

## Building Technician

A building technician gives technical assistance to the professional staff, such as engineers and surveyors, on construction projects.

Sometimes the term assistant site manager or technician is used.

### The Work

You could be:

- drawing up plans – probably using computer-aided design (CAD) – for the senior construction and surveying staff
- calculating basic costs and passing them to the quantity surveyor to make the final estimate
- working with suppliers and negotiating prices to buy materials, equipment and labour
- making sure that the site complies with all health and safety regulations
- discussing local planning regulations with the building control surveyors from the local council
- supervising the craft workers and the operatives on site
- checking that progress is within planned completion dates and to budget
- attending, and sometimes chairing, meetings between contractors, building inspectors and clients
- perhaps specialising in one aspect of work, for example purchasing, while working under the supervision of the company buyer.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting salary for building technicians is around £18,000 to £22,000 a year, rising with experience to between £25,000 and £40,000 a year.

### Conditions

- You would spend most of your time in an office, which may be based on a building site, but you would also spend time visiting the site to oversee construction work.
- You may have to climb ladders or scaffolding.
- You would wear safety gear on site: hard hat, boots, overalls.
- You may have to work some evenings and weekends to meet project deadlines.
- You may have to live away from home from time to time.
- You might have to travel to different areas of the country.

### Getting In

There are several routes of entry.

- As a school leaver, you may enter through a Modern Apprenticeship with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). You may need subjects at National 5 including English, Maths and science or technological subjects, or Skills for Work Construction Crafts at National 5.
- Enter a construction company with a suitable Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND). Entry to an HNC or HND course usually requires 1-2 Highers including Maths and a science subject.
- You need to hold a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card or equivalent to work on a construction site.
- You need good knowledge of, and sometimes a qualification in, health and safety.

Look for jobs with building contractors, property developers, surveyors, civil engineering practices, local government, the Civil Service and health authorities.

## What Does It Take

You should have:

- good communication skills
- good IT skills and knowledge of CAD
- technical skills
- accuracy and ability to pay attention to detail
- a sense of responsibility
- a good knowledge of health and safety regulations, as well as building methods, materials and law
- good teamworking skills.

You need to be able to:

- work to deadlines
- work within budgets
- manage people
- plan and organise resources.

## Training

- Training is usually on the job alongside an experienced technician.
- You can study, while on the job, for the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Construction Site Supervision (Construction): Building and Civil Engineering at SCQF Level 7.
- You might complete the National Examination Board in Occupational Health and Safety (NEBOSH) National Certificate in Construction Health and Safety.

## Getting On

- Depending on your area of specialism, promoted positions might include construction manager, estimator

and company buyer.

- You could study part time for a degree qualification in civil engineering or another relevant area.

## Contacts

### **Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)**

Tel: 0344 994 8800

Email: [scotland.apprenticeships@citb.co.uk](mailto:scotland.apprenticeships@citb.co.uk)

Website: [www.citb.co.uk](http://www.citb.co.uk)

Twitter: @CITB\_UK

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/citb.uk](http://www.facebook.com/citb.uk)

### **GoConstruct**

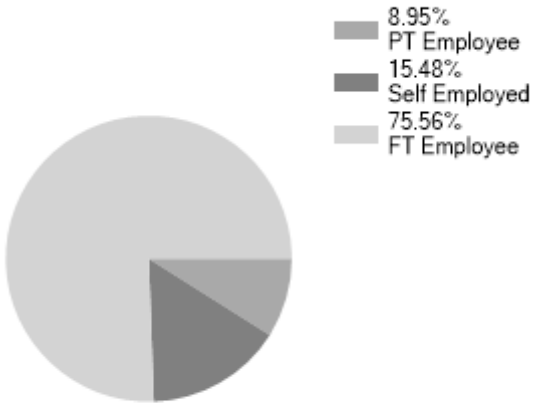
Website: [www.goconstruct.org](http://www.goconstruct.org)

Twitter: @GoConstructUK

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/goconstructuk](http://www.facebook.com/goconstructuk)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

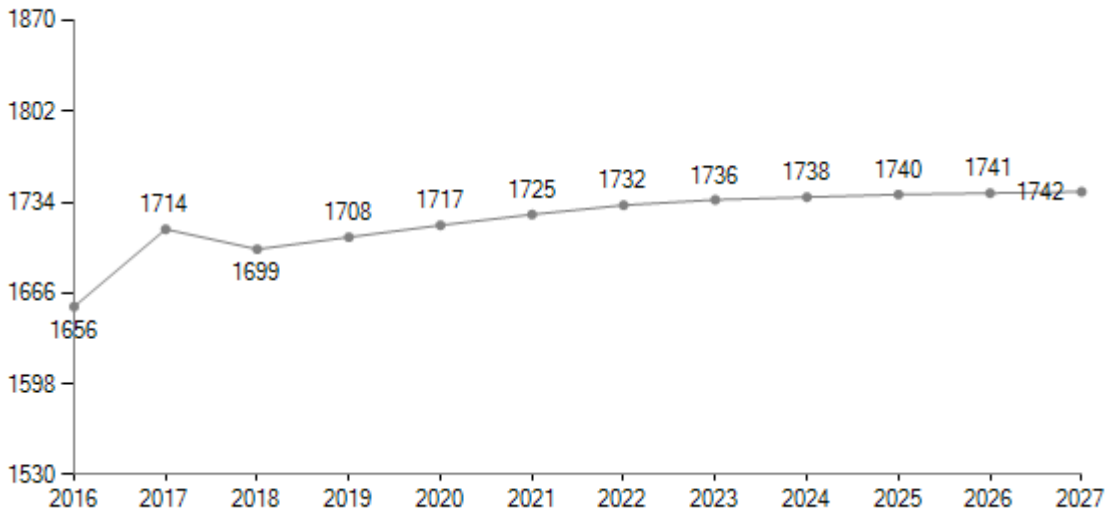


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)