

About the Construction and Infrastructure sector

What's the work like?

You'll be part of a well-run team that's committed to getting the job done safely and well to meet the client's specifications.

You'll work indoors and outdoors. Often it'll be dusty and noisy, but you'll get to feel the sun on your skin and the wind on your face. The hours may vary. You'll move around from site to site, working with lots of different tradespeople, contractors, and clients.

You'll have a variety of different tasks to do no matter what your job is, and you'll use many different tools and types of machinery. The work is physical and active – you won't need to join a gym to stay fit. It's hard work, but there are plenty of laughs and jokes with good mates.

Construction

Building anything from the ground up: from garages to high rise towers – see the full list over the page.

Infrastructure

Planning, designing, building, repairing and laying utilities for the community

- essential services below the ground, invisible to the naked eye, from drainage to dams, sewerage to broadband
- services above the ground: roads, bridges, pavements, tunnels, drainage systems, ports, airport runways, dams and electricity generation and supply.

What's great about this sector?

It can be exciting and varied – from driving a 30-tonne digger to making something out of nothing. Sometimes what you do changes people's lives or makes their dreams come true.

You learn by doing and you have lots of opportunities to hone your skills. There's always some paperwork to be done, but there's also an honest day's pay for an honest day's work.

You can earn well and aim high if you want to. You can work for yourself or you can work for someone else. Bottom line: if you like to work hard, respect people, do a quality job, and deliver on people's expectations, you can earn good money.

Why is this sector important?

If you don't have roads, drainage, a water supply, functioning electricity or a telecommunications network at your gate or on your doorstep, you can't live or run a business properly in today's world. There is a massive amount of construction and infrastructure needed in New Zealand over the next five years – from rebuilding Christchurch to constructing new homes – without the right skills the future growth and efficient operating of our country will be reduced. Be part of an industry that is building, maintaining, and repairing New Zealand – from below the ground up.

Will this sector suit me?

“I was always good at drawing. **Now I get to make people’s visions come alive on paper.**”

John, trainee draughtsman



What qualities will I need?

You’ll like putting things together and making new things from scratch. If you are good at visualising what things look like in your head, that’s an asset in this sector. Being good at sketching or drawing would be an added bonus. You’ll be self motivated, able to adapt to change, to respect other people’s tools and opinions and interact with clients. You’ll be expected to take pride in the job you do. But you’ll also need to be able to laugh and take a joke. You’ll need to like working with others – this is not a job for loners.

What key competencies do employers look for?

Employers will be matching your key competencies to their workplace:

THINKING

- You’ll be able to use good judgment, especially when it comes to quality requirements.
- You’ll be able to problem solve and look for ways to do the job better – without affecting safety or cost.
- You’ll be expected to respond effectively to changes and learn from your mistakes.

RELATING TO OTHERS

- You’ll be expected to work as part of a team, to communicate well, and interact appropriately with clients, sub-contractors, bosses, and workers.

PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING

- You’ll be able to contribute your skills towards improving your community’s built environment through pre-schools, clubs, service organisations, and wider community projects.

MANAGING SELF

- You'll have a "can do" attitude, be willing to take responsibility, arrive at work on time, and have the confidence to ask questions when you don't understand.

USING LANGUAGE, SYMBOLS, AND TEXTS

- You'll have practical maths skills for everyday life, such as measuring, using plans, and entering and extracting basic information on computers.
- You'll be able to read manuals and texts and apply them to practical situations.

Jobs in Construction and Infrastructure

"I love being able to work outside and being part of the environment. I hate being cooped up inside. **In this job I get to do all the stuff I like to do with the sun on my back and I never have to wear a suit!**"



WHAT WORK COULD I DO? »

Find out what type of work you could do, and what roles you could end up in if you took the Construction and Infrastructure pathway.

CONSTRUCTION:

Labouring, building, demolition, electrical, excavation, concreting, kitchen and bathroom design, carpentry, plastering, painting, decorating, joinery, flooring, scaffolding, roofing, tiling, glazing, glass processing, brick-laying, plumbing, gas fitting, drain laying, drafting plans, quantity surveying, engineering, installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, providing products or services to the industry.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Laying pipes, laying drains, road building and repair, building dams, wharves, airport runways, building and maintaining telecommunication and electricity networks.

Where might I end up?

You could be a:

- foreperson, supervisor, manager, contractor, business owner, master builder, architect, architectural draughtsman, engineer, project manager in both construction and infrastructure.

JOB PROFILES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR »

Browse listings of jobs, link to information on the Careers New Zealand website, and see what level of qualification you might need for different jobs in this sector.

There are a huge number of roles and occupations available in this sector, ranging from entry level through to high level.

NCEA level 2 is the minimum you need for entry level jobs or apprenticeships. This gives you a good foundation in the skills and competencies you will need to go further. For other roles, you'll definitely need to further your education after school by undertaking tertiary study, or training on the job.

More information about all the roles listed here can be found on the [Careers New Zealand website](#), along with key information about the job, what it pays, and current opportunities. To find out the pay, prospects, and study costs of a number of jobs you can also check out the [Occupation Outlook](#).

The asterisks in the following table show the level (or levels) of qualification usually associated with the role.

Sometimes you need a specific qualification to get into a job, but in many areas you can work towards higher qualifications by learning on the job. Check out the [job profiles on Careers NZ](#), or talk to your careers advisor to find out more.

	2	3-4-5	5-6	7	8-10
	NCEA LEVEL 2	CERTIFICATE	DIPLOMA	DEGREE	POSTGRADUATE DEGREE
Architect				*	*
Architectural Technician			*	*	
Boat Builder	*	*			
Bricklayer	*	*			
Building Contractor	*	*			
Building Inspector	*	*		*	
Building Insulator	*	*			
Cabinet Maker	*	*			
Caretaker	*				
Carpenter	*	*			
Civil Engineer				*	*
Civil Engineering Technician/Draughtsperson			*	*	
Concrete Worker	*	*			
Construction Manager	*	*	*		
Crane Operator		*	*		
Diver	*	*			
Driller	*		*		
Earthmoving Machine Operator	*	*			
Electrician		*			
Energy Auditor				*	
Environmental Engineer				*	*
Fabrication Engineer	*	*			
Floor and Wall Tiler	*	*			

Floor Covering Installer	*	*			
Fork-Lift Operator		*			
General Labourer	*	*			
Glazier	*	*			
Interior Designer	*		*	*	
Joiner	*	*			
Landscape Architect				*	
Landscape Gardener	*				
Lift Technician	*	*			
Line Mechanic		*			
Locksmith		*			
Metal Worker	*	*			
Mine/Quarry Manager		*	*		
Miner/Quarry Worker	*	*			
Mining Engineer				*	*
Naval Architect/Boat Designer				*	*
Painter and Decorator	*	*			
Plasterer	*	*			
Plumber, Gasfitter, and Drainlayer		*			
Project Manager			*	*	
Property Manager		*	*	*	
Quantity Surveyor			*	*	
Railway Shunter		*			
Roading Construction Worker	*	*			
Roadmarker	*	*			

Roofer	*	*			
Rubbish/Recycling Collector					
Scaffolder	*	*			
Stonemason	*	*			
Survey Technician			*		
Surveyor				*	
Water/Waste Water Treatment Operator		*			
Welder	*	*			