

Immigrants and the Construction Sector



The Construction Sector in Burnaby

As a rapidly growing city, Burnaby has a well-developed construction sector with a higher proportion of construction employment than the Metro Vancouver average³.

The City of Burnaby continues to emphasize high-quality design and construction in new urban developments to ensure the overall quality of the community⁴.

Burnaby's active real estate market has a significant economic impact on Burnaby's economy. The construction sector's growth is forecast to continue due to rapid economic growth and population increase. Burnaby is expecting a signifi-

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³ <http://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/doing+business/burnaby+business+profile/economic+strategy/EDS++Trend+Analysis++Burnaby+EDS+Update.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/multiple+locations/EDS++Burnaby+EDS+2020.pdf>

FAST FACTS

Construction workers have a higher-than average chance of finding themselves unemployed at some point.

Self-employment is much more common in construction than in most other industries. Four of every ten workers are self-employed, double the average for all industries in the province.

The Construction Sector in BC and Metro Vancouver

The Construction industry includes businesses involved in constructing, repairing and renovating buildings, undertaking engineering projects, and sub-dividing and developing land. The sector also develops a diverse range of energy and transportation infrastructure. Businesses or people in this industry may work independently or as sub-contractors. They can be responsible for large projects from start to finish, or they may work on a specific stage of a project¹.

B.C.'s construction industry is a large sector that has been very healthy for the past decade and is forecasted to continue its rapid growth. In 2013, about 192,200 British Columbians worked in the industry. It provides jobs to nearly nine percent of workers in B.C., making it the province's third largest employer. Approximately 60% of jobs of this

sector are located in the Lower Mainland and Southwest area (effectively Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Sunshine Coast).

Province-wide, 73,000 job openings are forecast over the ten years to 2025, slightly more than half of these in the Lower Mainland and Southwest region².

¹ <https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Industry-Profiles/4#section-overview>

² <https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/b2043113-86c2-446b-90c2-aa6dd1f78b69/Profile-Construction-compressed.pdf.aspx>


FAST FACTS

Construction establishments are often small businesses with fewer than 20 workers

At the provincial level, seven out of 10 workers in the industry are trades people or equipment operators

About 90 percent workers are male.

Wages are higher than the provincial average.

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cant increase of residential buildings; total dwelling units are projected to climb to 115,000 units by 2021 and 149,300 by 2041, an increase of 42% and 84% respectively. At least 106 new high-rise residential buildings are forecasted over the next 25 years. In addition, the City is also planning for numerous large scale commercial and industrial projects⁵, leading to continued strong employment.

Notable Construction Employers in Burnaby

Organization	Website
Axiom Builder Inc.	http://www.axiombuilders.ca/
Beedie Group	http://www.beediegroup.ca/careers
Bosa Development Corp.	http://www.bosadevpm.ca/
Casa Madera Hardwood Floors Inc.	http://www.casamaderafloors.com/
Dominion Masonry Ltd.	http://www.dominionmasonry.com/contact.html
Harbourview Electric Ltd.	http://www.harbourviewelectric.com/Employment.html
Marine Roofing Ltd.	http://www.marinerroofing.com/employment
Minhas Holdings Inc.	http://www.minhasholdingsinc.ca
T. Q. Construction Ltd.	http://www.tqconstruction.ca/careers/

Immigrant Prospects in the Construction Sector

The construction sector shows two faces to immigrant workers.

There are challenges for some due to preferences for Canadian experience or credentials requirements.

On the other hand, the sector offers a great number of entry level jobs and jobs without strict credentials requirements. Meantime, it has been a thriving industry, with no slowdown in sight. In 2015, the construction sector employed 103,000 in Metro Vancouver, accounting for 8% of total employment and making the sector the region's fourth largest employer⁶. As well, the combination of aging workers and a

shortage of new entrants may result in a lack of skilled workers⁷

As a result, immigrants often land their first job in this sector. Census 2011 shows Burnaby immigrants accounted for 48.3% of the sector labour force compared to 53.8% of those in all jobs. The corresponding shares for recent immigrants were 8.8% and 8.4%.

Job openings in construction sector in BC by development region, 2015-2025⁸

REGION	JOB OPENINGS 2015-2025
BC	73,017
Mainland/Southwest	37,263
Vancouver Island/Coast	13,892
North Coast & Nechako	1,086
Cariboo	2,549
Kootenay	2,585
Northeast	3,251
Thompson-Okanagan	12,387

Source: WorkBC. Find a listing of projected employment needs by field here (<http://www.csc-ca.org/en/products/british-columbia-2012-highlights-and-powerpoint-presentation>)

COMMON OCCUPATIONS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

The construction sector employs people in a wide range of occupations involving different types of skills. Seven of 10 people who work in this industry are tradespeople, contractors and

others who have special skills related to construction.

Many are certified tradespeople and other skilled workers such as carpenters, electricians, and painters and decorators.

Also common are trades helpers and labourers, and positions in management, business, finance

and administration (e.g., contractors, supervisors).

Construction workers may also be involved in operating, maintaining and installing equipment.

Skilled administrative and business occupations make up a smaller portion of the industry.

⁵ <https://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/city+services/policies+projects+and+initiatives/community+development/Major+Development+Projects/01+-+2016+December.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.bcbc.com/bcbc-blog/2016/trends-in-metro-vancouver-employment-growth-by-industry-over-2001-2015>

⁷ https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/7d3f8b7c-1220-462f-bb7f-07fea54c64c0/Construction-Industry-Training-Network_Engagement-Report_Jan16.pdf.aspx

⁸ <https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/b2043113-86c2-446b-90c2-aa6dd1f78b69/Profile-Construction-compressed.pdf.aspx>



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Labour Force and Jobs in Selected Municipalities and Construction Sectors, 2011 NHS ⁹							
REGION <i>(Five municipalities with greatest labour force)</i>	LABOUR FORCE (WORKERS)			JOBS (EMPLOYMENTS)			JOB TO WORKERS RATIO
	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER	% MUNICIPAL SHARE OF LABOUR FORCE	CONSTRUCTION	TOTAL JOBS	% MUNICIPAL SHARE OF JOB	CONSTRUCTION	
Metro Vancouver	1,273,335	100.0%	84,540	1,030,125	100.0%	35,690	0.4
Vancouver	349,145	27.5%	15,500	352,385	34.21%	8,265	0.5
Surrey	245,640	19.2%	21,680	139,150	13.51%	7,130	0.3
Burnaby	120,285	9.4%	6,930	120,890	11.74%	4,225	0.6
Richmond	99,910	7.8%	4,080	109,945	10.67%	3,250	0.8
Coquitlam	69,720	5.5%	5,745	38,885	3.77%	2,225	0.4

Note: A sector's jobs-to-workers ratio indicates the jobs (labour force currently employed) in a region compared to the region's population currently working in the sector, including those working in the work places outside of the region. For example, Burnaby's ratio indicates the number of Metro Vancouverites employed in Burnaby to the number of Burnaby's total residents working in this sector.

Occupations and Forecasted Job Openings to 2025		
OCCUPATION	JOB OPENINGS IN BC (2015-2025)	PROVINCIAL MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE
Carpenters	10,260	\$25.00/hr
Construction managers	6,900	\$39.00/hr
Electricians (except industrial and power system)	4,610	\$27.90/hr
Construction trades helpers and labourers	5,430	\$20.00/hr
Home building and renovation managers	3,500	\$18.06/hr
Painters and decorators (except interior decorators)	3,390	\$20.00/hr
Electronic service technicians (household and business equipment)	3,310	\$23.50/hr
Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics	3,300	\$32.00/hr
Heavy-duty equipment mechanics	2,800	\$30.00/hr
Contractors and supervisors, heavy equipment operator crews	2,700	\$31.00/hr
Plumbers	2,500	\$27.00/hr
Architects	1,400	\$31.73/hr
Engineering managers	1,100	\$45.67/hr
Construction inspectors	1,100	\$36.06/hr

FAST FACT

Immigrants – regardless of their time in Canada – have a low representation in heavy equipment operations occupations¹⁰.

⁹ <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/LabourForcebyIndustryNHS2011.pdf>

¹⁰ Trades outlook 2010-2020 <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Publications/AnalyticalReports.aspx?subject=construction&file:///D:/Users/Iris/Downloads/Trades%20Outlook%202010-2020%20Highlights.pdf>



Useful Links and Resources

Burnaby Immigrant Programs and Services

Burnaby has numerous employment programs and services for immigrants and refugees. A complete listing of currently available and free programs and services can be found on BIPT's Inventory of Resources for Immigrants (bipt.ca). Select Employment under categories and browse through the various programs to find one that meets your needs.

Occupational Guides and Profiles

Organization	Website
WelcomeBC Job Profiles for Immigrants	https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Job-profiles-for-immigrants
WorkBC Career Profile	https://www.workbc.ca/careers/
Skilled Immigrants InfoCentre – Vancouver Public Library	http://pwp.vpl.ca/siic/
National Occupational Classification 2016	http://noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/noc/welcome.aspx?ver=16

Regulatory Bodies and Professional Associations

Organization	Website
Architectural Institute of British Columbia	www.aibc.ca/
BC Industry Training Authority	www.itabc.ca/
BC Construction Association	www.bccasn.com/
BC Construction Safety Alliance	www.bccsa.ca/
Construction Forecasts	www.constructionforecasts.ca/en
Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC	http://www.apeg.bc.ca
SkillPlan	http://www.skillplan.ca/