

Careers in the NI Construction Industry



Construction - 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 whatever your talent is, 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.

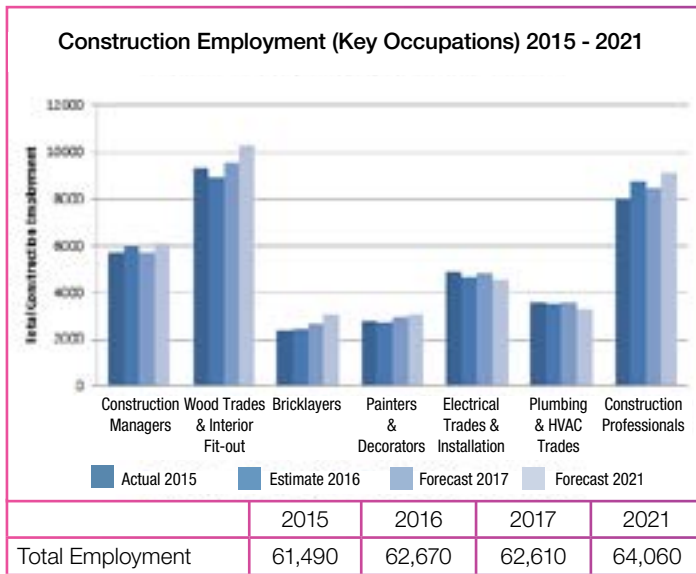
Your career in any area in construction will require commitment and enthusiasm.

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

What are the Opportunities?

Over the next 5 years to 2021, the demand is projected to be strongest in core trades such as roofers, bricklayers and wood trades and interior fit-out. The best prospects on the managerial side are for construction project managers and on the professional side for architects and other construction professionals and technical staff. 17 out of the 28 occupational categories within construction are expected to see growth to 2021.¹

Indicative of an upturn in the construction industry is that the proportion of construction employers facing difficulties finding suitable staff continues to increase (30%, up from just 3% in 2013).²



Current and Future Trends

Northern Ireland is projected to see annual average output growth of 1.6% over the 2017-2021 period. This output growth rate should generate an annual average employment growth of 0.4% over the forecast period leading to an annual average recruitment requirement of 710 from 2017 to 2021, mainly to replace those leaving the sector, due to retirement etc¹.



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?

	Average Annual Gross Pay ³
Quantity Surveyor	£25,943
Architect	£35,608
Civil Engineer	£27,252
Plasterer	£24,449
Carpenter & Joiner	£28,401

Above information correct at time of print

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

Looking to become an Engineer? Start your journey by doing a Civil Engineering Technician course. To find out more visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/work-civil-engineering-apprenticeship>

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 34 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 2.52bn in 2013 prices by 2021.¹
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...

Ashley McGrath Quantity Surveyor

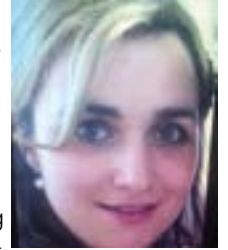
Ashley McGrath is a Quantity Surveyor currently employed by McCue Crafted Fit.

McCue Crafted Fit are specialists in high quality refurbishment and fitting out and have been established for over 60 years. Company projects include Kaspar's Seafood Bar & Grill within the Savoy Hotel, London, The Shard and Trinity Square. The company also has a marine division which recently completed fit-out works to the Queen Mary 2 cruise ship.

Ashley studied BSc (Hons) Building Surveying at Ulster University and also holds a Post Graduate qualification in Commercial Management. She is involved in many projects within McCue Crafted Fit including, the cruise Ship Queen Victoria, Italy, Danske Bank Donegal Square West, Belfast and Santander, Saltcoates.

Speaking on how she entered into a career in construction Ashley said, "I was always interested in construction and engineering by way of influence from my Grandad and one of my brothers; however I wasn't confident it was an achievable goal for me, therefore my route into construction was not direct. It wasn't until I had attained a Triple Distinction in a BTEC

National Diploma in a different discipline that I realised the goal was within my reach. I was advised that I would be a suitable candidate for the Building Surveying Degree Programme at Ulster University. As part of my Degree programme I completed placements within Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Greater Belfast Development both of which were very insightful and introduced me to the commercial side of the industry which led to my Post Graduate qualification in Commercial Management."



Speaking about her job at McCue Crafted Fit Ashley said, "On a day to day basis my job entails managing all the costs relating to the projects I am working on, including work on and off site, liaising with other construction professionals and the clients such as the Contracts Managers, Site Managers and Architects.

The main aspects of my job includes procurement and payment of sub-contractors, carrying out site measures, valuation of works completed, project cost forecasts, cost variance reports and implementation of change management procedures by way of tracking variations. I really enjoy my job, no two days are the same, each project is unique in its own right and I get the opportunity to travel."

Jordan Jeffers Painting & Decorating

Jordan was always interested in painting from model 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 where 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 attitude and motivation and it's great for your CV giving you the opportunity to work on different jobs and travel."

Total Employment by Occupation - Northern Ireland

Construction Industry	Total Employment (NI)			
	Actual 2015	Estimate 2016	Forecast 2017 2021	
Senior, executive, and business process managers	3,300	3,560	3,400	3,340
Construction project managers	900	990	930	1,030
Other construction process managers	4,840	5,000	4,810	5,080
Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff (e.g. Finance, Receptionists)	6,830	7,140	6,700	6,420
Construction trades supervisors	1,040	1,060	970	1,070
Wood trades and interior fit-out	9,340	8,920	9,590	10,280
Bricklayers	2,410	2,480	2,680	3,080
Building envelope specialists (e.g. Cladders, Curtain wallers)	1,050	1,070	1,130	1,210
Painters and decorators	2,810	2,770	2,980	3,080
Plasterers and dry Liners	2,100	1,940	2,030	1,970
Roofers	920	900	970	1,130
Floorers	250	250	260	270
Glaziers	560	530	550	520
Specialist building operatives nec*	670	650	700	720
Scaffolders	280	310	280	280
Plant operatives	1,760	1,880	1,780	1,760
Plant mechanics/fitters	720	690	750	790
Steel erectors/structural fabrication	200	190	200	180
Labourers nec*	3,740	4,000	3,730	3,520
Electrical trades and installation	4,920	4,690	4,830	4,560
Plumbing & HVAC trades	3,590	3,530	3,610	3,330
Logistics (e.g. Heavy good vehicle drivers)	490	530	520	580
Civil engineering operatives nec*	540	590	540	530
Non-construction operatives	190	210	200	210
Civil engineers	2,400	2,640	2,480	2,430
Other construction professionals and technical staff (e.g. Town planners, Draughtspersons)	3,010	3,310	3,240	3,630
Architects	1,630	1,780	1,720	1,950
Surveyors	1,000	1,060	1,030	1,110
Total	61,490	62,670	62,610	64,060

Source: CSN, Experian 1

* Not elsewhere classified

Annual Recruitment Requirement by Occupation - Northern Ireland

Construction Industry	Annual Recruitment Requirement 2017-2021
Occupation	
Senior, executive, and business process managers	-
Construction Project managers	<50
Other Construction process managers	70
Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff (e.g. Accountants, Receptionists)	-
Construction trades Supervisors	-
Wood trades and interior fit-out	140
Bricklayers	170
Building envelope specialists (e.g. Cladders, Curtain wallers)	<50
Painters and decorators	50
Plasterers and dry Liners	50
Roofers	50
Floorers	<50
Glaziers	-
Specialist building operatives nec*	-
Scaffolders	-
Plant operatives	<50
Plant mechanics/fitters	<50
Steel erectors/structural	-
Labourers nec*	-
Electrical trades and installation	-
Plumbing & Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Trades	-
Logistics (e.g. Heavy good vehicle drivers)	-
Civil engineering operatives nec*	-
Civil engineers	-
Other construction professionals and technical staff (e.g. Town planners, Draughtspersons)	70
Architects	-
Surveyors	-
Total	710

Source: CSN, Experian 1

* Not elsewhere classified

Data Sources

1. Construction Skills Network (CSN) Northern Ireland Labour Market Intelligence Report 2017-2021
<http://www.citbni.org.uk/CITB/files/57/578f58d1-5872-49e9-8422-7d6f3289cbd0.pdf>
2. Employer Attitudes and Motivations regarding Learning and Training in Northern Ireland, Wave 16
<http://www.citbni.org.uk/CITB/files/86/8658f0ad-0b18-475f-b0ef-45f1710eed1d.pdf>
3. Payscale http://www.payscale.com/research/UK/Job=Quantity_Surveyor/Salary/bc6f8c98/Belfast
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Mysalary <https://www.totaljobs.com/salary-checker/average-plasterer-salary>
Payscale <https://www.adzuna.co.uk/jobs/salaries/northern-ireland/joiner>
4. NI Skills Barometer Findings Report "Skills in Demand" November 2015
<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/del/NI%20Skills%20Barometer%20Summary%20Findings%20Report%20241115%20Issued.pdf>

LinkedIn  

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