



MANITOBA

Construction Looking Forward 2009-2017 Key Highlights

Construction employment in Manitoba will be on an upward track in 2009 and 2010, despite the recession, and will continue to grow later in the period. The federal government stimulus is added to local projects already planned in the province. Together, these projects keep construction labour markets moving forward, pushing employment growth to more than 5% annually in each of 2009 and 2010 in the following key engineering and infrastructure trades:

- boilermakers
- construction estimators
- construction millwrights
- crane operators
- heavy equipment operators
- ironworkers
- truck drivers

There will be a one-year pause in construction as the federal stimulus package is withdrawn and major projects wind down in 2011. Growth resumes at a moderate pace from 2012 to 2017 as local institutional, commercial and industrial projects start up.

On the residential side, the decline in housing starts in 2009 will lower employment in residential trades and occupations this year. The new federal government's home renovation tax credit, however, will boost residential renovation activity this year. Later in the forecast period, the housing expansion that will follow from 2011 to 2017 will increase employment in key trades in residential by more than 25%. This will strain labour markets, as recruiting will need to fill new jobs and replace a growing number of retiring workers.

A similar expansion in non-residential building late in the scenario is moderate and could be managed with the industry's established training, certification, promotion and recruiting systems.

Overall, the forecast calls for moderate to strong employment growth and some labour tightness, but generally prosperous construction conditions. Manitoba may miss the recessionary impacts that are emerging for other jurisdictions.

The timing of these shifts in construction will encourage increased mobility as workers move from residential work and jobs outside construction to find non-residential jobs in the immediate future. Jobs in Manitoba will also attract needed trades from nearby provinces. While Manitoba's strength through the recession is notable, other provinces (e.g., Saskatchewan) will be competing for trades in 2009 and 2010. The age profile for the local construction workforce is younger than in other jurisdictions and this will limit the impact of retirements.

Demographic trends will also impact the available workforce later in the forecast period as a relatively large number of older workers will consider retirement. An estimated 5,300 construction workers are expected to retire over the 2009-2017 period. This is in addition to the 5,400 new workers needed to meet requirements due to the expected rise in construction activity driven primarily by strong residential investment and major hydro, mining and pipeline projects over the forecast period. This employment change represents an average annual growth of 2% per year between now and 2017. Investment and employment are fairly steady throughout the forecast with the exception of 2011 when the fiscal stimulus package ends.

The table (over) shows the labour market rankings for trades and occupations in Manitoba.

Managing these positive employment prospects and balanced markets for Manitoba requires diligence. Industry and government must sustain the traditional support systems for construction across the scenario. This support is essential to meet the challenges of volatile markets, increasing mobility, replacing skilled workers as they retire and improving skills.

MARKET RANKINGS FOR TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS IN MANITOBA

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Boilermakers	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Bricklayers	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4
Carpenters	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Concrete finishers	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Construction estimators	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Construction managers	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	2	3	3
Contractors and supervisors	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Crane operators	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	4
Electricians (including industrial and power system)	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Floor covering installers	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Glaziers	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Heavy equipment operators (except crane)	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
Heavy-duty equipment mechanics	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
Insulators	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ironworkers and structural metal fabricators and fitters	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Painters and decorators	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Plasterers, drywall installers and finishers, and lathers	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Plumbers	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Residential and commercial installers and servicers	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Residential home builders and renovators	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Roofers and shinglers	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sheet metal workers	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Tilesetters	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Trades helpers and labourers	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Truck drivers	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4
Welders and related machine operators	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3

Source: Construction Sector Council.

MARKET RANKINGS

- 1 Workers are available, excess supply is apparent and there is a risk of losing workers to other markets.
- 2 Workers are available to meet an increase in demand.
- 3 The availability of workers may be limited by large projects, industrial maintenance or other short-term increases in demand.
- 4 Workers are generally not available. Employers will need to compete to attract additional workers.
- 5 Workers are not available to meet demand. Competition for workers is intense and projects or production may be delayed or deferred.

Timely construction forecast data is available online at www.constructionforecasts.ca. Create customized reports on a broad range of selected categories within sector, trade or province covering up to 10 years.

The full report, *Construction Looking Forward, An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2009 to 2017 for Manitoba*, is part of the Construction Sector Council's Labour Market Information Program, and will be available electronically at www.csc-ca.org later this summer.

For more information or copies contact

The Construction Sector Council
 220 Laurier Ave. West, Suite 1150
 Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5Z9
 Phone: 613-569-5552
 Fax: 613-569-1220
info@csc-ca.org

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