



Engineering in Brighton & Hove

This leaflet looks at employment in Engineering in Brighton & Hove. Jobs include professional engineers, technicians, assemblers and machine operators, buyers, sales and office roles. Engineering workplaces include companies manufacturing items such as metal products, instruments and electrical and electronic products such as computers or TVs.

A Who works in Engineering?

In Brighton & Hove there are approximately 200 Engineering business units with around 1,300 employees. There are also around 100 people in the sector who are self-employed. Across Sussex as a whole there are more than 22,000 Engineering jobs.

Figure 1: Employment in Engineering

	Brighton & Hove	Sussex
Number of business units	200	1,600
Number of employees	1,300	22,600
Number of self-employed	<100	1,400

Source: ABI 2007 and APS April-June 2006.

Ways of working in the sector

Most employees in the sector work on a full-time basis and around half work "overtime" (additional hours either paid or unpaid). However, there is also some part time and flexi-time work.

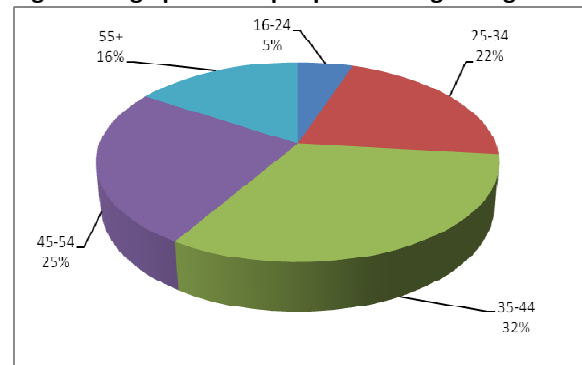
Figure 2: Working patterns in Engineering

	% of employees
Full-time	90
Part-time	10
Overtime	48
Shifts	4
Flexi-time	15

Source: APS April-June 2006.

Age Profile

Figure 3: Age profile of people working in Engineering



Source: APS April-June 2006.

B Qualifications, skills and occupations

Qualifications explained

Qualification levels used in this leaflet are based on both academic and vocational qualifications. The levels used are:

Figure 4: Qualification types

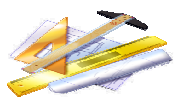
Qualification type	Equivalent to
No qualifications	No qualifications
Level 1	1 or more GCSEs at any grade
Level 2	5 or more GCSEs (grade A – C)
Level 3	2 or more A Levels
Level 4 or above	First degree level or above

What qualifications are needed?

Although some jobs in Engineering do not have formal entry qualifications, employers often expect entrants to have them and in some cases require staff to undertake on the job training or to study for occupational qualifications. For some roles, such as professional engineers, a university degree is required (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Typical entry requirements

Occupation	Entry requirements
Electrical Product assemblers	No formal academic entry requirements.
Welders	No formal academic entry requirements.
Mechanical Engineers	An accredited university degree is usually required.
Engineering Technicians	Entrants to training usually possess GCSEs. Training can involve either full time study followed by on the job training or an Apprenticeship route.
Tool Makers & Fitters	No formal academic requirements although some employers may require GCSEs.



What else are employers interested in?

Within Engineering, potential employers may be particularly interested in new employees who have or can show that they have practical, IT or problem solving skills, as well as those who can demonstrate that they are good at managing people or projects.

Occupations in Engineering

Figure 6 shows the levels of qualifications people working in key Engineering occupations have. Most people working in the sector have qualifications at Level 2 or above and a significant proportion have university level qualifications.

There are however, some roles, such as machine operatives, tool makers and fitters and product assemblers where qualifications may not be expected, although qualifications often help people who want to progress to higher level occupations in the future.

Figure 6: Key engineering occupations and qualifications of people in these occupations

	No. of employees in Engineering sector in B&H	% with type of qualification		
		Level 4+	Level 2 & 3	Below Level 2
Electrical product assemblers	40	0	50	50
Welders	30	0	87	13
Mechanical engineers	30	55	46	0
Engineering technicians	30	23	69	8
Tool makers & fitters	30	13	63	25
Design & development engineers	30	89	11	0
Metal machine setters & operators	20	42	26	32
Metal working machine operatives	20	18	50	32
Electronics engineers	20	51	50	0
Production & process engineers	20	55	45	0
Smiths & forge workers	20	42	58	0

Source: APS April-June 2006

What other jobs are there in the Engineering sector?

You don't have to be an engineer or a machine operator to work in Engineering, as there are plenty of opportunities to work in other jobs which are not specific to this sector. For example, there are around

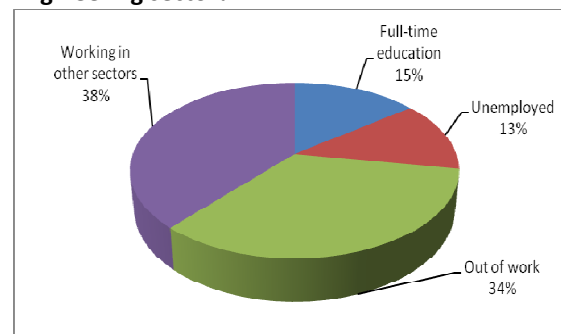
1,100 people in the Engineering sector in Brighton & Hove working in other occupations such as marketing managers, maintenance roles, IT and software or office assistants. There are also some very specialist roles specific to certain types of engineering products or services.

For more information on the different careers available, visit the following websites:

<http://www.connexions-direct.com/Jobs4u> or <http://jobseekers.direct.gov.uk/subjectmenu.aspx?sessionid=514621e5-f90c-4b94-998d-3e01122cea52&pid=1&o=3>

Where do Engineering employees come from?

Figure 7: What did people do before they joined the Engineering sector?



Source: APS April – June 2006. Note: Out of work = neither in employment nor unemployed i.e. caring for children, long term sick, retired etc.

C How much do people earn in the sector?

The average gross weekly pay for all employees in the Engineering sector in Brighton & Hove is around £520 (before tax etc), equivalent to a salary of £27,000 per year¹.

What people earn when they enter full-time work in Engineering in Brighton & Hove depends on the job that they do. However, weekly pay levels are likely to be higher for more skilled and experienced employees.

D How many job vacancies are there?

On average Jobcentre Plus are notified of around 5 job vacancies in the Engineering sector in Brighton & Hove each month. This figure is around 30 across Sussex as a whole.

¹ Note: these figures are based on local average earnings and South East earnings for Engineering from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

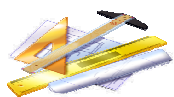


Figure 8: Notified Jobcentre Plus vacancies

	Brighton & Hove	Sussex	South East
Average number of vacancies each month (Oct 08 - Sept 09)	5	30	200

Source: Jobcentre Plus Vacancies.

Further, not all vacancies in Engineering are listed with Jobcentre Plus. Employers may advertise vacancies on their website or in newspapers or magazines. There are also some specialist Engineering employment websites including 'Just Engineers' (www.justengineers.net), 'Red River Recruitment' (www.rrr-ltd.co.uk) and 'Bulldog Engineering Recruitment' (www.bulldog.co.uk)².

How competitive is the sector?

Around 10% of Engineering employers have vacancies that they are finding difficult to fill. This is above the average for all types of employer (7%). Although Engineering vacancies may not come up very often due to the relatively low number of employers in the sector in Brighton & Hove, some employers may have a strong interest in trying to attract new members of staff with the right skills and attitude.

E What might happen in the future?

In the past

Over the last 10 years employment in the Engineering sector has decreased in Brighton & Hove by around a third (35%) or around 700 jobs.

In the future

It's difficult to predict but forecasts suggest that employment in Engineering may decrease over the next couple of years. However, there will still be a need for new entrants to the sector to replace members of staff who leave.

F What are the major employers in Engineering in this area?

The table below gives examples of large employers in the sector in Brighton & Hove.

Figure 9: Ten large Engineering employers in Brighton & Hove

Employer	Type of Engineering	No. of employees
Ricardos Consulting Engineering	Consulting engineers	500-1000
Mott MacDonald	Engineering advisory services	251-500
EDO MBM Technology Ltd	Mechanical engineers	100-250
MDA Consulting Ltd	Consulting engineers	100-250
Raynors	Optical Lens Manufacture	150-175
Brighton Sheet Metal	Sheet metal manufacture	100
Hosiden Besson	Electronic, acoustic & mechanical products	100
SMS (Southern Ltd)	Mechanical engineers	50-100
Metway Electrical Industries Ltd	Electrical goods manufacture	26-50
Techniform Ltd	Engineering	26-50
Amplicon Liveline Ltd	Industrial equipment manufacture	26-50

Source: Brighton & Hove Business Directory.

² A wide range of recruitment sites are available. These are just some examples.

