



FACT SHEET

Building and construction industry

If you're looking for a career as a tradesperson, a manager, engineer, supervisor, sales professional, marketing professional or even a front end loader operator (and many more) then the building and construction industry has a variety of careers to offer. You can start exploring them at:

- nolimits.com.au – includes information about job profiles and training options; and.
- constructmycareer.com.au – includes information on the industry and offers a useful career planning tool called 'Career Map' that can help you work out which career in the building and construction industry would best suit you.

What skills do I need?

There is a variety of skills used in the building and construction industry, across professional, technical, trade and semi-skilled areas. Here are some of the occupations relating to key skill areas:

Professional skills – degree qualifications usually required:

- engineering – such as [civil and structural](#), [mechanical](#), [electrical](#) and [materials](#) engineers;
- construction management and support areas – such as [quantity surveyors](#), [project builder](#), [accountants](#), [occupational health and safety adviser](#) (diploma and certificate qualifications may also apply to some support areas); and
- design – such as [architects](#), [surveyors](#) and [urban planners](#).

Technical skills – diploma and post trade certificate training usually required:

- draftspersons - including [architectural](#), [civil](#) and [electrical](#);
- [estimators](#), contract administrators and schedulers;
- site supervisors and site managers; and
- engineering technicians or associates.

Trade skills – through an apprenticeship:

- licensed trades such as [electricians](#) and [plumbers](#); and
- commercial and residential trades such as [metal fabricators](#), [glaziers](#), [air-conditioning and refrigeration and mechanics](#), fire sprinkler system installers, [painters](#), [carpenters](#), tilers, [cabinetmakers](#), plasterers, [bricklayers](#), [concreters](#) and [wall and ceiling fixers](#).

Skilled job specific – on the job, certificate and traineeship training options available:

- mobile plant and [earth moving equipment operators](#);
- [builders labourer](#); and
- [scaffolders](#), [doggers](#) and [riggers](#).



Entry points and pathways

There are multiple points of entry into the building and construction industry. You can start at school with a VET in Schools program or post-school with a pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, vocational certificates and diplomas, university degrees or short courses to obtain tickets/licenses for operating machinery. Further study and career progression are integral components of a career in the industry.

Current school students need to consider all options available including school-based apprenticeships as well as accessing vocational certificate courses while completing years 11 and 12. Completion of years 11 and 12 will greatly improve your future career options. It will help you to access courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and work. For more information see [School Curriculum and Standards Authority Construction Industries pathways](#). Use the Career Centre website to explore the occupations and learning opportunities on offer. Talk to people who work in building and construction and ask them everything you want to know about the job. Consider seeking work experience opportunities or becoming a trade assistant to test-drive the job. Another option is pre-apprenticeship courses for trades and other certificate or diploma courses to explore what the tasks might be like in the job and to build useful skills.

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