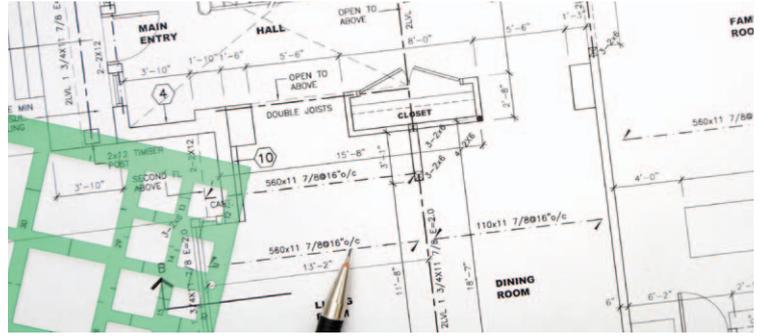


Construction



92%

OF ORGANISATIONS IN
THIS SECTOR EMPLOY
LESS THAN 10 PEOPLE

55%

ARE EMPLOYED
IN MANUAL
OCCUPATIONS

37%

ARE SELF-
EMPLOYED

Ever wondered how they built some of the most iconic buildings of our time? Perhaps you think Big Ben isn't big enough, or that The Leaning Tower of Pisa is just a bit rubbish; if you think you can make a difference to the buildings we see, then the Construction industry is for you.

You ask us...

WHAT'S THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

Construction is a broad term for all things building related. It doesn't just cover bricks, tiles and pipes; you'll find a whole host of job roles that use skills such as problem solving, design and leadership. You could be planning a development project for a rundown area, installing plumbing systems or even supervising a team working on a skyscraper!

WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

The starting salaries in construction are pretty high; most practical job roles start out at around **£16,000**. Jobs in things like civil engineering and surveying tend to start out with a salary of around **£15,000**, but fully qualified professionals can earn in excess of **£40,000**. It's also worth noting that almost a third of this industry is self employed; this means you set your own schedule and prices. It could also mean getting up on a Monday morning would just be for a slice of toast and a cup of tea.

WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

A construction environment isn't always just a building site; you could be in a design studio planning out the structure of the building, or working underground checking on the maintenance of the gas and water pipes. Heck, you could be operating a crane at 150ft! Most of these job roles require working with heavy machinery so you'll need some specialist training, just in case you end up driving a cement mixer onto the motorway. Or accidentally building an office block on top of a graveyard.

HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

Construction is one of the country's largest sectors; it employs over **2.35 million** people, which equates to around **8%** of the UK workforce. Due to the self employed nature of this industry, a whopping **92%** of organisations employ less than 10 people, meaning employment in private companies is becoming harder to find.

WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

Unlike other industries, construction isn't usually fixed to one place; you'll have to go where the work is. The company you work for will have a catchment area which you will work in; obviously larger companies will be able to cover larger geographical areas. Domestic construction, which is improvements, repairs and the building of housing, usually takes place wherever the client lives. New housing projects usually spring up on the outskirts of towns and villages, whereas larger buildings such as office blocks and commercial retail areas are usually built on out of town business and retail parks.



Careers Choices

Were you a dab hand with Lego as a kid? Every structure you see, from your local corner shop to towering skyscrapers in the big cities, is a result of the Construction industry. This sector generates billions of pounds a year for the economy and has a diverse range of careers and roles to choose from.

Whether you prefer working with tools outdoors on a site, in an office designing buildings or installing facilities in people's homes, there's a career for everyone in this industry. There is an emphasis on teamwork, so if you enjoy working with others then this could be the career for you. And if not, you can work in your own office giving plans and directions to others!

PAINTING & DECORATING

It's not as difficult as your parents make it look! Painters and decorators can work in a variety of places on a wide range of projects, from wallpapering a bedroom to painting a hospital exterior. Salaries vary depending on experience, but senior supervisors can well over **£30,000**.

BRICKLAYING

A popular choice for people who like to work with their hands, Bricklaying involves building, repairing and demolishing walls using a variety of techniques. You can be as adventurous as you want; it isn't just staring at a brick wall. Salaries usually start at around **£17,000**, but rise with experience.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Civil Engineers design a whole range of structures, such as bridges, pipelines and railways as well as drawing up plans for new buildings. You will work both in an office and on site so be prepared for a varied day! Salaries can be upwards of **£36,000** with progression.

PLUMBING

Remember Super Mario? This is how he got started. You

might not end up having a day like him, but your work will be just as varied; you could be repairing a broken pipeline, or installing a completely new system to your own design. Don't be afraid to get a little wet in this line of work! Salaries usually range from **£17,000** for newly qualified plumbers to **£35,000** with progression.

SCAFFOLDING

Creating a safe working environment is a priority in any career and scaffolders provide this on a range of projects, from simple building sites to towering office blocks. You will be building platforms for the construction crew to work on and can expect to earn between **£17,000** and **£26,000**.

CARPENTRY & JOINERY

Wood. It's all over the place. It's the job of Carpenters and Joiners to take it and turn it into a useful product for widespread use. You could be carving an ornate staircase in a hotel, or building a roof support for a mansion. With experience you can expect to earn more than **£30,000**.

PLASTERING

Plastering is now considered a specialist skill within this

trade; from simple walls to extravagant statues, you will be creating something important wherever you work. You can expect to earn between **£17,000** and **£28,000** in this line of work.

SURVEYING

Surveyors are like teachers; they point out flaws in work and then tell you how to improve it. Or, they tell you to destroy it completely. There are so many roles in the field of Surveying, such as Cartography (that's map making to you and me), improving run down areas of cities, developing land for future building work and so much more. Like the roles, the salary varies depending on what you specialise in, but a trainee surveyor can expect to start on **£15,000** and earn up to **£60,000+** in some fields.

Where to begin

APPRENTICESHIPS

This where most people in the industry start out. An apprenticeship allows you to learn your trade while also being paid a salary. There are many employers out there who provide apprenticeship schemes; to get an idea of

who's out there, head to websites on our 'Useful Links' page. Below you will find the Apprenticeships frameworks relevant to this industry, which will give you an idea of what you'll be able to choose from. All these frameworks result in a Level 2 qualification, such as NVQ's BTEC's or Diplomas, are the equivalent of 5 GCSE passes and takes two years to complete.

Construction Building • Construction Technical, Supervision and Management • Construction Civil Engineering • Construction Specialist

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

This is the equivalent of two A levels, but without sitting in a classroom studying. Like a regular Apprenticeship, it's suited to more practical fields of work. Advanced Apprenticeships in construction only take a year and on completion you will receive a Level 3 Qualification, again either a BTEC, an NVQ or a Diploma.

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COLLEGE COURSES

A college course is another way into this sector. To see if there are any colleges near you with relevant courses check out www.careersworld.co.uk

A-LEVELS

A-Levels might not sound relevant to this field of work, but employers and universities both like candidates with scientific and practical subjects. Examples of A-Levels you can study are listed below:

Physics • Chemistry • Graphic Design • Technology • Electronics • Maths • Geography

FOUNDATION DEGREES

If you feel like you want to experience the university lifestyle and perhaps break away from those troublesome parents, then a Foundation Degree is a way of getting there. They usually last two years (this does tend to vary depending on your choice of course) and mix study with practical learning. These courses are available across the country and might give you the opportunity to live away from home and give you more independence – you'll get to choose your own bed time and everything. **CW**