

■ Wage increases for builders, civil engineering operatives and Scottish plumbers under the Construction Industry Joint Council (CIJC) and Building and Allied Trades Joint Industry Council (BATJIC) agreements.

■ Most wage awards this year held to 3.5-4.5%

■ National statistics show average earnings in construction have risen since last November and increased over the past year by 3.1%

CIJC agreement, from 25 June 2007

Second part of a three-year agreement. The new rates are 4.3% higher:

	Rate per 39-hour week	Rate per hour
Craft rate	£379.08	£9.72
Skill rate 1	£361.53	£9.27
Skill rate 2	£347.88	£8.92
Skill rate 3	£325.65	£8.35
Skill rate 4	£306.93	£7.87
General operative	£285.09	£7.31

Travel allowances will increase by the same rate and fare allowances will be linked to the retail prices index.

Wage agreement summary

The following table summarises the wage agreements currently in force for the principal wage-fixing bodies in the construction industry

Operatives	Agreement body	Current basic hourly rate	Effective since	Details in	Date of next review
Builders and civil engineering operatives	Construction Industry Joint Council	Craft rate: £9.32/hour	26 June 2006	Cost update 9 June 2006 / Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2007	25 June 2007 (basic rates will rise by 4.3%)
	Building and Allied Trades Joint Industrial Council	Advanced craft: £9.67/hour	12 June 2006	Cost update 9 June 2006 / Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2007	11 June 2007 (basic rates will rise by 4%)
Plumbers	The Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England and Wales	Advanced plumber: £11.60/hour	1 January 2007	Spon's Mechanical and Electrical Services Price Book 2007. Cost update 23 March 2007	Not expected before 7 January 2008 (subject to new agreement)
	Scottish and Northern Ireland Joint Industry Board for the Plumbing Industry	Advanced plumber: £11.55/hour	4 June 2007	See "executive summaries" above	Not expected before 2 June 2008
H&V operatives	Joint Conciliation Committee of the Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering Industry	Craftsman: £10.35/hour	6 November 2006	Cost update 8 December 2006	3 September 2007 (basic rates will increase by 3.5%)
Electricians	The Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry	Approved electrician: £12.58/hour	8 January 2007	Spon's Mechanical and Electrical Services Price Book 2007	Not expected before 14 January 2008 (subject to new agreement)
	Scottish Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry	Approved electrician: £12.58/hour	8 January 2007	Cost update 23 March 2007	Not expected before 14 January 2008 (subject to new agreement)

BATJIC agreement, from 11 June 2007

This agreement is for operatives in small and medium-sized firms that belong to the Federation of Master Builders. It gives an increase of 4%:

	Rate per 39-hour week	Rate per hour
Advanced craft operatives (S/NVQ3)	£392.34	£10.06
Intermediate craft operatives (S/NVQ2)	£337.35	£8.65
Adult general operative	£288.60	£7.40

Semi-skilled rates (for plant operators) rise by 6% and additional skills payments and payments for discomfort, inconvenience or risk rise by about 6%. Daily fare allowances rise 4%. Apprentices under 19 and entrants over 19 receive increases of 2%.

Plumbers

Wages for plumbers in Scotland and Northern Ireland rose from 4 June. Hourly rates increased by 3.5%, following in the footsteps of their English counterparts who received a similar pay rise in January. The hourly rates remains 5-10% lower than in England.