

How much do scaffolders earn? And other important questions!

The demand for blue collar jobs is rising year on year, as a larger percentage of the younger workforce are moving towards university education. This means less and less workers take on apprenticeships that naturally transition them into blue collar jobs.

The building trade relies on many different skillsets, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers... and scaffolders! In this article we will go through the prospective earnings of a scaffolder, what the job entails and how exactly you can venture on one of the many trades offered in today's rapidly developing society.

Yearly salary

The big question is how much does a scaffolder earn? This can be a tough job, bad weather and having to climb up heights whilst erecting scaffolding – all whilst operating in a safe and secure manner.

Picture yourself landing a large job on a high street. Extremely busy with the individuals not aware of the risks while constructing scaffolding. A fallen pole or board can cause death and ultimately the scaffolder being liable despite measures to corner off the worksite.

Neuvoo states the average salary of a scaffolder is £42,500 per year or £21.79 per hour. Entry level positions start at £18,213 per year while most experienced workers make up to £72,250 per year.

You can join the workforce directly out of college (which is now compulsory in the UK). Whereas other jobs that require degrees can take more than 4 years to get into, whilst encountering large amounts of debt.

Your prospects appear healthy as well, as £42,500 per year on average is way above the average wage for the UK. This all depends on your ability to price jobs accordingly, you're not alone as this is a complicated piece of running a business that a lot of owners struggle with.

Luckily for you, we will cover this below!

Pricing jobs accordingly

Part of running your own business is how to correctly price the product you sell. Your time has worth, and every business (should) be making a profit. So how do you justify the price on your invoice?

Look at your operational costs. This can be software, scaffolding equipment, transport. Working out your cost per mile (HMRC reimburses businesses 45p per mile travelled, under 10K per annum). We can use this as a baseline.

How far you're willing to travel will have two side effects – the further you're willing to travel, the more jobs you're likely to take on. However, your costs will increase the further you have to commute. It's important to factor in commute times, as this is less time you must run the rest of your life.

Depending on the job it may be worth travelling further. Let's look at a [west sussex scaffolder](#).

This is a reasonable distance to travel, specifically for commercial jobs which are generally larger in size and timeframe. These structures can be used for a year or longer, and the only expense for the firm is initial travel and erection – once put in place, inspections and dismantling is all that's needed.

Other prospects in the trade

You don't need to be physically erecting scaffolding to get involved in this industry. Many behind the scenes jobs give you the ability to be involved in the building trade. A few examples of this are site managers, who ensure people are doing as instructed and the project at hand is running on schedule.

Consider the high cost if a project overruns for a business – lost revenue, marketing costs relating to a release date that needs to be pushed back, not to mention lost confidence in the team for future projects.

Another important role is a health and safety assessor. Earlier in the article we talked about falling pieces of scaffold potentially causing death (and it happens more than you'd think, gravity is inevitable after all). A health and safety assessor can look at the day-to-day operations and ensure the risk to the public is minimal. Consider the cost a death would have (not to mention the tragedy). Delayed projects, bad reputation relating to the project and extra scrutiny of the whole project can make it a disaster. This role is extremely important to the public and workers on site – the aim is to work successfully with the minimum amount of risk.