

The BC Labour Market Report's

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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January 6, 2020



February 2021 Labour Market Briefing

Thurs. Jan. 28, 2021 | 3-4PM

Learn the latest labour market information, employment data and a review of recent LMI research and reports.

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Year	Construction Wage Rate, Recent & Projected (average hourly wage, all trades surveyed)
2018	\$28.32
2019	\$29.56
2020	\$29.71
2021	\$30.75
2022	\$32.05

Rates exclude bonuses and health and retirement benefits



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Below, we've included some of the most popular sections of Labour Market Online.

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ICBA Survey Shows 2021 Construction Wages Up, While Work Plateaus

Construction / Research

What happens when the force of a global pandemic collides with a country going over a demographic cliff? Wages go up. Even as construction employers face a very uncertain future for the provincial economy, a shortage of skilled workers continues to be the major theme in the annual Independent Contractors and Businesses Association's (ICBA) 2021 Wage and Benefits Survey.

ICBA President Chris Gardner released the results of ICBA's annual survey of approximately 1,000 construction companies across B.C. on Wednesday morning.

"It seems counter-intuitive to expect wages to jump 7.7% over the next two years at the same time employers are planning for less construction work, but that is how tight the B.C. labour market has become," said Gardner.

Construction in B.C. now employs more than 240,000 people and accounts for 9 per cent of the provincial GDP. This year, survey respondents said they expect to give their workers a 3.5% raise; in 2022, they expect another 4.2% increase.

The effects of COVID-19 were certainly felt by construction companies, which limited 2020 pay increases to just 0.5%,

roughly the rate of inflation. Companies also report fewer tenders for new projects; just 38% of companies expect more work in 2021 than they had in 2020.

“We are far off what used to be the norm of more than half of all construction contractors expecting more work in the coming year,” said Gardner. “The percentage of contractors who foresee a decline in business in 2021 is almost twice as large as last year. While the north and Vancouver Island remain relatively optimistic, the Lower Mainland and rest of B.C. are very nervous.”

Despite construction being deemed an essential service, ICBA estimates that COVID-19 still reduced construction volumes by 15% in 2020 and is forecasting a further decline of 5% in 2021. *“Keeping close to a quarter-million men and women working on construction sites through a global pandemic provided an important life-line to many families and communities across B.C. over the past year – but uncertainty about the future is the buzzword for 2021,”* said Gardner.

The survey showed there is still strong demand for workers in all regions of the province. Every single glazing, insulation, and steel company surveyed noted they needed more glaziers, insulators and steel fabricators respectively. 94% of mobile crane/equipment companies said they needed more skilled operators; 92% of roofing companies are looking for roofers, and 91% of pipefitter employers are on the hunt for more labour.

“If you’re looking for work, construction remains a strong option,” said Gardner. *“British Columbia is going over a demographic cliff, with a workforce that is rapidly aging out. There is incredible opportunity in construction for young people, entrepreneurs and skilled trades workers. That’s why ICBA continues to ramp up our public outreach, and we’re proud to be the single largest sponsor of trades apprentices in B.C.”*

“Before COVID-19, there was a lot of concern in the business community about what higher taxes, increasing regulation and red tape, and delays in project approvals were doing to the B.C. economy,” said Gardner. *“The pandemic has magnified that concern.”*

As vaccines are being deployed and there is light at the end of the long, dark COVID-19 tunnel, ICBA believes that one of the key tasks for the NDP Government is to rethink their approach to attracting investment and creating jobs and opportunities.

“We heard from the Premier during the pandemic that ‘we are all in this together,’” said Gardner. *“The Premier’s job now is to ensure that everyone shares in the recovery together, that government does not pick winners and losers or cut deals with special interests – every worker deserves a fair shot at fully participating in our economic recovery.”*

The ICBA Wage and Benefits Survey also noted:

- Interior: 37% of contractors expect more work in 2021 than last year; 54% say they are short of workers, especially electricians, plumbers and labourers.

BC Labour Market Report

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- North: 56% of contractors expect more work in 2021 than last year; 67% say they are short of workers, especially carpenters and labourers.
- Vancouver Island: 54% of contractors expect more work in 2021 than last year; 64% say they are short of workers, especially labourers and carpenters.
- Lower Mainland: 35% of contractors expect more work in 2021 than last year; 61% say they are short of workers, especially plumbers, labourers, carpenters, and electricians.

Click here to download a copy of the: [2021 ICBA Wage and Benefits Survey](#)

2020 was a big year for targeted immigration to British Columbia

Immigration / Workforce Management

Canada's provinces continued to be actively involved in strengthening Canada's immigration system in 2020.

The **British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program** is one of Canada's largest provincial nominee programs. The province invites the top-scoring provincial candidates on a weekly basis. **Express Entry** British Columbia, **Skills Immigration**, **Entrepreneur** stream as well as the **Tech Pilot** are some of the most active in the province and in the country. This past year, the province invited more than 9,000 candidates to apply for a provincial nomination.

Over the past year, and despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Canada's **Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs)** have kept the number of provincial nominees constant and continued adding new immigration streams to meet their most pressing and specific needs.

The PNP is an immigration program jointly administered by the federal, provincial and territorial governments. It offers Canadian provinces and territories the opportunity to create their own immigration streams to better meet their labour market needs and economic development objectives. The PNP also aims to spread the benefits of economic immigration more equitably across Canada.

The disproportionate number of immigrants going to Canada's largest provinces, such as British Columbia, Ontario or Alberta, explains why the country introduced the PNP. One of the main objectives of the PNP is to encourage immigrants to settle in smaller provinces and move to less populated regions of the country.

The PNP has grown considerably since its launch in 1998 and now accounts for a very significant share of economic immigration to most provinces and territories in Canada. In fact, many smaller Canadian provinces such as Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan now depend on this program to meet their demographic and labour force needs.

Major labour market stories from the past week

For all of the major stories from last week, please login to Labour Market Online and visit the 'Breaking News Section'

- Year in review: Pandemic recovery can put BC on path to long-term well-being ([Click Here](#))
- Human rights complaint filed over private change rooms for female BC Ferries engineers ([Click Here](#))
- 'If not now, then when?' COVID-19 spurs some Canadians to make big changes ([Click Here](#))
- Together Nelson: A Community Based Action Plan to Reduce Poverty ([Click Here](#))
- Comment: We must improve how BC forests are managed ([Click Here](#))
- Young Canadians' pocketbooks hit hardest by coronavirus pandemic: Ipsos poll ([Click Here](#))
- Kelowna contractor ordered to pay \$90k in unpaid wages to temporary foreign workers ([Click Here](#))
- 2020 Year in Review – Community Benefits Agreements ([Click Here](#))
- Opinion: Women in the workforce ([Click Here](#))
- The Canadian Outfitters Who Survived 2020 Are Rewarded with Another Uncertain Season -- Dec. 28, 2020 ([Click Here](#))

This Week in Social Media

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

- Training for careers in web design offered in Port Alberni -([Click Here](#))
- B.C. construction survey says wages to increase, skilled labourers sought, but market is tight ([Click Here](#))
- These Vancouver companies are currently hiring in January -([Click Here](#))
- Supports for people, businesses in 2020 helping build recovery for everyone ([Click Here](#))

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

For instance, we're not going to post divisive articles like: '[Fist-Bumps Handily Beat Handshakes In Pandemic-Conscious 2020](#)'. *Handshakes insist this is fake news! People are shaking hands just as much as ever and shaking hands makes you handsome and immune from catching COVID.*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) today :-)

Community Calendar

Career Development Events

February 2021 Labour Market Year-in-Review

Thurs. Jan. 28, 2021 | 3-4pm

Online: GotoWebinar

Details: [Login to Labour Market Online to Register](#)

CANNEXUS21**January 25 & 27, February 1 & 3, 2021**

Virtual Conference

Details: cannexus.ceric.ca**BC Career Development Conference 2021****April 29 and 30, 2021**

SFU Harbourside

Details: [Click Here](#)

Job Postings

Career Development Employment

-

To post a job here, please email: bclmr@outlook.com*(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the BC Labour Market Report)***Employment Counsellor**

Mosaic

Vancouver, British Columbia

Closes: January 8, 2020

Link: [Please Click here](#)**Pre-Employment Program Caseworker/Facilitator/Employment Counsellor**

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society

Duncan, British Columbia

Closes: January 11, 2021

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Pre-Employment Program Caseworker/Facilitator/Employment Counsellor**

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society

Duncan, British Columbia

Closes: January 11, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Job Developer- WorkBC *NEW***

ETHOS Career Management Group Ltd

Duncan, British Columbia

Closes: January 15, 2021

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Job Developer- WorkBC**

ETHOS Career Management Group Ltd

Duncan, British Columbia

Closes: January 15, 2021

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Employment Specialist / Job Developer *NEW***

CBI Consultants

Metro Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia

Closes: January 19, 2021

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Employment Counsellor *NEW***

MOSAIC BC

Vancouver, British Columbia

Closes: Open Until Filled

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Employment Counsellor *NEW***

WCG Services
Rutland, British Columbia
Closes: Unknown
Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Sub-Contractor Needed for WorkSafeBC Clients *NEW*

Buxton Consulting
Mission/Abbotsford/Chilliwack, British Columbia
Closes: Unknown
To Apply: [Please Click Here](#)

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

Youth people continue to be disproportionately affected by the impacts of the economic downturn. Seventeen per cent of Canadians aged 18 to 34 say they've lost their job. That number dips to 10 per cent for those aged 35-54 and three per cent for those over the age of 55.

-Ipsos

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

"It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now."

- Hugh Laurie

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