Apr - Jul 2026

Labour Market INFORMATION

Dorset Data

Average yearly pay for full-time jobs (2025)

- Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole area: £37,500
- Dorset area: £37,500
- England (overall): £39,300

Jobs in the area

- About 358,400 people have a job
- That's 79.4% of people who are old enough to work

People without jobs in the area

- About 17,900 people don't have a job – that's 4 out of every 100 people who are old enough to work
- A further 75,400 people aren't working and aren't looking for a job – that's about 17 out of every 100 people

Population changes over 10 years

- Overall population: up by 5.3% (England: up by 7.8%)
- Ages 16–24: down by 1.5% (England: up by 1.2%)
- Ages 65 and over: up by 14% (England: up by 15.5%)

Types of jobs

- 13 out of every 100 people work for themselves (self-employed)
- 86 out of every 100 people work for someone else (employees)

Biggest job areas in Dorset (2024)

- Health and Social Care: 56,000 jobs
- Shops and Retail: 48,000 jobs
- Hospitality (hotels, restaurants): 40,000 jobs
- Manufacturing (making things): 29,000 jobs
- Education (schools, colleges): 29,000 jobs

What Dorset is good at (compared to the UK)

- Maritime (things related to the sea)
- Metalworking technology
- Visitor economy (tourism)
- Building services
- Precision technology

Jobs that need higher skills

- Programmers and software developers: 2,200 jobs
- Teachers: 1,700 jobs
- Nurses: 3,800 jobs
- Solicitors / Lawyers: 1,900 jobs
- Bookkeepers / Finance: 2,300 jobs

Job adverts

- 85,200 jobs advertised in the last year
- 9,700 jobs advertised last month
- Peak was 11,500 jobs in 2022
- 84,000 previous year
- About 7,100 employers advertised jobs, including NHS, JPMorgan Chase, Holt Engineering, BCP Council, Compass Group

Top skills employers want

- Auditing
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Detail Oriented
- Management
- Sales

Most wanted jobs in the last year

- Care workers and home carers: 11,100 jobs
- Sales: 5,200 jobs
- Cleaners: 5,000 jobs
- Kitchen and Catering assistants: 4,200 jobs
- Teaching assistants: 3,000 jobs

Sources: ONS (Nomis) and Lightcast.



Your career starts here. Find out more:

Talk to your teacher, tutor, careers adviser, parent or carer, or scan:

Dorset Careers Hub

National Careers Service

DSTPN 'Your future. SORTED!' directory

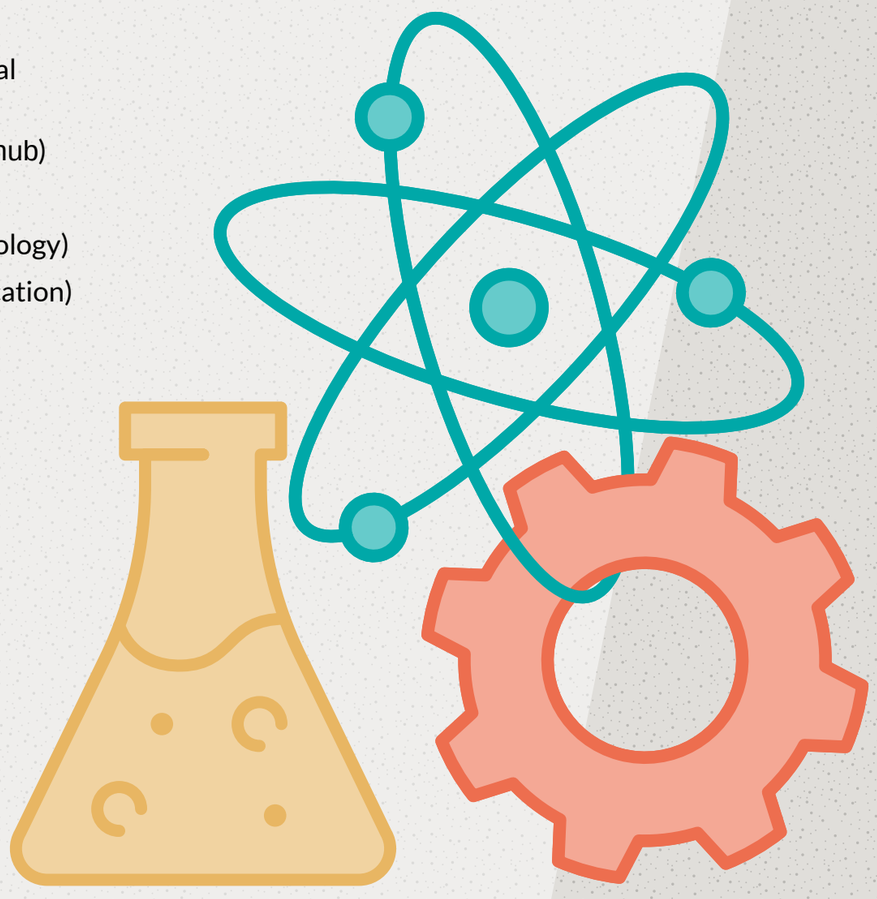
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THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Sep - Dec 2025

Sector SPOTLIGHT

Science, Engineering & Production

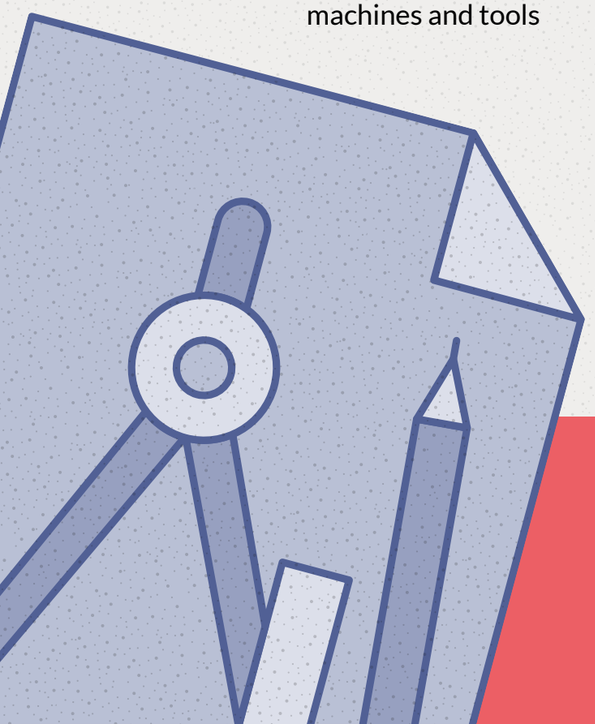


Science, Engineering and Production jobs in Dorset

- About 7,400 people work in these jobs
- The average pay for all jobs in Dorset is £43,600 a year

Top in-demand jobs right now

- **Gas engineers** – work with heating systems and gas appliances
- **Electrical engineers** – design and maintain electrical systems
- **Project engineers** – manage engineering projects from start to finish
- **Electronic engineers** – work with circuits and electronic devices
- **Mechanical engineers** – design and build machines and tools



Top local companies hiring

- **BAE Systems** (engineering and defense)
- **NHS** (healthcare)
- **Eaton Corporation** (power and electrical systems)
- **JPMorgan Chase** (finance - operations hub)
- **Energy Jobline** (energy jobs)
- **Curtiss-Wright** (engineering and technology)
- **Bournemouth and Poole College** (education)

In the past year

- **3,800 job adverts** posted
- **750 employers** looking for staff

Popular jobs and average pay

- **Mechanical engineers**: £49,500
- **Engineering technicians**: £44,500
- **Production and process engineers**: £52,800
- **Electrical engineers**: £57,000
- **Electronic engineers**: £39,700
- **Civil engineers**: £48,400

Sources: ONS (Nomis) and Lightcast.

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Jan - Mar 2026

Sector SPOTLIGHT

Construction & Building Trades

A growing industry

- There are 22,900 people working in construction and civil engineering across Dorset
- The industry has grown by +2% in the last year
- Many workers are getting older, which means more job opportunities for young people in the future

Top local companies hiring

- **NHS** (healthcare)
- **Sovereign Network Group** (social housing)
- **GP Masonry Contractors** (construction)
- **Magna Housing Limited** (social housing)
- **Premier Construction** (construction)
- **Hamberley Care Homes** (health and social care)

Top in-demand jobs locally right now

- **Bricklayers** - Build strong walls and structures by laying bricks carefully according to building plans
- **Maintenance Assistants** - Help keep buildings in good condition by fixing small issues and supporting skilled tradespeople
- **Carpenters** - Create and install wooden structures like doors, roofs, and floors using tools to cut and shape wood
- **Plumbers** - Install and repair pipes, sinks, toilets, and heating systems to keep water flowing safely and efficiently
- **Site Managers** - Organise and supervise construction projects to make sure work is safe, on time, and done correctly
- **Painters & Decorators** - Prepare and paint surfaces to give buildings a neat, finished look inside and out

What about AI?

- AI is expected to make construction work faster and more efficient
- BUT it won't replace the hands on, physical skills needed on site

Local job market snapshot

- 2,000 job ads were posted over the last 12 months
- 560 employers were hiring for construction roles

Popular jobs and average pay

The average salary across construction jobs is around £38,600 a year

- **Heating & Air Con Mechanics**: £37,400
- **Carpenters & Joiners**: £35,300
- **Bricklayers**: £32,400
- **Roofers & Tilers**: £26,800
- **Plasterers**: £34,900
- **Crane Drivers**: £48,700

Sources: ONS (Nomis) and Lightcast.



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Sector SPOTLIGHT

Tourism & Hospitality

A big part of Dorset's economy

- Around 47,500 people work in tourism and hospitality across Dorset
- This sector is more important to Dorset than it is across the UK
- Employment has grown slightly over the last year, creating ongoing opportunities

Average pay

- The average salary in hospitality and tourism-related jobs is around £21,000 per year

Local employers hiring

Some of the biggest employers in the area include:

- Hall & Woodhouse
- Compass Group
- Haven Holidays
- Mitchells & Butlers
- Parkdean Resorts
- Premier Inn
- JD Wetherspoon

Jobs employers are looking for

- **Chefs** - Prepare, cook, and present food in restaurants, hotels, and cafés
- **Waiting Staff** - Serve customers, take orders, and help create a great dining experience
- **Kitchen Assistants** - Support chefs by preparing ingredients, cleaning equipment, and keeping kitchens organised
- **Housekeepers** - Clean and prepare hotel rooms and public areas to a high standard
- **Kitchen Team Members** - Work as part of a kitchen team to help prepare food and keep services running smoothly
- **Bar Staff** - Serve drinks, take customer orders, and provide friendly customer service
- **Baristas** - Make and serve coffees and other drinks while creating a welcoming atmosphere for customers

Technology and the future

AI is helping businesses:

- Personalise customer experiences
- Automate some routine tasks
- Improve pricing and bookings

But great customer service and people skills remain essential because customers still value face-to-face interactions

Local job market snapshot

- **8,200 job vacancies** advertised in the last 12 months
- **970 employers** recruiting
- Around **40% of hospitality workers are under 24**, making it a popular sector for young people starting their careers

Top skills employers want

- Customer service
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Time management
- Attention to detail
- Working under pressure

Why choose hospitality?

Tourism and hospitality can help you build valuable skills, gain experience, meet lots of people, and progress into careers in management, events, tourism, catering, hotels, and business.

Sources: ONS (Nomis) and Lightcast.

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Sep - Dec 2025

Termly TOPIC

Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster

What will shape jobs in the next 20 years?

- **Technology** – Things like robots, automation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will change how we work.
- **People** – The UK has more older people, which will affect the types of jobs needed.
- **Going Green** – Creating new demand for green skills. Globally, there is a green job growth of 9%. Greenhouse-gas intensive jobs have decreased by 2% over the past 7 years.

Clean energy jobs are growing fast

- Job adverts in clean energy have gone up by 50% since 2022.

Examples of jobs you might see

- Solar panel installers
- Solar design engineers
- Wind turbine technicians
- Energy account managers

Companies hiring

- Honeywell International
- Enerveo
- H2-ecO
- Scottish and Southern Electricity
- Octopus Energy

Skills that are in demand

- Nuclear safety and power
- High-performance computing
- Engineering design
- Electrical engineering



What's the Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster?

A huge plan for Dorset over 20 years, aiming for £28 billion investment.

Aspirational projects include

- Offshore wind farms (with a port hub at Portland)
- Carbon capture and storage (CCS)
- Clean hydrogen (a low-carbon fuel)
- Small nuclear reactors
- Grid upgrades, desalination plants, and data centres

Expected jobs coming to Dorset

- About 20,000 jobs during building and development
- Around 1,200 jobs when everything is running

Special skills needed

- Surveying (land, environment, marine)
- Commercial skills
- Electrical and civil engineering

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Sources: Great South West Workforce Plan, OECD and Lightcast.

Jan - Mar 2026

Termly
TOPIC

NHS England

Key labour market trends in Dorset (next 10 years)

Dorset's ageing population

- Nearly **one third of people in Dorset are aged 65+**, and this number is rising fast.
- Many people live longer but often spend **around 20 years** with a health condition that affects daily life.

Health & Social Care: Dorset's biggest employer

- **Over 55,000 people** already work in health and care locally.
- **More than 19,000 jobs** were advertised in this sector in the last year — meaning lots of opportunities for young people.

Jobs in demand

- **Support Workers**
- **Care Assistants**
- **Healthcare Assistants**
- **Staff Nurses**
- **Healthcare Workers**
- **Mental Health Practitioners**



But there's so much more!

You could become a **paramedic**, **radiographer**, **physiotherapist**, **occupational therapist**, **health data analyst** — and loads more. You don't have to be a doctor or nurse to work in healthcare — there are over **350 different careers in the NHS!**

Explore them all here:
350 Careers, One NHS, Your Future

Healthcare is becoming more digital

Technology is being used more in health services:

- Over **39 million people** use the **NHS App**.
- Digital health records, artificial intelligence (AI), home health monitoring, and phone based health tools are growing fast.

Skills employers want

- **Personal care**
- **Mental health support**
- **Nursing and medication skills**
- **Companionship and communication**

Local organisations hiring

You might find jobs with:

- **NHS**
- **Barchester**
- **Care South**
- **Agincare Group**
- **Colten Care**
- **Bupa**
- **Care UK**
- **Kingsley Healthcare**

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Sources: NHS England and Lightcast.

Apr - Jul 2026

Termly

TOPIC

DORSET INNOVATION PARK

A sector shaping the future

Dorset is home to the Dorset Innovation Park, a centre for advanced technology, engineering, and defence, supporting around 800 highly skilled jobs. The park is also home to the Defence BattleLab, a unique facility where businesses work on innovative solutions to real-world defence and security challenges.

Employers in the sector

Companies based in or connected to Dorset Innovation Park include:

- QinetiQ
- TKMS Atlas UK
- Norco Composites
- Ministry of Defence (MOD)
- FDi Engineering
- VASPBA
- i9 Tech

Careers in high demand

- **Software Developers & Software Engineers**
- **Electricians**
- **Fabricators**
- **Design Engineers**
- **Test Engineers**
- **Project Managers**
- **Procurement Specialists**
- **Logistics Coordinators**

Technical skills employers want

- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Electronics
- Systems Engineering
- Cyber Security
- Mechanical Design
- Embedded Software
- Quality Assurance

Essential employability skills

- Problem Solving
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Attention to Detail
- Organisation
- Creativity

What does Dorset specialise in?

Dorset companies are working on exciting technologies, including:

- **Autonomous (self-operating) systems**
- **Maritime technology**
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- **Underwater technology**
- **Communications systems**
- **Digital and cyber security**

Your route into the industry

Yeovil College is one of only **five Defence Technical Excellence Colleges in England**, helping young people develop the technical skills needed for careers in engineering, technology, and defence.

Future opportunities

The UK Government plans to invest **£290 billion in defence**, helping to create around **60,000 new jobs** across areas such as:

- **Aerospace**
- **Drone Technology**
- **AI & Quantum Computing**
- **Shipbuilding**
- **Missile Defence**
- **Nuclear Technologies**
- **Munitions Manufacturing**

Why consider this sector?

If you enjoy **technology**, **engineering**, **problem-solving**, **maths**, **science**, **or design**, defence and advanced engineering offer exciting careers where you can help create the technologies of the future.

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Sources: Dorset Innovation Park and www.gov.uk.