

The demand for construction workers over the next five years is expected to grow, meaning it's never been so important to attract young people and train them up for some exciting jobs! 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.

179,000 new jobs to be created
between now and **2021**

35,740 new workers needed per year
to 2021 – **2,800** in the West Midlands

**Number of women in
construction is growing
year on year**

Future trends

There will be roles around **low carbon and sustainability** – building with the environment in mind. That means energy-saving homes made from new materials and techniques, and new installation and maintenance skills 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 to replace those who retire or leave.

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find candidates with the right people or personal skills. In construction, employers are particularly looking for:

- Problem solving
- Communication
- Team working
- Project management
- Maths
- Attention to detail
- Advanced ICT and digital skills
- Planning & organisation
- Leadership
- Reliability

What could you 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**
- Quantity surveyor **£42,600**

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

The local picture

The HS2 high-speed rail service is one of the biggest projects of a generation, happening right here in the West Midlands. HS2 Ltd has opened its construction headquarters in Birmingham creating around 1,300 jobs and the city is also home to the National College for High Speed Rail.

A number of other potential developments which could create jobs include: Redditch Eastern Gateway, UK Central near Solihull, Branston Locks and Rugely Power Station. And there are plans to build thousands of new homes across the region including sustainable homes.

Around 34,000 (3.7%) of people across Greater Birmingham, Solihull, northern Worcestershire and southern Staffordshire are employed in construction and many more working in this sector will be self employed (the UK average is 40%) .

Of the 179,000 new jobs to be created over the next five years, 14,000 are expected to be in the

Skilled people are especially needed to fill these jobs in the West Midlands :

carpenters and joiners | **electricians** | labourers | **surveyors** | technical staff



Large and valued companies in the area include:



Arcadis - Vinci - Kier - Skanska - Westpoint Construction – Lovell – Bovis - VolkerFitzpatrick - Sir Robert McAlpine - Barratt Homes
Mercia - Benniman - Bouygues

Finding out more



www.goconstruct.org

www.the-nhtg.org.uk

www.summitskills.org.uk/building-servicesapprenticeships-careers delete

www.architecture.com

Routes in



There are several routes into a job in construction. An apprenticeship will help you learn a practical skill while earning at the same time and you can pick up this route at intermediate, advanced, higher or degree level. 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.

The National Heritage Training Group offers a number of work-based learning bursaries to students wanting to study built heritage – find out more at www.the-nhtg.org.uk.

Types of apprenticeships include:



bricklaying, bench joinery, painting and decorating, civil engineer, heating and ventilation engineer, interior systems, high-speed rail and infrastructure technician, building maintenance, quantity surveyor, estimator, business admin, highways maintenance, scaffolding, plant maintenance, roofing, plastering, land surveyor, groundworker