has recently faced, construction continues to be one of the largest UK sectors and a key source of the UK's value added and employment.

The global construction market is, however, facing major transformation as businesses continue to respond to the challenges of the economic crisis since 2008, begin to shift to green and sustainable construction, and seek to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the digital economy. The competitiveness and readiness of the UK construction sector will be crucial if the UK is to take advantage of these opportunities."

Andrew Rees, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210060/bis-13-958-uk-construction-an-economic-analysis-of-sector.pdf

Wiltshire employers:

The map below shows some of the Construction employers in Wiltshire. This is not a definitive list and there are other employers across the county.



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Network Rail | 9 P S Electrical Services |
| 2 Wavin Group | 10 MJ Church |
| 3 Wilts Wholesale
Electricals | 11 Babcock |
| 4 Amey Consulting | 12 Deceuninck |
| 5 Canburg Ltd | 13 Gaiger Bros Ltd |
| 6 ATKINS | 14 Salisbury Glass Centre Ltd |
| 7 Beard | |
| 8 C&G Tarmac
Surfacing
Limited | |

Where to study:

Wiltshire College offers a wide range of construction related courses.

University of Bath, University of Plymouth, University of Bristol and Bath College offer a variety of Architecture and Engineering courses.

Other local universities offer related courses, check websites and prospectuses for details.

For more information, follow these useful links:

Go Construct: www.goconstruct.org

Construction career explorer: www.goconstruct.org/en/finding-a-role-for-you/career-explorer/

CITB (Construction Industry Training Board): www.citb.co.uk

Design...Engineer...Construct! 'Educating the future of construction': www.designengineerconstruct.com

Construction News: www.constructionnews.co.uk

The Skills Show: www.findafuture.org.uk/the-skills-show

www.prospect.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/property-and-construction

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