



WHAT DOES A QUANTITY SURVEYOR DO?

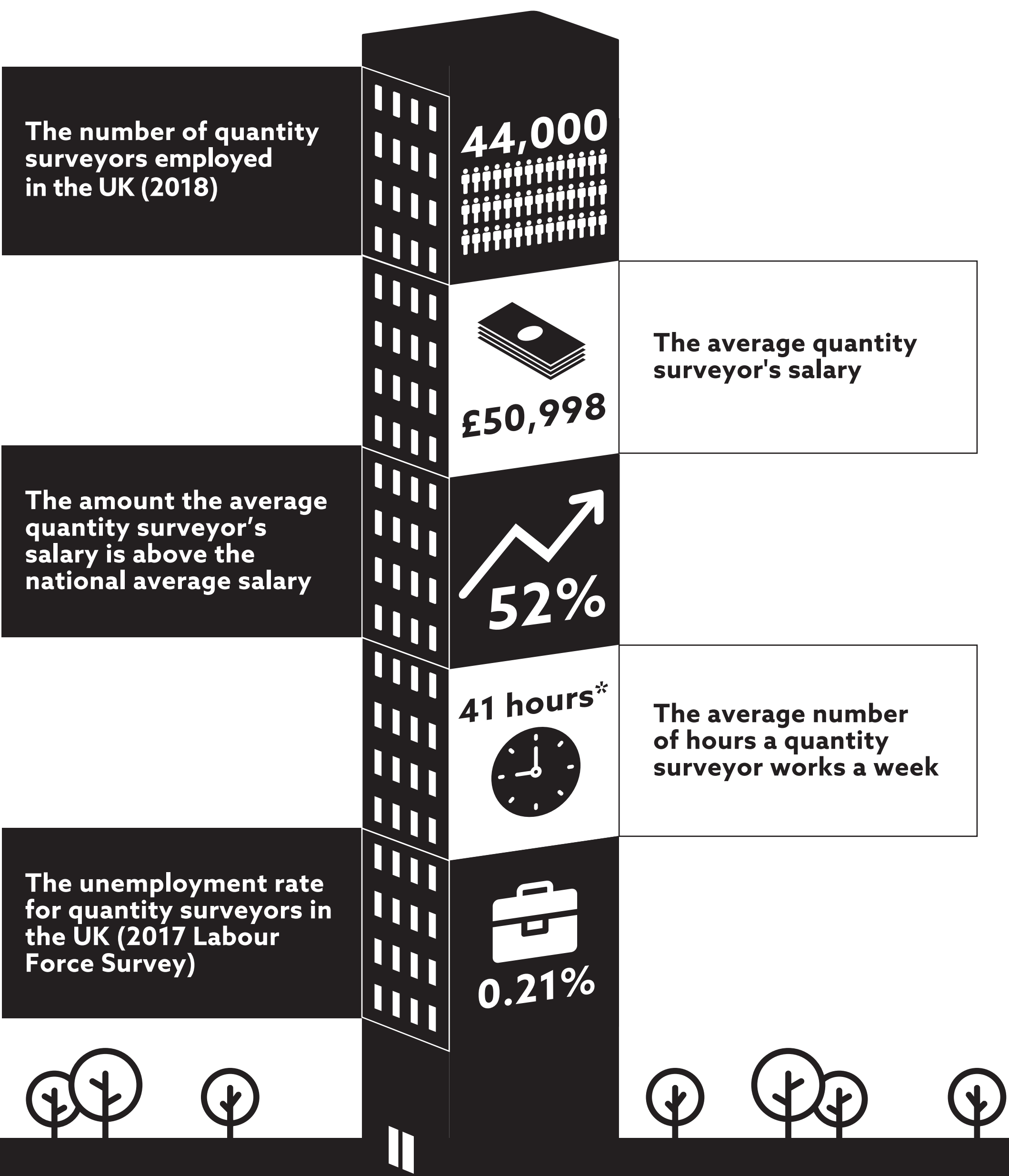
We take a closer look at the in-demand profession.



Quantity surveyors are responsible for managing the contractual and financial aspects of building and civil engineering projects, from start to finish.

They are employed by various organisations including:

- Private practices
- Contractors
- Subcontractors
- Housing developers
- Local and central government bodies
- Large retail and commercial organisations



How in demand are quantity surveyors?

In 2017, QS shortages were at their highest level since the recession in 2008. The demand continues today.

These shortages are a result of:



Skills Gap



Labour Shortages



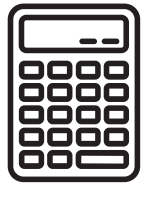
Financial Constraints



Lack of Experience



Responsibilities of a quantity surveyor



Managing cash flow and spend to ensure jobs are completed on time, within budget and meet design, building and legal requirements



Preparing tenders and arranging, appointing and managing subcontractors and suppliers



Producing and issuing contract documentation on behalf on the employer



Completing development feasibility, cost, risk and value analysis reports on projects



Agreeing final accounts and advising upon contractual claims for completed projects

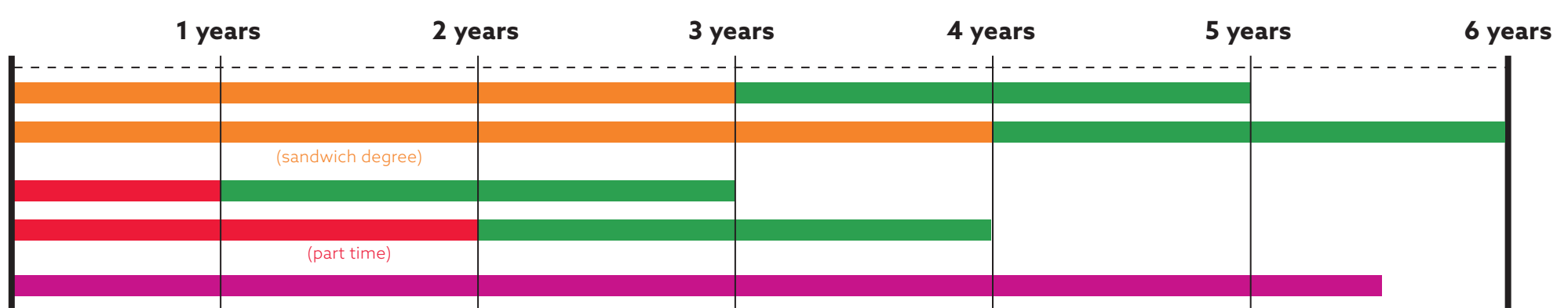


Advising on design and procurement options

Skills and knowledge needed by a quantity surveyor

- Strong numeracy and financial skills
- Excellent communication and negotiation abilities
- Innovative thinking and problem solving capabilities
- The ability to think methodically and logically
- Strong organisational skills
- Expert knowledge of health & safety and legal matters surrounding building and construction
- Leadership and management skills
- Business planning skills
- Conflict avoidance, management and knowledge of dispute resolution procedures
- Data management
- Diversity, inclusion and teamworking
- Strong ethics, and an ability to work within set rules of conduct and professionalism
- An understanding of accounting principles and procedures

How long does it take to become a chartered quantity surveyor?



You could gain an undergraduate degree in Quantity Surveying in a minimum of **three years full time** or in four years as part of a sandwich degree, which includes a year out in industry.

If you already have a degree in a non-cognate subject, you could gain a postgraduate qualification in Quantity Surveying in **one year full time** or two years part time. You could then enter the industry as a graduate quantity surveyor.

For both these pathways, you would need to also complete at least **24 months** of on-the-job training as a graduate trainee quantity surveyor. After this, you can sit your Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to become a fully chartered QS.

You could also start your career as an apprentice. This would take approximately **five and a half years**, but would include the APC qualification as part of your training. You would gain chartered status upon successful completion.

*Dependant upon employer and demands of projects. At high demand and peak times, you may be expected to work longer hours but this is often balanced out by employers allowing staff to take time off in lieu.

Information provided by:

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Thatcher Associates
Eden Scott
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Russell Taylor

Sources:
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