

# MANITOBA

## Construction Looking Forward 2008-2016 Key Highlights

Manitoba is in the midst of a resource-led expansion that has raised construction activity and employment to record levels. Except for a brief downturn in 2010, growth is expected to continue until the end of the forecast period in 2016.

- The available workforce of skilled construction trades and occupations was fully employed by the end of 2007.
- Excess supply rates for construction trades dropped to record low levels and, measured at the summer peak, this suggests that needed workers were not available.
- Employment in the construction industry will increase by 16% in 2008 and 7% in 2009, driving excess supply rates even lower.
- Attracting the needed workers will be increasingly difficult for the next few years.
- Growth in construction activity will resume over the second half of the forecast period with advances averaging 2% per year in both residential and non-residential construction activity.

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 4,500 construction workers are expected to

retire over the 2007-2016 period. This is in addition to the 6,000 new workers needed to meet requirements attributable to the expected rise in construction activity over the forecast period.

Recruiting difficulties and concerns about skills shortages will be more severe for the following trades related to industrial and engineering construction:

- Boilermakers
- Construction managers and supervisors
- Crane operators
- Heavy equipment operators
- Heavy-duty equipment mechanics
- Ironworkers
- Welders

This forecast calls for a shortage of workers in these trades to meet the building requirements over the next two years, as shown in the ranking table (over), and as a result, employers' recruiting strategies may extend beyond traditional sources and practices.

Overall, the prospect of ongoing increases in construction employment in Manitoba over the entire forecast period highlights the need to sustain investments in promoting construction careers to, and recruiting, integrating and training both local entrants and foreign workers.

## MARKET RANKINGS FOR SELECTED TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS IN MANITOBA

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Boilermakers	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Bricklayers	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Carpenters	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4
Concrete Finishers	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4
Construction Managers	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Contractors and Supervisors	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Crane Operators	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Drillers and Blasters – Surface Mining, Quarrying and Construction	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Electricians (including industrial and power system)	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Elevator Constructors and Mechanics	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Floor Covering Installers	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Gasfitters	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Glaziers	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Heavy Equipment Operators (except crane)	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
Insulators	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ironworkers and Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Painters and Decorators	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4
Plasterers, Drywall Installers and Finishers, and Lathers	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Plumbers	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanics	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Roofers and Shinglers	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
Sheet Metal Workers	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Steamfitters, Pipefitters and Sprinkler System Installers	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	4
Tiles setters	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Trades Helpers and Labourers	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Truck Drivers	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Welders and Related Machine Operators	3	4	4	3	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](http://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 2008 to 2016 for Manitoba*, is part of the Construction Sector Council's Labour Market Information Program, and is available electronically at [www.csc-ca.org](http://www.csc-ca.org).

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