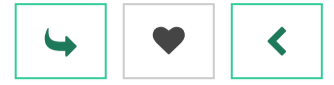


1 2 3

Construction machinery operator

Also called: Crane driver, Hoist and winch operator, Forklift driver



Construction machinery operators use machinery to lift and move heavy materials and equipment.



What you'll do

Your day-to-day tasks will depend on the machinery you operate.

If you specialise as a crane driver, for example, your responsibilities will include:

- lifting and moving construction materials and equipment safely by operating the controls in the crane cab
- maintaining constant radio contact with workers on the ground, who'll be giving you instructions on what to move and where
- setting up cranes and carrying out safety checks
- loading and unloading lorries
- monitoring sensors that measure wind speed, crane stability, and load weights

If you specialise as a hoist and winch operator, your responsibilities will include:

- moving or repositioning hoists, winches, loads and materials, manually or using equipment and machines such as trucks, cars, and hand trucks
- signalling and assisting other workers in loading or unloading materials
- tending auxiliary equipment, such as jacks, slings, cables, or stop blocks, to facilitate moving items or materials for further processing
- repairing, maintaining, and adjusting equipment, using hand tools
- signalling and assisting other workers in loading or unloading materials

If you specialise as a forklift driver, your responsibilities will include:

- checking equipment daily and using it safely
- loading and unloading goods from lorries, ships or aircraft

- using radio frequency equipment to keep in touch with other staff
- picking and packing orders
- completing paperwork for delivery notes and stock control

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

You'll usually work around 35 to 45 hours a week, but overtime may be required to meet construction deadlines.

The job is physically demanding.

Safety equipment, including ear protectors, is essential.

Career path and progression

With experience and a Level 3 or 4 NVQ Diploma in Lifting Operations, you could become a crane supervisor, forklift instructor, or maintenance engineer. You could also become a warehouse manager.

You could move into industries like construction (construction plant operator) or logistics (lorry driver).

After further training you may be able to work as a site manager, with responsibility for the day-to-day running of a construction or quarrying site.

Skills required

You'll need:

- the ability to pay close attention to detail
- communication skills, including active listening skills
- the ability to work alone for long periods
- teamworking skills
- the ability to work flexibly
- practical skills
- the ability to put things in order

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- some experience of working on a construction site, or using heavy plant machinery
- a valid [Construction Plant Competence Scheme \(CPCS\)](#) card
- a college qualification (Level 2 or 3) in plant operations (this can be done through on-the-job training)
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) to complete a Level 3 college course, or 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D) for a Level 2 course
- a category C1 or C LGV licence if driving mobile cranes on public roads

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#) (e.g. a lifting technician intermediate apprenticeship), if you also get the plant operations college qualification and the CPCS card.

- If you choose to work in a port, you must be over 18.
- If you choose to work with forklifts, you'll need a forklift licence. Your employer can usually arrange training for this. The [Accrediting Bodies Association - Workplace Transport \(ABA\)](#) has details of members who accredit training.

Take a look at [CITB](#) and [Go Construct](#) for more information on industry-specific entry requirements.

Related know-how guides

Explore know-how guides related to this career:

- [Get on the ladder: construction](#) >
- [Employer profile: Sellafield, bringing nuclear sites back to life](#) >

Related university subjects

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Building surveying and Construction](#) >

Related careers

You may also be interested in:

- [Engineering construction technician](#) >
- [Construction worker](#) >

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Building surveying and Construction at uni:

[USA](#) >
 [UK](#) >
 [Canada](#) >
 [Europe](#) >
 [Asia](#) >
 [Australasia](#) >
 [Middle East and Africa](#) >
 [Ireland](#) >

Apprenticeships:

[UK](#) >

College / Sixth Form:

[UK](#) >

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Median averages relating to the Construction machinery operator profession.

UK
 USA

Jobs

Machine drivers and operatives

128,455

 **1,134** in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Kent	3,250
2	St Helens	3,170
3	Essex	2,959
4	Lancashire	2,947
5	Lincolnshire	2,828

Salaries

Crane drivers

£46,463

 £46,774 in your region of North West

Top 5 regions

1	South East	£49,497
2	North West	£46,774
3	Yorkshire and the Humber	£46,602
4	East of England	£38,193

Hours/week

Crane drivers

50.6

 54.8 in your region of North West

Growth

2020-2035

Drivers and machine operatives

+0.1%

 1,160 jobs

 +1.6% in your region of North West, an increase of 2,622 jobs

Save to Favourites? 

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Builder



Builders construct and repair houses and buildings. They often specialise in one or a handful of areas of building work, for example plastering, fitting bathrooms, installing windows, or laying floors.

[Read the profile >](#)

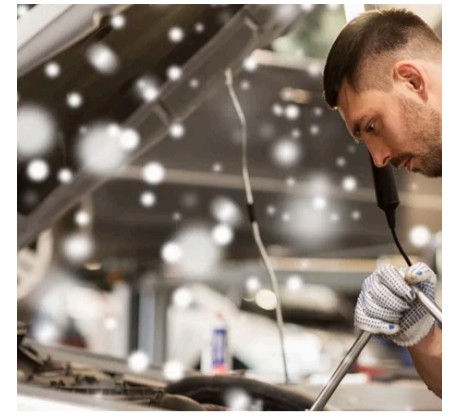


Motorsport engineer



Motorsport engineers design, build and test racing cars and bikes

[Read the profile >](#)



Vehicle engineer

Vehicle engineers design, develop, and motorbikes.

[Read the profile >](#)