

Fastest Growing Industries: Construction

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Overview of the Construction Industry

Introduction

B.C.'s construction industry is growing. The industry needs to increase recruitment efforts to keep up with planned projects and the retirement of more than 39,000 workers over the next decade.

It is estimated the BC construction industry will need to recruit more than 15,000 workers from outside the local market over the next 10 years.

You can find construction jobs in cities as well as remote areas of the province. Careers in this industry have different levels of skill and training requirements.

The industry includes both residential (housing) and non-residential construction.

Sectors with strong demand for construction workers include:

- Transportation systems
- Renewable electricity generation and transmission projects
- LNG terminals
- Pipelines

80% of jobs in non-residential construction will be related to big engineering projects (more than 16,000 jobs). Much of this activity occurs in northern British Columbia.

The existing number of new workers won't meet future job demand. Immigrants are seen as a key source of talent as construction companies seek to meet their hiring needs in the years ahead.

The industry has responded by developing a number of programs to attract newcomers. These include:

- initiatives to attract newcomers to remote locations of the province
- corporate efforts to encourage diversity in the workplace
- strategies for streamlining foreign-credential recognition

One such initiative is the ***ITA's Immigrants in Trades Training*** program, which helps you overcome barriers to entering the trades, including jobs in construction. This program can provide you with hands-on experience, financial assistance, safety training, English courses, and career counselling.

- More information:
<http://www.itabc.ca/immigrants-trades/overview>

The BC Construction Association has created 2 programs for new Canadians:

- ***British Columbia Construction Association's Integrating Newcomers*** (BCCA-IN) is a program that helps newcomers enter the construction workforce in British Columbia
<https://www.bccassn.com/jobs-&-careers/bcca-integrating-newcomers/>
- The ***Foreign Skilled Workers Program*** connects qualified tradespeople with varied opportunities in BC.
<http://www.fswbc.com/>

Buildforce Canada's ***Internationally Trained Workers*** (ITW) website provides resources to help connect employers with newcomers to Canada.

- More information:
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en/products/internationally-trained-workers-website>

The Federal Government is also recognizing the importance of new immigrants in the construction sector. Opportunities offered through the ***Temporary Foreign Worker Program*** help fill short-term job gaps within Canada's construction industry.

- More information:
http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/foreign_workers/index.shtml

For more information on the construction sector see:

- **Construction Forecast Reports. Buildforce Canada**
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en/catalog/labour-market-information/construction-forecast-reports>
- **The Hire Guide. British Columbia Construction Association**
<http://hireguide.ca/>
- **WorkBC Industry Outlook Profile: Construction**
<https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/b2043113-86c2-446b-90c2-aa6dd1f78b69/Profile-Construction-compressed.pdf.aspx>

2. Occupations in the Construction Sector

The construction sector is made of up numerous occupations. Each career has its own unique set of experience and training requirements. While new workers are needed for most occupations, some careers are in greater demand than others.

Occupations in Highest Demand: 2017-2020

In BC the top occupations with the greatest hiring forecasts include:

- Concrete finishers
- Construction estimators
- Construction managers
- Contractors & supervisors
- Drillers & blasters
- Heavy equipment operators
- Ironworkers
- Trades helpers & labourers
- Welders & related machine operators

Source: Buildforce Canada

For a list of all occupations in construction, along with projected future demand see:

- **Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward British Columbia:**
http://www.buildforce.ca/en/system/files/products/2017-BC-Constr_Maint-Looking-Forward.pdf

For detailed information on occupations in the construction sector, including job description, educational requirements for working in BC, salary, and more see:

- **Careers in Construction**
<http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/>
- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<http://www.workbc.ca/> [search by job title]

3. Hiring Forecast by Region

The majority of construction jobs are in Metro Vancouver (Mainland/Southwest region of the province).

However, employment growth is highest in the North Coast and Nechako and Northeast regions. Job prospects may be very good if you are willing to relocate to other regions of the province.

Construction industry job openings by region:

Region	Job Openings 2015-2020	Job Openings 2020-2025	Job Openings 2015-2025
British Columbia	39,760	33,257	73,017
Mainland/Southwest	20,754	16,509	37,263
Vancouver Island/Coast	6,671	7,221	13,892
North Coast & Nechako	923	163	1,086
Cariboo	1,435	1,114	2,549
Kootenay	1,214	1,371	2,585
Northeast	1,908	1,343	3,251
Thompson-Okanagan	6,855	5,532	12,387

Chart from: WorkBC Labour Market Outlook Industry Profile

<https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/b2043113-86c2-446b-90c2-aa6dd1f78b69/Profile-Construction-compressed.pdf.aspx>

Additional information on construction activities in specific regions can be found at:

- **Construction Map App: Mapping Canada's Major Construction Projects**
<http://www.constructionmapapp.ca/>
- **Move Up Prince George**
<http://moveupprincegeorge.ca/about/industries-employers/>

4. Finding Jobs

Online Job Postings

- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association: Construction Job Centre**
<http://www.constructionjobcentre.ca/>
- **Foreign Skilled Workers in BC**
<http://www.fswbc.com/>
- **Daily Commercial News & Construction Record Careers**
<http://dcnonl.com/careers>
- **Indeed.com**
http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards.

Trade Journals

Industry journals provide information about trends and careers in the industry.

- **Journal of Commerce**
Available at the Central Library,
or online at <http://www.journalofcommerce.com/>
- **Construction Canada**
Available at the Central Library,
or online at <http://www.constructioncanada.net/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in the construction industry in British Columbia. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Vancouver Regional Construction Association Member Directory**
<http://www.vrca.bc.ca/page/member%20directory.aspx>
- **Northern Regional Construction Association Directory**
<https://www.nrca.ca/membership/member-directory/>
- **Vancouver Island Construction Association Member Directory**
<https://www.vicabc.ca/membership/member-directory/>
- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association Directory**
<http://www.gvhba.org/membership/>
- **Southern Interior Construction Association Member Directory**
<https://www.sicabc.ca/membership/member-directory/>
- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association Directory**
<http://www.gvhba.org/membership/>

5. Additional Resources

Still looking for more information? Try looking at the following resources:

- **Buildforce Canada**
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en>
- **Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)**
<http://www.stepbc.ca/>
- **Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Work-in-B-C/Employment-Language-Programs>
- **WelcomeBC Job Profiles for Immigrants**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Job-profiles-for-immigrants>
- **Industry Training Authority of BC**
<http://www.itabc.ca/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.