

## Labour Market Exploration: Construction and the Built Environment

### INDUSTRY HEADLINES



Pay in the industry is **above** the national average with median gross weekly earnings of £410, compared with the national average of £335

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**The National Construction College, Bircham Newton, Norfolk** – Europe's largest construction training provider - has secured funding to continue with their specialist construction training – [www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk](http://www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk)

### INTRODUCTION

- Construction & the built environment includes homes, offices, hospitals, airports, railway stations, roads and streets
- The job of planners and construction engineers is to make these places as functional, safe and attractive as possible – and to take account of the impact on the environment
- Jobs in the industry range from designers, architects and surveyors to technicians and craft workers, such as carpenters, plumbers and electricians

### TRENDS

- Total employment in construction has slowly increased over the last 10 years to over 2 million – **between 7% and 8% of the UK's total workforce**
- After recent rapid growth, total employment covered in the sector is anticipated to remain fairly static over the next 10 years – **construction activity is particularly sensitive to the economic cycle** and tends to suffer higher peaks and lower troughs compared to other sectors
- **37% in the industry are self-employed**, compared with only 13% for the economy as a whole – 92% of all employment in the industry is in very small businesses with less than 11 workers, which is much higher than the economy as a whole

### SKILLS

- Over the period 2004-2014 **the net requirement** for workers in the *skilled trades* is predicted to be 291,000
- Overall, a **net loss** of 7,000 *unskilled jobs* is forecast

## INDUSTRY contd.

### HEADLINES

The construction workforce is 90% male, compared with 54% of the total workforce, and 98% white, compared with 96% of the whole workforce – the CITB-ConstructionSkills strategy is to **increase the annual apprentice recruitment places by 10% for women, and Black and Asian people**

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#### Major construction projects

**include:** - the Olympic Games Stadium and infrastructure; Docklands Light Railway; Crossrail Link: Building Schools for the Future programme; hospital building programme; public housing building programme

- There is usually a need to work outdoors for a lot of the time
- Many jobs in this industry involve teamwork
- A general requirement is to be good at maths, and be able to understand plans and drawings
- Useful school subjects include maths, science, design & technology and geography
- An understanding of business and enterprise is needed for self-employment

### WEBLINKS – including SSC's (Sector Skills Councils)

#### Main sources:

- SSC gateway site – [www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk](http://www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk) – includes labour market intelligence, curriculum resources, inspirational case studies, role models that challenge stereotypes
- Jobs4u – [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – extensive careers database and a good site for young people
- Learn Direct – [www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles/](http://www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles/) – over 700 job descriptions & job profiles
- National Guidance Research Forum (NGRF) – [www.guidance-research.org](http://www.guidance-research.org) – site developed by the Institute for Employment Research (IER) including labour market trends data & an on-line learning module for LMI
- Prospects – [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – information for graduates which can help young people consider progression pathways from their Diploma programme
- Careersbox – [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) – a free national careers film library showing films of real people doing real jobs



## Specialist sources:

**Key:** C – careers information J – job hunting  
L – learning & training T – tutor resource

- Asset Skills (SSC for Property, Facilities Management, Housing & Cleaning) – [www.assetskills.org](http://www.assetskills.org) – housing, property, facilities management and cleaning – **C, L, T**
- BEST (Building Services Engineering Training) – [www.best-ltd.co.uk](http://www.best-ltd.co.uk) – apprenticeship details on Building Services Engineering e.g. lighting, heating, water, air conditioning, ventilation, refrigeration systems – **C, L**
- Building Services Journal – [www.bsj4jobs.co.uk](http://www.bsj4jobs.co.uk) – careers advice, CV, Job & salary information – **C, L, J, T**
- CITB – construction skills – [www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk](http://www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk) – job profiles, entry routes & curriculum resources – **C, L, T**
- Construction & Built Environment Diploma – [www.cbdiploma.co.uk](http://www.cbdiploma.co.uk) – information on the 14-19 Diploma – **L, T**
- Construction Skills (SSC) – [www.constructionskills.net](http://www.constructionskills.net) – main umbrella organisation working with CITB – **L, T**
- Energy & Utility Skills (SCC) – [www.euskills.co.uk](http://www.euskills.co.uk) – electricity, gas, waste management & water industries – **C, T**
- Lantra (SCC for Environmental & Land-based) – [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk) – covers industries grouped under Land management & production; Animal health & welfare; and Environmental industries – **C, L, T**
- SummitSkills (SSC for Building Services Engineering) – [www.summitskills.org.uk](http://www.summitskills.org.uk) – careers fact sheets on Building Services Engineering – **C, L, T**
- JTL – [www.jtltraining.com](http://www.jtltraining.com) – provides information on apprenticeships, including electrical and plumbing work – **C, L**
- WISE (Women into Science, Engineering & Construction) – [www.wisecampaign.org.uk](http://www.wisecampaign.org.uk) – promotes construction as a career option for girls – **C, L, T**