

Working in Essex, Southend and Thurrock



Engineering

What's happening?

- The East of England has 8,200 engineering manufacturing establishments, employing 152,000 people. There has been a significant decrease in employment (4%) since 1998 which is linked to industry trends of downsizing and outsourcing.
- However, employment in London-based engineering companies has increased by 1.5% since 1998 despite a decrease in the overall number of companies.
- There is a limited number of recognised engineering trainees and apprentices in the East of England region: approximately 2,000.
- London is one of the smallest UK regions for engineering with only 5,220 engineering manufacturing companies. 36% of these employ five or fewer people. 40% of companies specialise in metal products.
- 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.
- The main skills gaps reported are:
 - London - basic metals and transport equipment
 - South East – basic metals, aerospace and metal products.
- The East of England is one of five regions that has the highest proportion of establishments reporting hard-to-fill and skill shortage vacancies.
- The impact of technological change will maintain a demand for professional and technical skills and a decline in craft and operator skills. Skill shortages remain across most engineering occupations.

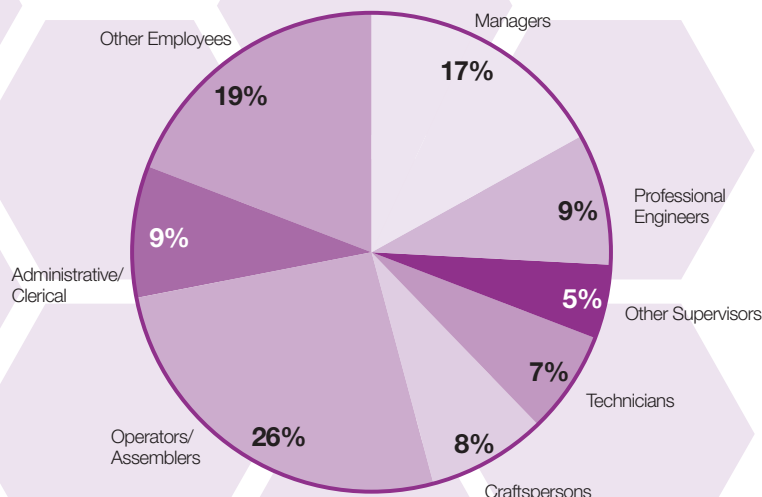
How much could I earn?

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
Fitter, Telecommunications Engineer, Electrical Engineer	£26,609
Plant and Machine Operator, Assembler,	£20,710
Production and Process Engineer	£33,243
Production Manager	£43,569

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.

Who does what?



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

Numbers employed within sector by local businesses

Essex LSC	7,500
Essex	6,800
Southend UA	400
Thurrock UA	300
UK	328,200

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.



What we think will happen

- The most significant area of future skills shortage in engineering in the UK is going to be at technician level (level 3). The main supply of technicians comes from further education, other post-16 education and Apprenticeships.
- There is an increased demand for more flexible, 'multi-skilled' workers, who have both electrical and mechanical engineering skills. Traditional supervisor skills will be less in demand, but team leader skills will increase.
- Skills shortages within the industry are likely to become more severe in the next five to ten years if more young people do not enter the industry, as the current workforce is an ageing one.
- Environmental audits of manufacturing businesses are becoming more commonplace and they will increasingly need to reduce effluent and toxic waste.
- In conjunction with the East of England Skills and Competitive Partnership, the engineering and manufacturing sector has been identified as a key priority sector.
- The engineering Apprenticeship has the largest number of apprentices in training of all sectors in the economy.
- There will be a new qualification called a Diploma in Engineering 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?

- Good at communicating ideas and theories
- Always pay attention to detail
- Interested in craft, design and technology

What local students did in 2006

A total of 176 Year 11 local school leavers started full-time employment or work-based training in the engineering (including metal forming trades) sector in 2006. (Essex 149, Southend 8 and Thurrock 19).

Source: Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock 2006.

Some job suggestions

- Chartered/Incorporated Engineer
- Chemical Engineer
- Engineering Craftsperson/Technician/Operator
- Sheet Metal Worker/Plater/Fabricator

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!

SEMTA - Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies – www.semta.org.uk

Engineering Construction Industry Training Board – www.ecitb.org.uk

Enginuity – www.enginuity.org.uk

SCENTA – Science, Engineering and Technology – www.scenta.co.uk

Why not Chemical Engineering – www.whynotchemeng.com

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or **call the helpline on 08000 150600**

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

Diploma in Engineering – www.engineeringdiploma.com
Jobs4u (careers database)

– www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

Working in Booklets – case studies of people in a variety of jobs. (Engineering). 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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