



Construction and the Built Environment



The construction and built environment sector is vital in contributing to the national economy. It covers a range of varied industries such as architecture, structural steelwork, heating and ventilation, painting and decorating and surveying. It is one of the most important economic sectors in the UK. 7.9% of the UK's total workforce is employed in construction.

What's happening?

- Locally 47,000 people (8.3% of the working population) are employed in construction.
- Until 2008, the industry had grown continuously over the previous 10 years. Between 1998 and 2005, an additional 131,100 jobs were created.
- A large number of people employed in construction work for small businesses or are self-employed.
- Despite the current slow down in the construction industry, there is a shortage of skilled people.
- Employers recruit from a wide a wide area. An estimated 40% of the workforce in the South West comes from outside the region.
- Women currently account for only 18% of the total employment in the industry.
- Apprenticeships are a useful way of learning an occupation in this sector. You can train while working and earning a living. However, recent increased interest in Apprenticeships has led to strong competition for places. Carpentry and joinery and plumbing are particularly popular.

What we think will happen

- The construction sector is closely linked with the health of the economy. The current economic downturn is already having an adverse effect on the construction industry.
- However, there are several major construction projects in the West of England that are planned or underway. These include: Bristol Harbourside Phase 2; Locking Parklands (North Somerset); Science Park – SPark (South Gloucestershire); SouthGate (Bath); Temple Quarter

How much could I earn?

	Average annual salary (£s)
Architect, Town Planner, Surveyor	£43,332
Bricklayer, Mason	£24,554
Carpenter/Joiner	£22,939
Draughtsperson, Building Inspector	£27,268
Painter & Decorator	£21,774
Plasterer	£20,951
Roofer, Roof Tiler, Slater	£21,739

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay rates for full time workers. Figures are for the United Kingdom. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2008, O.N.S., © Crown Copyright.

(Bristol); the regeneration of Keynsham, Portishead, Radstock and Weston-super-Mare town centres; Western Riverside (Bath); Weston Park (North Somerset).

- 5,000 extra jobs are likely to be created to support the 2012 Olympic games building programme.
- Managers, electrical staff, architects and technical staff are expected to be in demand over the next five years.
- It is part of the Construction Task Force strategy that people in a trade should have several skills. This will also aid job security and career progression within the industry.
- More women will be encouraged into the industry. Females are under-represented locally, making up only 5% of the construction workforce.

Do you want to work in Construction and the Built Environment? Is this you?

- Able to pay attention to detail
- Good communicator; good team worker
- Interested in craft, design and technology
- Like practical work and being outdoors
- Good at maths and science

Some job suggestions

- Architect
- Bricklayer
- Building Services
- Carpenter/Joiner
- Civil/Structural Engineer
- Construction Manager
- Electrician
- Engineer/Technician
- Painter/Decorator
- Plasterer
- Plumber
- Professional/Chartered Surveyor
- Roofer
- Site Engineer

Routes into Construction and the Built Environment

Level 1 (Foundation)	Level 2 (Intermediate)	Level 3 (Advanced)	Level 4 (Higher)
GCSE Grades D – G BTEC Introductory Diploma NVQ 1 Foundation Diploma	GCSE Grades A* – C BTEC First Diploma NVQ 2 Apprenticeship Higher Diploma	A Level BTEC National Diploma NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Advanced Diploma	HND Foundation Degree First Degree NVQ 4

The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment will combine on-the-job training with theoretical and technical knowledge. A Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment might cover: urban renewal; health and safety issues; house building; construction of roads; railways and utilities; civil engineering; and facilities management.

See: www.cbdiploma.co.uk

Check with your school or Connexions Personal Adviser when this will be on offer in your local area.

Note: there are a number of ways of training for this area of work; the new Diploma is just one of these. See Routes into Construction and the Built Environment for the options.

Want to know more?

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call the **helpline on 08000 150600**
 Construction and Built Environment Diploma – www.cbdiploma.co.uk
 Construction Industry Training Board – www.citb.org.uk
 Construction Skills – www.bconstructive.co.uk
 Engineering Construction Industry Training Board – www.ecitb.org.uk
 Royal Institute of British Architecture – www.architecture.com
 Sector Skills Council for Building Services Engineering – www.summitskills.org.uk
 Sector Skills Council for the Construction Industry and Built Environment – www.constructionskills.net
 The Diploma – www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas
 West at Work – www.westatwork.co.uk

" The Diploma provides a flexible and balanced curriculum which will enable students to gain a real understanding of the construction industry."

Bruce Boughton, Training and Development Manager, Lovells

Want to speak to somebody?

Go to www.connexionswest.org.uk for addresses of Connexions West of England local centres or contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct can offer you all the information and advice you need to make the decisions and choices in your life.

Connexions Direct: **080 800 13 2 19** Text: **07766 4 13 2 19**

Webchat/Email: www.connexions-direct.com