

Your guide to the jobs of the future

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills



Introduction

The world of work is changing rapidly thanks to various economic, societal, technological and environmental forces at play. More than ever, employers are looking for recruits who can adapt to an ever-evolving working environment.

This handy guide explores the top jobs of the future and the core transferable skills needed to get into them. It showcases how skills transfer between different roles and industries, as well as being able to use these skills for jobs which are 'going green' as companies look to find ways they can function in a more sustainable way.

Core transferable skills

The skills that are becoming increasingly valuable to employers focus on problem solving, communication (listening and speaking) and leadership, but there are other vital core transferable skills which are of importance too. Your students may already possess some of these core transferable skills.



Problem solving skills are about the ability to find a solution to a complex situation or challenge, often using analytical thinking to come up with a methodical approach or break a problem down into parts



Creativity is the use of imagination and the generation of new ideas, and building the confidence to improve these ideas on your own and by collaborating with others



Listening and speaking (communication) is about receiving and retaining information, persuading and influencing others, and using critical thinking skills to evaluate different perspectives



Leadership is about recognising your own strengths in order to best support, encourage and motivate others to achieve a shared goal



Aiming high (being proactive) is the ability to set clear goals and prioritise tasks to achieve them, as well identifying when to take the initiative instead of reacting to external event



Staying positive (resilience) is about the ability to use tactics and strategies to overcome setbacks and achieve goals



Adaptability is having the skills to cope and thrive in response to changes and challenges



Teamwork is an important skill used when working with another person, or people in a group

Agriculture

This sector is what feeds our nation and is extremely important for the future of our economy. Populations are constantly growing, so the demand for food and more efficient ways of producing it are ever-increasing. Emerging key factors in this sector include technological innovation, environmental stewardship and GM crops. Businesses in this sector also look at food security and sustainable development, as well as preserving our natural heritage and boosting the rural economy.

Roles in this sector can include cultivation, ecological conservation and solving future problems for the world's food supply. This sector often requires resilience, problem-solving and communication skills.

Farm manager



A farm manager will be involved in all farming production, across different areas of the operations (such as animal production or crop farming). The farm manager works with farmers to use new technologies that are more environmentally friendly, for example finding ways to emit less greenhouse gases whilst increasing productivity or using sustainable methods to improve biodiversity.

Source: [Food Matters Live](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Teamwork



Adaptability



Problem
solving

Starting salary: **£20,000-£22,000**



Business and finance

This sector is essential for the future development of our growing and changing economy, and ensures individuals, as well as businesses large and small, can prosper in the years to come. Businesses are also striving to become greener and more sustainable to help ensure their longevity and success.

Businesses in this sector involve a huge variety of roles, including helping people to better understand how to meet their financial needs, developing sustainable business strategies and managing the payment of taxes. Organisational skills, business sense, an ability to use digital FinTech tools and being good with numbers are key skills for these jobs, but you also need good communication skills.

Business founder



Starting your own business means you are in control of how the company is run and allows you to be as creative as you want to make the world better. It's a chance to combine your skills and passions across any industry you choose, running the business in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. This might be from having a paperless business or sourcing supplies from sustainable factories.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Aiming high
(proactivity)



Leadership



Problem
solving

Starting salary: **£20,000-£50,000**



Finance and investment analysts and advisers



From mortgage advisers to investment analysts, people working in this group help individuals and businesses to choose the right investment for their needs based on research and analysis.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Analytical



Starting salary:
£28,000



Business and financial project managers



Project managers work across all areas of business and the public sector to plan and organise resources and people to make sure projects finish on time, stay within budget and meet the requirements of the organisation.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Project management
- Leadership



Starting salary:
£27,000



Management consultants and business analysts



Management consultants and business analysts use their business skills to help organisations solve problems, improve efficiency and manage change.

Skills needed:

- Enterprise
- Analytical
- Problem solving
- Project management



Starting salary:
£36,000



Chartered and certified accountants



Accountants provide accountancy services for clients as part of private practice or within a business. They handle tax and accounts, carry out audits and advise on financial matters.

Skills needed:

- Problem solving
- Communication
- Analytical



Starting salary:
£25,000



Construction

This sector is what keeps our growing populations housed, and provides the increasing amount of public buildings necessary to accommodate those who need hospitals, schools, offices, etc. Construction is a huge sector with a wide variety of roles, from fitting furniture and pipes to heading up huge teams of people to complete massive-scale structural engineering projects.

The construction industry also includes green sector roles and practices. For example, architects or town planners might look to design environmentally responsible and resource-efficient structures on a large or small scale. For anyone wanting to develop practical skills to understand how things work and are put together, construction could be the right industry.

Structural engineer



Structural engineers design and construct buildings that are structurally safe and will work with architects and clients to complete projects. This could be designing new buildings or refurbishing old, existing buildings in a sustainable way. Using sustainable building materials for new buildings is a great way to reduce CO2 emissions from the construction industry. Improving insulation and glazing prevents houses from losing heat, whilst fitting smart technology to track energy usage helps to make a home more efficient.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Creativity



Problem
solving

Starting salary: **£22,000-£25,000**



Architects



Architects design new buildings and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings. They manage the construction process, control budgets and deal with planning issues.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Project management
- Technical
- Creativity



Starting salary:
£32,000



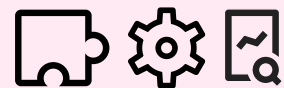
Plumbing and heating and ventilating engineers



These jobs involve fitting, servicing and repairing water pipes and heating systems in homes and businesses.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Problem solving
- Project management
- Communication
- Teamwork



Starting salary:
£25,000



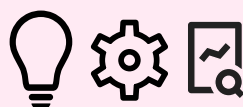
Construction project managers



Construction project managers oversee construction and civil engineering projects and building contracts to make sure they are completed safely, on time and within budget.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Project management
- Communications
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Leadership



Starting salary:
£27,000



Carpenters and joiners



Carpenters and joiners make and install wooden fixtures and fittings as part of construction projects, working in a variety of roles including shop fitter and kitchen fitter.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Creativity
- Technical



Starting salary:
£22,000



Education

This sector is extremely important for the future of the generations to come. Our population is forever growing, and we need teachers to meet demand as more and more children require an education to get them ahead in the world. Emerging trends and key influencing factors in this sector include: virtual and eLearning tools; blended learning (e.g. combining online and interactive materials with in-class work); personalised learning (where teachers use data to customise lessons for students' needs and abilities); the use of devices and digital tools in the classroom.

Those wanting to work in education need to have the knowledge, skills and passion to help people develop and learn, as well as being able to communicate well and enjoy working with others. They need to be able to adapt to keep up with new sustainable ways of working within education.

Primary school teacher



Primary school teachers work with pupils to educate them on a range of subjects, including learning about the environment and sustainability. They will explore projects based on the curriculum and can inspire the next generation. They can be involved in sustainability initiatives at school and help to develop key understanding of the world around us with their pupils. Teachers can also take direct action such as printing less at school.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Creativity



Resilience

Starting salary: **£28,000**



Secondary education teachers



Secondary school teachers help to prepare young people for a fulfilling life after school by providing instruction in one or more subjects in a secondary school.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Resilience



Starting salary:
£28,000



Senior education professionals



Including senior roles such as head teachers, college principals and senior academic administrator roles, people working in this group manage the effective running of a school, university or college.

Skills needed:

- Leadership
- Project management
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Resilience



Starting salary:
£30,000



Teaching assistants



Teaching assistants help teachers with their day-to-day classroom work and with administrative tasks.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Resilience



Starting salary:
£18,000



Environment and sustainability

It is true that a lot of jobs are beginning to become more sustainable with sustainability and environmental awareness becoming a core part of many different business' strategies. However, there is still an entire sector focused on specific environmental roles. With the UK government's plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050, this sector is more important than ever. Recent trends show that concerns around environmental issues such as climate change are having a direct impact on young jobseekers' career choices*.

Those wanting to work in this sector need to have a real passion for sustainable solutions, combining a passion for helping our planet thrive with skills like leadership, problem solving and teamwork.

Garden designer



A garden designer designs and creates the layout of gardens and green spaces for private clients and in public spaces. This could be creating new gardens or re-designing an existing green space. Gardens are relaxing green spaces for people to enjoy and improve their wellbeing in. Trees and plants in cities and parks enhance the air quality that we breathe, with green spaces helping to increase biodiversity, especially in urban areas that need it most. Using eco-friendly materials and processes can help to reduce waste and boost the surrounding environment.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Problem
solving



Creativity



Resilience

Starting salary: **£16,000-£25,000**



*[cnbc.com](#)

Wind turbine technician



Wind turbine technicians maintain and repair wind farm turbines on land and at sea. They fit electrical, mechanical and hydraulic equipment and test turbine blades and control systems.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Technical



Starting salary:
£25,000



Recycling officer



Recycling officers advise on the best ways to recycle and develop policies that help organisations reduce their waste and recycle more. Usually they will work at local authorities or environmental organisations and may work with the public, or behind the scenes, or focusing more on creating strategies.

Skills needed:

- Problem solving
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Project management



Starting salary:
£22,000



Environmental scientist



Environmental scientists study the impacts human activity has on the environment. They conduct experiments, analyse data and form conclusions, with the overall aim being to try and solve environmental issues.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Problem solving
- Analytical



Starting salary:
£26,000



Health and care

This sector ensures that we stay in good health, live longer and get care and support when we need it most and includes many roles at different levels, from visiting those in need to offer comfort and care, to leading teams of surgeons and carrying out complex operations which could save lives. Specialist medical roles such as pharmaceutical and research positions have also seen an increase in demand. Additionally, virtual appointments and remote monitoring are another big trend.

Someone wanting to work in medicine and nursing should have an interest in people's health and wellbeing, as well as communication skills, resilience and team working skills. This industry is beginning to address the issue of becoming more sustainable, from finding more sustainable suppliers to reducing waste.

Healthcare worker



Healthcare workers could be a doctor or a supply chain operator, both can also be involved with efforts to make healthcare more sustainable. Doctors look after patients across the hospital with recovering and treatment. A supply chain operator works with suppliers to ensure enough medical supplies reach hospitals on time. They can get involved in sustainable healthcare initiatives and organisations that help to lower the carbon footprint of the healthcare industry. For example, looking at how to reduce the plastic waste generated in the healthcare industry or how the industry can go to paperless prescriptions. A supply chain operator might start to look for suppliers who are greener, for example delivering using electric vehicles.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Aiming high
(proactivity)



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Resilience

Starting salary: **£28,000-£30,000**



Care workers and home carers



Care workers are the frontline staff in all care settings. They work with all types of people who need care and support to ensure the individual's overall comfort and wellbeing and to help them to live as independently as possible.

Skills needed:

- Communication
- Resilience
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£18,000



Nurses



Every day, Britain's nurses save lives; they're at the coalface of A&E and are the people patients see most while recuperating, providing vital care and assistance to those in need.

Skills needed:

- Communication
- Resilience
- Technical
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£27,000



Nursing auxiliaries and assistants



Often known as health care assistants, people working in this area assist doctors and nurses in the day-to-day care of patients, either in hospitals or the wider community.

Skills needed:

- Communication
- Resilience
- Technical
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£17,000



Doctors



From GPs to surgeons, doctors diagnose and treat illnesses and disease in patients, providing advice and reassurance.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Resilience
- Leadership
- Technical



Starting salary:

£29,000



Dentists



While their work may set some people's teeth on edge, rather than straight and pearly white, dentists play an important role in our day-to-day health, specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of problems that affect the mouth and teeth.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Problem solving
- Communication



Starting salary:

£34,000



Digital technology

This sector is quickly becoming a vital element of almost every sector. There are a wide variety of roles available including web designers, e-commerce specialists and data analysts. Digital technology roles and practices have become widespread and have changed the global job landscape irreversibly.

Digital technology is a vital part of helping many other jobs and sectors turn green, without input of technology it would not be possible to measure the carbon footprint of a business or industry. The technology itself can also be a big contributor to carbon emissions, so leaders in the industry have to find ways to reduce their emissions.

Data analyst



A Data analyst collects and analyses data to help solve problems and presents information as graphs, charts and reports from complex sets of data. They are in demand across various sectors, including finance, manufacturing and education. Data analysts can, for example, monitor greenhouse gas emissions and feedback this information to companies wanting to hit net zero targets.

Source: [Food Matters Live](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Adaptability



Problem
solving

Starting salary: **£23,000-£25,000**



Web designers and developers



People working in this group use their creativity and technical skills to design, build and maintain websites.

Skills needed:

- Digital
- Project management
- Problem solving



Starting salary:
£25,000



Site reliability engineer



People in this role work on improving different types of software that companies use to deliver their services. They work on a variety of digital programs, analysing data to ensure that they are working in the best possible way for both the business and the user.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Teamwork
- Analytical
- Strategic



Starting salary:
£55,000



Social media manager



People in this role help to manage the online voice of a brand or organisation. Social media is a vital way for companies to connect with their customers, reaching them through channels they are already using. Social media managers need to understand what content works and have an understanding of social media analytics in order to create good digital strategies.

Skills needed:

- Creativity
- Technical
- Strategic
- Teamwork
- Analytical



Starting salary:
£23,000



Programmers and software developers



From designing the software that keeps huge retailers and manufacturers moving, to building the latest hit games and apps, programmers and software developers create solutions in almost every sector imaginable.

Skills needed:

- Digital
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Analytical



Starting salary:
£25,000



Ecommerce manager



People working in this area run websites that focus on the buying, trading and selling of products and services to customers. They not only have to manage the technical aspects of the website, but also to make sure the content and user journey are effective enough to turn website visits into sales.

Skills needed:

- Digital
- Analytical
- Teamwork
- Analytical
- Communication



Starting salary:
£22,000



AI and machine learning specialist



AI and machine learning specialists study and develop intelligent machines by programming computers to understand a variety of situations. A common strand of the work is exploring how machines could relate to the human mind and behaviour, to create systems that help businesses improve their processes and performance.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Analytical
- Problem solving
- Strategic
- Digital



Starting salary:
£30,000



Information security analysts



Information security analysts develop security strategies by researching and collecting data and updating initiatives for existing technologies. This helps companies to maximise their productivity and avoid security threats.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Analytical
- Problem solving
- Strategic
- Digital
- Communication



Starting salary:
£26,000



Manufacturing, installation, maintenance

This sector is essential to the upkeep and running of the ever-growing new technology being constantly developed, especially when it comes to new environmentally friendly technology. For example, electricians and engineers now work on producing and fixing electric cars. Creative thinking and practical skills are helpful for some jobs in this field, whereas in others you need more mathematical or scientific knowledge. Problem solving and communication skills are also really important.

Electrical design engineer



These engineers help to design and build electrical systems, machinery and equipment. This could be designing components on a computer to convert normal cars to become electric vehicles. Being able to convert a regular vehicle to an electric one helps to reduce carbon emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles. There are likely to be more jobs such as this in the future as new petrol and diesel cars are being banned from being sold in the UK from 2030.

Source: [BBC Bitesize](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Creativity



Adaptability



Problem
solving

Starting salary: **£20,000-£24,000**



Electricians and electrical fitters



Electricians fit and repair electrical circuits and wiring and maintain electrical machinery in people's homes or in businesses. In line with the emergence of the green jobs sector, electricians may also work on electric vehicle charging points, solar panels, batteries and low-carbon heating systems.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Technical



Starting salary:
£27,000



Telecommunications engineers



Telecommunications engineers install, test and repair communications systems, such as fixed-line and mobile telephony networks, copper wire and fibre-optic cabling and digital satellite systems.

Skills needed:

- Digital
- Technical
- Problem solving
- Teamwork



Starting salary:
£25,000



Aircraft maintenance and related trades



With job titles such as aircraft mechanic and aircraft fitter, people working in this role fit, service, repair and overhaul aircraft engines and assemblies.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Technical



Starting salary:
£27,000



Automation engineer



These are the workers responsible for making sure production lines are as effective as possible. They provide complex electrical and mechanical installation support, to make sure equipment is safe and efficient to use. They might also train workers in how to use the manufacturing machinery.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Communication
- Analytical
- Problem solving



Starting salary:

£38,000



Metal working production and maintenance fitters



This role includes engineering maintenance fitters and involves installing, servicing and repairing engineering machinery and equipment, including mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems.

Skills needed:

- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Technical



Starting salary:

£23,000



Protective services

This sector is essential for our safety in the world. There will always be crises which require emergency responders or trained specialists, and these responders and specialists need to be well protected as well as those they are working to help. Protective services also need to be forward thinking and look at how the industry can reduce its carbon footprint. Not only does it need to contribute to the government's goal of net zero, those in the industry need to be aware of new technologies to keep up with changing environmental trends.

Leadership is very important, and roles include working with communities to make neighbourhoods safer, supporting individuals who have been affected by crime or working undercover to investigate a case. Communication skills, resilience and teamwork are also beneficial for these jobs.

Procurement officer



Working within the public services such as the fire brigade, a Procurement officer will be responsible for purchasing a wide range of goods, services and works. They have to stick to strict laws and have a responsibility to hit environmental targets, such as carbon reduction and less waste products.

Core transferable skills needed:



Listening and speaking
(communication)



Creativity



Resilience

Starting salary: **£35,000**



Customs officer



Customs officers work in airports or seaports, collecting taxes and customs duties for goods that have been declared. They also search luggage and items to check that smuggling and illegal trades are not happening.

Skills needed:

- Communication
- Adaptability
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£18,000



Police officers



Police officers are on the frontline of justice, working in partnership with the community to make life safer for your friends and neighbours, and to make your area a better place to live.

Skills needed:

- Leadership
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Resilience
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£23,000



Science and engineering

This sector is essential to our scientific and technological advances. For the future, we need the best possible scientists and engineers to ensure we can compete with the rest of the world and contribute to resolving some of the great future challenges. These challenges could include finding cleaner ways to generate energy, or devising methods of producing food more efficiently. Anyone who enjoys investigating, analysing and using practical skills to find a solution should consider a job in this sector.

Offshore wind engineer



An Offshore wind engineer will be responsible for researching, developing and testing tools and mechanical devices that make up wind turbines. They will be supervising the manufacturing processes to make sure projects stay on time and contracts are met. Helping to build new wind turbines means more renewable energy can be used across the UK, reducing our usage of non-renewable energy like coal and gas. The renewable energy sector can offer huge growth in jobs whilst fighting climate change.

Source: [Empire Engineering](#)

Core transferable skills needed:



Starting salary: **£30,000-£34,000**



Virologists



Virologists are medical doctors that work on the diagnosis, management and prevention of viral infections. Their work can include examination and research on various aspects of viruses and how they might spread. They don't usually work directly with patients in person, but instead liaise between clinical colleagues in the hospital, GPs and laboratory staff.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Problem solving
- Analytical
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£31,000



Biological scientists and biochemists



From biologists to horticulturists, people working in this job study living things such as plants and animals and the world they live in. Their work is used widely in sectors such as medicine, agriculture and environmental management.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Project management
- Problem solving



Starting salary:

£26,000



Research and development managers



Research and development managers are responsible for the process by which new products and services are developed or existing ones improved. This can involve managing market research and design work.

Skills needed:

- Project management
- Enterprise
- Analytical
- Creativity/design
- Leadership



Starting salary:

£32,000



Mechanical engineers



Research and design mechanical systems such as engines, vehicles and machinery. As well as this, mechanical engineers direct these systems' manufacture and manage their operation and maintenance.

Skills needed:

- Technical
- Creativity
- Project management
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Teamwork

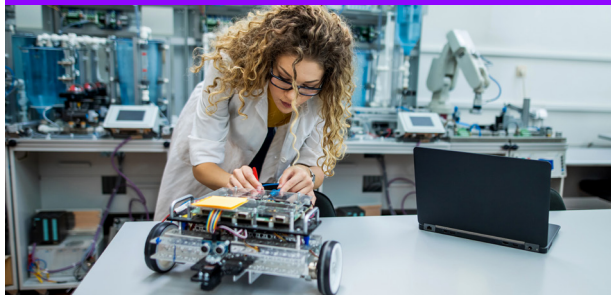


Starting salary:

£23,000



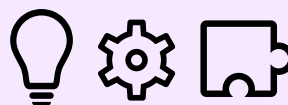
Design and development engineers



Design and development engineers take initial product ideas (across a wide range of areas, including for engines, instruments, vehicles, electronic equipment etc.) and develop them into designs and prototypes.

Skills needed:

- Creativity/design
- Technical
- Problem solving
- Teamwork



Starting salary:

£25,000

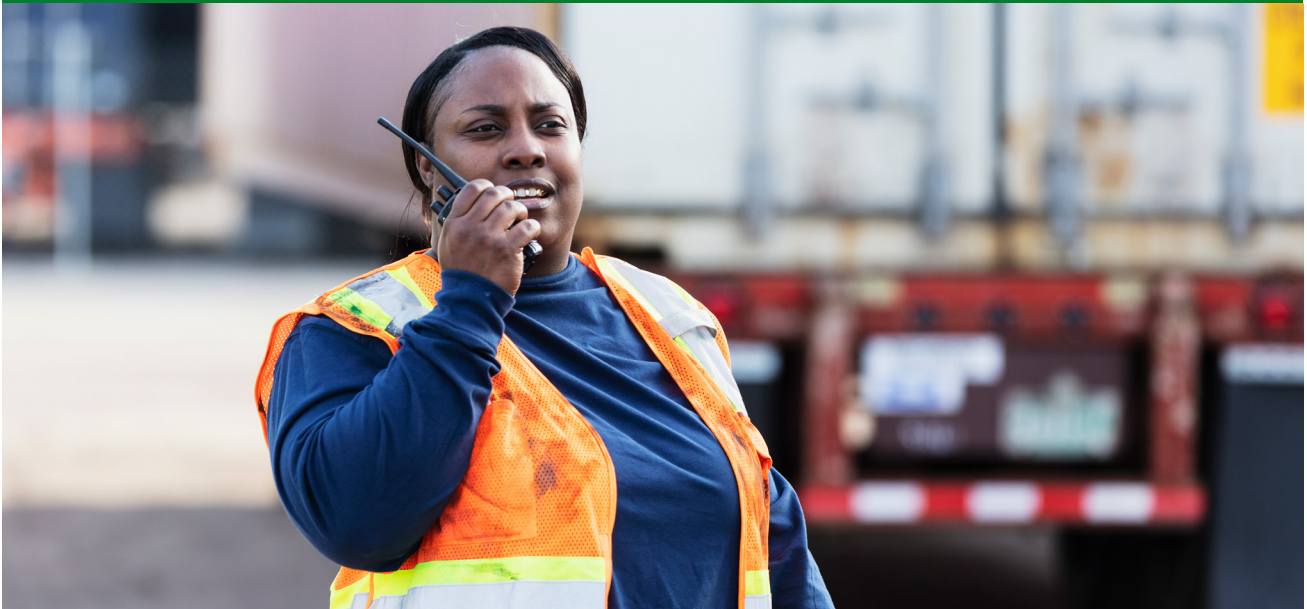


Transport and logistics

This sector ensures all our modes of transport can get us from A to B efficiently but technology changes will impact what the role is. As populations grow, so do cities, and we will need more train, bus and taxi drivers to get commuters and tourists where they need to be. To support the global economy to grow, the demand for planes and ships to deliver goods for trade will rise, as will the need for commercial airlines to meet tourism.

From moving to sourcing products that are more local, to being a pioneer in electric planes, the opportunity for green skills in this industry is huge. As well as having good concentration and good driving skills, someone working in this sector needs to have good organisational skills and in some cases good leadership and people skills too .

Logistics manager



A Logistics manager is responsible for organising shipments, coordinating drivers and vehicles, operating IT systems and analysing data across a business. They need to communicate with all departments to enable correct supply chain processes. They can help to implement green policies at a business, adopt new green technology and raise awareness around green logistics to reduce the carbon footprint of a company.

Core transferable skills needed:



**Aiming high
(proactivity)**



**Listening and speaking
(communication)**



Resilience

Starting salary: £28,000



Airline pilot



Fly passengers and cargo to destinations around the world.

Skills needed:

- Leadership
- Technical
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Teamwork



Starting salary:
£28,000



Ship officers



Ships officers work in a variety of settings from cruise ships to oil tankers, handling the navigation, communications, crew, cargo and overall running of the ship.

Skills needed:

- Leadership
- Resilience
- Technical
- Communication
- Teamwork



Starting salary:
£25,000



Train and tram drivers



Workers in this role drive trains to transport passengers and goods on surface and underground railways, and transport passengers in trams.

Skills needed:

- Resilience
- Technical
- Communication



Starting salary:
£30,000



Large goods vehicle driver



Large goods vehicle (LGV) drivers, also known as HGV drivers, transport and deliver goods and raw materials across the UK and overseas. They move everything from foodstuffs to fuel.

Skills needed:

- Resilience
- Technical
- Communication



Starting salary:
£24,000



Sources

[Payscale](#)

[UKCES, Careers of the future](#)

[World Economic Forum, The Future of Jobs Report Report 2020](#)