

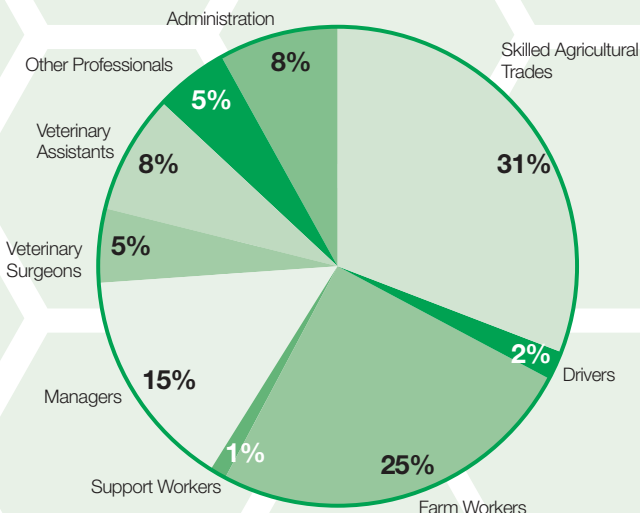


Land-based and Environment

What's happening?

- Within the Eastern region, estimates give a total of around 16,000 businesses or organisations involved in the land-based sector.
- The total land-based workforce within the Eastern region is currently estimated at 93,000.
- Employment in the region is concentrated in agriculture (45%), landscape (12%), equine (11.3%) and production horticulture (10.2%).
- Agricultural crop production is a key industry within the Eastern region with a well developed food processing sector. The region is also home to a large concentration of pig and poultry enterprises.
- Approximately 54,300 people are employed in the UK equine business. 63% of the workforce is estimated to be self-employed. 70% of businesses have five, or fewer, employees.
- There are around 13,300 animal care businesses in the UK employing about 47,500 people. 40% of this workforce is self-employed.
- The focus of land use and management is widening from food production to include maintaining the environment, enabling access and diversifying into leisure and tourism.
- Across the region, one in ten employers in land-based industries report skill gaps. Over a third acknowledge their failure to train or develop staff as a reason for these skills gaps, with a need to improve oral communication, management and technical or job specific skills.
- The average age of people in the land-based sector is older than other sectors (42.6% is aged over 45 years), indicating that fewer young people are taking jobs in the industry.

Who does what?



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

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
Conservation and Environmental Protection Officer	£26,029
Countryside and Park Ranger	£20,445
Farm Manager	£26,667
Farm Worker	£15,602
Forestry Worker	£18,442
Nature Environmental and Conservation Manager	£35,152
Vet	£30,724
Veterinary Nurses and Assistants	£13,734

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.



Numbers employed within sector by local businesses

Essex LSC	3,000
Essex	2,700
Southend UA	100
Thurrock UA	#
UK	209,300

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. # unable to disclose data due to commercial confidentiality.

What we think will happen

- Widespread building of new houses and increased population across the East & South East will increase the need for 'greenskills'. These include landscaping, environmental conservation, fencing, horticulture, floristry, small animal veterinary practices and kennels and catteries.
- Equine businesses have reported an increase in the need for the following skills – health and safety, customer relations, communications and all areas of horse health and welfare.
- In conjunction with the East of England Skills and Competitive Partnership, land-based industries have been identified as a key priority sector.
- The Olympic Games 2012 effect, along with urban regeneration, will create opportunities in landscaping, horticulture, fencing, land-based engineering and environmental conservation.
- This sector will continue to diversify. The demand for skills in the provision of products and services linked to leisure, tourism, recreation, wildlife tourism and organic foods will be necessary.
- There is also expected to be an increased need for skills, knowledge and understanding of environmental management techniques in order to reduce the effect of CO² emissions.
- Work is underway with further and higher education bodies to develop the University College Grays. The new campus will provide a wide range of FE/HE, community and work based learning opportunities, with a central location and a cutting edge landmark design. Courses will be delivered at all levels including Environmental sciences/Renewable energy.
- There will be a new qualification called a Diploma in Land-based and Environmental Studies available from September 2009. 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 communication skills
- Confident with animals
- Self-motivated
- Enjoy working outdoors

What local students did in 2006

A total of 65 Year 11 local school leavers started full-time employment or work-based training in the agriculture and fisheries sector in 2006. (Essex 56, Southend 2 and Thurrock 7).

Source: Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock 2006.

Some job suggestions

- Countryside/Conservation Officer
- Farm Worker/Manager
- Forest Worker/Ranger
- Garden Designer
- Horticulture Worker/Manager
- RSPCA Inspector
- Stud groom
- Veterinary Nurse/Surgeon

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 Environment, Animals and Plants – www.lantra.co.uk

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers – www.btcv.org.uk

A Job in the Environmental and Land-based Sector – www.ajobin.com

Institute of Horticulture – www.horticulture.org.uk

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – www.rcvs.org.uk

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

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or **call the helpline on 0800 150600**

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

Working in Booklets – case studies of people in a variety of jobs. (Animals and Plants, 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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