

Construction sector

Fig. 1: Young people interested in the Construction sector are more likely to understand Apprenticeships...



Source: Futures Skills Questionnaire data, end of July 2025 (Year 11 responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842)

Sector demand landscape

- **2.06 million workers** in Construction (6% of UK employment). **Projected growth + 252,000 additional workers** in the next three years.
- **Only 15% of the construction industry workers are women**, with 96% of on-site personnel identifying as male, whereas 32% of architects were women
- **Employers cited skill shortages in key areas**, and **Occupations in critical demand include:** rail construction and maintenance operatives, and electrical service mechanics.
- Pathways into the industry remain poorly understood, with **high apprenticeship dropout rates (47%)**, lack of clarity between vocational and professional routes, and outdated perceptions of construction.

Young people's profile

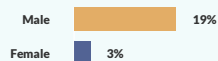
Young people interested in a career in Construction aspire to roles such as:

- Builder/ electrician/plumber (55%)
- Engineer (47%)
- Design (20%)

Young people interested in a career in the Construction sector are 13%pts less likely to understand **A-levels**, and 7%pts less likely to understand other vocational routes such as **BTEC** than their peers but are 6%pts more likely to understand **apprenticeships**.

They demonstrate strong **Problem-solving skills (+1%pt)**, but they lag in other essential skills.

Gender:

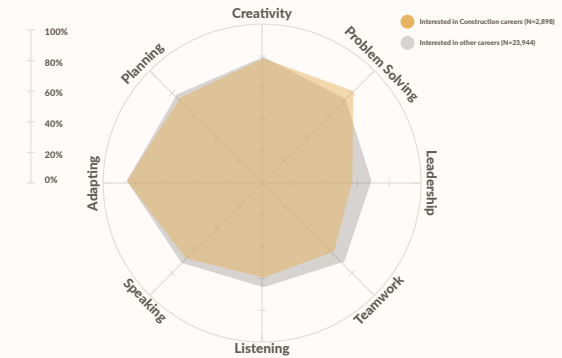


Economic Disadvantage:



Fig. 2: They are confident at problem solving, but less confident in all other essential skills than their peers

% of learners responding positively to



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Fig. 3: Interest in the Construction sector varies by region

% Year 11 learners expressing interest in the Construction sector by region

