

05 / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Crane drivers and pipe fitters are the biggest earners in construction
- Road construction operatives and crane drivers saw the biggest increase in wages over the last year
- Figures suggest that average earnings for pipe fitters, scaffolders and steel erectors fell last year
- Electricians and plumbers in England and Wales look forward to a 4.5% increase in basic wage rates in January

ASHE data

The Office for National Statistics has published the first results from its 2008 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). It showed that in the UK, median gross weekly earnings for full-time adult employees rose by 4.6% on the previous year. The ASHE data is based on a sample of employee PAYE records taken in April of each year.

The survey revealed that, based on a sample of 1,059,000 jobs, earnings in construction rose by 4.7% between April 2007 and April 2008. Earnings of skilled construction and building trades increased by 5.9%. The following table shows median gross weekly pay for various construction occupations at April 2008 and the percentage change over the year:

	Median gross weekly pay (including overtime)	% change over
	April 08	April 07
Crane drivers	£617	+14.0
Pipe fitters	£602	-8.0
Rail construction and maintenance operatives	£582	+7.4
Scaffolders, staggers, riggers	£575	-4.1
Electricians, electrical fitters	£531	+5.0
Plumbers, HVAC engineers	£509	+4.6
Steel erectors	£487	-0.1
Bricklayers	£459	+10.7
Carpenters and joiners	£452	+5.7
Road construction operatives	£438	+14.1
Painters and decorators	£419	+5.7
Plasterers	£401	+0.7
Roofers	£400	+4.5
Glaziers, window fabricators and fitters	£395	+4.5
Floorers and wall tilers	£380	+6.3
Labourers	£350	+4.4

Wage agreement summary

The following table summarises the wage agreements currently in force for the principal wage-fixing bodies in the construction industry

Operatives	Agreement body	Current basic hourly rate	Effective since	Details in	Date of next review
Builders and Civil Engineering operatives	Construction Industry Joint Council	Craft rate: £10.30 / hour	30 June 2008	Cost Update 30 May 2008 / Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2009	29 June 2009 (rates to be agreed)
	Building & Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council (BATJIC)	S/NVQ3 qualified operative: £10.41 / hour	9 June 2008	Cost Update 5 September 2008 / Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2009	8 June 2009 (rates to be agreed)
Plumbers	The Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England and Wales	Advanced plumber: £12.12 / hour	7 January 2008	Cost Update 20 March 2008 / Spon's Mechanical and Electrical Services Price Book 2009	5 January 2009 (basic rates will rise by 4.5%)
	Scottish and Northern Ireland Joint Industry Board for the Plumbing Industry	Advanced plumber: £12.08 / hour	2 June 2008	Cost Update 30 May 2008 / Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2009	1 June 2009 (basic rates will rise by 4.6%)
H&V operatives	Joint Conciliation Committee of the Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering Industry	Craftsman: £11.16 / hour	6 October 2008	Cost Update 5 September 2008 / Spon's Mechanical and Electrical Services Price Book 2009	5 October 2009 (rates to be agreed)
Electricians	The Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry / Scottish Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry	Approved electrician: £13.08 / hour	7 January 2008	Cost Update 20 March 2008 / Spon's Mechanical and Electrical Services Price Book 2009	5 January 2009 (basic rates will increase by 4.5%)