

Careers in the NI Construction Industry



What is it?

The construction industry covers the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure projects such as bridges, roads, tunnels, waterways, etc.

Construction boasts a wide variety of careers including skilled trades, IT, marketing, project management, design and much more.

Construction needs people with creative, technical, management and practical skills.

Whatever your role is in the industry, if it's as a bricklayer or plasterer, civil engineer, architect or construction manager, every team member is as important as the next. So whether your talent is working with your head or your hands, you can be sure there's a career in construction for you.

Choose a career in construction and you won't be starting out on your own. You'll be joining a team of specialist people all working together to build a strong, long-lasting future. Join one of Northern Ireland's largest industries and you'll have chosen a career that's challenging, exciting and rewarding.

What do I need?

There are many ways you can get into construction, and the industry welcomes everyone from newcomers to people with some experience to career changers.

The skills and qualifications needed vary by occupation and range from apprenticeships and NVQs to HNDs, degrees and professional qualifications.

The majority of trades require a minimum NVQ Level 2 or above and professional occupations usually require a degree level qualification or equivalent.

Whether you go to college, learn on site, or go to university you'll obtain specialist training for your chosen career.

Your career in any area in construction will require commitment and enthusiasm.

Contact your local further education college or university for course information and entry criteria.

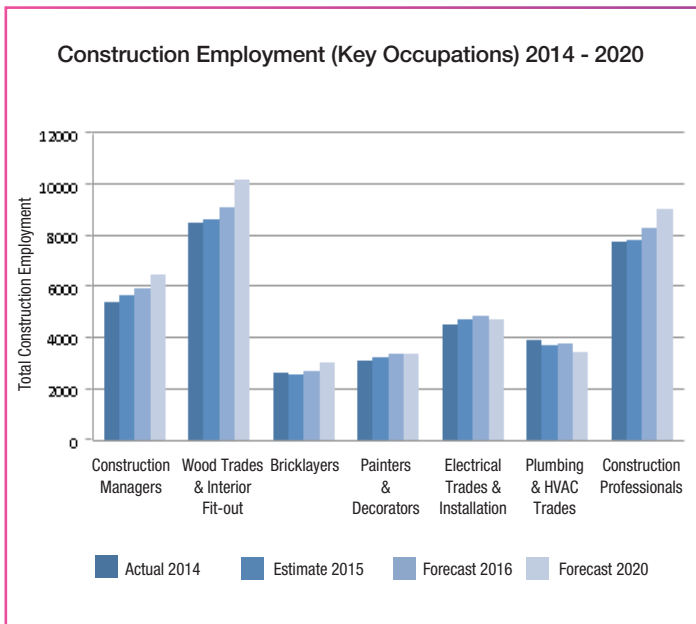
What are the Opportunities?

Over the next 5 years to 2020, the demand is projected to be strongest in some managerial/supervisory and professional occupations, especially construction project managers, supervisors and architects. The largest trade annual recruitment requirement is for bricklayers, plant operatives, carpenters & joiners and plasterers; although for some occupations there will be no appreciable requirement over the forecast period.¹

Indicative of an upturn is that the proportion of construction employers facing difficulties finding suitable staff continues to increase (21%, up from just 3% in 2013).²

Current and Future Trends

Northern Ireland is projected to see annual average output growth of 3% over the 2016-2020 period. This output growth rate should generate an annual average employment growth of 1.5% over the forecast period leading to an annual average recruitment requirement of 1760 from 2016 to 2020, mainly to replace those leaving the sector, due to retirement etc¹.



	2014	2015	2016	2020
Total Employment	60,060	61,220	63,540	65,880



Things to Consider

Working in construction you will:

- Make a real difference to the environment from city regeneration to ensuring essential facilities are available.
- Have access to a huge range of training and respected professional qualifications at all levels.
- Have opportunities to progress and/or travel and work throughout the UK, Ireland and/or further afield.
- Work in an environment that is constantly changing – you may spend some time working in the office and some time working outdoors.
- Obtain job satisfaction knowing that you helped build something that will last a lifetime or longer.
- Have the potential to become self-employed in your chosen occupation.

What are the Wages?

	Annual Gross Pay ³
Quantity Surveyor	£24,938
Architect	£31,651
Civil Engineer	£27,646
Plasterer	£22,286
Carpenter & Joiner	£21,000

What to do Next

Click on the following links for further information:

www.citbni.org.uk/careers

For more information on careers within the Northern Ireland construction industry.

www.goconstruct.org

'Go Construct' offers UK wide advice to people considering a career in the industry.

If you need help on choosing a career, going to college or university, training opportunities, or finding a job, contact the careers service:

Online: www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers

Telephone: 0300 200 7820

This dynamic industry presents work that is full of diversity and challenges; with the changing face of construction, it's a great time to be able to make a contribution. What you get out of a career depends on you.

Did you Know?

1. Women are under-represented in construction, particularly within the trade occupations.
2. There is a GCSE in Construction & the Built Environment and is currently offered in 33 schools across Northern Ireland.
3. There are careers in built heritage, sustainable construction and film and television set construction.
4. The total value of construction output in Northern Ireland is forecast to be £2.7bn in 2012 prices by 2020.¹
5. Construction is projected to have the fifth highest growth of employment in the period 2015-2025 from 20 industry sectors as detailed in the NI Skills Barometer.⁴
6. Construction employs around 2.5 million people in the UK - that means that one in every ten jobs is in construction.

How I did it...

Jordan Jeffers Painting & Decorating

Jordan was always interested in painting from model oil kits when younger to helping the neighbours with small painting jobs. It was this interest that inspired him to enrol onto the Level 3 Diploma in Painting and Decorating. Speaking about the course Jordan said, "I really enjoyed the course, the lecturer took time to ensure we knew what we were doing and I enjoyed learning about the special finishes such as graining and marbelising."



Jordan has gained a lot of experience through his course which gave him the opportunity to enter into skills competitions. Jordan was successful in gaining gold and bronze medals in the Skillbuild NI National Finals which allowed him to enter the UK Skills Finals in which he achieved a gold medal. Jordan said, "I have gained a lot of experience through the competitions I have taken part in. They have improved my skills and helped me be a lot tidier and precise about my work. It also has given me the opportunity to showcase my skills through social media."

Jordan is employed by BMK Decorators and he is involved in all aspects of painting and decorating focusing on both indoor and outdoor projects, wallpapering and some special finishes.

On giving advice to anyone pursuing this career Jordan said, "You need to have a keen interest in your trade, have the right

Pamela Anderson Architectural Technician

Pamela is a recent graduate of the BSc in Architectural Technology and Management from Ulster University, having started her construction education by completing a Foundation Degree in Architectural Technology and



Management at Belfast Metropolitan College. She has just completed a 3 month internship in a small architect's office as an Architectural Assistant and has been offered a fulltime position as a result. Her internship included completing Planning Permission Applications and Building Control Applications, building models, producing sketch proposals, carrying out surveys, producing drawings for feasibility studies, and helping with the general running of the office.

Pamela enjoys being able to impact the built environment and having the opportunity to work on bespoke projects. "The problem solving skills that are required also make the job interesting and make sure that no project is exactly the same. Also, I enjoy the fact that you get to meet and work with so many different professionals within the industry during a project."

Pamela's advice to women thinking of entering a similar career in construction is "Do not be put off by the workload that is required of you when you are studying in University. Also do not be intimidated by the prospect of having to put your own ideas forward and ensure that they are heard."

Total Employment by Occupation - Northern Ireland

Construction Industry	Total Employment (NI)			
	Actual 2014	Estimate 2015	Forecast 2016 2020	
Senior, executive, and business process managers	3,600	3,680	3,730	3,580
Construction project managers	980	1,040	1,090	1,200
Other construction process managers	4,400	4,630	4,840	5,240
Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff (e.g. Finance, Receptionists)	6,200	6,580	6,800	6,770
Construction trades supervisors	940	940	990	1,100
Wood trades and interior fit-out	8,500	8,620	9,090	10,180
Bricklayers	2,620	2,550	2,690	3,050
Building envelope specialists (e.g. Cladders, Curtain wallers)	1,100	1,060	1,090	1,120
Painters and decorators	3,060	3,240	3,360	3,330
Plasterers and dry Liners	1,910	2,030	2,090	2,080
Roofers	1,000	1,070	1,130	1,250
Floorers	230	250	260	270
Glaziers	510	540	560	550
Specialist building operatives nec*	730	780	810	810
Scaffolders	260	250	260	270
Plant operatives	1,600	1,610	1,660	1,710
Plant mechanics/fitters	790	750	800	850
Steel erectors/structural fabrication	210	210	210	190
Labourers nec*	4,070	3,900	3,950	3,790
Electrical trades and installation	4,480	4,730	4,850	4,730
Plumbing & HVAC trades	3,910	3,720	3,740	3,440
Logistics (e.g. Heavy good vehicle drivers)	510	510	540	600
Civil engineering operatives nec*	490	520	520	480
Non-construction operatives	210	210	220	230
Civil engineers	2,180	2,160	2,250	2,250
Other construction professionals and technical staff (e.g. Town planners, Draughtspersons)	2,740	2,850	3,080	3,590
Architects	1,780	1,770	1,870	2,060
Surveyors	1,050	1,020	1,060	1,160
Total	60,060	61,220	63,540	65,880

Source: CSN, Experian 1

* Not elsewhere classified

Annual Recruitment Requirement by Occupation - Northern Ireland

Construction Industry	Annual Recruitment Requirement 2016 - 2020
Occupation	
Senior, executive, and business process managers	-
Construction project managers	110
Other construction process managers	130
Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff (e.g. Finance, Receptionists)	-
Construction trades supervisors	<50
Wood trades and interior fit-out	170
Bricklayers	270
Building envelope specialists (e.g. Cladders, Curtain wallers)	<50
Painters and decorators	110
Plasterers and dry Liners	130
Roofers	90
Floorers	<50
Glaziers	-
Specialist building operatives nec*	-
Scaffolders	-
Plant operatives	170
Plant mechanics/fitters	60
Steel erectors/structural fabrication	-
Labourers nec*	-
Electrical trades and installation	-
Plumbing & HVAC trades	50
Logistics (e.g. Heavy good vehicle drivers)	<50
Civil engineering operatives nec*	<50
Civil engineers	<50
Other construction professionals and technical staff (e.g. Town planners, Draughtspersons)	180
Architects	190
Surveyors	-
Total	1,760

Source: CSN, Experian 1

* Not elsewhere classified

Data Sources

1. Construction Skills Network (CSN) Northern Ireland Labour Market Intelligence Report 2016-2020
<http://www.citbni.org.uk/CITB/files/cc/cc3decac-b362-4abc-8751-5da5d11b47bb.pdf>
2. Employer Panel Consultation (EPC), Wave 15 Report August 2015, a CITB NI Report prepared by IFF Research
3. Royal Institute of British Architects <http://www.ribaappointments.com/staticpages/10290/salary-guide/>
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Payscale http://www.payscale.com/research/UK/Job=Joiner/Hourly_Rate/d1ddd421/Belfast
4. NI Skills Barometer Findings Report "Skills in Demand" November 2015
<https://www.delni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/del/Skills%20Barometer%20-%20Findings%20Report%20-%2020241115.pdf>



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