

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FACTSHEET: NORTHERN IRELAND



NORTHERN IRELAND

OVERVIEW AND PROSPECTS



In 2011 it is expected that around 61,000 people will be working in the NI construction industry. Over the next five years the industry will need an average of 1,050 new workers each year. There is a huge variety of careers to choose from, ranging from trades such as bricklayers and joiners to professional occupations including architects and civil engineers. The majority of trades within the industry require a minimum NVQ Level 2 or above and professional occupations normally require at least a degree level qualification or equivalent.

OCCUPATIONS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY

	Total Employment		Annual Recruitment Requirement
	Actual 2009	Forecast 2015	
Senior, executive and business process managers	1,260	1,130	70
Construction managers	3,130	2,740	Under 50
Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff e.g. IT Technicians, Management Accountants	7,890	7,310	-
Wood trades and interior fit-out	11,340	10,950	160
Bricklayers	3,280	3,130	70
Building envelope specialists e.g. Cladders, Curtain Wallers	2,230	2,250	Under 50
Painters and decorators	2,730	2,410	-
Plasterers and dry liners	3,000	2,740	Under 50
Roofers	1,990	1,980	Under 50
Floorers	610	520	Under 50
Glaziers	1,010	1,100	Under 50
Specialist building operatives nec*	1,930	2,040	80
Scaffolders	580	460	90
Plant operatives	4,010	3,250	-
Plant mechanics/fitters	810	920	70
Steel erectors/structural	1,110	920	Under 50
Labourers nec*	3,810	3,290	200
Electrical trades and installation	6,920	6,480	-
Plumbing and Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Trades	4,080	4,110	80
Logistics e.g. Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers	1,050	830	-
Civil engineering operatives nec*	590	450	-
Non-construction operatives	590	540	-
Civil engineers	2,460	2,470	60
Other construction professionals and technical staff e.g. Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical and Design Engineers and Technicians	2,640	2,350	-
Architects	1,130	1,140	Under 50
Surveyors	610	540	50
Total	70,790	66,050	1,050

Source: ONS, CSN, Experian

* not elsewhere classified

SKILLS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are various routes for people wanting to get into the construction industry. The skills and qualifications needed vary by occupation and range from apprenticeships and NVQs to HNDs, degrees and professional qualifications. For further information on the skills and qualifications needed for different occupations within the construction industry go to www.bconstructive.co.uk or www.careersserviceni.com

CURRENT VACANCIES AND SKILLS SHORTAGES

In 2009, around a quarter of employers in the Northern Ireland construction industry had attempted to recruit skilled staff during the previous twelve months and 10% of employers surveyed had experienced difficulties recruiting during the previous 12 months. Wood trades (e.g. joiners), general labourers and plant operatives were some of the main occupations mentioned that respondents had difficulty in recruiting into. Construction professional services firms¹ were much more likely to have experienced recruitment difficulties during the previous 12 months than the contracting side of the industry.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.....

- The average gross weekly earnings for a construction tradesperson was £531.0 in 2010²
- There were approximately 1,200 first year enrolments on construction related apprenticeships in 2010, the majority of which are being undertaken at a further education college
- There is a strong tendency for career progression to lead towards self-employment in the construction industry, particularly in the main construction trades – approximately 30,000 people working within the sector in 2010 were self-employed
- Women are currently under-represented in the construction industry, with women accounting for around 10% of the total NI construction workforce, the majority of whom (98%) work in non-manual roles
- The total value of construction output in 2009 was £2.75 billion³

USEFUL LINKS

• Careers Service NI	Provides an impartial all-age careers information, advice and guidance service: www.careersserviceni.com
• CITB-ConstructionSkills NI	Encourages the adequate training of those employed or intending to be employed in the construction industry and aims to improve the skills and productivity across the whole of the construction industry in NI: www.citbcnsi.org.uk
• bConstructive	Provides information on careers in construction, including case-studies, entry criteria and qualifications: www.bconstructive.co.uk
• JobCentre Online	Contains vacancies currently notified to Jobs and Benefit offices: www.jobcentreonline.com

Information in this fact sheet is provided by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI. Last updated February 2011.

¹ Architectural, Building Services Engineering, Civil and Structural Engineering and Quantity Surveying are examples of some of the main activities of construction professional services firms

² NI Construction Bulletin, Q3 2010, based on full-time male employees

³ NI Construction Bulletin, Q3 2010, 2005 prices and seasonally adjusted