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connect
TRADE UNION
Paddy Kavanagh *General Secretary/Treasurer*



The Secretariat,
The Labour Court,
Lansdowne House,
Lansdowne Road,
Dublin 4.

15th April, 2022.

Dear Secretariat,

Please find enclosed a joint application being a request to examine the Terms and Conditions of Employment in the Mechanical Engineering Building Services Contracting Sector.

Should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

If you could please acknowledge receipt of this application.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Nolan,
Assistant General Secretary.
Tel; 01 8719 911



THE UNION FOR CRAFT AND SKILLED TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING,
ELECTRICAL AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN IRELAND



Statutory Declaration in accordance with the Statutory Declarations Act, 1938

A). Name of Applicant:	Connect Trade Union
B). Position held by the Declarant:	General Secretary
C). Registered Address of the Applicant within the State:	Connect Trade Union, Head Office, 6 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1.
D). Number of workers of the class, type or group to which the request relates who are members of the Trade Union of workers on whose behalf the request is made:	Circa 4096
E). Number of workers of the class, type or group to which the request relates who are normally employed in the sector to which the request relates:	Circa. Between 8,656 and 12,765 as set out in Appendix 1
F). The declarant's means of knowledge of the matters referred to at paragraphs (D) and (E):	(D) Refers to the number of the class, type or group who are in membership of the Connect Trade Union. (E) Appendix 1 of this Document – Report from the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI)



Paddy Kavanagh,
General Secretary.

Date: 12/4/22



Commissioner for Oaths

MARGARET TAWSEY
Practising Solicitor
Barrister John Blakey Co.
Ross House, Merchants Road Galway

Date: 12.4.22

Appendix 1

Anna Farrell

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Plumber and Pipefitter numbers working in Ireland
Attachments: Census 2016 tables amalgamated.pdf; Change in construction employment 2016 - 2021.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER. Do not open any links or attachments unless you were expecting them from this sender. DO NOT provide your username or password.

Dear Tom.

Further to your recent enquiry, I can confirm that the most recent figure for the number of plumbers and pipefitters working in Ireland is contained in the 2016 Census (<https://data.cso.ie/>, Table EB065 – attached).

- Total plumbers: 9,061 (of whom 2,999 were self-employed without paid employees)
- Total pipefitters: 683 (of whom 38 were self-employed without paid employees).

In order to extrapolate the likely growth in numbers since 2016, one can use two different bases:

- Overall employment growth in the construction sector between Q4 2016 and Q4 2021 was 31% (source: CSO, <https://data.cso.ie/>, Labour Force Survey Quarterly Series, Table QLF03 – attached).
- Growth in the number of Craft and Related Trades workers in Construction sector was 20% between Q4 2016 and Q3 2021 (source: Eurostat, <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/z2AZCy9w5UNZM41tQHtcr?domain=appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu> – attached).

Using overall construction sector growth of 31%, the extrapolated growth in plumber numbers between 2016 and 2021 would be 11,870. If one removes the self-employed, the growth would be 8,871. Using the the 20% growth in Craft and Related Trades workers in the Construction sector, the extrapolated growth in plumber numbers between 2016 and 2021 would be 10,873. If one removes the growth in self-employed, the growth would be 7,874.

In respect of pipefitters, using overall construction sector growth of 31%, the extrapolated growth in pipefitter numbers between 2016 and 2021 would be 895. If one removes the self-employed, the growth would be 857. Using the the 20% growth in Craft and Related Trades workers in the Construction sector, the extrapolated growth in pipefitter numbers between 2016 and 2021 would be 820. If one removes the self-employed, the figure would be 782.

Based on the publicly available data (see relevant tables attached), it is thus reasonable to assume that the current total number of plumbers and pipefitters ranges between **11,693** (using the 20% growth figure registered in the 'Craft and Related Trades workers in the construction sector -10,873 + 820) and **12,765** (using the 31% growth in the overall construction sector – 11,870 +895)). If one removes those who are self-employed without paid employees, the figure would be between **8,656** (11,693-3037) and **9,728** (12,765-3037).

Best regards,
Ciarán Nugent,
Economist,
Nevin Economic Research Institute

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Construction employment 2016 – 2021

CSO: Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Table QLF03 – accessed 30 March 2022

Results

Show 100 : entries

Search:

Statistic	Quarter	Sex	NACE Rev 2 Economic Sector	Unit	Value
Persons aged 15-89 years in Employment	2016Q4	Both sexes	Construction (F)	Thousand	120.8
Persons aged 15-89 years in Employment	2021Q4	Both sexes	Construction (F)	Thousand	158.3
Persons aged 15-89 years in Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	2016Q4	Both sexes	Construction (F)	Thousand	121.7
Persons aged 15-89 years in Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	2021Q4	Both sexes	Construction (F)	Thousand	158.4

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

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Eurostat: Employment by sex, age, occupation and economic activity

Craft and related trades workers in the construction sector – accessed 30 March 2022

Employment by sex, age, occupation and economic activity (from 2008 onwards, NACE Rev. 2) (1 000)

[ifsq_eisn2]

Last update: 17.03.22

Source of data: Eurostat

AGE: 15 years or over SEX: Total NACE_R2: Construction ISCO08: Craft and related trades workers UNIT: Thousand

	TIME	
GEO	2016Q4	2021Q3
Ireland	68.5	82.2

Available flags:

b break in time series
e estimated
p provisional
u low reliability

c confidential

f forecast
r revised
z not applicable

Special value:

d definition differs, see metadata
n not significant
e Eurostat estimate
: not available

Central Statistics Office

Census 2016 – Profile 11 – Employment, Occupations and Industry

Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Employed or Self-employed by Detailed Occupational Group

Table EB065 – accessed 30 March 2022

Pipefitters / Plumbers and heating and ventilating engineers

Results

Show 100 : entries

Search:

Statistic	CensusYear	Sex	Detailed Occupational Group	Unit	Value
Self-employed, without paid employees	2016	Both sexes	Pipe fitters	Number	38
Self-employed, without paid employees	2016	Both sexes	Plumbers and heating and ventilating engineers	Number	2,999
Total - At work	2016	Both sexes	Pipe fitters	Number	680
Total - At work	2016	Both sexes	Plumbers and heating and ventilating engineers	Number	9,061

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API Data Query

Format JSON-stat (2.0)

Widget





THE LABOUR COURT

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2015

APPLICATION FOR A REQUEST to EXAMINE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN A SECTOR

Name of applicant:	Connect Trade Union (Unite the Union Joint Application)
Address:	6 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1
Contact Number:	01 8719903
Email Address:	construction@connetunion.ie
Sector:	Mechanical Engineering Building Services Contracting Sector as defined by S.I. No. 59 of 2018 (Appendix 2.)
Class, type or group of workers to which the request relates: Qualified Plumbers and Registered Apprentice Plumbers (Craftsperson) and Qualified Pipefitters and Registered Apprentice Pipefitters (Craftsperson) working in the Sector as defined in S.I. No. 59 of 2018.	
Please enter details of the arrangements (if any) by which terms and conditions relating to remuneration and any sick pay scheme or pension scheme, of the workers in the sector to which the request relates are determined: Terms and conditions of employment within this sector are currently determined by a National Collective Employment Agreement. The terms of this agreement are negotiated by the aforementioned Unions and the MEBSA Employer Group, directly and under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Commission. Key elements of the collective agreement and other terms and conditions of employment are provided for within S.I. No. 59 of 2018.	
Where the applicant is a trade union of workers, please enter the name and address of any other trade union of workers that is representative of workers in the sector to which the request relates: Unite the Union, 55/56 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1,	
Where the applicant is a trade union of workers, please enter the name and address of any trade union of employers or organisation of employers that is representative of employers in the sector to which the request relates: MEBSA (c/o Construction Industry Federation) Construction House Canal Road Dublin 6	

Signature of Applicant:


Brian Nolan, Assistant General Secretary.

Date:

15th April 2022

Appendix 1. Contact details of the applicants.

Applicant 1	Applicant 2
Unite the Union	Connect Trade Union
55/56 Middle Abbey Street	6 Gardiner Row
Dublin 1	Dublin 1
Republic of Ireland	Republic of Ireland
Tel; 01 8980912	Tel; 01 8747047
Email; thomas.fitzgerald@unitetheunion.org	Email; construction@connectunion.ie

Appendix 2. Sector Definition

For the purposes of this application the definition of the sector is taken directly from S.I. No. 59 of 2018 and states the following;

For the purposes of this Sectoral Employment Order the Mechanical Engineering Building Services Contracting Sector means the sector of the economy comprising the following economic activity:— *“The installation, alteration, fabrication, fitting, repair, maintenance, commission, removal and demolition in any building or its sites of articles, fittings, pipes, containers, tubes or instruments, storage facilities, etc. (including central heating apparatus, central plant apparatus, machinery and fuel containers connected thereto) for heating, cooling, including domestic hot and cold water systems, medical and process gases, process pipe services, utility pipe services and compressed and vacuum services of such buildings.”*