



# Canadian Construction Outlook

In a recent report by [BuildForce Canada](#) reviews some of the anticipated changes facing the construction industry in Canada, outlining the hottest sectors in each province and territory through 2028.

With the Canadian construction industry on the move, there are some surprises expected across the country over the coming decade. See the highlights below.

## Short Term Trends

- After two decades of rapid expansion in Canada's construction industry more modest employment growth is expected in the coming five years with a shift to more commercial construction and renovation work. This slower pace will be short lived with a wave of retirements expected to hit the construction sector.
- In the short term, BC, Saskatchewan, and PEI are set to lead in construction employment growth.
- Since 2016, the number of women employed in direct labour construction has increased by 30% in Canada. Over the coming decade, the greatest opportunity for women in construction is expected within renovation and new construction of industrial/commercial buildings. Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and PEI currently lead Canada with the most opportunity for women in construction.
- Recruiting for the next generation of construction workers will intensify after 2024 with retirement of nearly 260,000 employees, **almost 25% of the industry.**
- [British Columbia](#) remains one of the fastest growing construction markets, though construction employment will tilt towards non-residential construction after 2019.
- [Ontario](#) will require almost 15,000 new construction workers in the next three years with an increase in non-residential construction and infrastructure projects.
- [Prince Edward Island](#) is expected to lead Canada's construction growth from 2019 to 2025. Resulting from the province's immigration program, PEI expects their busiest construction season ever in 2019 with a 27% increase in construction investment since 2017. The province is currently facing a skilled labour shortage and looking to fill many positions immediately.

- While construction growth has been lower here than elsewhere in western Canada, most declines in Alberta and Saskatchewan have already occurred. Stronger residential starts in both provinces are expected shortly due to younger population there.

## Long Term Trends

- In five years, BuildForce Canada projects overall construction opportunities to be highest in BC and Alberta, followed by Manitoba and Ontario. Within non-residential construction the highest long-term opportunity for contractors exists in Nova Scotia, Alberta, and BC.
- New housing starts across Canada today are expected to drop from 220,000 units to roughly 190,000 by 2023, shifting the construction labour force toward more commercial and residential renovation work.
- Across Canada non-residential new construction is forecast to peak by 2020, with focus shifting to infrastructure renewal and maintenance projects led by an uptick in the manufacturing industry.

Read the full report [here](#)

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