



# GRANTS & LEVY

CITB NI offers direct grants to our registered employers for support in a wide range of training and qualifications for their employees working in Northern Ireland. Whether you're training new recruits, developing established staff or looking for improvements in other areas of your business, we can offer advice on training and grants to meet your needs. CITB NI has announced new changes to its Grants Scheme to help increase the number of businesses taking up available funding to provide more training for local employees.

These main changes are.

- Grant claims can only be submitted for employees who reside, work in Northern Ireland and are declared on the employers Annual Return Form.

- Levy payers can claim grant up to the value of 100% of their levy paid.
- All registered employers below the levy threshold of £80,000 are eligible to claim grant to the value of £500

- There is no limit on the amount of apprentice grants that can be claimed by registered employers.
- New restructured apprentice grant. The new grant will reward employers on an annual

basis for retaining an employed apprentice and for the apprentice achieving the required qualifications.

- Funding from bonus grants has been redirected to support training

The grant application is simple and offers flexibility to claim whilst you train. Full details of the scheme can be found at [www.citbni.org.uk/grants](http://www.citbni.org.uk/grants)



# CITB NI TRAINING

## Training on the Move with CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit

CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit (MTU) provides training on site to all registered in-scope construction employers. It is a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work whilst also helping employers meet their legal responsibility.

The MTU can train up to 20 people at one time. You are not however restricted to 20 people as the Unit can also accommodate smaller numbers for training purposes.

In the 2016/17 training year registered in-scope employers can book the Mobile Training Unit Free of Charge. A cost of £300/day will be applied to those who are registered but do not pay a levy.



Course duration times range from 3hrs to 1.5hours so with a full day hire you have the capacity to train more.

As long as you are based in Northern Ireland, the MTU

can come to you. The unit travels across Northern Ireland delivering short duration health and safety courses such as confined spaces, excavations, manual handling and working at heights encouraging the industry to build safely.

Booking is easy, you can contact us on **028 90 824205** or **07801 598 520** and we can facilitate your booking and answer any queries you have. Alternatively you can email **[Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk)**

# CITB NI TRAINING

## Scaffolding

We are continuing with the CISRS scaffolding training courses at Nutts Corner Training Centre. These courses include a five-day Basic Access Systems Erector Course (BASE) and a two-day Tube & Fitting Basic and an Advanced Scaffold Inspection course. On successful completion of these courses the relevant CISRS Scaffolding card will be issued. These courses run alongside the existing CISRS programme of Scaffolding Part One, Part Two and Advanced courses working towards achievement of an NVQ and obtaining a Scaffolding or Advanced Scaffolding Card.



For more information on courses, contact [Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk) tel: **028 9082 5466**

## Undergraduate Development Programme

CITB NI offer an Undergraduate Development Programme for construction and built environment students currently on their placement year. This programme covers topics such as core management, craft awareness, team building and health and safety. CITB NI registered employers who enrol their placement students on this programme are eligible to receive £100 for each day of the programme that is completed.

For more information contact [Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.watt@citbni.org.uk)



# CITB NI TRAINING

## Site Supervisor Development Programme

We are currently running a Pilot NVQ 4 Construction Development Programme. 15 participants are working hard on half day workshops focusing on planning and managing work, managing people and resources in the workplace, maintaining legalities and standards of workmanship. The programme will help develop technical skills and knowledge in site supervision and all participants will achieve their NVQ Level 4 and a recognised route to CSR/CSCS Supervisors Gold Card. The participants were the first to use the brand new virtual training facility VET360 as part of the practical elements of the course.

### Leader in Construction

A group of enthusiastic future leaders from the Northern Ireland construction industry are undertaking CITB NI's first Leader in Construction programme which is delivered by Parity Professionals and sponsored by Specify Magazine, Tughans and Farrans.

The programme is tailored to the construction sector and will assist the industry to meet current and future challenges. It will develop the strategic and leadership behaviours required at a senior level for both small or family run businesses and large multi-nationals and will



help build leadership capability within participating companies and individuals.

Companies will benefit from leaders equipped with the skills to increase sales and market share, analyse environmental conditions and set

strategic direction with better connections both locally and at European level.

**Find out more on the Leader in Construction Programme**



# OTHER NEWS

## Building a career in Construction

After a difficult five years, with the recession biting hard for Northern Ireland construction employers, the future for construction in the Province is finally looking brighter. Private housing, infrastructure and industrial work are all expected to help push the sector towards growth and around 1760 new construction workers will be needed yearly over the next five years in Northern Ireland.

We have developed a textbook to support the delivery of the GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment qualification. This subject has been developed by CCEA to give students a realistic

understanding and experience of Construction that will enable them to develop an authentic working relationship with the real world-of-work. This is a growing topic of choice with 545 pupils sitting the exam in 2015 and 33 schools now offering the subject at GCSE level. The textbook will assist with the preparation of Unit 1 – The Construction Industry for the 21st Century with at least a chapter devoted to each major section of the specification.

We have a team of 12 construction ambassadors who are working in industry and provide careers talks to local schools and colleges



on request. This gives a personal insight into what is involved in the real life job and allows the students to ask relevant questions.

For more information on careers in construction log on to **[www.citbni.org.uk/careers](http://www.citbni.org.uk/careers)**

# OTHER NEWS



## CITB NI: Bringing Training to Life

CITB NI is bringing construction training to a whole new level with VET 360 - virtual environment training facility at Nutts Corner Training centre.

VET360 is an innovative new tool that provides a unique and memorable immersive experience which gives the user instant access to construction sites in a workplace environment.

Used as a training tool VET360 allows greater understanding and awareness of the work location. Viewers can experience real time situations and identify hazards in complete safety raising awareness and understanding of health

& safety issues. Purpose built advanced 360° camera technology is used to create customised imagery allowing the viewer to be placed into the middle of real site locations without the logistical and safety problems involved in workplace visits. The specialised technology creates an immersive experience which makes the user feel as if they are actually on the site.

Interested in experiencing VET360 and see how it could transform your training?

Contact Lorraine Fisher

**02890 824202** email:

**[lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk)**

for more information.

# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## The Construction Indicator

### An Update of Northern Ireland (NI) Construction Industry Performance Indicators | Issue 09 - July 2016

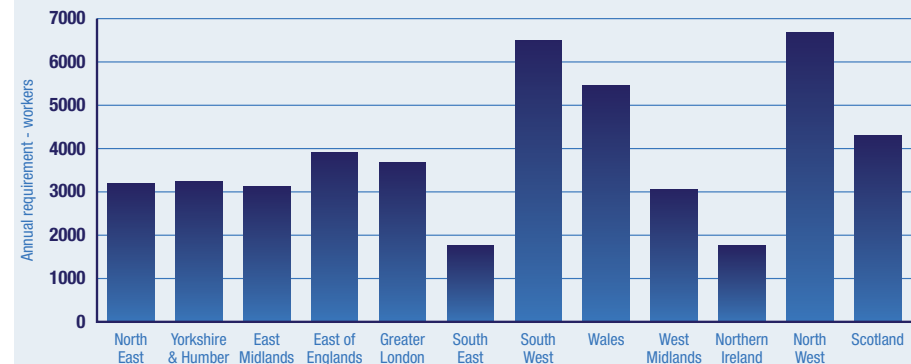
#### Construction Employment

- 2015 saw the first year of construction employment growth in NI since 2008, with a rise of nearly 2% and NI construction employment is expected to grow at an annual average rate of 1.5% over the next five years, from an estimated 63,540 in 2016 to almost 66,000 by 2020<sup>1</sup>.
- The NI industry will need to recruit an average of 1,760 new employees each year to realise

forecasted construction output, with the annual recruitment requirement highest for bricklayers, architects, construction professional and technical staff, plant operatives and wood trades.

- The number of unemployed construction related claimants has decreased by 24% from June 2015 (5,210) to June 2016 (3,960)<sup>2</sup>.

UK Annual Recruitment requirement (ARR) by region 2016-2020



Source: CSN, Experian

<sup>1</sup> Industry Insights Report for NI 2016-2020, Construction Skills Network

<sup>2</sup> NISRA, Department of Finance - July 2016

<sup>3</sup> NI Construction Bulletin, Q1 2016, published 21/7/16, Department of Finance



# INDUSTRY REPORTS

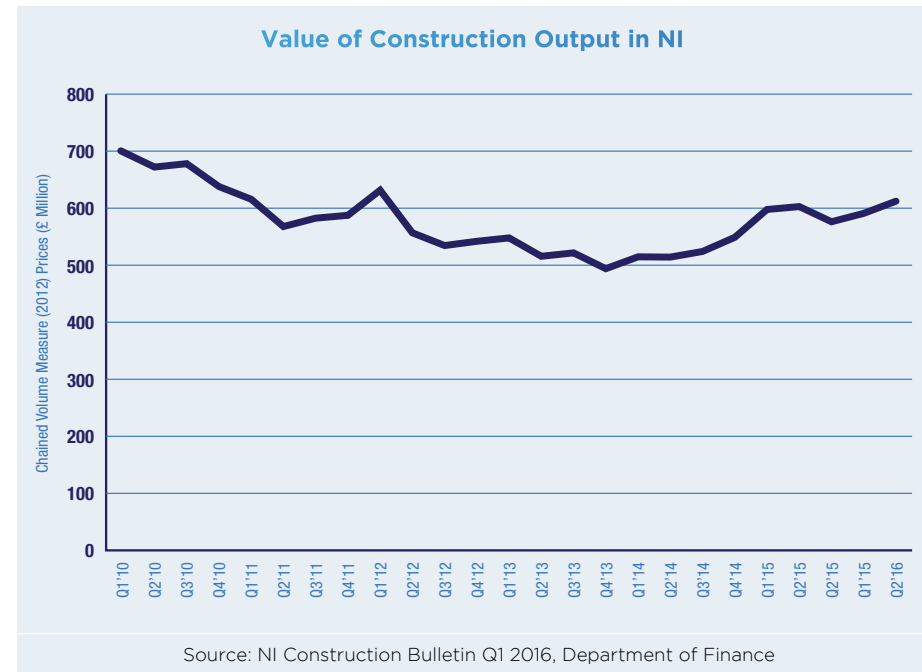
## The Construction Indicator

### Construction Output

- In both 2014 and 2015 construction output in NI experienced growth after a long period of severe contraction. Construction output increased by 12.6% in 2015 when compared to 2014 output levels<sup>3</sup>.
- Since 2014 there has been a modest upward trend in construction output. The total volume of construction output

in the first quarter of 2016 increased by 3.4% compared with Q4 2015 and was 2.3% higher compared to the same quarter in 2015.

- NI is projected to see annual average output growth of 3% over the next five years. Growth is expected across all sectors, with the commercial, public non-housing and housing sectors being strongest.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Industry Insights Report for NI 2016-2020, Construction Skills Network

<sup>2</sup> NISRA, Department of Finance – July 2016

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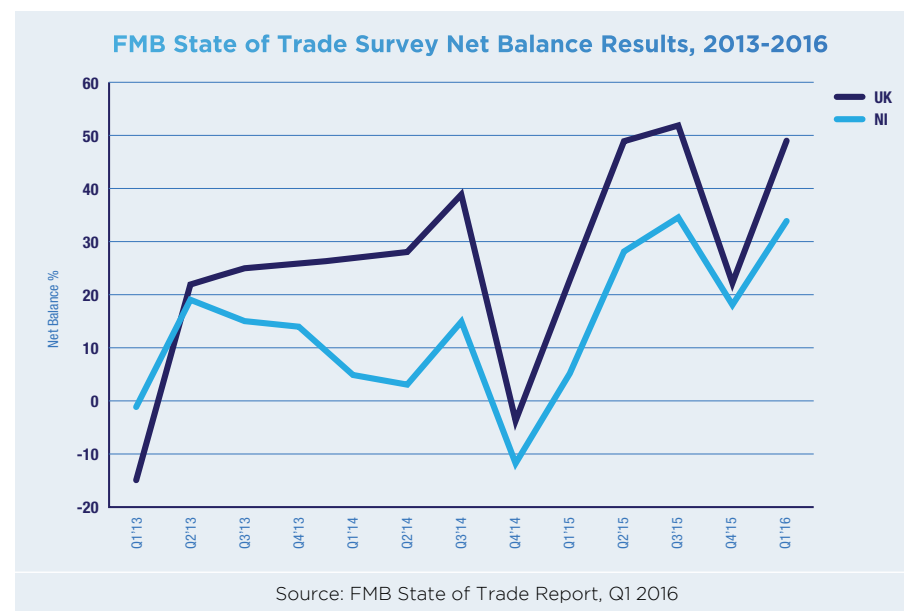
# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## The Construction Indicator

### State of Trade

- Industry state of trade reports confirms an improving situation for the NI construction industry. The FMB's State of Trade Survey show that NI's net balance has remained positive for all but one of the last eight quarters reported, with the net balance for the Province soaring by 16% to +34 for Q1 2016, in comparison to +15 for the UK as a whole.

- The Q1 2016 RICS UK Construction Market Survey shows workloads continuing to rise throughout the UK, with all regions seeing a rise in activity levels. In contrast to the latest FMB State of Trade results, the RICS Survey shows NI continuing to lag behind all other UK areas in terms of growth. However firms in NI are benefiting from strong growth elsewhere in the UK with respondents to the survey, on average, conducting 25% of their workload outside NI.



<sup>4</sup> Based on a composite indicator combining workload, expected workload & enquiries questions, weighted by the firms' size. The net balance shows the difference between those saying higher & those saying lower for the three questions. Federation of Master Builders (FMB) State of Trade Survey Report, Q1 2016.

# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## The Construction Indicator

### New House Prices and Sales

- The total number of NI residential property sales in 2015 stood at 20,482, a decrease of 3.4% from the previous year but still almost double the sales recorded in 2010 (10,718). With regards to new house sales, 2014-15 saw a 6.1% increase in the number of National House Building Council (NHBC) new house sales in comparison to the previous year.
- Recent years show an upward trend in the number of new dwelling starts with 5,994 new dwelling starts in 2014-15,

almost 13% higher than in 2013-14 and the first three quarters of 2015-16 also confirms further growth in the number of new dwelling starts.

- The average price of a new dwelling in NI stood at £152,100 for the 2014-15 year, a 10% increase from the previous year and a change in trend after 6 previous years of consecutive decline in the average price of new dwellings.

For further information contact Karen Hunter at CITB NI via email: [Karen.hunter@citbni.org.uk](mailto:Karen.hunter@citbni.org.uk) or telephone: **028 90 824 233**

