

Sector Definition

The construction sector includes all the different businesses, tradespeople and workers needed to construct or renovate homes and other kinds of buildings. It also includes the work involved in developing the subdivisions and neighbourhoods where people live.

There are three different parts to this sector:

1. The construction of homes and commercial buildings.
2. Dividing up land for development, and constructing roads and highways.
3. Construction within a building that requires a skilled tradesperson, like a brick and stone mason or an electrician.

Sector Overview



Canada

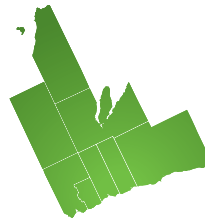
The Canadian construction sector is an important part of the Canadian economy. In fact, 8% of all working Canadians have jobs in the sector. After 20 years of almost constant growth, the construction sector in Canada has slowed down in many provinces.



Ontario

British Columbia and Ontario are the two provinces where the construction sector is still growing. Construction will increase as more people move to these provinces, creating a need for both new homes and renovations to existing homes. This growth means more construction workers and apprentices will have to be hired to keep up with demand, especially as experienced workers retire. In Ontario, it could take an extra 100,000 new people working in construction just to meet building needs in the years ahead.

There are many skilled trades in the construction sector. Some of these trades (like plumbers and electricians) require that workers complete an apprenticeship and be fully certified as journeypersons. Other trades (like roofers and general carpenters) have the option to become fully certified, but it is not required. There is a need for more fully-certified journeypersons in construction, with high-level qualifications that are recognized across Canada (called Red Seal).



Durham Region

The construction industry is one of the top five job sectors in Durham Region, with projects on the go to expand public transit, build roads, supply power, and construct houses, stores, factories and schools. Big developments like Durham Live, an entertainment district being built in Pickering, are creating close to 10,000 construction jobs in the region. Part of this growth is because of how close Durham Region is to the Greater Toronto Area (or GTA). Construction companies from the GTA and the Hamilton area are attracted to Durham Region because the price of land is lower.

To help prepare people for work in the construction sector, Durham College is growing too. They have built new shop labs, classrooms and training spaces, and have partnered with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Ontario Power Generation to update their programs to meet the needs of the construction sector. Durham College is also going to offer short courses focused on specific construction skills (called micro credentials).

Current Sector Trends



Union Involvement

While only a quarter of people who work in construction belong to a union, being unionized has a very positive impact on workers. Unionized workers keep their jobs for longer, are three times more likely to be fully certified and earn about 40% more than workers who are not. Construction workers involved in a union are also less likely to be injured on the job, in part because unionized workplaces offer extra training and supervision.

Use of Technology

While most construction companies and contractors believe that using new technology is important for their business, they don't always put money aside to pay for that technology. Some may not know about the technology available to support their business, or are not sure if spending money on technology will result in better quality work. The type of work someone does has an impact on whether they will buy and use technology as well. For example, general contractors and institutional construction companies are more likely to start using new technology like smart sensors, remote monitoring and apps than trade contractors are.

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