



JOB of the Week



Job name: Construction Manager

Job description: Construction managers have a responsible role, ensuring safety standards and procedures are met and that build projects are delivered on time and to budget. As a construction manager or site manager, you'll be responsible for ensuring that a building project is completed safely, within an agreed timeframe and budget. Managing the practical side of every stage of the build, you'll work closely with architects, surveyors and other building professionals in planning and delivery. You'll also supervise and direct a range of operations on a construction site and ensure that all tradespeople and contractors are working together to an agreed plan and that progress is being made. You may oversee a whole site, or a big part of a large-scale complex project.

Tasks you will undertake in the job: You'll need to:

- plan and coordinate a project from start to finish, including organising the schedule of work, costings and budget
- plan the work and oversee the buying of necessary materials and equipment
- hire and manage staff for the project
- manage the construction site on a day-to-day basis, including supervising the labour force, monitoring subcontractors, checking materials, inspecting work and overseeing quality control
- ensure the project is delivered on time and on budget by setting benchmarks, agreeing budgets and monitoring progress
- check design documents with architects, surveyors and engineers
- promote and maintain health and safety, including site inspections to ensure safety rules are being followed
- write reports
- maintain regular communication and attend meetings with clients and their representatives to inform them of progress on the project, i.e. stakeholder management
- communicate with any consultants, subcontractors, supervisors, planners, quantity surveyors and others involved in the project
- deal with any unexpected problems that may occur during the project.
- draw up business plans, manage budgets, write reports and make formal presentations to funding bodies.

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Construction Managers would normally work:

You'll typically work in one of the following five project groups:

Residential; commercial; industrial; infrastructure and environmental.

Salary: Starting salaries for construction managers typically range from £26,000 to £33,000. Experienced construction managers can earn between £33,000 and £50,000. Senior and chartered construction managers can earn in the region of £50,000 to £70,000+. Salaries vary considerably depending on the location, sector, scale of the project and employing organisation.



Working hours: The working week is typically around 40 hours, though more is common around project deadlines. Some employers offer paid overtime. Certain projects may require you to work at night or over public holidays due to constraints of the site, for example when a railway line or train station is not in operation. You'll travel between sites and may need to travel long distances, sometimes staying away from home.

Qualifications to become a Construction Manager:

Most new entrants to construction management will hold an HNC or degree in a relevant subject, such as: Construction Management; Building Management; Building Studies; Project Management; Engineering - including civil engineering; Surveying.

Entry with an HND, foundation degree or BTEC is also possible. Courses accredited by the CIOB are preferred. A postgraduate or professional qualification isn't usually necessary at entry level, though as a graduate or trainee construction manager it's likely that you'll work towards gaining chartership with the CIOB (or another professional institution) during your first few years on the job.

Essential skills you need to show: You'll need to have:

- strong communication skills - for liaising with a wide range of clients, professionals and workers on site
- leadership skills and an ability to motivate your team to ensure a high standard of work
- excellent planning and organisational skills - for writing and monitoring project plans and schedules and utilising time and resources effectively
- resilience and problem-solving skills - in order to overcome unexpected challenges during the construction process
- an ability to make decisions under pressure, so that the project can progress
- strong attention to detail for conducting site inspections and managing complex contracts
- an awareness of health and safety procedures and legislation - for running a safe construction site
- sound commercial awareness - to allocate and manage your budget effectively and to understand client concerns
- numerical and IT skills, (building methods and project management software)

This job in the future: The workforce is projected to grow by 5.7%, creating 5 100 jobs; in the same period, 56.1% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 49 900 job opportunities.

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