

Labour Market Exploration: Manufacturing and Product Design

INDUSTRY HEADLINES



New opportunities in this sector are increasingly occurring in the area of technical textiles, with examples including – medical textiles (allergy-free bedding & a woven fabric that can kill the MRSA bug); construction textiles (e.g. scaffold nets & roofing felts); clothing textiles (e.g. GORE-TEX which is waterproof, windproof & breathable); automotive textiles (textiles fibres which make up the internal structure of a tyre); aerospace textiles (woven fabric

INTRODUCTION

- Just about every object has been processed or manufactured in one way or another in many different industries – examples include textiles, aircraft, chemicals, furniture, food and drink, electrical goods
- **This industry keeps all other industries supplied with the materials needed to do their job** e.g. construction firms couldn't build without bricks and concrete, and supermarkets couldn't stock their shelves without mass-produced and packaged food
- The number of people in the UK employed in this sector has declined steadily – the industry now employs approximately 3 million people, which is around 10.5% of everyone working in the UK
- In this sector people either work in factories where machines do most of the actual production work, or on a smaller scale in workshops where most of the work is by hand
- Examples of occupations within the sector include: *chemical plant process worker, clothing sewing machinist, upholsterer, packaging technologist, glassmaker, polymer technician, machine operative, baker, food processing operative, shopfitter, paint technologist*

TRENDS

- In general, the number of jobs at the lower skill level is decreasing, while **those at a higher skill level are increasing**
- Key challenges for the future of the sector include attracting more young people into the industry, and adapting the workforce skills to the fast-paced technology advances

INDUSTRY *contd.*
HEADLINES

structures form part of materials used in the manufacture of aircraft wings and fuselage)
– www.futuretextiles.co.uk

SKILLS

- Operatives and craftspeople should have practical hand skills for using tools and machinery
- Technicians and technologists require not only practical skills, but also scientific understanding and technical knowledge
- Being able to work shifts can be important
- It is essential to follow health & safety rules

WEBLINKS – including SSC's (Sector Skills Councils)**Main sources:**

- SSC gateway site – www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk
– includes labour market intelligence, curriculum resources, inspirational case studies, role models that challenge stereotypes
- Jobs4u – www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u – extensive careers database and a good site for young people
- Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk – official site for all apprenticeships across over 80 industry sectors
- National Guidance Research Forum (NGRF – 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
- Careersbox – 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

- Proskills UK – www.proskills.co.uk/index.php – Sector Skills Council for the Process & Manufacturing Industry (covering extractives, coatings, glass, building products, print), which includes careers website www.prospect4u.co.uk – C, L