



NEW BRUNSWICK

Construction Looking Forward 2008-2016 Key Highlights

Major engineering and industrial construction projects in New Brunswick will drive construction employment up 35% to meet the construction peak in 2013. These projects will exhaust the available workforce in key trades. This surge in construction employment growth will push excess supply rates for selected trades to record low levels.

- For the second consecutive year, engineering construction investment rises by more than 25% in 2008 with the commencement of other projects in the transportation and warehousing, utilities and mining sectors. It will then decline gradually thereafter as these projects end.
- Industrial building construction investment remains steady over the next few years before increasing sharply in 2011 driven by major construction projects in the manufacturing sector, in particular, a second oil refinery.
- Industrial construction activity peaks in 2012 before falling as the projects end.
- Both commercial and institutional building construction show steady growth in line with increased population and business activity.

The proposed major engineering and industrial construction projects dominate the current outlook scenario. At peak, these projects will create local housing cycles as out-of-province workforces are attracted and accommodated during the construction period.

New Brunswick will have to compete with other provinces in order to attract and retain a skilled workforce over the medium term. Recruiting will be intense in a few key trades, including ironworkers, welders and pipe and gasfitters. As well, many workers will also retire, creating tight labour markets for some trades over much of the forecast period, as can be seen in the construction labour market rankings table (over).

Retirements will grow steadily throughout the forecast period, while the major projects are scheduled from 2008 to 2013. The labour needs stemming from the major projects combined with New Brunswick's older-than-average age profile are the main reasons for the tight markets.

At a minimum, New Brunswick will need 4,400 workers to replace retiring workers until 2016, while about 2,500 more workers will be needed to meet demands for new construction over the entire 2008-2016 forecast period.

MARKET RANKINGS FOR TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Boilermakers	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	2	2	3
Bricklayers	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
Carpenters	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	3
Concrete Finishers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Construction Managers	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Construction Millwrights and Industrial Mechanics (except textile)	5	5	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	4
Contractors and Supervisors	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Crane Operators	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	4
Electricians (including industrial and power system)	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3
Floor Covering Installers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Heavy Equipment Operators (except crane)	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Insulators	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	2	2	2
Ironworkers and Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	4	4	4	4	5	5	3	2	2	2
Painters and Decorators	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3
Plasterers, Drywall Installers and Finishers, and Lathers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4
Plumbers	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanics	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	3	3
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3
Roofers and Shinglers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Sheet Metal Workers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Steamfitters, Pipefitters and Sprinkler System Installers	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	2	2	2
Tilesetters	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Trades Helpers and Labourers	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Truck Drivers	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Welders and Related Machine Operators	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4

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, National Summary, An Assessment of Construction Labour Markets from 2008 to 2016*, is part of the Construction Sector Council's Labour Market Information Program, and is available electronically at www.csc-ca.org.

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