Cost Estimators

What They Do

Prepare cost estimates for product manufacturing, construction projects, or services to aid management in bidding on or determining price of product or service. May specialize according to particular service performed or type of product manufactured.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Enterprising (Persuaders) — Like to influence, persuade or lead people and manage others. They enjoy working on a team toward goals, competition and business-like activities.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Independence — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Relationships — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

Working Conditions — Offer job security and good working conditions.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Inductive Reasoning
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Number Facility
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Deductive Reasoning
- Written Comprehension
Basic Skills You Need

- Mathematics
- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Speaking
- Writing

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Math</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Documents</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Literacy</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Using the median skill level.

Education & Training

Cost estimator positions require the minimum of a bachelor's degree in construction, architecture or a related field more directly related to the type of for estimates are being prepared. Some employers may hire those with some postsecondary education (at less than the baccalaureate level) if the applicant has related work experience.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of cost estimators are:

- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Construction of Buildings
- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
- Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers
- Repair and Maintenance Services

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>$57,271</td>
<td>$57,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online
www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture
https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx.

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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