

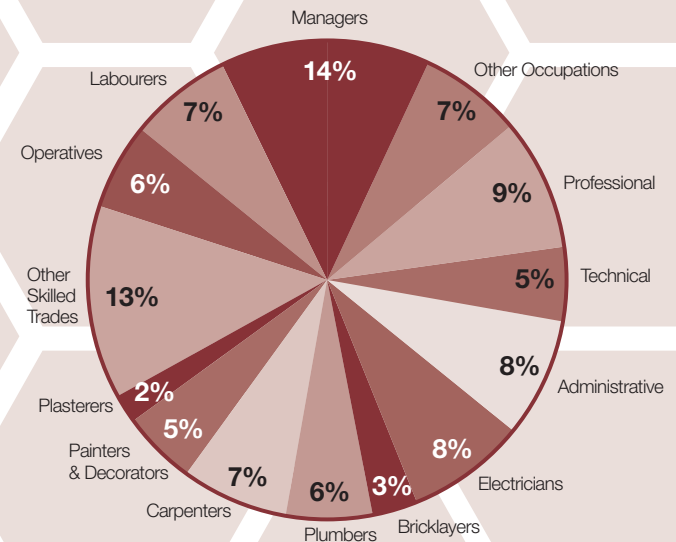


Construction and the Built Environment

What's happening?

- The Construction and Built Environment sector is vital in contributing to the national economy. It is one of the most important economic sectors in the UK. 5.7% of the UK's total workforce is employed in this sector.
- The industry has grown continuously over the last 10 years. Between 1998 and 2005, an additional 131,100 jobs were created.
- There are three major growth areas affecting Essex in the next 15 to 20 years – the Thames Gateway South Essex, the Haven Gateway and the M11 Corridor.
- There is a target of around 109,000 new jobs in Essex between 2001-2021. These will be concentrated in the major growth areas as follows: Thames Gateway South Essex (52,000), the Haven Gateway (20,000), the London Arc (12,000) and the rest of Essex (25,000). London 2012 will also provide Essex with the opportunity to maximise jobs and visitors as a direct result of the Olympic Games.
- It is possible that 25,000 houses per year may be built between 2001-2021 in the East of England Region. This may mean 124,500 houses (6,200 per year) being built in Essex alone.
- Construction companies are disproportionately clustered in the South East and London, with the South East and London accounting for over 25% of the Construction industry's output. (This includes work done outside the region by companies from within the region).
- In the East of England region, the construction industry accounts for 8% of total employment.
- There are approximately 34,000 businesses in the East of England, with 94% employing 10 or fewer people.
- A large number of people work for small businesses or are self-employed.
- Many people working in the construction industry are self-employed (42%) and are not included in the figures provided for numbers employed locally.
- Many small and medium sized firms don't invest in training because of constant uncertainties. The lack of trained people is very negative for the industry with 50% of construction employers in the South East finding it hard to recruit skilled staff – especially roofing and wood trades. In London this figure is 61% - especially wood trades and supervisors.
- A majority of employers in the East of England region report a need to improve technical, practical or job specific skills.
- The East of England construction sector reports skill gaps and shortages.
- The industry in England is currently 300,000 workers short of what it needs, and wants to recruit and train around 86,000 new people each year for five years.
- Women currently account for only 18% of the total employment in the industry.
- Apprenticeships are a way of learning an occupation in this sector. Recent increased interest in Apprenticeships has led to intense competition for places in construction, particularly in carpentry and joinery and plumbing.

Who does what?



Source: Labour Force Survey 2006, © Crown Copyright. Figures are for England.

Numbers employed within sector by local businesses

Essex LSC	36,700
Essex	32,200
Southend UA	1,800
Thurrock UA	2,700
UK	1,056,400

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2007, [Nomis 17 May 2007] © Crown Copyright. Figures do not include the self-employed, people under 16 or trainees without a contract of employment. Figures are rounded to nearest hundred.

How much could I earn?

Remember – many jobs will demand minimum entry qualifications. Those earning high salaries are usually well qualified and experienced and will continue to learn throughout their working life.

	Annual mean salary
Architect, Town Planner, Surveyor	£39,108
Bricklayer, Mason	£22,868
Carpenter/Joiner	£22,844
Draughtsperson, Building Inspector	£26,774
Painter & Decorator	£20,887
Plasterer	£21,545
Roofer, Roof Tiler, Slater	£20,268

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay for full-time workers. Figures are for the UK. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2007, ONS © Crown Copyright.

What we think will happen

- In conjunction with the East of England Skills and Competitive Partnership, the construction and built environment sector has been identified as a key priority sector.
- Twenty-two million pounds is being spent on renovating the Victoria Shopping Centre in Southend, and joining it with Victoria train station to the High Street.
- 1,650 new homes are planned overall for Southend town centre.
- A tower the height of Canary Wharf is planned as part of the Shoebury Garrison residential development in Southend, with plans for 1,400 new homes and new jobs.
- Southend Airport is hoping to expand with a new terminal building and hotel. Airport bosses want to offer more routes to European capitals and take advantage of the London Olympics in 2012.
- Basildon is remodelling the town centre - there should be one million square feet of additional retail, leisure and office floorspace and 3,650 new homes to create a town centre that is also a living community.
- The Olympic Games 2012 building programme will create 5,000 new jobs.
- The construction industry has set itself a target of a fully qualified workforce by 2010. This has led to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme, proving job competence and health and safety training on site.
- It is part of the Construction Task Force strategy that people in a trade should have several skills. As well as addressing the recruitment crisis, this will also aid job security and career progression within the industry.
- More women are being encouraged into the industry to help address the labour and skills shortage. They are under-represented locally, making up only 5% of the construction workforce.
- There will be a new qualification called a Diploma in Construction and Built Environment available from September 2008. This will help people prepare for university, college or work. Look out to see whether it's going to be on offer in your area.

Is this you?

- Always paying attention to detail
- Like practical work and being outdoors
- Interested in craft, design and technology
- Good communicator
- Good teamworker
- Don't mind working in noisy, dusty, dirty or wet areas

What local students did in 2006

A total of 381 Year 11 local school leavers started full-time employment or work-based training in the construction and built environment trades sector in 2006. (Essex 338, Southend 25 and Thurrock 18).

Source: Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock 2006.

Some job suggestions

- Architect
- Bricklayer/Plumber/Rofer
- Building Services Engineer/Technician
- Civil/Structural Engineer
- Construction Manager
- Professional/Chartered Surveyor

Next steps...

If you're serious about this type of work - FIND OUT MORE!

Use your Connexions Resource Area in School/College or visit your local Connexions Centre/One Stop Shop for information about jobs; qualifications; local training; further and higher education; skills and personal characteristics; rates of pay and working conditions.

Really useful websites and resources!

The Sector Skills Council for the Construction Industry and Built Environment – www.constructionskills.net

The Sector Skills Council for Building Services Engineering – www.summitskills.org.uk

bConstructive – www.bconstructive.co.uk

Engineering Construction Industry Training Board – www.ecitb.org.uk
Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call the helpline on 0800 150600

The Diploma – www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

The Construction and Built Environment Diploma – www.cbdiploma.co.uk

Jobs4u (careers database) – www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

Working in Booklets – case studies of people in a variety of jobs. (Outdoors). Try your Connexions area, or download them from

www.connexions-direct.com. Go to careers>career resources>download publications>Working In

For learning opportunities and course information for 14-19 year olds in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, see www.stepon.org

For further information and advice please contact Connexions Direct in confidence (you don't have to give your name or personal details if you don't want to):

Email: via www.connexions-direct.com (click on the email link) • Telephone Connexions Direct on 080 800 13 2 19

Text Connexions Direct on 07766 4 13 2 19 • Local Connexions service www.estconnexions.co.uk

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March 2008