

**BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING
CAREER ADVICE UPDATE – NORTHERN IRELAND
JUNE 2009**

*The following advice is provided to those who are currently working in,
or wish to join, the building services engineering sector.*

Overview

SummitSkills has recently updated the recruitment requirement predictions as part of the Labour Market Information Report published in February 2009. Due to the current economic downturn, the workload of the sector is being affected in different ways across the country.

SummitSkills' Sector Skills Agreement and update reports identify skills requirements during and beyond the current recession through to 2013. SummitSkills is therefore the leading source of information on recruitment numbers in the building services engineering sector for employers, training providers and employees.

The trend indicates that as a result of workload changes, those working within the sector may find their career development affected.

Advice for existing employers

The Sector Skills Agreement identified the need for those in the sector to continue to train in order to achieve appropriate competence levels related to the requirements of the business and to enable productivity and growth to continue.

Businesses need to consider upskilling of their workforce to ensure the continued profitability of the business by gaining a competitive edge over those that do not invest in skills and training.

Funding continues for apprenticeships and as part of the support through Apprenticeships NI. Recent announcements also support upskilling in the emerging environmental technologies.

Advice for those displaced from their employment during a programme of training

Displaced apprentices without an employer

- Notify your training provider as soon as you are aware that your employer can no longer provide employment
- If you are under 18 years of age you will be transferred to Careers Service NI.
- If you are over 18 years of age, after 3 weeks you will transfer to the Steps to Work and have the opportunity to complete the year up to a maximum of 52 weeks.

Apprenticeships

- Employers looking to recruit apprentices should register at the Electrical Training Trust www.ett-ni.org or Plumbing & Mechanical Services Training www.pmst.co.uk or your local FE college.
- Young people seeking an apprenticeship in the sector are encouraged to:
 - identify their preferred job role using career information at www.goodday.org.uk
 - register with ETT or PMST
 - link with national and local training providers via the careers helpline **08000 688 336**
 - identify on a local basis potential employers who may be recruiting
- Information indicates that significant numbers of publicly funded projects will continue and many of these have training targets as part of the requirements
- With the current economic climate it is likely that there will be a lower number of employers recruiting

How can I access training ?

New entrant 16 years +

- You should meet the entry requirements identified in the careers map, which can be found at www.goodday.org.uk - if you do not meet these requirements then it is unlikely that you will gain employment in the sector without first completing a programme of study that enables you to achieve the minimum entry requirements (such as GCSE or the new Diploma at higher level)
- If you meet the entry requirements
 - You could continue in school or Further Education to achieve the Diploma in Engineering or Construction and the Built Environment, perhaps at higher or advanced level
 - You could seek an apprenticeship (see advice for young people above)

Mature entrant 18 years + or individual re-entering the sector

- Identify job vacancies through the links provided at www.summitskills.org.uk
 - On achieving employment, continue with training as advised in the careers map at www.goodday.org.uk

Wanting to join the sector and unable to identify an employer

- SummitSkills is encouraging training providers to be socially responsible and not raise the aspirations of individuals, where there is unlikely to be the potential for employment in the future
- Training providers may be able to assist in supplying links to employers with employment opportunities and work experience for on-the-job training
- With the challenges facing the sector, anyone without work experience and skills gained through on-the-job training are likely to find it difficult to gain employment

More information can be found at

- www.summitskills.org.uk
- www.goodday.org.uk
- www.delni.org.uk/apprenticeshipsni
- **Locate local training provision via the careers helpline 08000 688 336**