

## CONSTRUCTION

The demand for construction workers over the next five years is expected to grow, and both infrastructure (such as road and rail links) and house building should return to levels seen 10 years ago. HS2 will bring a construction jobs boom to the region and there will be new opportunities for those already working in the industry as well as new entrants.



**2,800 people** needed each year to 2021 in the West Midlands<sup>1</sup>

More **women** needed - only 14% of the engineering workforce is female<sup>2</sup>

**30,000 apprenticeships** in roads and rail in the UK by 2020 as part of the Transport Infrastructure Skills Strategy

HS2 could create **25,000 jobs** in construction



### IN DEMAND

Jobs in demand in the West Midlands include<sup>4</sup>:

Carpenters and joiners • Electricians • Bricklayers • Steel erectors and structural fabrication • Construction process managers • Labourers



### FUTURE TRENDS

As well as skilled trades such as bricklaying, carpentry and scaffolding, those with computing, design and engineering skills will be in high demand. There will be new roles around low carbon and sustainability – building with the environment in mind – as energy-saving homes made from new materials and techniques call for installation and maintenance skills.

We could see greater use of 3D modelling and printing in the design and production of buildings, structures and their parts. Drone operators will help to survey the land and tall structures, and virtual reality will help us to imagine the buildings of the future.

robotics engineering • 3D visualisation • virtual reality design • drone technology • materials innovation • energy efficiency • research and development • offsite construction



### THE LOCAL PICTURE

As well as technology creating new roles, there are opportunities for skilled craft workers in the built heritage sector to help preserve old buildings in our local area. And don't overlook an office role either - IT, HR, finance - these are all important for the smooth functioning of a business.

#### How many people are employed in construction in our area?

Around 8,000 people in Shropshire<sup>3</sup> are employed in construction which is about 7% - a larger share than the UK average. However, around 40% of people working in this sector work for themselves.

<sup>1</sup> CITB <sup>2</sup> CITB <sup>3</sup> Business Register of Employment Survey 2015 <sup>4</sup> CITB



## SKILLS AND QUALITIES

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

Problem solving  
Communication  
Teamwork  
Maths  
Attention to detail

ICT  
Planning and organisation  
Leadership and management  
Reliability



## WHAT COULD YOU EARN?

These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in construction\*

Painter and decorator	£23,450	Scaffolder	£32,150
Bricklayer	£24,650	Electrician	£30,750
Carpenter or joiner	£25,700	Architect	£36,450
Plumbing / heating and ventilation engineer	£28,550	Civil engineer	£40,850



## GETTING IN

There are often several routes into a job in construction. For some roles, such as architect, employers will be looking for graduates but there are other pathways depending on your situation. There's no age limit on starting an apprenticeship and you can pick up this route at intermediate, advanced, higher or degree level. The website [www.goconstruct.org](http://www.goconstruct.org) has some really useful information for people who are considering switching career to the construction industry with advice on how to make the most of the skills you already have.



## FINDING OUT MORE

[www.goconstruct.org](http://www.goconstruct.org)  
[www.the-nhtg.org.uk](http://www.the-nhtg.org.uk)  
[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

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