

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING in Shropshire

**National
Careers
Service**

Helping you take
the next step

Engineering and manufacturing plays a vital role in the UK economy and its future but despite there being lots of opportunities, the sector is struggling to recruit people to roles in areas such as engineering and technician work.

182,000

people with engineering skills needed
in the UK each year to 2022.¹

More women needed - only **9%**



of the engineering
workforce is female.²

20,000

predicted shortfall of
engineering graduates
every year



More jobs will
be highly
skilled jobs



HS2 will create
thousands of local
jobs in this sector
– both directly and
in the supply chain

Future trends

The sector is becoming more hi-tech and the UK is playing its part in leading the way in innovation and cutting-edge technology. This means employers are on the look-out for people with:

STEM qualifications | creative talent | **problem solving skills** | digital skills

These are all areas where innovation will create new roles:

robotics | cyber security | **biomedical technologies** | telecommunications and satellites | **driverless vehicles** | smart energy | **agri-tech** | low-carbon technologies

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find candidates with the right personal and people skills. In engineering and manufacturing, employers are particularly looking for:

Communication

Problem solving

Maths

Creative thinking

Leadership and management

Advanced ICT and digital skills

Design

Attention to detail

Languages

Teamwork

What could you earn?



These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in manufacturing and engineering*

Metal working machine operative £21,350

Plastics process operative £22,450

Production technician £26,300

Motor vehicle assembler £31,950

Engineering technician £35,050

Design engineer £39,150

Electronics engineer £46,500

Mechanical engineer £41,750

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50

¹Engineering UK ²WES



The local picture

In Shropshire, our strengths include:

automotive • machinery and equipment manufacturing • metals and polymers (such as plastics) • food and drink production

We are also becoming a UK leader in developing agricultural technologies to help better growing of food and we can expect to see more jobs in low carbon – or 'green collar' - industries such as alternative fuel vehicles and sustainable energy.

How many people are employed in a manufacturing job in our area?

More than 11,000 people are employed in manufacturing in Shropshire³ that's around 10% of all employment which is slightly higher than the UK average.

Large and valued companies in the area include:

Caterpillar • Bridgnorth Aluminium • Smithers Rapra • Stadco • Grainger and Worrall • Doncasters Group • Fullwood • BAE Systems • Cedo UK • Classic Motor Cars....and close-by Jaguar Land Rover

But there are many more smaller employers offering a broad range of careers.

In demand:

engineers and technicians: design and development | mechanical | electronics | project managers | welders | machine operatives

Finding out more

www.semta.org.uk/careers

www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk

www.futuremorph.org/my-future-finder

www.wisecampaign.org.uk

www.engineeringuk.com/research



Routes in



As well as the BTECs, HNC/Ds or a degree route, higher and degree apprenticeships will play a larger part in training the engineers of the future allowing an employer to train somebody up while working in partnership with a higher education institution. There's no age cut off for starting an apprenticeship and nor is there one set route - it's possible to switch between qualification and training pathways depending on your starting point.

Types of apprenticeships include:



rail engineering operative, welder, composites technician, aviation maintenance mechanic and nuclear technician.

Many of the colleges and universities in the West Midlands and local training centres such as the In-Comm Training Academy offer courses which match the jobs available in the area.

