



Agriculture involves growing food - including fruit, vegetables and meat. It also includes forestry - planting and looking after trees. Horticultural nurseries are part of the sector too, growing the plants and flowers that people have in their gardens.

Environmental jobs involve caring for the environment in cities and in the countryside. Jobs can be found in national parks, local green spaces, sports pitches and in looking after lakes and rivers.

Animal care involves working in conservation, zoos, the pet trade, veterinary practices and animal rescue charities looking after and protecting animals. It also includes the equine industry, which involves working with horses.

TRENDS

Around 280,000 people work in agriculture in England, which makes it one of the smallest sectors. This number has decreased over the past three years. Around 35,000 of the total workforce number are casual workers.

In the UK, over 60% of households - more than 17 million homes - own a pet, which means there is a continuing need for people to work in veterinary services and animal welfare jobs. The number of UK practising vets is projected to increase by 52% to 44,800 by 2035 and the number of vet nurses is projected to increase by 78% reaching 41,200 by 2035.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Animal Care
English
Geography
Horticulture
Land-based Studies
Maths
Science subjects

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Patience and able to remain calm in stressful situations
- Practical - able to work well with your hands
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Able to work well with others and also on your own
- Sensitivity and understanding
- Able to use your initiative

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may need to deal with bodily fluids such as blood

You may need to work shifts including evenings and weekends

Your work may be hard - physically and emotionally

Your work may be outdoors in all weathers - dusty and dirty

You may need to wear a uniform and/or protective/safety clothing

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Animal care worker	£21,000 - £24,000
	Farm worker	£20,000 - £36,000
	Gardener	£24,000 - £32,000
	Golf greenkeeper	£19,000 - £28,000
Level 3	Crop technician	£24,000 - £38,000
	Veterinary nurse	£24,000 - £32,000
Level 4+	Ecologist	£24,000 - £50,000
	Vet	£32,000 - £65,000

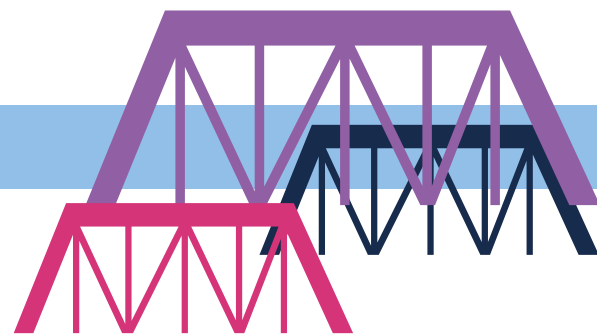
Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/agriculture-environment-and-animal-care>

Jobs in construction involve designing, building, maintaining and repairing our built environment. This includes:

- houses
- public buildings, such as hospitals and schools
- industrial properties, such as factories
- commercial properties, such as cinemas, sports stadiums, shopping centres and offices
- infrastructure, such as roads, railways, bridges, pipelines and windfarms.



TRENDS

By 2030, it is predicted that there will be 2.68 million workers in the construction industry in the UK. To reach this figure, it is estimated that an average of 41,200 extra workers will be needed each year between 2026 and 2030.

Some of the most in-demand jobs are expected to be steel and metal workers, plant mechanics/fitters and civil engineers.

Current trends in the construction industry include making new and existing buildings more energy efficient, and the use of more sustainable materials and construction methods.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Combined Science
Construction and the Built Environment
Design and Technology
English
Maths
Physics

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- For some jobs, practical - able to work well with your hands
- Able to use your initiative
- Good at problem-solving
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Able to work well with others and also on your own
- Good at maths
- For some jobs in construction, able to use a computer

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Bricklayer	£25,000 - £44,000
	Plasterer	£21,000 - £38,000
Level 3	Electrician	£26,000 - £45,000
	Plumber	£24,000 - £46,000
	Surveying technician	£24,000 - £32,000
Level 4+	Architect	£31,000 - £60,000
	Quantity surveyor	£26,000 - £80,000
	Site supervisor	£30,000 - £60,000

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

www.goconstruct.org

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/construction-and-the-built-environment>

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may need to have a good level of fitness

You may need to wear protective or safety clothing

Your work may be physically hard, outdoors in all weathers and dirty and dusty

You may be working at height and/or in a cramped environment



Digital, ICT and media are separate sectors. However, technology is now used for so many jobs in the media - for example, in film and TV, event sound and lighting, web design and animation, that many of them have become digital jobs.

Digital and ICT includes jobs in cyber security, data analytics, hardware engineering, IT sales, software development, systems/network management, technical support and telecommunications.

Media includes jobs in digital marketing, film, journalism, publishing, radio, special effects, technical production, television and web design.

TRENDS

In the UK, there are nearly 1.5 million people working as IT professionals. This number has risen steadily over the last five years. IT jobs can be found in most organisations, including energy and utility companies, banks and building societies, local authorities, retail businesses, the NHS, and schools, colleges and universities - as well as with IT companies.

The Office for National Statistics estimates that there were 41,000 ICT job vacancies in the UK, in April to June 2026.

There is a lot of competition for jobs in the media. Getting relevant work experience and developing contacts in the industry is essential. It is estimated that around 25% of people working in the sector are self-employed.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Art and Design
Computer Science
Creative Design and Production
Creative iMedia
Creative Media Production
Digital Information Technology
English
Graphic Design
Interactive media
IT/ICT
Maths
Media Studies
Science subjects

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- For some digital jobs, maths and analytical thinking skills
- Good at problem-solving
- Able to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Ambition and a desire to succeed
- For some jobs, creativity
- Able to use your initiative

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 3	Content creator	£25,000 - £40,000
	IT support technician	£24,000 - £35,000
Level 4+	Data scientist	£32,000 - £83,000
	Journalist	£27,000 - £50,000
	Software developer	£30,000 - £75,000
	Web designer	£28,000 - £50,000

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

For many IT and digital jobs, you may be working in an office or at home most of the time

For some jobs in the media, you may have to travel often and be outdoors in all weathers

You may be working in a pressurised environment

You may be self-employed

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/creative-and-design>
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/digital>



Almost everywhere you look, you will see things that have been engineered and manufactured - everything from cars, planes, trains, phones and buildings to medicines, and even our food.

Engineering involves making things, making things work and making them work better. Problem-solving is a key skill for engineers - from helping to solve big problems such as how we tackle climate change, to solving small problems such as why a piece of machinery isn't working.

Once something is designed by engineers, it has to be made or built. **Manufacturing** involves making things, using machines, tools or chemicals, for example. Industrial manufacturing involves making large quantities of things, turning raw materials into an end product on a huge scale.

TRENDS

6.3 million people work in engineering and technology jobs in the UK, which is 19% of all jobs. 25% of all job adverts are for engineering and technology roles.

Engineering jobs are likely to play a big part in helping the country tackle climate change. It is predicted that up to 725,000 new jobs are needed to support the transition to net zero.

The food and drink industry is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employing around half a million people in over 12,000 businesses. The number of jobs and the number of food and drink manufacturers has been growing steadily over the past 10 years.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Combined Science
Design and Technology
Engineering
Engineering Design
Engineering Manufacture
Maths
Physics

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Good at problem-solving and thinking analytically
- Able to come up with new ways of doing things
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Good at maths
- Able to use your initiative
- For some jobs, practical - able to work well with your hands

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Food factory worker	£21,000 - £28,000
	Welder	£25,000 - £45,000
Level 3	Motor mechanic	£22,000 - £42,000
	Wind turbine technician	£25,000 - £47,000
Level 4+	Aerospace engineer	£30,000 - £70,000
	Mechanical engineer	£28,000 - £60,000
	Robotics engineer	£31,000 - £60,000

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may need to work shifts including evenings and weekends

Your work may be physically hard and in a cold or hot, and noisy place

You may need to wear a uniform and/or protective/safety clothing

You may be working outdoors in all weathers

In manufacturing, there may be some repetitive tasks

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/engineering-and-manufacturing>



Health and social care is about helping people.

Healthcare involves the diagnosis and treatment of people who are having problems with their mental or physical health.

Social care involves providing personal and practical support to people who need help with daily activities or with their emotional and social development. People might need help because of their circumstances, age, illness or disability.

TRENDS

There are over 350 careers in the NHS, and more than 1.55 million people working in the NHS in England. There is a shortage of staff to work in healthcare. In March 2026, there were around 100,000 job vacancies in the NHS in England.

For many jobs in healthcare you need a degree and relevant work experience. Being good at science is important for some jobs. To be a doctor, you will need top grades in your GCSEs and A levels.

There is also a shortage of staff to work in social care. Because of the UK's ageing population, it is predicted that the adult social care workforce may need to increase by 470,000 posts to around 2.17 million by 2040.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Biology
Chemistry
Combined Science
English
Health and Social Care
Maths
Physics
Psychology

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Sensitivity and understanding
- A desire to help people
- Able to work well with others
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Patience and able to remain calm in stressful situations
- Good listening skills
- For some jobs, practical - able to work well with your hands

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You will need to pass checks about whether you have a criminal record

You may need to deal with bodily fluids such as blood and vomit

You may need to work shifts, including evenings and weekends

Your work may be hard - emotionally and physically

You may need to wear a uniform and/or protective/safety clothing

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Care worker	£20,000 - £25,000
	Healthcare assistant	£25,000 - £28,000
Level 3	Dental nurse	£28,000 - £39,000
Level 4+	Hospital doctor	£40,000 - £145,000
	Nurse	£32,000 - £48,000
	Social worker	£32,000 - £48,000

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles>
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/health-and-science>
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/care-services>
www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careers-in-care/job-roles/job-roles.aspx



Hospitality and catering, and travel and tourism, are sectors that work closely together. This is because tourists use many of the places that are part of the hospitality and catering industry, such as hotels, restaurants, pubs, coffee shops and leisure attractions, which includes museums and theme parks.

In travel and tourism, most jobs are with tour operators and travel agents. Staff help customers to book their holidays and make sure they stay safe and comfortable whilst on holiday. Tour operators and travel agents also employ people to work in specialist jobs such as in IT, marketing and finance.

TRENDS

There were 2.6 million jobs in the hospitality industry in the UK in September 2025, which was 7.1% of all jobs in the UK. This means that hospitality was the sixth largest of the main sectors in the UK, in terms of number of jobs.

People visiting the UK from abroad help to create jobs in the UK. In 2024, there were 42.5 million visits to the UK, this is up from 38 million visits in 2023. And people in the UK made 94.6 million trips abroad in 2024, up from 86.2 million in 2023. This helps to create jobs on our airlines and for travel agents.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Business
Combined Science
English
Food and Cookery
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
Hospitality and Catering
Languages
Maths
Travel and Tourism

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Customer service skills
- For catering jobs, practical - able to work well with your hands
- Patience and able to remain calm in stressful situations
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Able to work well with others
- Good talking and listening skills
- Able to use your initiative

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Cabin crew	£19,000 - £30,000
	Hotel room attendant	£19,000 - £28,000
	Museum attendant	£23,000- £31,000
	Waiter	£17,000 - £27,000
Level 3	Chef	£22,000 - £40,000
	Travel agent	£22,000 - £34,000
Level 4+	Hotel manager	£30,000 - £60,000
	Restaurant manager	£26,000 - £40,000

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may need to work shifts including evenings and weekends

Your work may be physically hard

You may need to wear protective clothing or a uniform

Your working environment may be hot and noisy

You may be travelling often and spending nights away from home

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/catering-and-hospitality>



Many jobs in professional and business services (PBS) need a specialist knowledge or expertise to do them. It includes jobs in accountancy, advertising, architecture, engineering consultancy and design, and law. Professionals working in these areas such as accountants, solicitors and architects provide their knowledge and expertise to individuals, businesses and organisations in the public sector, such as local councils and the NHS.

The sector also includes jobs in human resources (HR), office administration, call centres, and exhibition and event organisation.

TRENDS

The PBS sector is important to the UK economy. It accounts for almost one job in every seven in the UK, with the sector paying 21.4% above the average wage. 17% of all vacancies in the UK are in the PBS sector.

AI and technology are having a big impact on this sector. Repetitive and basic tasks are being done by computers and machines rather than by people. Increasingly, this means people with higher level skills and qualifications are needed to work in PBS and there are fewer lower level jobs. Already, more than half (58%) of PBS employees are qualified to degree level and above.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Economics
English
Law
Maths
Physics

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Able to work well with others
- Excellent writing skills
- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Able to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Good at problem-solving
- Ambition and a desire to succeed
- For some jobs, good at maths
- Able to use your initiative

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Administrative assistant	£21,000 - £28,000
Level 3	Bookkeeper	£24,000 - £35,000
	Paralegal	£20,000 - £40,000
	Payroll administrator	£22,000 - £35,000
Level 4+	Actuary	£32,000 - £70,000
	Insurance broker	£25,000 - £65,000
	Solicitor	£30,000 - £80,000

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may be working in an office or at home most of the time

You may be dealing with sensitive and/or confidential information

You may be working in a pressurised environment

For some jobs, you will need to pass a check about whether you have a criminal record and may also have a credit check

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/business-and-administration>
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/legal-finance-and-accounting>



Retail involves selling products and services to customers. Retailers, including shops, supermarkets, market stallholders and online sellers, buy products in large amounts and then sell them for a profit. For some jobs in retail and sales it is useful to have a specialist knowledge of the things you are selling - for example, houses, cars, computers, engineering parts or cosmetics.

The retail sector works closely with the manufacturing sector - which makes the products for retailers to sell - and with the transport and logistics sector, which moves goods around the country so retailers can then sell them.

TRENDS

The retail sector is important to our economy. In 2025, retail sales in Great Britain were worth £537 billion, an increase of 4.3% on 2024.

At the start of 2026, there were around 2.8 million retail jobs in the UK. However, this is 66,000 fewer than at the same time in 2025 and nearly 400,000 fewer than 10 years ago. More than half of the jobs in the sector (1.5 million) are part-time.

Another trend in the sector is how much shopping is now done online. In 2026, just under 30% of all retail sales are done on the internet, compared with around 13% 10 years ago.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Business
Business and Enterprise
Economics
English
Enterprise
Enterprise and Marketing
IT/ICT
Languages
Maths
Retail Business

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Customer service skills
- Able to use your initiative
- Persuading skills
- Excellent talking and listening skills
- For some jobs, leadership skills and able to motivate others
- Able to work well with others
- Patience and able to remain calm in stressful situations
- Able to accept criticism and work well under pressure

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Sales assistant	£19,000 - £27,000
	Stock control assistant	£21,000 - £30,000
Level 3	Visual merchandiser	£23,000 - £31,000
Level 4+	Retail buyer	£26,000 - £50,000
	Retail manager	£26,000 - £60,000
	Sales manager	£28,000 - £70,000

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You will need to pass background checks about whether you have a criminal record

You may need to work shifts, including evenings and weekends

Your work may be physically hard

You may need to wear protective clothing or a uniform

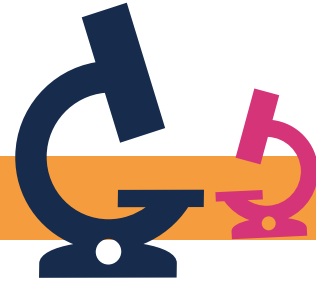
You will need to be over 18 to sell some products

For some jobs in sales, you may be travelling often

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/sales-marketing-and-procurement>



Science is about asking questions, testing ideas and making predictions. It is about research, discovery and innovation. By developing our knowledge and understanding of people, nature and the world, science can be used to investigate and find solutions to problems, large and small.

Jobs related to science are found in many sectors including healthcare, education, agriculture and the environment, and engineering. People working in science, don't just work in laboratories, there are science jobs in hospitals, pharmacies, factories, universities and even at crime scenes.

TRENDS

In the UK, it is predicted that STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) employment will grow by 7% up to 2035. This is compared to projected growth of 6% across all jobs.

For many science-related jobs you need higher level skills and qualifications. It is also likely that you will need to continue to train and learn throughout your career. This is because rapid advances in technology and the emergence of new global challenges means that careers in science are constantly evolving. Many industries are looking for science professionals who are adaptable and are up to date with the latest scientific and technical developments.

USEFUL SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Astronomy
Biology
Chemistry
Combined Science
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Engineering
English
Maths
Physics

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Concentration skills
- Able to think analytically and clearly, using logic
- Being good at maths
- Able to come up with new ways of doing things
- Good at problem-solving
- Able to use your initiative

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Healthcare science assistant	£25,000 - £31,000
Level 3	Laboratory technician	£24,000 - £31,000
	Pharmacy technician	£28,000 - £39,000
Level 4+	Microbiologist	£23,000 - £45,000
	Physicist	£28,000 - £61,000
	Research scientist	£27,000 - £48,000

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

You may need to carry out experiments, which could involve working with hazardous and toxic materials

You may have to follow strict health and safety procedures

You may need to wear a uniform and/or protective/safety clothing

You may work shifts including evenings and weekends

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/health-and-science>
www.rsb.org.uk/careers.html
<https://edu.rsc.org/future-in-chemistry/career-options>
www.iop.org/careers-physics



Transport and logistics involves moving people, or goods, by road, rail, sea or air. There are often tight deadlines to be met as passengers or goods need to be in the right place at the right time. People working in transport and logistics can be involved in:

- storing goods (for example, in a warehouse)
- driving vehicles (everything from planes and ships to lorries and vans)
- getting deliveries ready
- planning journeys.

TRENDS

Nearly 2 million people work in transportation and storage in the UK, which is over 5% of the total workforce. This number has risen slowly over the past few years.

The growth in online shopping has led to an increase in the number of warehouses and other logistics premises, as well as an increase in demand for HGV and delivery drivers.

The development of self-driving and zero-emission vehicles may impact the sector in the future. And the increased use of automation, is likely to lead to fewer warehouse jobs. AI is increasingly being used by logistics companies to plan and track deliveries and to monitor stock levels.

USEFUL SUBJECTS

Business
English
Geography
IT/ICT
Languages
Maths
Travel and Tourism

Key skills and qualities to work in this sector

- Being thorough and paying attention to detail
- Able to work well with others
- Good talking and customer service skills
- Patience and able to remain calm in stressful situations
- For some jobs, analytical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Able to come up with new ways of doing things
- For some jobs, practical - able to work well with your hands

Examples of jobs and salaries at different levels

Up to level 2	Delivery van driver	£20,000 - £27,000
	Forklift driver	£23,000 - £32,000
	Removals worker	£22,000 - £26,000
	Warehouse worker	£21,000 - £30,000
Level 3	Train driver	£28,000 - £65,000
	Warehouse manager	£25,000 - £42,000
Level 4+	Air traffic controller	£48,000 - £100,000
	Road transport manager	£30,000 - £58,000

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

For driving jobs you will need a driving licence, and you may need to do further training and qualifications, depending on the job you want to do

You may need to work shifts including evenings and weekends

You may need to wear a uniform and/or protective/safety clothing

You may be travelling often and spending nights away from home

Your work may be physically hard

You may be working at height and/or in a cramped environment

Source: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/transport-and-logistics>