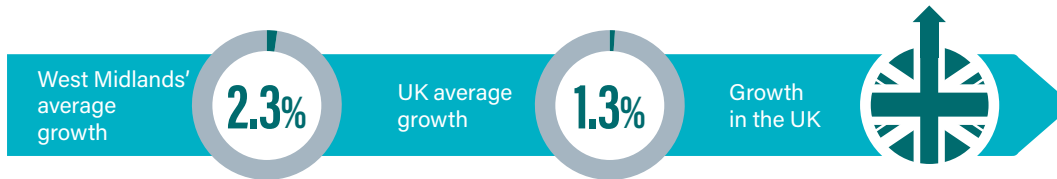
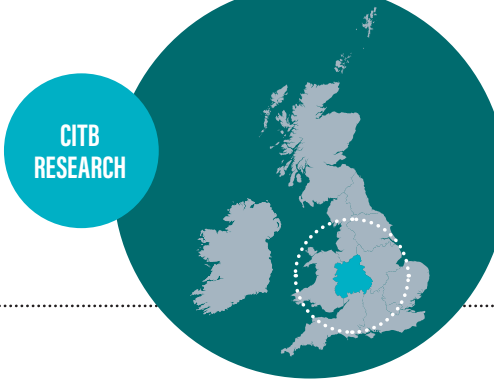


CONSTRUCTION SKILLS NETWORK WEST MIDLANDS 2019-23



The West Midlands has the highest growth rate in construction output across the 2019 to 2023 forecast, with annual average growth of 2.3% compared to the UK average of 1.3%. 19,100 new workers will be needed.

GROWTH RATE

The West Midlands has the highest forecasted growth rate in construction output across the 2019 to 2023 forecast, with annual average growth of 2.3% compared to the UK average of 1.3%. This growth is driven by work in the infrastructure sector (10.6%) from projects such as HS2 and preparations for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

JOB CREATION

The level of output growth in the West Midlands gives an average annual increase of 1.1% in the construction workforce, which is more than double the UK figure of 0.5% and only just behind the South West of England, which has 1.2%. This means that the workforce of just over 245,000 at the end of 2018 will increase to nearly 259,000 by end of 2023.

ANNUAL RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENT (ARR)

The region has an annual average recruitment requirement of 1.5%, based on 2018 employment levels, which is higher than the UK figure (1.2%).

This means the West Midlands will need to recruit an extra 3,820 new workers each year to deliver the expected work output.

MAIN GROWTH DRIVERS/CONTRACTS

An anticipated 10.6% annual average rise in infrastructure output is likely to be the single largest driver of overall expansion in the West Midlands, supported by ramping up of works on the HS2 scheme, preparations for the Commonwealth Games and a range of works to the M6 motorway. Housing output should also hold up well, with £350m worth of works on the Commonwealth Games athletes' village, including work carried out after the Games to convert the accommodation into a mixture of homes for sale and market rent, as well as for social and affordable rent. The Government has also extended the Right to Buy programme to social housing tenants under a pilot launched last summer. The Midlands Voluntary Right to Buy pilot has been given £200m of funding. Money from the discounted sales will then be used to fund replacement homes, the Government has said.