

Construction West Midlands

Labour Market Information



The demand for construction workers over the next five years is expected to grow. Both infrastructure (such as road and rail links) and house building is expected to return to the levels seen 10 years ago and technology will bring lots of new opportunities. The HS2 high-speed rail service is one of the biggest projects of a generation, happening right here in the West Midlands.

Important facts about the construction sector

- Around 2.3 million people in the UK work in the construction industry.
- Employers are struggling to find enough people with the right skills in construction.
- Number of women in construction is growing year on year
- The West Midlands is expected to need 3,390 new workers each year to 2022¹.
- There are over 90 types of construction apprenticeships to choose from.
- Around 40% of construction workers are self-employed².
- The top 5 job areas in demand are: wood trades and interior fit-out, construction professionals and technical staff, scaffolders, labourers and surveyors³.
- HS2, with its headquarters in Birmingham, will create 25,000 jobs and 2,000 apprenticeships in its construction.

^{1,2&3} CITB

Job Titles

3D modeller • architect •
bricklayer • building services
engineer • carpenter/joiner •
carpet fitter • cavity wall
insulation technician • ceiling fixer
• civil engineer • civil/structural
engineering technician •
construction manager •
construction plant operator •
crane operator • damp-proofer •
demolition operative • drone
operator • estate manager •
facilities manager • floor layer •
glazier • groundworker • heating
and ventilation engineer •
labourer • painter and decorator •
plasterer • plumber • quantity
surveyor • road surfacing manager
• roofer • scaffolder • smart
meter fitter • steeplejack •
stonemason • structural engineer
• surveyor • town planner • traffic
engineer • wall and floor tiler •
window fitter

Skills required

Problem solving
Communication
Technical and Practical Skills
Team working
Project management
Maths
Attention to detail
Advanced ICT and digital skills
Planning and organisation
Leadership
Able to solve problems and analyse figures
Reliability
Health and safety awareness
Able to manage own time and
prioritise tasks

In the West Midlands the
most 'in demand'
roles are carpenters
and joiners,
electricians,
labourers,
surveyors and
technical staff

What you could earn

These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in construction*. Salaries are likely to be lower for new starters and higher for experienced workers

Painter and decorator **£24,050**

Bricklayer **£25,200**

Carpenter or joiner **£26,400**

Plumbing / heating and ventilation engineer
£29,800

Scaffolder **£32,850**

Electrician **£30,800**

Construction project manager **£36,050**

Architect **£38,250**

Civil engineer **£40,300**

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017, median salary rounded to the nearest £50

Future Trends

It is estimated there will be 31,600 new workers needed per year to 2022 - 3,390 in the West Midlands¹. One million homes estimated to be built by the end of 2020 and half a million more by the end of 2022²

There will be roles around low carbon and sustainability – building with the environment in mind. That means designing energy-saving homes built with new materials and techniques. People with new installation and maintenance skills will be needed around energy production. People who have computing, design and engineering skills will be in demand as the use of technology increases. Drones are helping to survey land and tall structures and virtual reality can show how the inside of a state-of-the-art building might look. There's a growing use of 3D modelling and printing to design and produce buildings, structures and their parts, and off-site manufacturing may need to call upon robotics engineers.

Roles like bricklayer, plumber and civil engineer will continue to be in demand.

¹ CITB ² Industrial Strategy, DBEIS

Local employers

Arcadis | Vinci | Kier | Skanska | Westpoint Construction | Lovell | Bovis | VolkerFitzpatrick | Sir Robert McAlpine | Barratt Homes Mercia | Benniman | Bouygues | Deeley Group | Wates

There will also be many smaller companies.

In the West Midlands

29,310 employed in non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff

16,100 employed in wood trades

15,840 employed in electrical trades and installation

12,870 employed in plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation

7,120 employed as building envelope specialists

6,860 employed in painting and decorating

5,680 employed as surveyors

5,230 employed as bricklayers

3,440 employed as roofers

2,610 employed as construction project managers

CITB 2016 estimated figures



Routes in

There are several routes into a job in construction. An apprenticeship will help you develop practical skills while learning at the same time and you can pick up this route at intermediate, advanced, higher or degree level. There are around 90 apprenticeships in existence or in development in this sector. Some degree apprenticeships already exist such as building services design engineer, civil engineer and chartered surveyor. Check out which courses or apprenticeships local colleges and universities offer and search for employer apprenticeship vacancies on www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk. For some roles, such as architect, employers will look to recruit graduates. Some organisations offer industry placements, summer placements and work shadowing to undergraduates which can help towards gaining that all-important experience.

Career Learning Pilot

The **Career Learning Pilot** can support you to grow your skills and boost your income. Speak to a Careers Adviser to discover the next steps towards your career goals.

Research shows that people qualified to Level 3 can earn 10% more than those without and advanced apprentices at Level 3 can earn £117,000 more over their career. Those with Level 4 skills earn on average twice as much as those with no qualifications.*

*Prospects.ac.uk

Talk to **National Careers Service** on **0121 296 5550 (Quote CLPWM6)** or email: clpwestmids@prospects.co.uk

Or visit www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/productivity-skills



FINDING OUT MORE

Other useful websites:

www.citb.co.uk

www.goconstruct.org

www.the-nhtg.org.uk

www.summitskills.org.uk

www.architecture.com