

Construction

Would you like a job where you can see the results of your hard work on a grand scale? You might like using your practical skills, or have ideas about how public areas should look. Or, you could be interested in technical skills or using machinery, or even planning how something could be built. Either way, the vast and rewarding construction industry has something to offer everyone.

Construction projects are often complex, where there can be up to 60 different jobs involved in one building project. They all have to be done properly, and in the right order, if the building – or structure – is going to be fit for purpose and safe.

The Scottish construction industry employs around 177,000 people, equating to around 6.6% of the Scottish workforce.

What areas can I work in?

There are over 150 occupations in construction and the built environment, in areas including: architecture, building technology and management, civil and structural engineering, construction crafts, landscape architecture, surveying and town and regional planning.

Jobs range from management to technician and craft roles, all requiring a wide variety of skills, and offering a wide range of opportunities and experience.

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- local authorities
- the Civil Service
- architectural and surveying companies
- colleges and training centres
- building contractors
- health authorities such as the NHS
- property developers.

What's the job market like?

From 2019 to 2023 it is predicted that employment in the Scottish construction industry will have small stable growth at a rate of 0.5% per year (but lower than the UK growth projection of 1.3% per year for this period). This shows that Scottish employment will see a slight increase from 228,200 in 2019 to 228,900 by 2023.

Public housing construction work in Scotland contributes greatly, with an annual average growth rate of 3.6%.

It is predicted that 2,790 extra workers will be needed annually from the period 2019-2023 in the Scottish

construction industry, an increase from 2,310 from the same quarter last year.

Demand for some trades and professions will be higher than others. Over the next 5 years, those most in demand in the UK are: Other construction process managers (3,420), Other professional and technical (3,260) and Wood trades and interior fit-out (2,380).

Employers take on school leavers as well as graduates across the wide range of careers available.

Facts and figures

- It is predicted that 13,950 new construction workers will be required in Scotland, with housing construction the key sector for growth. This covers public housing (3.6%), private housing (1.3%) and housing repair and maintenance (2.7%).
- The Scottish construction industry is to set to receive £78 million as part of a £230 million Return to Work package.
- Output in the Scottish construction industry decreased by 3.4% in the first quarter of 2020.
- The percentage of women working in the construction industry is around 14%.

Want to find out more?

CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) is the Sector Skills Council for construction industry. You can find more information about the sectors it covers and related careers and training pathways on the [CITB](#) website.

Sources

- Construction Skills Network (CSN) Report 2019-2023, [Construction Industry Training Board](#)
- [GoConstruct](#) website (June 2019)
- Project Scotland Magazine (June 2020)
- Scotland's GDP First Estimate, 2020 Quarter 1 - Key Findings (National Statistics) , [Scottish Government](#) website (17 June 2020)
- Fraser of Allander Institute (April 2020)