



2016–2025 Key Highlights

British Columbia

As the new scenario begins in 2016, construction in British Columbia starts on a growth path that will carry employment to new record high levels in 2018.

These gains will end a period of high, but mostly unchanging employment that began after 2008. New infrastructure and resource-related projects lead this cycle.

The coming expansion is concentrated in non-residential construction. Housing-related building activity is projected to remain largely unchanged, as housing starts drop in 2017 and 2019, while renovation advances slowly. Labour requirements for the major non-residential projects will create market challenges from 2016 to 2019 for specialized trades.

Conditions ease in 2020 and 2021 as projects end, and from 2022 to 2025, markets are largely balanced. There are few market challenges in residential construction across the scenario, except for a brief period of slower growth and employment declines from 2020 to 2022.

There is the risk of losing skilled workers to other markets during this period. These market-driven conditions include important periods of recruiting challenges. Even bigger issues are tied to rising retirements and a declining number of younger residents entering construction across the 2016–2025 scenario period. An estimated 39,500 workers are expected to retire over the next decade, or 23 percent of the current workforce.