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22,800 extra construction workers needed in Greater London by 2027

Against a backdrop of economic challenge, rising materials and labour costs, new figures from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reveal that 22,800 extra workers will be required to meet construction demand in Greater London by 2027.

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

- 22,800 extra workers (4,560 a year) will be required to meet construction demand between now and 2027 in Greater London
- 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 1.1% annually to meet increasing demand
- The major sectors for demand are:
 - private housing
 - commercial

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 Greater London.

“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 Greater London this year, including the very large-scale and long-term Thamesmead and Brent Cross Town redevelopment projects. The Government has also pledged £233m to infrastructure funding as part of a wider £3.5bn regeneration of Silvertown in East London. These opportunities will deliver output for several sectors, becoming major drivers for growth in Greater London.

“Supporting the industry in attracting and retaining talent from right across Greater London 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 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 through support in accessing training and funding. Since April 2022, CITB's engagement team has supported SMEs on 26,976 occasions, supporting them to continue to train during the current economic uncertainty.

Experience Hubs across England and Wales are creating a talent pipeline to meet the needs of local construction employers and to support construction career opportunities for people from local communities.

In London, CITB is working with a range of employers and training providers to develop a series of Taster programmes to connect learners with the construction industry. One of those is the innovative CITB Tunnelling Taster session, which gives learners the chance to experience tunnelling through CITB-funded Immersive Learning VR headsets. The programme, one of many across London, offers insight sessions followed by live construction site visits and employment-based activities leading to jobs, apprenticeships and other opportunities.

Neil Hancox, Chair of TunnelSkills, said: "This Tunnelling Taster provides an influential blueprint for our industry in attracting and inspiring new talent. It is testament to the commitment of our members in developing their workforce and proves the power of collaboration, with many organisations working together to engage the next generation of potential tunnellers by inspiring them 'behind the scenes' on a major infrastructure project. Thanks to Tunnelcraft, CITB, Tideway and the STC Group for making this a success."

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Notes to Editors

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

For more information on CITB's taster programme, please click [here](#)

