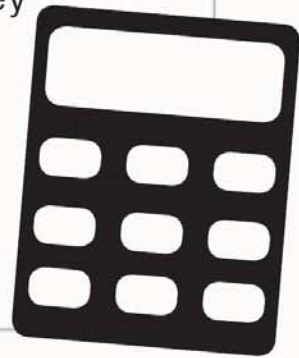




COST ENGINEER

JOB DESCRIPTION

Cost engineers, or cost estimators, play a key role in every large construction project. With expertise in building techniques and materials, they calculate, monitor, and control the costs of a construction project to ensure value for money. They also liaise with other experts, such as engineers, to ensure quality standards and analyze risk.



SALARY

Junior cost engineer ★★★★★

Senior cost engineer ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Worldwide opportunities in areas of economic growth • Industry subject to economic downturns • Careers available in both public and private sectors

CAREER PATHS

Cost engineers can work on a variety of projects at any one time, such as the restoration of historic monuments or the construction of giant skyscrapers. Although most cost engineers work in the construction industry, there are also some jobs to be found in the manufacturing and civil engineering industries.

INTERN Employers look for candidates with hands-on experience in the field. One way to earn this experience early on is through industry internships.



GRADUATE With a bachelor's degree in a related field, such as industrial and mechanical engineering, you will be able to apply for entry-level positions in the industry.

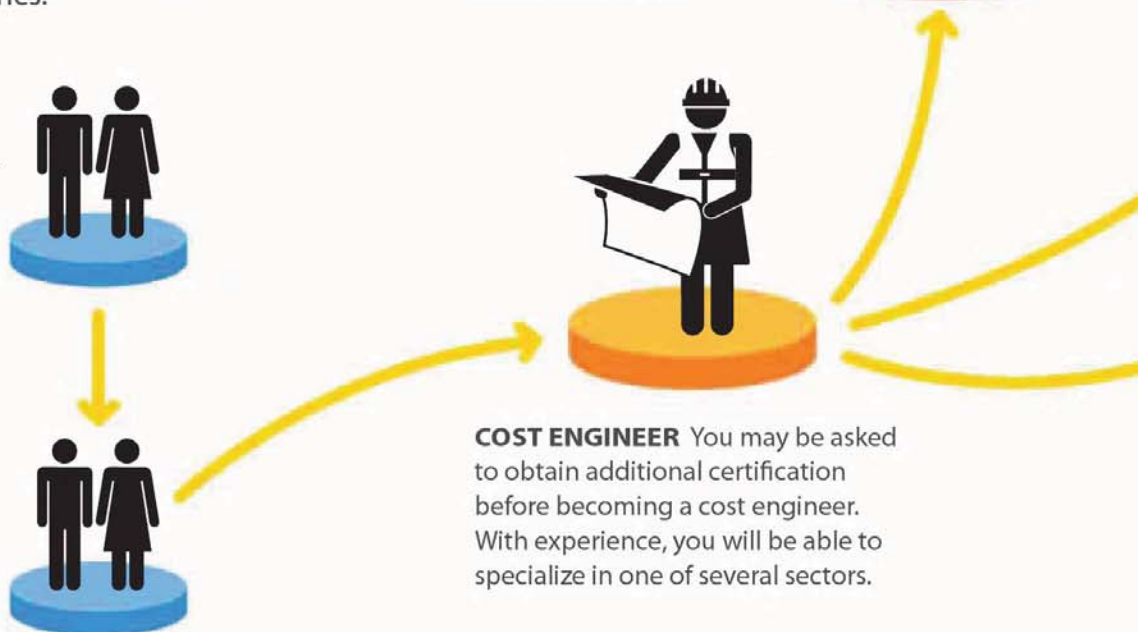


INFRASTRUCTURE COST ENGINEER

Specializes in projects involving infrastructure, such as railways, ports, and airports, or energy and water networks.



COST ENGINEER You may be asked to obtain additional certification before becoming a cost engineer. With experience, you will be able to specialize in one of several sectors.



SKILLS GUIDE



Good language skills for producing reports and communicating with many different types of clients.



The ability to work as part of a team, and to persuade and negotiate with other people.



Excellent analytical skills and an organized, logical, and methodical approach to problem-solving.



Strong numerical skills for calculating estimates and costs, and keeping track of budgets.



Extensive knowledge of commercial building methods, materials, and legislation.



COST DIRECTOR

Supervises accounts and cost engineers across a variety of projects. This is a more senior and strategic role.



PROCESS ENGINEER Helps to manage the processes and facilities in one of many possible energy industries, from oil and gas, to chemical and renewables.

Cost engineers don't only point out inefficiencies—they help fix them.

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **CIVIL ENGINEER** *see pp. 176–177*
- ▶ **BUILDING CONTROL OFFICER** Visits sites to ensure that construction workers follow building regulations, such as fire and safety.
- ▶ **CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR** Inspects project sites to ensure that construction professionals meet health, safety, and quality standards in the plans they draw up.
- ▶ **CONTRACTS MANAGER** Manages all aspects of construction contracts and prepares documents for all project presentations.
- ▶ **SURVEYOR** Uses a range of techniques to survey land, take measurements, and gather data for companies planning to develop an area. They are also known as geomatic surveyors.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Construction • Structural engineering • Finance • Mathematics • Economics • Civil engineering • Physics • Geography



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in an industry-related subject, such as industrial engineering or mechanical engineering, is required.



LIFESTYLE Cost engineers typically work regular hours. Overtime may be required to meet deadlines, as well as travel to various sites.



LOCATION Traveling to meet clients and view sites is common. Working away from home, even overseas, for several months is also common.



THE REALITIES Time constraints can be stressful, and long hours may be necessary to complete projects to strict deadlines.