



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Summit SKILLS

CAREERS IN BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING

**Industry
Fact
Sheet**



What is it?

Building services engineers make our buildings work. They design, install and maintain the services within our buildings, including heating, electricity, air conditioning, refrigeration and plumbing.

Job titles vary. Many building services engineers call themselves plumbers and electricians. Specialist job titles include design engineer and air conditioning and heat pump installer.

Building services engineers work for private companies, charities, and public sector organisations such as hospitals.

Did You Know

Opportunities exist for building services engineers to work all over the world.

What do I need?

The main route into this sector is through an apprenticeship, which enables you to develop essential work based skills. Minimum entry requirements for apprenticeships and other recognised qualifications typically include a minimum of grade C in maths and English at GCSE.

Other entry routes include a foundation degree or degree in a relevant engineering subject.

Whatever route you choose you will need maths, problem solving and communication skills.

What are the opportunities?

There will always be a need for building services engineers, to design, install, maintain, repair and decommission the systems that make our buildings work.

The installation and maintenance of new technologies to improve the environmental performance of our buildings is a growth area. This will require skilled building services engineers to work with solar panels, air and ground source heat pumps and other specialist technologies.

Due to the emphasis on reducing energy consumption and the associated costs, there is increasing demand for people to upgrade the systems in existing buildings.

What are the wages?

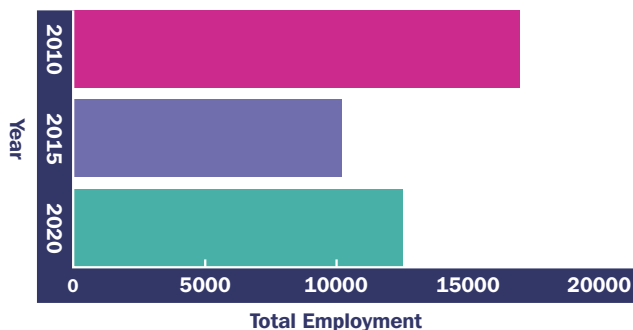
| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Supervisors | £30,000+ per year |
| Technicians | £28,000+ per year |
| Experienced Installers/Fitters | £25,000+ per year |
| Labourers/less experienced craftspeople | Approx £20,000 per year |

Did You Know

Many building services engineers progress to manage their own businesses.

Current and future trends

Northern Ireland has relied heavily on the public sector to fund the cost of building. Since 2008, the recession has had an impact on this sector, with some job losses and less work for the remaining workforce.



Things to consider

You will typically work between 35 and 40 hours each week, but there may be times when you have to work additional hours to meet project deadlines.

Days and times vary depending on your job and the employer or client. Some jobs are scheduled to minimise disruption to building users, and some building services engineers make themselves available for emergency call outs.

What to do next

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

E-mail: csni@delni.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 200 7820

Useful links

www.goodday.org.uk

Provides careers information on building services engineering.

www.ett-ni.org

Industry recognised training body for electricians in Northern Ireland.

www.pmst.co.uk

Industry recognised training body for plumbing and mechanical services in Northern Ireland.

Did You Know

New environmental technologies, such as solar panels and heat pumps will provide more work for building services engineers.