

Plain Guide to Construction

The construction industry involves designing, planning, building, installing services, repair and maintenance of houses, offices, factories, hospitals, schools, roads, railways, power stations and other structures. Activity in the construction industry tends to reflect economic growth or recession.

The work

- Construction and civil engineering projects such as, private and social housing, high speed railway lines and bridges.
- Construction work is often project based; work is sub-contracted to smaller specialist firms whose workers may be self-employed.
- There has been a reduction in jobs in construction over the last 3 years as new orders have dropped.
- Workers may travel daily or may have to live away from home for specific projects.
- Some construction jobs can be seasonal.
- Few construction jobs are part-time. Can involve early starts and working evenings and weekends to meet contract deadlines.

11% of the construction workforce is female, mainly managers and professionals

8% (2.3m workers) of the UK workforce is in the construction industry

There will be a growing need to replace workers who retire

Jobs in demand in the next 5 years

Wood trades and interior fit out
Bricklayers Labourers Floorers
Plant operatives Civil engineers
Construction managers

There will be an increasing demand for higher level qualifications

37% of the construction workforce in the Leeds City Region are self employed

90% of businesses employ **fewer** than **10 people**

MUST HAVE: CSCS card

Most construction trades are covered by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). This card proves competency and is needed to work on a construction site.

For more information see www.cscs.uk.com

Potential salaries

Joiner £17 - £28,000, Electrician £20 - £30,000, Civil engineer £25 - £40,000, Quantity surveyor £25 - £45,000, Construction manager £17 - £35,000. These are examples only.

Qualifications and training

Full-time and part-time courses in construction are available at local colleges.

Apprenticeships are also available in construction but you will need to find your own employer.

See www.apprenticeships.org.uk for vacancies.

Skills - maths and English science
practical and technical team working
problem solving follow instructions safety
aware able to work at heights willing to
learn/retrain able to read drawings IT skills
multi-skilled

14m
homes need to
become more energy
efficient over the
next 20 years

In the future it is
predicted that there
could be **20,000**
'green jobs' in
Yorkshire in 2020

Future Trends

The construction industry is forecast to recover slowly from 2014 with the private housing sector in Yorkshire and the Humber set to increase output by 3.8% each year to 2017. The Government is supporting initiatives and increasing funding for major infrastructure projects over the next few years which are expected to boost growth in construction. The industry needs to replace skills lost over the last 5 years and in the future as older workers retire. The UK has low carbon targets to meet by 2020 and it is estimated that sectors with the most growth potential e.g. power generation, waste recycling and low carbon new build and retrofitting, could create up to 20,000 jobs across these sectors by 2020.

Jobs - where to look

Construction jobs are advertised in local papers and specialist journals. Many are filled by recruitment agencies, search www.yell.com Find building firms on www.builders.org.uk, www.fmb.org.uk or vacancies on www.cnplus.co.uk or www.building.co.uk

Visit your local Jobcentre Plus or search for vacancies on Universal Jobmatch www.gov.uk/jobsearch

More information...

Construction careers

www.bconstructive.co.uk

www.citb.co.uk Go to 'Careers in construction', 'Careers progression tool' for more careers information
SummitSkills - Building Services
Engineering

www.summitskills.org.uk

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

See 'Job profiles' for information on different jobs in the construction industry

Future skills

Many existing and new workers will need to learn new skills in energy efficiency, installing prefabricated units, renewable energy and environmental technologies - such as installing solar panels, rainwater harvesting, air and ground source heat pumps. SummitSkills predicts that around 161,000 skilled workers will be needed to enable the UK to meet 2020 carbon reduction targets.

Further help...

National Careers Service advisers are available in your local area to provide information, advice and guidance on learning and work.
See the website or call 0800 100 900

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Sources: www.citb.co.uk, www.bconstructive.co.uk
Information correct at time of writing, be aware that the information may change.

