

**WORK
WISE****MAKE SKILL
GAP WORK
FOR YOU**

ECONOMIC uncertainty means the forecast for jobseekers seems to be continual doom and gloom. But all is not lost.

The latest Report on Jobs from the Recruitment & Employment Confederation shows that while the rate of demand for staff might be slowing down, employers are still hiring and there are still skill shortages.

REC chief executive Kevin Green says: "We're not out of the woods yet but it's positive to see that employers are still taking people on."

If you are looking for work, the REC has the following tips:

- Use your initiative - don't just wait for a job to fall into your lap. Find out which industries have a strong demand for staff. The IT and finance sectors are among those hiring at the moment.

- Stand out from the crowd - what do you have to offer that differs from other candidates? Consider your personal skill set and emphasise these when approaching recruiters.

- Spring clean your online profile - employers use the internet to check suitability of candidates. Ensure there isn't anything that could jeopardise your prospects.

- Consider your options - make the most of different routes into work such as temporary work and apprenticeships. These can boost skills and experience.

- Be realistic - you might not get the perfect job straight away but even relatively low-skilled jobs will provide crucial insights into the world of work and can lead to other opportunities.

Specialist recruitment expert Hays says there are vacancies for the following roles:

- IT - London and North West.
- PAs/secretary - London, Birmingham, Brighton and Bath.
- Civil engineering - Manchester.
- Construction - London, Newcastle.
- Finance - nationwide.

For your next job visit www.rec.uk.com/jobseeker or contact a specialist recruiter.

GET help finding your next job on the move with the new mobile app from Fish4Jobs. With Jobs on the Go you can search and apply for work, share jobs with your Facebook and Twitter community and use the salary calculator to see what you could earn by region and job title.

Build a future

THERE'S LOTS OF SCOPE TO ENGINEER A CAREER

◀ APPRENTICE Stuart Millar

**GET
BRITAIN
WORKING****DAILY
Mirror**

AS part of our Get Britain Working campaign, we've found 24,761 current jobs in the engineering world.

Wherever you go and whatever you do, an engineer will have had something to do with it at some point.

"Engineering affects everyone, everywhere in the world," says Dr Tony Whitehead from the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

And what's more, he adds, companies are crying out for people. "There's a real shortage of engineers with employers particularly looking for newly qualified workers."

The great news is there is something for everyone and jobs range from those needing degrees and experience to those requiring the most basic of training.

"There is a route into engineering to suit everyone, from vocational apprenticeships, for the more practically minded, through to graduate and post-graduate qualifications for the more academically inclined," says Tony.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

At Jobcentre Plus (www.direct.gov.uk/jobseekers) we found 13,301 jobs, including 2,111 machine setters, 2,016 heating and ventilating engineers and 2,091 auto engineers and mechanics.

Specific jobs up for grabs include an electrical engineer in Nottingham (£11 an hour), a junior mechanical engineer in Cambridge (from £8 an hour),

FOCUS ON.. engineering

THIS week we've been pulling on our overalls and checking out the world of engineering to bring you the latest on the jobs scene.

Each week we look at industries with vacancies to let you know who is hiring, where to head for work and what the sectors are really like.

and a site engineer assistant in Peterborough (£6.50 an hour).

At www.fish4jobs.co.uk there are 3,644 jobs, including a maintenance scheduler in Paisley, Renfrewshire (from £8 an hour), and a test engineer in Cambridge (£25,000).

There are 6,603 vacancies at www.reed.co.uk, which range from a process engineer in Plymouth (£25,000) to a technical engineer in Uckfield, East Sussex (£24,000), and a security installation and service engineer in Basingstoke, Hampshire (£27,000).

Hays (www.hays.co.uk) lists 355 jobs, while <http://jobs.theiet.org> lists 362 roles with companies such as BAE, JCB and the National Grid.

At www.ncejobs.co.uk, we spotted 496 live jobs, including 35 in the world of energy companies, 102 structural engineers and 89 in transport and highways.

TRAINING

A key place for guidance and advice is The Institution of Engineering and Technology at



www.theiet.org - click on careers and training.

Here you'll find everything from how to earn and learn with apprenticeships to finding the right degree at university.

The key, it says, is to keep on top of your maths and science subjects as these skills are vital for engineers.

Apprenticeships are a great way to enter the world of engineering. For more information, visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call 0800 0150 600.

Adult learners should call Next Step at 0800 100 900 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/nextstep, which lists more than 900,000 courses. Use the search engine to find something in your area by course name, provider (such as a college) or by subject.

Also, take a look at the Open University website at www.open.ac.uk/courses.

CONTACTS

For more info see www.worldskillsteamuk.org.

WORKER'S VIEW

UNLIKE most of his friends, Stuart Millar knew that he didn't want to go to university.

"I just wanted to leave school and get myself an apprenticeship," he says. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do though, except that I wanted to be learning real skills for a real job."

Today, at 21, Stuart, from Loughgal in Co Armagh, is well on his way to being a refrigeration and air-conditioning engineer, but it came about "quite by fluke" he says.

"When my careers adviser first knew I wanted some sort of skills apprenticeship he told me to get out there and do as many interviews as I could to get used to them."

"He sent me on my first one with a local firm, Shilliday. I was still at school and nervous but I just got on with it."

Thinking nothing more of it, Stuart was contacted a little while later and asked if he fancied a summer job with the company, which specialises in air conditioning and refrigeration.

"I went for it and by the end of the summer they offered me a full apprenticeship."

It wasn't long before he realised he'd landed firmly on his feet.

"The great thing about this job is that I'm using electronics one minute, plumbing the next and

then refrigeration engineering skills. Every day is different - I can be fixing a refrigerator one day and doing copper pipe work the following day."

To start, Stuart spent two days a week at a local college and the rest at work.

As he approaches the end of his course, he spends one day of the week in the classroom and the rest working as an engineer and is on track to get his Level 3 apprenticeship in refrigeration in the next few weeks.

Stuart says: "It has taken me a little bit longer to finish than expected because I was chosen to be a part of Team UK at last month's WorldSkills, where apprentices from around the world compete against each other. I got a bronze medal fixing and constructing refrigerators. It was great."

Hard at work now, Stuart is thrilled with the way his career is turning out. While his mates are finishing university in debt and without jobs, Stuart is not only set to be a fully qualified engineer but he also bought his own house only a few weeks ago.

"I can't quite believe it but I'm so pleased I chose the route I did - it's brilliant."

See www.shillidays.com.

Stuart's mates at uni are in debt with no job - he's just bought a house

For thousands more jobs, go to www.mirror.co.uk/getbritainworking