



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Construction



Civil Engineers

Standard Occupational Code 17-2051

What They Do

Plan, design and supervise construction of building structures and facilities, including roads, buildings, airports, pipelines, tunnels, dams, bridges, and systems for water supply and sewage treatment.

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:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Investigative (Thinkers) — Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Leadership Orientation — A tendency to lead, take charge, offer opinions, and provide direction at work.

Achievement Orientation — A tendency to establish and maintain personally challenging work-related goals, set high work-related standards, and exert high effort toward meeting those goals and standards.

Intellectual Curiosity — A tendency to seek out and acquire new work-related knowledge and obtain a deep understanding of work-related subjects.

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

- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity

Work Activities

- Getting Information
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinate
- Drafting, Laying Out, and Specifying Technical Devices, Parts, and Equipment
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards

Education & Training

Civil engineer positions require the minimum of a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a related program. Some employers prefer a master's or even a doctoral degree. Civil engineers must be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Technical Professions. For more information, please see the South Dakota Board of Technical Professions website at <https://dlr.sd.gov/btp>.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	6
Workplace Documents	6
Graphic Literacy	6

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of civil engineers are:

- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,123	1,254	131	11.7%	81	\$98,700	\$99,500

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.

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Provided By

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

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