# Small Business Research



# Introduction

Our role is to encourage the adequate training of those employed or intending to be employed in the construction industry and to improve the skills and productivity of the industry, to deliver a safe, professional and fully qualified workforce across the whole of the construction industry in Northern Ireland.

CITB NI carries out a regular programme of research to determine customer perceptions and satisfaction levels with CITB NI and its products and services, and to identify training needs. One particular finding that comes up repeatedly in research is that CITB NI does not do enough for small businesses, so a survey was commissioned to determine more about this issue.

## **Sample**



The sample consisted of **100 registered employers** who participated in a phone survey of approximately 10-12 minutes, followed by six depth interviews (10-20 minutes). All employers involved in the survey had less than 25 employees.

### **Key Info**

Research was carried out in July 2021 to determine what support CITB NI could offer small businesses and what their training needs are. The key takeaways are as follows;

## Respondents were asked what key areas presented major challenges for them currently:



Materials costs and shortages 76%

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Finding staff or workers / suitably skilled staff or workers

63%

More work than they can handle

35%



Brexit 35%



**Covid 19** 30%

#### In terms of the current, main training needs for companies, the following results were obtained:



General health and safety 55%



Mental health 33%



General IT



Management / leadership training 28% E

Finance 14%



Sales & Marketing

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#### In terms of technical / job specific training needs, the key needs were:



Technical / computer / CAD skills 25%



Equipment / machinery training 25%



Semi-skilled labourers / plant operators and site managers 15%

CITB NI was
perceived as being
aimed at large,
limited companies
with little relevance
to smaller companies
without employees.

There was a need for more information on regulations, legal and financial support.

Businesses were keen to be informed on future courses or training.



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