

Positive Construction Industry Forecast

The construction sector faced a lot of challenges in 2017 but CITB's Construction Skills Network report shows that output and employment will grow despite any political or economic uncertainties.

This year's report, the Construction Skills Network UK's Report for 2018-2022, is the UK's most comprehensive and up-to-date forecast about the industry prospects. According to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) over 150,000 construction jobs will be created over the next five years despite Brexit uncertainty and Carillion's collapse. Report predicts that 15,350 carpenters and 9,350 labourers will be

needed, while the strongest job growth will be in a range of professional and managerial roles as the industry seeks to boost its productivity, which will grow by 7.8% and 5.6% over the next five years.

The CSN forecasts average output growth of 1.3%, with 158,000 jobs created. The most significant increase is predicted for infrastructure, with an annual growth of 3.1%. However, both residential housing both public and private, is also expected to expand. Due to Brexit uncertainty, the commercial sector is not predicted to grow at all over the next five years. The employment in the industry is projected to grow for the fourth consecutive year at 0.5% a year on average to 2022.

CITB Policy Director Steve Radley said: "Despite all the gloom around Carillion and uncertain-

ty from Brexit, our report's message is that construction will continue to grow and create more jobs. Though growth is slightly down on 2017, it's looking more balanced with housing and infrastructure both expanding significantly. And the range of job opportunities is growing. While we need to bring in lots of people in the trades, the fastest growth will be for professionals at 7.8% and for managers and supervisors at 5.6%."

Radley added: "By 2022, employment will be in touching distance of the heady 2008 peak so we face a massive recruitment and training challenge, which is likely to get harder after Brexit. So while we can take some comfort from weathering the recent storms, it's vital that we make the investment in skills today that will shape our own destiny for tomorrow."

(Source: CITB)



06-08 March 2018, ExCeL London

EcoBuild

- the must go event for all interested in the better built environment

Ecobuild is the must-attend event for all working in the built environment. It runs every year for over 14 years. It connects all professionals, contractors, architects and everyone involved in the industry. It focuses on innovation and technology. During the event, exhibitors will present the latest advanced technologies, know-how and innovative materials.

The event is the opportunity for networking, building business relationships, learning about

new brands and products or gaining knowledge at conferences. Ecobuild's lectures are always about sustainability at heart. The programme includes conferences sponsored by Saint-Gobain, Kingspan, mpa The Concrete Centre, The UK District Energy Association, CIBSE, ACO, Institution of Civil Engineers, Explore Offsite, Structural Timber Association, University of Brighton.

This year Ecobuild will focus on how to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals into the built environment. In 2015 a new set of goals as part of a new sustainable development agenda were adopted by UN. Each goal specifies targets for the next 15 years. The construction industry is involved in working on affordable and clean energy, industry innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate

action, clean water and all other goals, because well planned and build cities can drive sustainable development. Visit Ecobuild to learn about new sustainable materials and technologies.

In 2018 edition the Ecobuild invites to the future build districts, which are the forum for the latest technology and innovative materials. These include zones like concrete, timber, green & infrastructure, offsite, district energy, building performance, infrastructure, energy & HVAC. For all exhibitors, Ecobuild is the best place for raising brand awareness, meeting buyers, launching a new product or solution or generating sales leads on an existing product. To learn more about Ecobuild and register as a visitor go to www.ecobuild.co.uk

(Source: Ecobuild)



Confidence in Builders

Not the nature of building industry but stereotypes about builders and often unrealistic visions of homeowners cause the reluctance towards building or renovation projects.

Clients are scared to renovate or build new houses due to anxiety over cowboy builders. According to Federation of Master Builders, the UK economy as a whole is missing out on £10 billion of activity per year because of lack of confidence in the building industry.

Londoners would invest £67,000 on home improvement work over the next five years if they had full confidence in their ability to identify a professional builder, according to new research by the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) London.

The FMB's research into consumer confidence in builders indicates that:

- A third (33%) of London's home owners are put off doing major home improvement works requiring a builder because they fear hiring a dodgy builder;
- If all of London's home owners had full confidence in the building industry, they would typically spend an average of £67,000 on major home improvement projects over the next five years – this is the highest figure of any region in the UK;

Barry Mortimer, Director of FMB London, said: "A third of the capital's home owners are so fearful about the possibility of working with a bad builder, they are putting off commissioning any building work whatsoever. What's more, your typical home owner in London would spend £67,000 on major home improvement projects over the next five years if they knew they could hire a quality builder. This pent up consumer spend is higher than in any other part of the UK. More broadly, the UK-wide economy is missing out on around £10 billion of activity every year because of fears surrounding cowboy builders. The FMB's latest research shows how severe the problem of cowboy builders is for consumer confidence, the building industry and the economy."

Mortimer added that: "In order to give home owners more assurance that their building project will go smoothly, the Government should consider introducing a mandatory licensing system for domestic builders. This would help give consumers the confidence they need to loosen their purse strings and invest in home improvements. In the meantime, for people who are looking for a reliable builder, the best course of action is to ask family or friends for a recommendation. If this isn't possible, home owners should approach a professional trade association like the Federation of Master Builders. All new Master Builders are independently inspected on joining and vetted. To provide further protection, consumers should always use a written contract and never pay for the full cost of the project up front."

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, said: "A third of home owners are so anxious about the possibility of choosing a bad builder, they don't commission any building work whatsoever. This means that the UK economy could be missing out on £10 billion of activity every year. Indeed, the FMB's latest research shows that on average, your typical home owner would spend £40,000 on major home improvement projects over the next five years if they could be guaranteed a positive experience. If we were able to unlock this pent-up demand from fearful consumers, the benefit to jobs and growth would be enormous. Last year the UK experienced its slowest growth since 2012 with a rise in GDP of just 1.8 per cent. With Brexit just around the corner, it's therefore vital that the Government pulls as many leavers as possible to turbo-charge the economy and protect it from any potential economic wobbles."

Berry concluded: "In the longer term, we need to end the cowboy builders' reign of terror so we can give all home owners the confidence they need to invest their cash in building work. The Government should consider introducing some form of mandatory licensing system for domestic builders so that consumers know that all building firms have a base level of skill, competence and professionalism. Unlike in Australia and Canada, in this country anyone can be a builder and that's why there is a significant minority of rogue traders out there giving the whole construction industry a bad name. We're exploring



mandatory licensing with industry and Government but in the meantime, our advice to home owners who are looking for a builder is to ask for a recommendation from family or friends. If they can't help, consumers should approach a professional trade association like the Federation of Master Builders who can put them in touch with a vetted and inspected building firm."

In the case of residential projects, if homeowner compares quotes and interviews builders, he is able to choose the professional. The problem lays in the image of the industry and builders. The often unrealistic demands of customers and non-understanding of what factors could impact the building project negatively and what risks are connected with building works. Such information should be provided to clients before entering the contract. Also, clients are

well protected by the professional contracts. The industry should stop promoting stereotypes like dodgy builders, cowboy builders etc. as often it is the client who does not want to pay at the end of the project, or has unrealistic plans within the quoted price, or demands changes to contract and does not understand why the time of project realisation has to be extended. Usually, client's knowledge about the construction projects is limited. The relationship between builder and client always tends to be very good at the beginning of the project, but as extensions and some refurbishments last for months, it often changes towards the completion. There are various reasons for that like client's budget getting closer to the limit, client's pressure to finish the project before specific dates, some time extensions already applied etc. The contract managers

or architects plays the vital role in project management but also in case of residential projects they are employed by the client, so they are not entirely impartial in mediation. Moreover, homeowners often assume that migrant builders will give them lower quote. Clients are not fully aware how badly underestimation of project's costs can affect its realization.

The licensing system for builders will help to remove the stereotype of cowboy builders, as licensed and annually assessed specialists definitely could not be dodgy. Builders should take care of building their relationship with customers, informing them on how the building process looks, what are the risks associated with every building project and that the successful build completion depends on the understanding of both builder's and customer's positions.

Jobs for Carillion workers

CITB is encouraging all construction employers to offer job opportunities to the hundreds of Carillion workers who lost their jobs following the company's collapse.

The new career page has been launched on CITB's website presenting all jobs opportunities in various regions. Currently there are over 100 employers across England, Scotland and Wales offering work in a wide range of roles. However, as over 1,000 Carillion workers lost their jobs, many more vacancies are needed to keep these skilled people in the industry.

The roles available can be found here : <https://www.citb.co.uk/support-carillion-workers/jobs-with-other-employers/>

CITB has played a major role in the wake of Carillion's closure. CEO Sarah Beale is part of the government's taskforce which aims to mitigate the effects of Carillion's liquidations on the construction industry and the people involved. Also, CITB has worked with employers and training providers to help the 1400 former Carillion apprentices. Approximately 200 apprentices have been found college places and a further 725 have been placed with new firms.

Mark Noonan, Industry Relations Director at CITB, said: "News that Carillion had ceased trading was a huge blow for all those involved and

we've been working hard to minimise the impact. Now, hundreds of workers are looking for a new employer and with our forecast showing a need of 158,000 extra workers over the next five years, it's vital we retain these highly skilled staff. The support shown by employers to date has been outstanding but there's more to be done and I encourage employers to hire these talented people to help meet your demand."

Mr Noonan added: "If you are a former Carillion worker who is no longer in employment, please go to the CITB website – there are hundreds of job opportunities being displayed each day and one might just be the perfect role for you."

(Source: CITB)



HS2



Contract Opportunities

High Speed Two (HS2) is the major infrastructure project that will link eight major cities and serve million of people. HS2 will create approximately 25,000 jobs and add over £103 billion to the UK economy.

High Speed Two will be built in two phases to ensure that the benefits of high speed rail are realised as early as possible. Phase One will consist of around 140 miles of track and connect a redeveloped Euston with stations at Old Oak Common in West London; at Birmingham Interchange near Birmingham Airport and the National Exhibition Centre; and at Birmingham Curzon Street. The High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 23 February 2017. The Act grants the powers to build, operate and maintain this part of HS2. Construction of Phase One is due to start in 2017, with first trains running in 2026. Phase 2a is the route from Birmingham to Crewe which is scheduled to open in 2027. The Phase 2b network will extend the lines to Manchester (west) and the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds (east). The Phase Two services to Manchester and Leeds are expected to start running in 2033.

HS2 is currently one of the most interesting transport projects in Europe with thousands of opportunities within the HS2 supply chain. To deliver the HS2 project the range of works, goods and services will be required. Amongst civil engineering HS2 will need enabling works and main works which include: archaeology, ecology, demolition, earthworks (tunnels, cuttings and embankments), drainage, bridges, viaducts, and other structures. In design and services category professional service and design service will be required. The

railway system category includes permanent way, overhead line electrification, telecommunications, traction power, signalling and electrical distribution.

Register on our e-procurement portal to respond to direct HS2 tender opportunities as they arise: <https://hs2.bravosolution.co.uk> Find out more about various careers at HS2. Identify and take advantage of HS2 business opportunities. HS2, like Olympics or Crossrail will buy small amount of direct contract that will further generate supply chain opportunities.

Tier 1 contractors are obliged to use Compete-For (www.competefor.com) to advertise all appropriate opportunities. To learn about indirect HS2 supply chain opportunities, go to www.competefor.com and either register, or review your existing company profile and the categories to which you supply.

The procurement of goods, works and services is now underway. For Phase One the Enabling Works Contracts & Main Works Civils Contracts have been let with other major works packages to be procured by 2019. HS2 will work with direct (i.e. Tier 1) suppliers to better understand their supply chain needs. When direct contract will be in place the meet the contractor dates will be scheduled to fulfil the supply chain. To explore opportunities to work with your Local Enterprise Partnership or associated growth hub, go to www.lepnetwork.net.

To learn more about HS2 check: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638518/hs2_supplier_guide.pdf

(Source: HS2)



The UK Concrete Show 2018

Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 March 2018



This month 2018 edition of The UK Concrete Show will be held in NEC Birmingham on the 21st and 22nd March. It is Europe's well known specialist concrete event gathering all involved in the concrete industry. UKCS2018 is another edition of successful event that runs yearly and brings together manufacturers, engineers, contractors from all over the world. During the show there is time for materials and technology presentation, networking, Live BIM for Concrete Interactive Visitor Experience, a Technical Advice Clinic and Live Demos. With over 200 exhibitors presenting concrete related products, for instance cement, pumps, precast products, admixtures, reinforcement, repair services and products. During the show seminar sessions related to the concrete industry will be

The entry to the show is completely free.
Register here <https://concreteshow.co.uk/visitors>

(Source: The UK Concrete Show)

Last month to apply for CSCS card for Asbestos Occupations

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme is notifying the industry that asbestos related occupations will be moved from 31st March 2018 to partnered schemes. CSCS will no longer issue cards for Asbestos Removal Operatives, Analysts/ Surveyors, Asbestos Supervisors and Asbestos Contract Managers.

CSCS applications received before 31st March 2018 will be issued with a CSCS card that is valid for five years, however this card is non-renewable and the card holder will be required to transfer to one of the asbestos schemes when their card expires.

From the 31st March 2018, all new applications both for first time applications and renewals for asbestos related occupations must be directed to one of the following schemes:

ARCA: www.arca.org.uk/cscs-cards will issue cards to Asbestos Removal Operatives

ATAC: atac.org.uk/asbestos-testing-consultancy-association-cscs-cards will issue cards to Asbestos Analysts and Asbestos Surveyors

ACAD: acad.tica-acad.co.uk/acad-skill-card/ will issue cards to:

- Asbestos Removal Operative
- Asbestos Analysts
- Asbestos Surveyors
- Supervisors
- Contract Managers

CSCS Scheme Manager Angeleen Hill said "The asbestos sector is best placed to determine what qualifications are appropriate for the sector and I wholeheartedly support the asbestos sector stepping up and taking responsibility for the carding of these occupations. This is positive news for the asbestos sector and the people who work in it.

"It's really encouraging to see another example of sectors working together to meet the requirements of the Construction Leadership Council and edging the industry ever closer to a fully qualified workforce."

(Source: CSCS)

