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17,800 extra construction workers needed in Yorkshire and Humber by 2027

Against a backdrop of economic challenge, rising materials and labour costs, new figures from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reveal that 17,800 extra workers will be required to meet construction demand in Yorkshire and Humber by 2027.

CITB's annual Construction Skills Network (CSN) report shows that:

- 17,800 extra workers (3,560 a year) will be required to meet construction demand between now and 2027 in Yorkshire and Humber
- Construction output is set to grow for all nations and regions, however, recession is expected in 2023 with slow growth returning in 2024
- Employment must grow by 1.7% annually to meet increasing demand
- The major sectors for demand are:
 - infrastructure
 - public non-housing
 - private housing

The report highlights that construction is expected to remain a sector where there is demand for workers despite the current economic uncertainty. As a result, recruitment, training, development and upskilling remain major priorities for the industry for 2023 and beyond.

CITB is responding by investing in apprenticeships, launching a range of targeted initiatives and working collaboratively with industry, to help the construction sector have a skilled, competent, and inclusive workforce.

CITB England Engagement Director, Deborah Madden, said: “Construction is vital in developing and strengthening our regional and national economies, and while the industry will certainly face challenges heading into the new year, our report shows there is also a lot of opportunity available for Yorkshire and Humber.

“Despite the economic challenges, there is still huge demand for more workers in the industry, and it will become even more important to retain our current workforce over the next 18 months. There are a range of projects set to bring a steady stream of work into Yorkshire and Humber this year, from the development of the planned £4.2bn West Yorkshire mass transit system, to the construction of the Dogger Bank A, B and C projects. Strong growth in the infrastructure sector, as well as largescale private housing and public non-housing developments, will drive Yorkshire and Humber to be one of the best performing regions in the UK.

“Supporting the industry in attracting and retaining talent from right across Yorkshire and Humber will be our main priority, with a particular focus on training routes. There’s no denying we have a major task ahead, but I feel inspired by the resilience shown over the last couple of years and look forward to supporting industry in emerging stronger when the recession ends.”

To help directly address these challenges and maximise the opportunities which will arise, CITB has invested almost £50m of Levy to support over 22,000 apprentices to help them join the industry; while grants have helped support over 16,000 learners to complete their qualifications.

Direct funding has provided grants for over 269,000 training courses and in total £97m has been invested in grant funding by CITB, to make it as easy as possible for employers to recruit and retain their skilled workforce.

CITB continues to provide targeted support to SMEs through grant and funding and direct support in accessing training and financial support. Since April 2022, CITB's engagement team has supported SMEs on 26,976 occasions, helping them to continue to train during the current economic uncertainty.

CITB also offers funding aimed specifically at smaller companies such as the Skills and Training Fund. Companies with fewer than 250 PAYE employees can access up to £25,000 annually (depending on their size). By the end of quarter two 2022, £3.9m had been invested in companies via this fund.

CITB's National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfC) is a way of working that enables businesses to get the skills they need on site, on time. Developed by CITB and approved by industry, the NSAfC framework is helping employers across Yorkshire and Humber.

VINCI Construction used the NSAfC model to embed local educational programmes with their own skills needs while refurbishing the York Guildhall building complex. This structured, high-quality training method helps train the next generation of construction workers, while filling businesses' skills gaps.

Isabell Udall-James, a T Level student from York College, undertook a short work placement on the project, impressing the team so much she secured a placement throughout her studies. "Doing a work placement at the Guild Hall site with VINCI has really helped me understand what I would like to do with my career in the construction industry in the future," she said.

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Notes to Editors

For further information or enquiries, please contact: press.office@citb.co.uk

For more information about the NSAfC model, please click [here](#)