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Engineers Fees

A survey of the fees charged by
consulting civil & structural engineers

2020



The Fees Bureau 19th Engineers Fees Survey 2020 edition

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Engineers Fees

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How to use these statistics

Hourly rates tables

Hourly charge-out rates, on pages 6 to 9, are presented overall, by size of practice and by region for each of the main categories of consulting engineering staff. All data refers to the rates in effect on 1st July 2019.

Figures are presented as averages (medians), together with lower and upper quartiles. It is felt that the median is a more representative average than the mean as it is unaffected by any extremely high, or low, rates.

- the MEDIAN average is the middle value, when all data from survey respondents is listed in order of magnitude.
- the UPPER QUARTILE is the value which appears three quarters the way up this ordered list of data and marks the 75 per cent point in the data
- the LOWER QUARTILE is the value which appears one quarter the way up this ordered list of data and marks the 25 per cent point in the data.

The fees data is presented as a series of tables and charts based on the data collected by a survey of consulting engineers. Fees are expressed as a per cent of the total construction cost. The average fees line on each chart is an indicative 'line of best fit'. Reported fees charged vary around this line; the range of fees charged for jobs is discussed on page 15.

'Fees' relates to the Normal Services provided by Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers, as defined in ACE Agreements. Fees exclude expenses and VAT.

Start by gaining an overview of these figures with the summary tables and charts on pages 12 to 14. These show average fees lines for the main types of consultancy work (buildings or civil engineering) split between new build and refurbishment.

Next, find the building sector closest to the job you are seeking from the list on page 27. Once in the appropriate sector, you will find charts with the average fees line which reports on the data collected. In some cases insufficient jobs have

been reported to us so it is not possible to include the full range of four charts for all work and contract type combinations.

On the bottom scale (axis) of this chart find the contract value of your job. Follow this point up until you reach the average fees line.

From this point on the average fees line follow across to the left hand scale (y axis) to read off the percentage fees value.

When considering the fees data please bear in mind the following:

- the 'line of best fit' on each chart is exactly that - a 'best fit' of the individual values reported. Some fee values reported will lie above the line, others below it.
- the indicative lines of best fit take no account of the complexity of the work.
- the scale on each chart may vary. The range of contract values charted reflects the range of jobs reported to us.

Worked example

How to calculate the average fee for a £5 million project, under Traditional Contract

In Section 2 (page 27), select sector and sub-sector

Then choose the appropriate chart by choosing New Build or Refurbishment; and select Lead or Non-Lead Consultant

On the appropriate chart, find the contract value of your job by reading off the bottom axis - in this example it is £5 million. Follow this point up until you reach the appropriate average fees line

4 Read off the left axis to find the average fee, in this example the average fee = X.X%



This sample is intended for illustrative purposes only, to show the type of information covered and examples of the layout. Data has been amended - these are NOT the published tables / charts.

TABLE 1-4

Average hourly charge-out rates, size 6 to 10 engineering staff

£ per hour	lower quartile	MEDIAN	upper quartile
Principal, Partner, Director	50	50	50
Associate	50	50	50
Senior Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Incorporated Engineer	50	50	50
Graduate Engineer	50	50	50

TABLE 1-5

Average hourly charge-out rates, size 11 to 30 engineering staff

£ per hour	lower quartile	MEDIAN	upper quartile
Principal, Partner, Director	50	50	50
Associate	50	50	50
Senior Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Incorporated Engineer	50	50	50
Graduate Engineer	50	50	50

TABLE 1-6

Average hourly charge-out rates, size over 30 engineering staff

£ per hour	lower quartile	MEDIAN	upper quartile
Principal, Partner, Director	50	50	50
Associate	50	50	50
Senior Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Chartered Engineer	50	50	50
Incorporated Engineer	50	50	50
Graduate Engineer	50	50	50

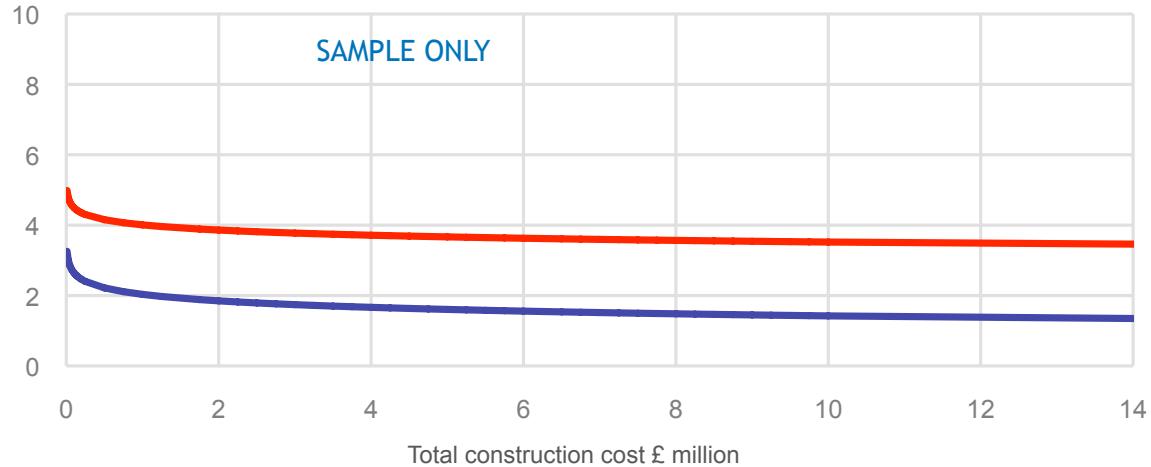
Office New Build

Normal Services, Lead and Non-Lead consultant

Fee, per cent of total construction cost

 Lead consultant

 Non-Lead consultant



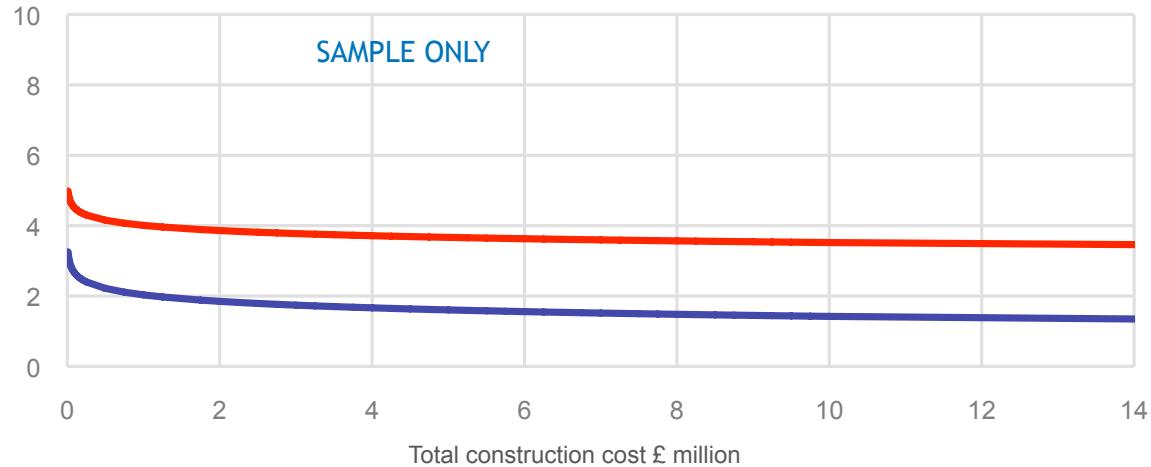
Office Refurbishment

Normal Services, Lead and Non-Lead consultant

Fee, per cent of total construction cost

 Lead consultant

 Non-Lead consultant



Offices - All Work, Normal Services

contract value	average fees (per cent of total construction cost)			
	New Build		Refurbishment	
	Lead	Non-Lead	Lead	Non-Lead
£250,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£750,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£1,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£2,500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£5,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£7,500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£10,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

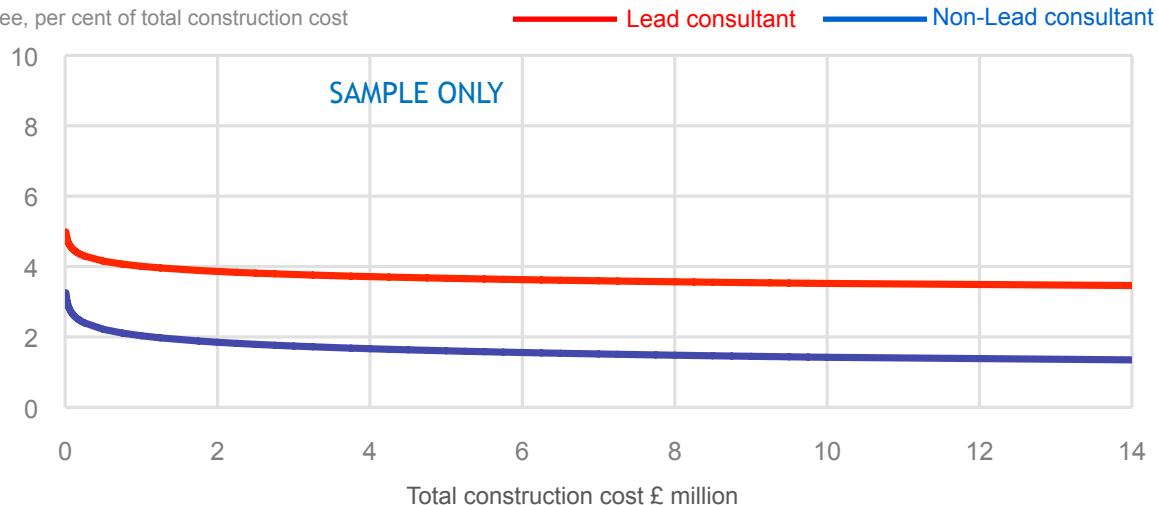
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Education New Build

Normal Services, Lead and Non-Lead consultant

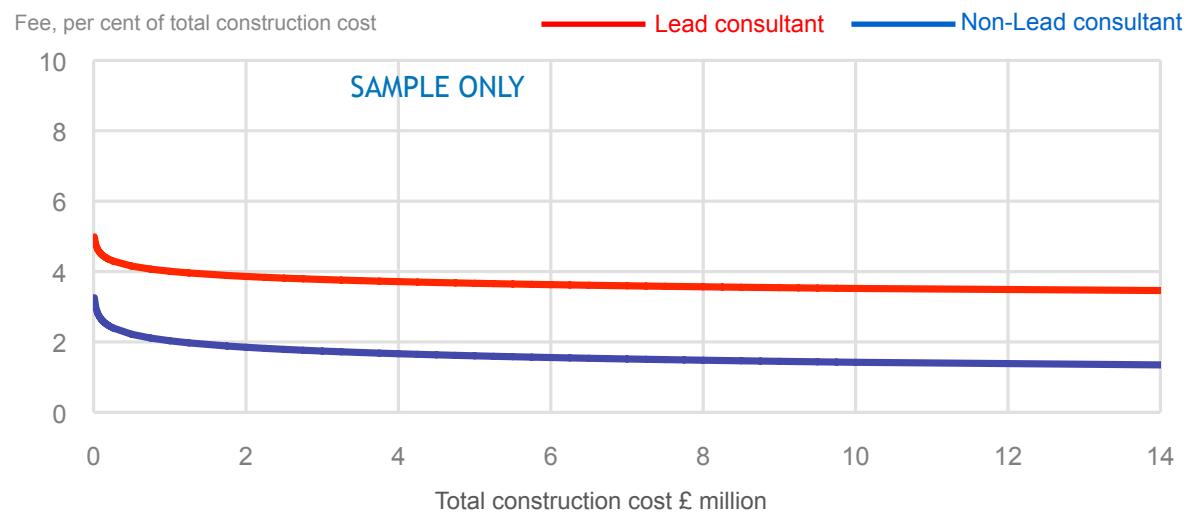
Fee, per cent of total construction cost



Education Refurbishment

Normal Services, Lead and Non-Lead consultant

Fee, per cent of total construction cost



Education - All Work, Normal Services

contract value	average fees (per cent of total construction cost)			
	New Build		Refurbishment	
	Lead	Non-Lead	Lead	Non-Lead
£250,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£750,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£1,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£2,500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£5,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£7,500,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
£10,000,000	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

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