

The Employment Journey

Get ahead of the career game.

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PEI Construction Sector - 2010

Definition:

The construction industry requires well-trained trades and management personnel to ensure that each project measures up to Canadian standards and international guidelines.

This sector includes:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Roads and bridges
- Industrial/ heavy construction projects
- Renewable (wind) and non-renewable (oil/ gas) energy

Number of people employed on PEI:

5,600 – as of September 2009 according to Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Of that number, the PEI Residential Construction Sector Council estimates that over **3,000** are specifically employed in residential construction.

PEI employers: The Construction Association of PEI says that there are about **500 construction companies** on PEI now. The association itself has **157 members**.

The members are grouped into five areas of work:

General Contractors, Mechanical, Electrical, Finish and General Trades and Suppliers.

You'll find a lot of self employed people in the construction sector and small-, medium- and large-sized companies that may or may not have unionized employees.

Areas of work in the sector:

General Contractors - Self employed people such as carpenters and other trades and construction companies.

Mechanical - plumbing, heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning.

Electrical - trade contractors or sub-contractors engaged in electrical contracting.

Finish and General Trades - masonry, welding, floor installers, seam fillers, and others.

Suppliers - manufacturers, material and supply companies, and miscellaneous suppliers such as bonding companies, insurance companies, trade journal companies, credit information companies and other firms or individuals having direct or indirect contact with the construction industry.

Sample jobs and wage rates:

- Wage information is taken from www.labourmarketinformation.ca

Carpenters \$11.95 to \$30.80 - 2009 wages

Plumbers \$12.05 to \$27.70 - 2009 wages

Electricians \$11.40 to \$34.70 - 2009 wages

Construction Managers \$14.50 to \$25.15 - 2009 wages

Construction Helpers and Labourers \$10.00 to \$19.85 - 2009 wages

**Landscaping &
Grounds Maintenance Labourers** \$9.00 to \$15.25 - 2009 wages

Bricklayers A beginner Apprentice makes 60 percent of a journeyman's pay rate, which is \$27.31 per hour. The wage goes up to 65 percent after six months, 70 percent after one year and increases by 5 per cent every four months after that.

Welders A beginner Apprentice makes 60 percent of a journeyman's pay rate, which is between \$18.00 and \$21.00 per hour.

*** Wages vary depending on the contract, the company, collective agreements (unions), and local and national economic conditions. The PEI Residential Construction Sector Council has published a Fair Wage Guide that is available on its website at www.peircsc.ca**

Education available on PEI:

Holland College offers a variety of trades programs that range from one to three years in length.

Trades Essentials is the first program of its kind in Canada which focuses on updating the Essential Skills needed to successfully move forward in a trades career and to achieve trades certification.

Apprenticeship training branch of the PEI Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning sponsors training in more than 50 construction trades. Training takes place both on-the-job (approximately 80%) and in school technical training (approximately 20%) which leads to certification under the National Red Seal Program.

Skills Link is a Youth Employment Strategy initiative through Service Canada which helps youth ages 16 to 30 who face barriers to employment. The program supports youth in developing basic and advanced employment skills. Participants benefit from a coordinated approach which responds to their individual needs and provides longer term supports and services that can help them find and keep a job in the sector.

Skills and interests needed to work in Construction:

- Enjoy working with your hands and being outside
- Like physically demanding work
- Have good math and computer skills
- Have good oral and written communication skills

For more information, check these websites:

Construction Association of PEI has about **157** members - check them out at www.capei.ca

PEI Residential Construction Sector Council: www.peircsc.ca

Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association having about **22** members- check them out at <http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/pei.roadbuilders>

Apprenticeship Branch of Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning,
368-4460 or visit www.apprenticeship.pe.ca

Trades Essentials www.tradesessentials.ca

Masonry PEI - Clarence Gallant **566-3436** (registered bricklayer), or the Masonry Industry Association of Atlantic Canada Inc. www.miaac.ca