

Construction West Midlands

Labour Market Information



Construction is one of the UK's largest sectors:

- over 3.1 million people employed within 28 occupational categories
- annual turnover of £370bn.

(Industrial Strategy)

It is predicted that 35,740 new workers will be needed per year to 2021, with 2,800 per year in the West Midlands. (CITB)

HS2's national construction headquarters is based in Birmingham, and also hosts the National College for High Speed Rail. HS2 will be the biggest boost to the region and will create 25,000 jobs and 2,000 apprenticeships in its construction.

HS2 Growth

- 104,000 new or safeguarded jobs, 10% of which will be fitted by residents currently unemployed
- An additional £14bn GVA
- An increase in skills, with 36% of the local population qualified to level 4+ and 2000 apprenticeships
- Support for 2000 businesses
- Improved accessibility, with over 2 million people connected to HS2

Source: WMCA

Construction includes infrastructure (e.g. railways, roads, water, and communications), private and public sector housing, hospitals, schools, offices, commercial and retail construction among others. It also covers the repair and maintenance of existing buildings.

CITB predicts a growth of 1.3% over the next 5 years within the Construction industry across the UK, with 158,000 jobs to be created. Interestingly, construction output in the West Midlands is forecast to grow at an annual average rate of 1.8%. The area which is expected to see the most growth over the next 5 years is Infrastructure, with several large-scale projects such as HS2 currently in progress.

One million new homes are to be built by the end of 2020 and half a million more by the end of 2022. (Industrial Strategy)



Overview

The number of employee jobs in construction in the West Midlands rose to 218,300 in 2016 which is 5.7% of the workforce share although around 40% are self-employed (CITB).

These figures relate to both new and replacement jobs.

The West Midlands shares the same general trend with the UK that

- strongest growth is projected for the managerial/administrative and professional occupations, than the trades/manual ones.
- the gender split of people employed within the Construction industry within the West Midlands is uneven, with only 21.6% of the workforce identifying as female.
- number of skills shortage vacancies has more than doubled since 2013, rising from 5,000 to 12,000.

This indicates that construction employers are facing significant and increasing challenges in recruiting sufficiently skilled labour.

Skills

The majority of people employed in Construction have a Level 3 Qualification (31.2%), or higher (34.8%).

Like other sectors, employers are particularly looking for people with advanced digital and ICT skills to develop and manage systems, procedures and other changes in working practice.

Automation and disruptive technologies also mean changes to some existing roles, even those requiring traditional dexterity. Some employees will need to move from physically doing the job themselves to operating a machine and this will require new sets of skills, particularly digital and advanced ICT skills.

Top Local Employers

Atkins | AECOM | Interserve PLC | Amec Foster Wheeler | Balfour Beatty | Able Group | Trobs Ltd | Kier Group | Balfour Beatty plc | Willmott Dixon | Galliford Try Plc | Morgan Sindall Group | Plc Bersche-Rolt | Network Rail | Galliford Try | Interserve | Mace | Persimmon.

Self-employment in the construction industry is becoming increasingly popular and currently stands at around 40% (it's around 15% for the whole economy).

Routeways into the sector

Qualifications such as GCSEs, A levels, NVQs, BTECs, HNC/Ds and a degree can all lead to work in this sector; some are more hands on than others. Training on the job with an apprenticeship is another option.

An apprenticeship is a good way to get into a career in construction and there are just under 90 different types of apprenticeships within construction. Types of apprenticeships include: bricklaying, facilities management, town planning, architecture, tunnelling operative, steel fixer, plumbing and domestic heating technician, energy manager, housing management assistant, smart meter installer, digital engineering technician, tiler, civil engineer.

More useful information can be found in the 'How to get into construction' section on the GoConstruct website www.goconstruct.org.

Jobs in demand

Jobs in computing, design and engineering 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.

The following roles will also continue to be in demand.

- carpenters and joiners
- electricians
- labourers
- surveyors and technical staff
- bricklayer
- plumber
- civil engineer

Top 10 Job Roles & Salaries

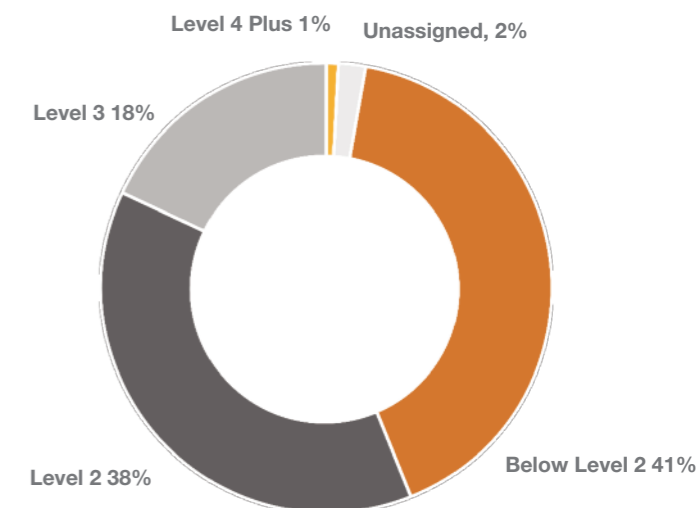
Job role	Average salary
Painter and decorator	£24,050
Bricklayer	£25,200
Carpenter or joiner	£26,400
Plumbing / heating and ventilation engineer	£29,800
Scaffolder	£32,850
Electrician	£30,800
Construction project manager	£36,050
Architect	£38,250
Civil engineer	£40,300
Quantity surveyor	£42,600

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

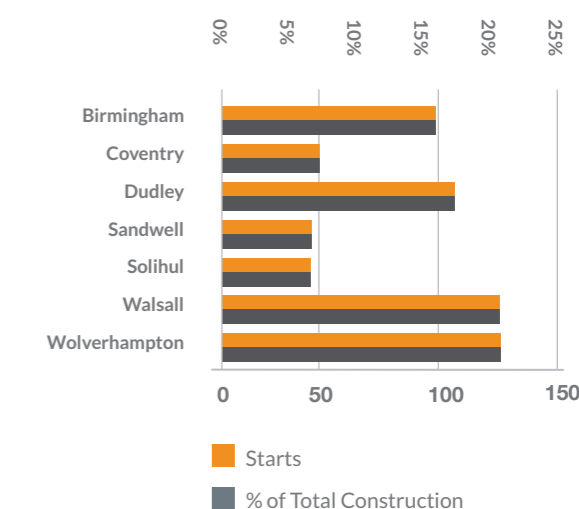
Skills in Demand

Construction trade supervisors	Wood trades and interior fit-out
Scaffolders	First Aid
Subcontracting	advanced ICT and digital skills
Facility Management	Civil Engineering
Communications	project management
Certified Strength And Conditioning	Maintenance
problem solving skills	planning and organisation
people who are reliable	team working

Construction Occupational Analysis in WMCA (Excluding Apprenticeship Programmes)



No of Construction Apprenticeships by LA



Construction Occupational Analysis in WMCA



Career Learning Pilot

The Career Learning Pilot can support individuals to grow their skills and identify their career goals. This is intended to drive up skill levels of people in work and help to improve productivity where higher skill levels are associated with higher earning and being in work.

For instance

- those qualified to Level 3 earn 10% more than those without this level of skills
- 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)

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

Regional Developments

Emphasis on social housing and government funding of £48m in West Midlands will see constructions of new thousands of new homes across the West Midlands

Work on upgrading M6 to smart motorway between Junctions 2 and 4 and Junctions 13 & 15

Works on Commonwealth Games 2022 across Birmingham

150 new homes in the Tap Works in Wolverhampton

HS2 – high speed rail project connecting London to Birmingham and beyond with phase 1 due to commence 2018/2019

Wolverhampton Canalside and City Interchange project is undergoing £130m transformation.

Severn Trent Water is part way through a £300m project to improve water networking in Birmingham and surrounding area

A large project expected to start mid 2018 (subject to planning) is a three tower block unit on site of former Renault car dealership on Digbeth High street

University College Birmingham has a £100m investment in building new student facilities in Jewellery Quarter

Further info

www.citb.co.uk

www.goconstruct.org

www.the-nhtg.org.uk

www.summitskills.org.uk

www.architecture.com

Future Trends

There will be roles around low carbon and sustainability – building with the environment in mind.

New technologies and methods of working will also | **protecting people through wearable technology** | smart sensors to track people | **smart infrastructure underpinned by artificial intelligence** | virtual and augmented reality | **autonomous vehicles** | wireless sensing | **big data and analytics**

