



INDUSTRY SECTOR

# Construction

## Overview

The construction sector underpins Scotland's economy. It provides housing for Scotland's growing population, supports the increasing demand for transport infrastructure and contributes to the sustainability of the built environment. Individuals within this sector are fundamental in designing and creating the buildings and infrastructure necessary for health services, education and community activities across Scotland.

### What's the job market like?

It's been a challenging year for the construction sector with worries surrounding material costs and inflation. Data specialists Glenigan have predicted a 2 per cent fall in most types of project starts and a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found that just 8 per cent of surveyors expect an increase in overall workloads in the next 12 months.

However, there is no shortage of exciting projects out there, such as the Moray Firth wind farms project, the Edinburgh Tram extension and the Scottish Water investment programme. Despite the difficult year, skilled construction professionals are very much in demand and the workforce in Scotland is still on track to grow 3.4% or 8,200 people from 2021-2024.

Scotland's response to the climate emergency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2045 has highlighted the 'Retrofit Skills Gap', a major shortfall of specific trades and professions for the task of 'decarbonising' existing building stock. It is estimated an extra 22,500 people will be needed for retraining and creating new roles by 2028.

The long term forecast (2024-2031) by SDS is reassuring and highlights this jobs growth in addition to the ongoing requirement for skilled professionals within this sector.

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## Types of construction

Construction is a diverse sector with many roles available within a wide range of subsectors. Jobs range from technician and craft roles to senior management, all requiring a wide variety of skills, and offering a broad range of opportunities and experience.



### Architecture

Architects produce designs for new construction projects and redevelopments. Using their specialist construction knowledge and high-level drawing skills, they design buildings and landscapes that are functional, secure and sustainable.



### Surveying

Surveyors estimate property boundaries for construction projects. They measure land features, such as depth and shape, based on reference points. They examine previous land records to verify data from on-site surveys. Surveyors also prepare maps and reports and present their findings to clients.



### Building technology and management

Building Technology and Management roles explore the overall planning, coordination and control of projects from start to finish. They study the scientific principles involved in construction, research how construction materials behave and explore the basics of structural mechanics.



### Town and regional planning

Town and regional planning is a profession that promotes and manages change through the planning, design, implementation and management of public interventions in the development and use of land.



### Civil and structural engineering

A civil engineer is a professional who designs and supervises the construction of public infrastructure. Structural engineering is a specialisation of civil engineering and involves analysing each element of a structure to determine pressure and loads generated by human or environmental influence.

## Scottish Military Employers

Many companies in the construction industry value the experience, skills and work ethic veterans have gained during their time within the military. Service leavers with an engineering background are highly sought after within the construction sector, particularly those that have engineering or planning degrees.



## Military Transferable Skills and Attributes

In addition to service leavers technical skills and procedural awareness, there are common soft skills that translate well into the construction industry.

- Decision Making
- Leadership
- Determination
- Organisational Skills
- Focus and Discipline
- Teamwork
- Project Management
- Problem Solving Skills
- Communication
- Time Management
- Negotiation Skills
- Human Resource Management

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