

Construction

in The Marches (Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin)

The construction sector is all about building and the built environment - from architecture, housebuilding and conservation to town planning and transport links.

**National
Careers
Service**
Helping you take
the next step

Local Overview

Statistics

There are around 3,150 construction businesses and approximately 26,000 people working in the construction sector across the Marches. Of these jobs, 28% are in buildings construction and 10% in civil engineering. Almost two third of jobs (62%) are in specialised construction activities including electrical installation, plumbing, joining, roofing, painting, scaffolding and plastering.

Subsectors

Low carbon building technologies is a growing subsector employing over 2,000 people in the Marches - this includes building systems design and consultancy, providers and installers of roof and wall insulation, insulative glazing, control systems and other technologies designed to prevent buildings' heat loss and reduce energy usage.

More than half of all construction jobs are in Shropshire. Construction companies are mostly concentrated in Shrewsbury, Telford and Hereford. 94% of the Marches LEP construction businesses are micro sized enterprises (0-9 employees).

Job Projection

Housebuilding is expected to remain the most important driver of growth in the

Marches construction sector.

Plans to retrofit up to 50,000 homes across the West Midlands - to improve their energy efficiency - could create 20,000 new jobs and secure 5,000 more by the end of 2022.

Shrewsbury College, Telford College and Herefordshire and Ludlow College all offer a range of apprenticeships and construction courses; local construction firms also offer apprenticeships.

There are a range of education and training providers in the area and National Careers Service can support you to find the right course.

The occupations for which there is greatest demand in the Marches construction sector are:

- Wood trades and interior fit-out
- Electrical trades and installation
- Plumbing and HVAC trades
- Labourers
- Painters and decorators
- Other construction process managers
- Senior, executive, and business process managers
- Other construction professionals and technical staff
- Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff (excl. managers).

Future trends

Technological advances mean that workers need to continuously update their skills. Future growth areas include:

low carbon and sustainable construction; advanced construction materials; 3D printing; building information modelling technologies (BIM); off-site manufacturing; drone technology; lidar; big data; Artificial Intelligence; productivity/planning apps.

Building new energy efficient buildings is essential for achieving UK climate change targets.

By 2028, 59,000 plumbers and HVAC workers could be required in the UK, mostly in the installation of heat pumps, as well as 27,000 building envelope specialists including insulation installers and over 86,000 project managers including specific roles like Retrofit Coordinator.

Local employers

1. AHR Architects
2. ARH Group
3. Balfour Beatty
4. Central Roofing and Building Services
5. Darwin Group
6. Dodd Group
7. Elements Europe
8. Freyssinet
9. Harper Group
10. McPhillips
11. Pave Aways
12. Shropshire Homes
13. Taylor Lane Timber Frame
14. Thomas Panels
15. Wrekin Housing Group
16. WSP



Job roles



3D modeller

architect

bricklayer

building services engineer

CAD operative

carpenter/joiner

carpet fitter

cavity wall insulation
technician

ceiling fixer

civil engineer

civil/structural
engineering technician

compliance manager

construction manager

construction plant
operator

crane operator

damp-proofer

demolition operative

drone operator

groundworker

heating and ventilation
engineer

labourer

painter and decorator

plasterer

plumber

quantity surveyor

road surfacing manager

roofer

scaffolder

site manager

stonemason

structural engineer

surveyor

sustainability specialist

thermal modeller

wall and floor tiler



Skills and qualities

In construction, employers are particularly looking for:

good
communication
skills

advanced digital
and ICT skills

confidence in
working with
numbers

teamwork and
interpersonal skills

technical and
practical skills

ability to
manage own
time and prioritise
tasks

good attention
to detail

leadership and
management skills

reliability

health and
safety awareness

project
management skills

an
analytical and
logical approach
to solving
problems



Routes into this sector

Ways to get into this sector will vary depending on the job role.



Apply directly for some roles that don't ask for specific qualifications or ask for **GCSEs** – basic digital/IT skills may help. An agency job may also be a good way in. Choose a college course at level 3 (A level equivalent) or level 4 to add to your qualifications.



An **apprenticeship** could be a good route in - from bricklayer (intermediate apprenticeship) and building service design technician (advanced apprenticeship) to quantity surveyor (degree apprenticeship). Always check the requirements for each individual apprenticeship.



For some roles, employers will look for someone who has a **university degree** but also check to see if a higher or degree apprenticeship route is an option for a graduate-level job.

Work your way up to roles such as supervisor or manager by training on the job.

What could you earn?

Architect

£27,500 to £90,000

CAD technician

£15,000 to £35,000

Carpenter or joiner

£17,000 to £38,000

Civil engineer

£24,000 to £80,000

Construction project manager

£27,000 to £70,000

Electrician

£18,000 to £42,000

HVAC Installer

£20,000 to £35,000

Ground worker

£17,000 to £30,000

Land surveyor

£20,000 to £70,000

Quantity surveyor

£18,000 to £80,000



Find out more

For more information about the labour market in your area or in a particular sector you can **speak to one of our expert careers advisers by calling 0800 100 900.**

Visit our website <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> to access over 800 job profiles, online resources and digital tools, or to contact us via webchat or email.