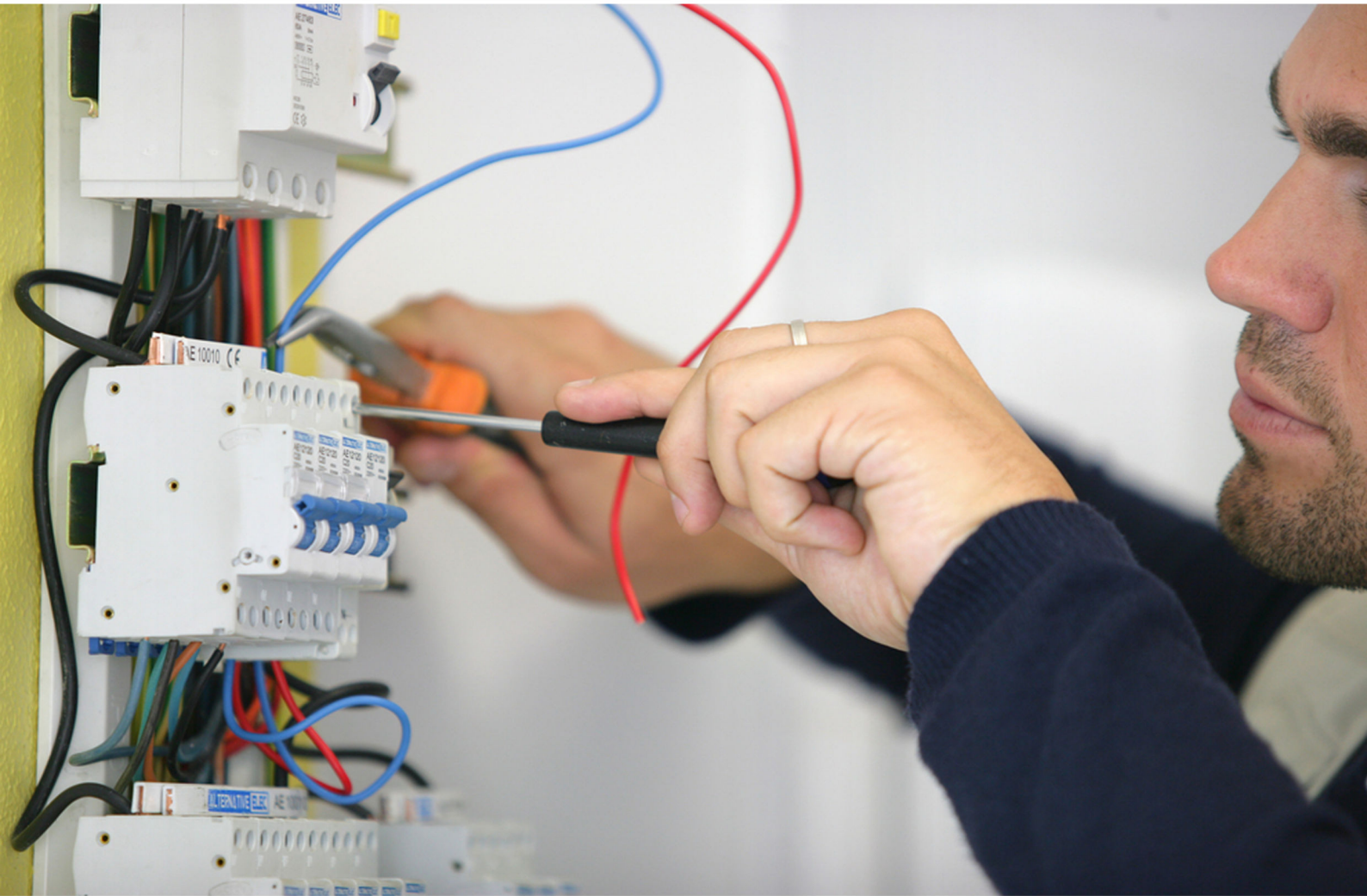


How to Become an Electrician in the UK

A practical guide to finding work as a professional electrical engineer.



24/7 NATIONWIDE REACTIVE & PLANNED MAINTENANCE

Becoming an Electrician

A career in electrical engineering can be both varied and rewarding, with each day different to the next.

One of the most important things to consider when becoming an electrician is the type of company you would like to work for. For example, many established companies now offer nationwide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, a perfect match for someone that doesn't want to be limited in their work.

Things to consider

If you would like to become an electrician, you should consider if you currently have the following skills:

- Good practical skills
- Good problem-solving skills
- Ability to follow technical drawings and building plans
- Understand the importance of Health & Safety
- Customer service skills
- Full UK driving license
- The ability to work as part of a team
- A flexible approach to work
- Industry recognised qualifications



Roles of an Electrician

Whether you would like to provide electrical services for domestic, commercial properties, or both, we have listed some of the most common services for each role.

Electrical Services

Services are typically divided into different roles:

- **Installation electrician** - installing power systems, lighting, fire protection, security and data-network systems in all types of buildings
- **Maintenance electrician** - checking systems regularly to make sure that they are working efficiently and safely
- **Electro technical panel builders** - building and installing control panels that operate the electrical systems inside buildings
- **Machine repair and rewind electrician** - repairing and maintaining electrical motors and other machinery like transformers to make sure that they work correctly
- **Highway systems electrician** - installing and maintaining street lighting and traffic management systems that tell the public what they need to know when they're on the roads and motorways

Did You Know?

A Master Electrician will train almost as long as a doctor.



Working Hours & Conditions

When it comes to typical working hours, it is largely dependent on the company you work for. For example, many companies are now providing a 24 hour emergency response, meaning that you are less limited in the hours you can do, and have varied working hours.

Working conditions vary according to the type of electrical engineering role you follow. You will be working in a range of environments, from cramped spaces to heights on scaffolding.

Income

Newly qualified electricians can earn between £19,000 and £22,000 a year. With more experience, this can rise to between £23,000 and £30,000. However, this can sometimes be dependent on your employer and where you live in the UK (unless you work for a nationwide company).

Self-employed plumbers will set their own rates, although may miss out on incentives such as bonuses and overtime pay that can be available with an employer.

Above is only a guideline of salaries in the electrical industry.

Career Progression

As outlined above, the more experience you hold as an electrical engineer the higher the typical salary will be. When looking for work, it is always good to find an established company so you can develop your skills further and progress, potentially to become a Master Electrician.

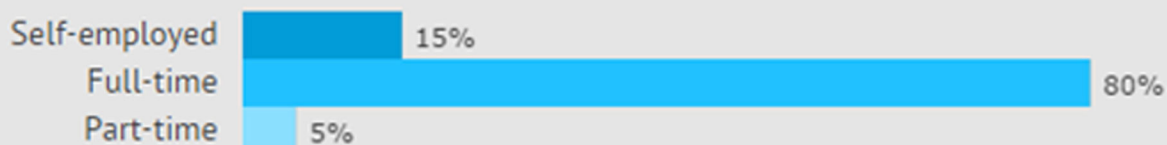


Job Market Information

Statistics: Skilled Trades

It is important to review the current job market in order to assess how competitive your chosen industry is. We have statistics below of the job market in skilled trades.

Working pattern: Skilled trades



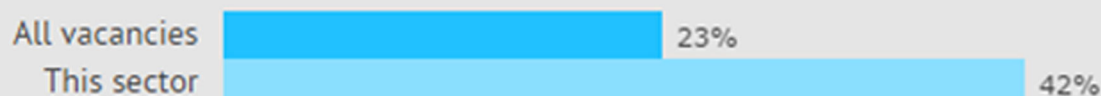
This chart gives a breakdown of how people are employed in this sector.

Median income: Skilled trades



This chart shows the median, or middle, annual income figure for full-time workers in this sector compared to the national median figure for all sectors.

Gaps in sector due to skills shortages: Skilled trades



This chart shows the proportion of vacancies in this sector that employers said are due to skills shortages. This compares with the overall figure across all sectors.



Get Qualified

Qualifications

To become a qualified electrician you will need an industry recognised level 3 qualification, such as:

Level 3 (NVQ) Diploma in Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Maintenance)

Level 3 (NVQ) Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems & Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment)

The most common route into an electrical engineering career is an apprenticeship. This is because study is combined with hands on work experience and learning.

How long does an apprenticeship take to complete?

An electrotechnical apprenticeship takes between two to four years to complete and become fully qualified.

What apprenticeships are available to me?

Apprenticeships will vary according to the area, and is dependent on your local job market and the skills that are required from employers. To find out more about what apprenticeships are available to you, visit the Apprenticeships website for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

After your apprenticeship has been completed and you are a fully qualified electrical engineer, you will have a better understanding of the type of company you would like to work for. If you would like to become a local subcontracting engineer, then it is always best to work for a company you can trust and progress with.



More Information

We hope that this guide has assisted you in developing a further understanding of becoming a professional electrician.

If you are already a qualified electrician and would like to join the **Able Group**, the UK's leading maintenance company, please visit our website at: www.able-group.co.uk/recruitment where you will find more information about the roles available and an insight into a day in the life of our current electricians.

Alternatively, if you would like to speak to a member of our recruitment team directly, feel free to call us on **0800 000 000**.

Summit Skills

www.summitskills.org.uk

Electrical Contractors Association

www.eca.co.uk

NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme

www.niceic.com

ELECSA

www.jelecsa.co.uk

British Standards Institution

www.bsigroup.co.uk

National Association for Professional Inspectors & Testers

www.napittraining.co.uk





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