

# NOVA SCOTIA

## Construction Looking Forward 2008-2016 Key Highlights

Ongoing construction activity will keep the industry busy in Nova Scotia with employment demands largely within the capacity of local supply. Labour markets, however, may tighten periodically as a result of large and coinciding projects where specific occupations within a trade may be tighter than the results reported for the aggregate trade.

- Engineering construction increases this year and next in line with investment in the mining and government services sectors before declining in both 2010 and 2011. Growth resumes to average 1.6% per year from 2012 to 2016.
- Increases in manufacturing and transportation and warehousing investment associated with the major projects were responsible for the increase in industrial building investment in 2007. As these projects are completed, investment cycles downward from 2009 to 2011 and grows steadily thereafter, averaging 1.9% per year over the 2012-2016 forecast period.
- Commercial building construction remains relatively constant in the medium term before beginning to rise in 2012 as population and economic growth strengthens.
- Residential construction is expected to fall over the medium term in line with declining housing starts. Growth recovers, however, and averages 4.5% per year in line with household formation over the second half of the forecast period.

Construction employment is set to increase again this year by about 5% in Nova Scotia as the industrial and engineering projects start. It will decline over the medium term as major projects end, and then increase on average by 2% per year from 2012 to 2016.

Nova Scotia's construction workforce has an older-than-average age profile and this will create significant replacement demands late in the forecast period. The number of retirements grows steadily across the period, while major project demands are concentrated in shorter periods from 2008 to 2013. The construction labour market rankings for Nova Scotia are shown in the table (over).

These expected conditions confirm the wisdom of the many career promotion and industry recruiting projects that have been launched by the industry and government. Sustaining this momentum and adding targeted efforts is crucial, even during any potential downturns in employment in the period immediately following the completion of major projects.

At a minimum, Nova Scotia will need 5,200 workers to replace retiring workers and about 1,600 more to meet demands for new construction over the 2008-2016 period. Attracting, recruiting, training and retaining a skilled workforce will be a major challenge for the Nova Scotia construction industry.

## MARKET RANKINGS FOR TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA

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