# Careers in the Northern Ireland Construction Industry



## Construction - What is it?

The construction industry covers the design, construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure projects such as bridges, roads, tunnels, waterways, etc.

Construction boasts a wide variety of careers including skilled trades, IT, marketing, project management, design and much more.

Construction needs people with creative, technical, management and practical skills.

Whatever your role is in the industry, if it's as a bricklayer or plasterer, civil engineer, architect or construction manager, every team member is as important as the next. So whatever your talent is, you can be sure there's a career in construction for you.

Choose a career in construction and you won't be starting out on your own. You'll be joining a team of specialist people all working together to build a strong, long-lasting future. Join one of Northern Ireland's largest industries and you'll have chosen a career that's challenging, exciting and rewarding.

## What do I need?

There are many ways you can get into construction, and the industry welcomes everyone from newcomers to people with some experience to career changers.

The skills and qualifications needed vary by occupation and range from apprenticeships and NVQs to HNDs, degrees and professional qualifications.

The majority of trades require a minimum NVQ Level 2 or above and professional occupations usually require a degree level qualification or equivalent.

Whether you go to college, learn on site, or go to university you'll obtain specialist training for your chosen career.

Your career in any area in construction will require commitment and enthusiasm.

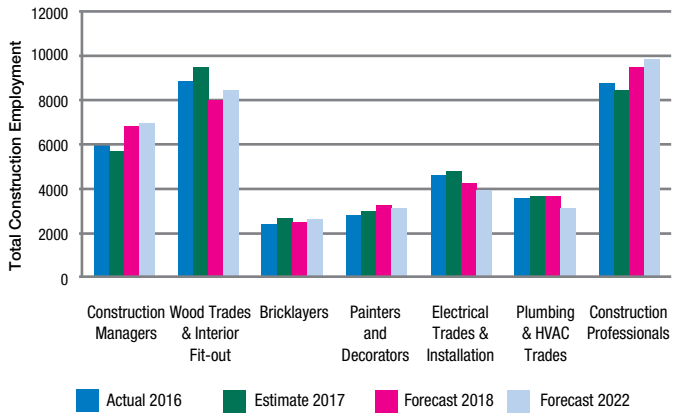
Contact your local training provider, further education college or university for course information and entry criteria.

## What are the Opportunities?

According to the Construction Skills Network Labour Market Intelligence Report[1] over the next five years to 2022 the demand for manual occupations in construction is projected to be greatest for bricklayers, however some of the other trades such as wood trades and interior fit-out, plant operators, plasterers and roofers will also be in demand. In terms of the professional occupations, demand is strongest for roles in areas such as health and safety, production, logisitics, waste disposal and environmental services and conservation. There will also be demand for professional and technical staff such as mechanical and electrical engineers, engineering technicians, quality control, planning engineers and estimators.

Northern Ireland companies continue to win work both in the rest of the UK and in the Republic of Ireland increasing the need for a mobile workforce. Therefore new entrants into the industry should be prepared to travel.

**Construction Employment (Key Occupations) 2016 - 2022**




| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Employment | 62,120 | 62,610 | 62,900 | 61,770 |

## Current and Future Trends

Northern Ireland is projected to average an output growth of 0.5% a year over the 2018 to 2022 period. This leads to an annual average recruitment requirement of 310 for the same period and by 2022 employment is projected to be 61,770. 60% of respondents in the RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Survey Q4 2017[2], indicated that skills shortages were a constraint, as in previous quarters citing Quantity Surveyors and Bricklayers as the main occupational areas where shortages were prevalent.



## Things to Consider

Working in construction you will:

- Make a real difference to the environment from city regeneration to ensuring essential facilities are available.
- Have access to a huge range of training and respected professional qualifications at all levels.
- Have opportunities to progress and/or travel and work throughout the UK, Ireland and/or further afield.
- Work in an environment that is constantly changing – you may spend some time working in the office and some time working outdoors.
- Obtain job satisfaction knowing that you helped build something that will last a lifetime or longer.
- Have the potential to become self-employed in your chosen occupation.

## What are the Wages?

| | Average Annual Gross Pay[3] |
|---|---|
| **Quantity Surveyor** | **£32,081** |
| **Architect** | **£48,029** |
| **Civil Engineer** | **£29,811** |
| **Bricklayer** | **£28,360** |
| **Joiner** | **£23, 741** |

Above information correct May 2018

## What to do Next

Click on the following links for further information:

**www.citbni.org.uk/careers.aspx**

For more information on careers within the Northern Ireland construction industry.

**www.goconstruct.org**

'Go Construct' offers UK wide advice to people considering a career in the industry.

If you need help on choosing a career, going to college or university, training opportunities, or finding a job, contact the careers service:

Online: **www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers**

Telephone: **0300 200 7820**

Looking to become an Engineer? Start your journey by doing a Civil Engineering Technician course. To find out more visit https://www.ice.org.uk/about-ice/near-you/uk/northern-ireland/education#work__apprenticeship

The Construction industry presents work that is full of diversity and challenges; with the changing face of construction, it's a great time to be able to make a contribution. What you get out of a career depends on you.

## Did you Know?

1. Women are under-represented in construction, particularly within the trade occupations.
2. There is a GCSE in Construction & the Built Environment and is currently offered in 39 schools across Northern Ireland. Find out more https://bit.ly/2rON4Sh
3. There are careers in built heritage, sustainable construction and film and television set construction.
4. Modern construction develops and uses some of the latest technology including Building Information Modelling (BIM), Computer Aided Design (CAD) and even nanotechnology.
5. Many Construction Managers and other Professionals started their careers as apprentices.
6. Construction employs around 2.5 million people in the UK - that means that one in every ten jobs is in construction. By 2022 construction employment in the UK will reach 2.77m.

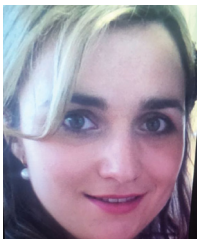
## How I did it...

### Ashley McGrath, Quantity Surveyor

Ashley McGrath is a Quantity Surveyor currently employed by McCue Crafted Fit. McCue Crafted Fit are specialists in high quality refurbishment and fitting out and have been established for over 60 years. Company projects include Kaspar's Seafood Bar & Grill within the Savoy Hotel, London, The Shard and Trinity Square. The company also has a marine division which recently completed fit-out works to the Queen Mary 2 cruise ship.

Ashley studied BSc (Hons) Building Surveying at Ulster University and also holds a Post Graduate qualification in Commercial Management. She is involved in many projects within McCue Crafted Fit including, the cruise Ship Queen Victoria in Italy, Danske Bank Donegal Square West, Belfast and Santander, Saltcoates.

Speaking on how she entered into a career in construction Ashley said, "I was always interested in construction and engineering by way of influence from my Grandad and one of my brothers; however I wasn't confident it was an achievable goal for me, therefore my route into construction was not direct. It wasn't until I had attained a Triple Distinction in a BTEC National Diploma in a different discipline that I realised the goal was within my reach. I was advised that I would be a suitable candidate for the Building Surveying Degree Programme at Ulster University. As part of my Degree programme I completed placements within Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Greater Belfast Development both of which were very insightful and introduced me to the commercial side of the industry which led to my Post Graduate qualification in Commercial Management."



Speaking about her job at McCue Crafted Fit Ashley said, "On a day to day basis my job entails managing all the costs relating to the projects I am working on, including work on and off site, liaising with other construction professionals and the clients such as the Contracts Managers, Site Managers and Architects.

The main aspects of my job includes procurement and payment of sub-contractors, carrying out site measures, valuation of works completed, project cost forecasts, cost variance reports and implementation of change management procedures by way of tracking variations. I really enjoy my job, no two days are the same, each project is unique in its own right and I get the opportunity to travel."

### Daniel McBurney

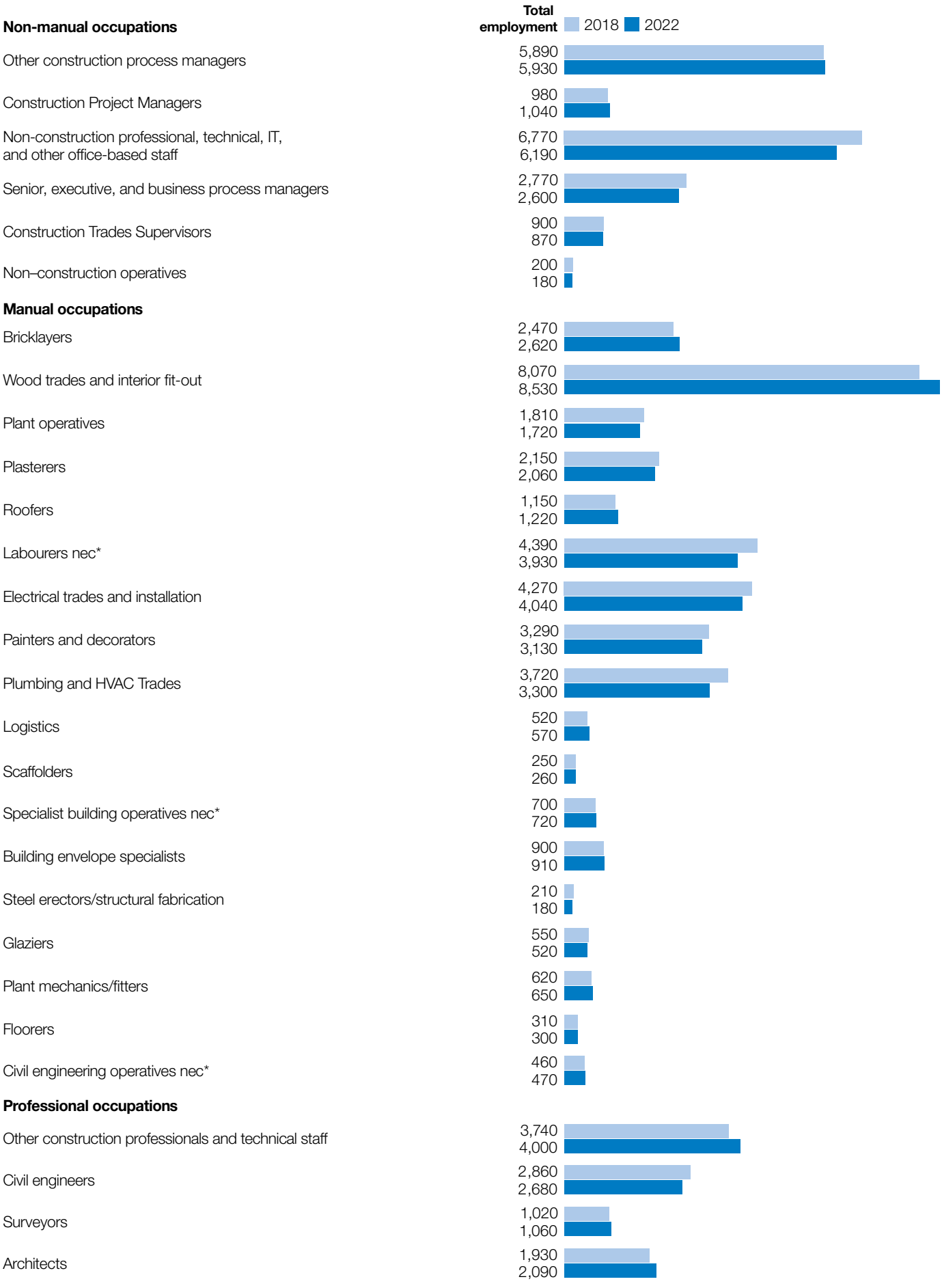
20 year old Daniel McBurney from Banbridge, Co Down is currently studying NVQ L3 Wall & Floor Tiling in Southern Regional College (SRC), Greenbank Campus. Having achieved a medal in his trade at Skillbuild 2017 he had the opportunity to compete in the Skills Show UK competition and now is in training for the selection squad for the UK team for WorldSkills finals in Russia 2019. Speaking about his experience in the construction industry and why he followed the apprenticeship route he said, "I chose an apprenticeship because I enjoy working with my hands and I liked the idea of working in different locations such as shopping centres, bars, swimming pools and private housing. I also wanted a job I could work at when travelling as I would like to visit Canada and Australia after my apprenticeship is complete."

"I focused on Wall and Floor tiling because I enjoyed the basic course I did in the college and it allowed me to learn more about the trade and I also liked that it was both construction and design. I also wanted a job where I would be working towards the end of a project so it wasn't all based outside."



Daniel is completing his apprenticeship full time, based with his employer and attending the college one day per week. Speaking about his course Daniel said, "I like the course because we are always doing something different. I have learned to use all the equipment I need to use on site and I can tile complex design work as a result of my training at SRC . The college also sent me on work experience to Germany through the Erasmus project and the work I completed whilst there was used in my portfolio. My employer has supported me by allowing me the opportunity to work on my own now as I have developed my skills." Daniel is also now focused on training for the opportunity to represent Northern Ireland in the WorldSkills UK Team. Speaking about his training he said, "My training includes technical training set at international standards but also training at Loughborough University on how to deal with pressure, problem solving, physical fitness and media training also. This is one of the best things I have ever done and I have been given the chance to be the best through the guidance I have received at SRC and the support of my employer."

# TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION – NORTHERN IRELAND




Source: ONS, CSN, Experian[1]. Ref: CSN Explained. *Not elsewhere classified.

## ANNUAL RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENT BY OCCUPATION – NORTHERN IRELAND

| | 2018-2022 |
|---|---|
| **Non–manual occupations** | |
| Non-construction professional, technical, IT, and other office-based staff | – |
| Other construction process managers | 50 |
| Senior, executive, and business process managers | – |
| Construction trades supervisors | – |
| Construction project managers | <50 |
| **Manual occupations** | |
| Wood trades and interior fit-out | <50 |
| Labourers nec* | – |
| Electrical trades and installation | – |
| Painters and decorators | – |
| Plumbing and HVAC Trades | – |
| Bricklayers | 80 |
| Plant operatives | <50 |
| Logistics | – |
| Plasterers | <50 |
| Roofers | <50 |
| Scaffolders | – |
| Specialist building operatives nec* | – |
| Building envelope specialists | – |
| Steel erectors/structural fabrication | – |
| Glaziers | – |
| Plant mechanics/fitters | – |
| Floorers | – |
| Civil engineering operatives nec* | – |
| **Professional occupations** | |
| Other construction professionals and technical staff | 50 |
| Civil engineers | – |
| Surveyors | – |
| Architects | – |
| **Total (SIC 41-43)** | **260** |
| **Total (SIC 41-43, 71.1, 74.9)** | **310** |

Source: CSN, Experian.[1]
Ref: CSN Explained.

1 According to the Construction Skills Network (CSN) Northern Ireland Labour Market Intelligence Report

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## Data Sources

1. Construction Skills Network (CSN) Northern Ireland Labour Market Intelligence Report 2018-2022
   http://www.citbni.org.uk/CITB/files/dc/dccc1fc9-bb40-47d6-ae10-5e2b20ceaa9f.pdf

2. RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Survey Q4 2017, published January 2018
   https://www.rics.org/Global/RICS_UK_Construction_and_Infrastructure_Survey_Q4%202017.pdf

3. Neuvoo https://neuvoo.co.uk/salary/?k=quantity+surveyor&l=Northern+Ireland&f=&p=1&r=&duc=&v=&source=&sort=Date
   Neuvoo https://neuvoo.co.uk/salary/?k=architect&l=Northern+Ireland&f=&p=1&r=&duc=&v=&source=&sort=Date
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CITB NI
Nutts Corner Training Centre
17 Dundrod Road
Crumlin BT29 4SR
**www.citbni.org.uk**

Tel: 028 9082 5466
Fax: 028 9082 5693
Email: info@citbni.org.uk

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