

Australia's highest paying, unfilled construction jobs (and how you can get one)

Construction is an employee's market.

All across Australia, there are six-figure positions waiting for skilled trade professionals. Yet there aren't enough qualified candidates to fill them.

What does that mean for you?

If you've got the skills, you can have your pick of lucrative jobs in the trades. Everything from entry-level labourers, all the way up to high-level managers and specialists are in high demand.

We've outlined these high paying roles and what you need to do to get one.

Construction Project Managers

Construction PMs are the ones who are responsible for planning projects and keeping them running smoothly. These do-it-all pros need to have great organisational and management skills, and must be comfortable with financial planning, collaborating with various partners, and being the main point of contact for clients.

With all of these duties, it's no surprise that construction project managers are some of the highest-paid workers in the industry. Their average salary is \$140,000 per year, with entry-level positions starting at around \$100,000, and some senior positions earning over \$200,000.

While many PMs have university degrees, it's also possible to work one's way up to this position by starting out as an apprentice at a construction firm.

Construction Estimators

Construction estimators are tasked with accurately estimating the costs of construction projects. This critical work requires sharp planning and mathematics skills, as well as great attention to detail and the ability to work with financial planning software.

Sydney's surge in large projects has created a growing demand for estimators, who earn average salaries of around \$110,000 per year. At the high end of the scale, estimators can earn up to \$240,000.

Some construction estimators have university degrees, but it's also possible to obtain qualifying [certificates](#) at trade schools, or enter an estimator apprenticeship.

Forepersons

Construction forepersons are the on-site managers of construction crews. As the crew supervisors, they must have strong people management skills, as well as a mastery of their trade and the ability to guide their less-experienced crew members.

Australia's large number of current and future construction projects has created a big need for talent that's able to reliably lead crews and manage projects on-site. Forepersons earn an average \$125,000 per year in Australia, with the highest-paid sometimes earning up to \$200,000.

Forepersons are typically experienced construction workers who get promoted into their roles. To get in line to become a construction foreperson, young workers can join a construction crew as an apprentice or entry-level labourer.

Shotcreters

Shotcreters spray concrete lining onto the inner sides of tunnels in roadways, subways, and mines. This work requires specialised skills, including the ability to operate complex concrete pumps.

With major roadworks projects like Sydney's NorthConnex tunnel underway, the demand for shotcreters has skyrocketed, making them some of the city's most highly-paid workers. Earnings can exceed \$140,000 per year.

Some industry organisations offer shotcrete training and certification [programs](#) for workers interested in taking up this profitable trade. Apprenticeships are also an option.

Electricians

Electricians do all the work necessary to install and maintain the electrical systems in buildings. They must have strong math, mechanical, and organisational skills, as their work regularly involves working with complex electrical systems.

The average Australian electrician's salary is over \$89,000 per year, and there are many positions that pay well over the six-figure threshold.

Young workers can enter the field by joining an apprenticeship or trainee program. With enough skill built up, one can apply for an electrical license to begin working on their own.

Crane Operators

Crane operators handle some of the largest equipment on construction sites. They're responsible for safely moving heavy (and often costly) building components and materials, and must be able to manage crane lifting even in challenging weather conditions.

There's a serious shortage of crane operators in Australia at the moment, and companies are willing to pay handsomely for qualified talent. The irregular work hours and safety responsibilities are also part of the reason why these pros are so well-compensated. Operators earn an average of \$88,000 per year, with the highest paid sometimes earning over \$150,000.

Workers must obtain a High Risk Work License to become a crane operator. There is a separate license for each type of crane (11 in total). Multi-day [courses](#) are available, at the end of which successful participants will receive their license.

Elevator & Escalator Workers

Also known as elevator mechanics or technicians, elevator installers and repairmen have become more in-demand. Their work includes installing and maintaining elevators, as well as other transport systems like escalators and moving walkways. A high degree of mechanical skill is required, as well as an understanding of electricity, physics, and math.

The average salary for Australian elevator workers is over \$67,000 per year, but there's the potential to break into six-figure earnings, with top positions paying nearly \$120,000.

Apprenticeships tend to be the most common entry point for this work, taken on at companies that manufacture and service elevators.

Is tradework your path to a rewarding career?

In a time when so many high-paying jobs are up for grabs, young workers have a great opportunity to get onto a fruitful career track with little competition.

Future growth for the construction industry is predicted to be very strong, so there will only be more need for new talent as time goes on. It's estimated that there will already be over 95,000 new trade jobs by [2021](#).

Entering the trades is a promising option for many of Australia's workers. Not only can you earn well, you can also enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, great job security, and a career where your skills are deeply valued.

If you want to find lucrative opportunities in the construction industry, start your [search](#) among our top quality construction job listings. Core Talent will show you the best high-earning construction jobs out there, and connect you with opportunities that fit your unique skills and interests. For personal help tracking down the perfect position, [get in touch](#) with our team today.

Core Talent:

T: (02) 8203 5499

E: gary.montgomery@coretalent.com.au

W: www.coretalent.com.au