

Architects: Alternative Careers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Architects: Alternative Careers

You may find that your international training and experience as an architect are not immediately accepted in B.C.

The scientific and mathematical skills you have already acquired, along with your artistic talent and communication skills, can be used in alternative careers. You may wish to investigate certification as either an Applied Science Technologist (AScT) or Certified Technician (CTech under the disciplines of 'Building-Architecture'. You can also consider alternative careers in construction.

Architectural Technologist [NOC 2021: 22210/ NOC 2016: 2251]

You provide technical assistance to professional architects and civil design engineers in conducting research, preparing drawings, architectural models, specifications and contracts, and cost estimate. You also ensure designs meet provincial building code regulations and supervise construction projects.

Requirements:

- Completion of a one- to two-year college program in architectural technology or a related subject is usually required
- A period of supervised work experience, (two years minimum), is required before certification
- Certification with *Architectural Institute of BC* or *Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)* may be required

Certification:

- The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)
<https://aibc.ca/registration/architectural-technologists/>
- Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)
<https://asttbc.org/>
 - Classes of Registrants <https://asttbc.org/public/classes-of-registrants/>
 - Application Process: <https://asttbc.org/applicants/application-process/>
- Free online self-assessment of your academic qualifications and working experience provided by Technology Registrations Canada (TRC)
<https://www.technologyregistrationscanada.ca/content/application-about>

Skills:

- creativity, persistence, and an eye for detail
- ability to visualize buildings in three dimensions and then reproduce them in two dimensions
- strong math and computer skills
- communication skills and ability to work in a team environment

Wages: median hourly wage \$30.07 per hour

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/architectural-technologists-and-technicians>

Cost Estimator / Construction Estimator [NOC 2021: 22303/ NOC 2016: 2234]

You calculate construction project costs, and how long the project will take to complete. You review building drawings and specifications, visit construction sites, and research current material prices.

Requirements:

- Although a diploma in civil or construction engineering is usually required, some positions may accept construction experience
- Certification is not mandatory, but it may be helpful in gaining employment in this field

Certification:

- Canadian Construction Association's (CCA) Gold Seal Certification Program
<https://www.cca-acc.com/workforce-excellence/gold-seal/>
- Construction Estimator Certified (CEC) designation with the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
<https://ciqs.org/web/web/03-Education-Pages/windows/Accredited-Programs.aspx>

Skills:

- strong math, organization, analytical, writing and communication skills
- computer skills are a requirement for this position due to the use of estimating software and document management programs
- interest in planning, decision making, problem solving, working with people, and the financial aspect of construction

Wages: median hourly wage \$28.85 per hour

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-estimators>

Construction Inspector [NOC 2021: 22233/ NOC 2016: 2264]

You inspect and examine buildings, bridges, highways and construction sites to ensure that specifications, building codes and safety regulations are observed

Requirements:

- Most construction inspectors hold post-secondary education in construction, civil engineering or architectural technology. However, you may also qualify if you have several years of experience as a qualified tradesperson in a construction trade such as plumbing, carpentry or electrical.
- Certification is not mandatory, but can be helpful in gaining employment. Certification can be obtained through the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) (<https://asttbc.org/>) or through various industry organizations such as the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (CAHPI) (<https://www.cahpi.ca>).

Skills:

- knowledge of construction techniques, building codes and standards
- well organized and analytical; good mathematical skills
- ability to communicate information clearly and precisely

Wages: median hourly wage \$30.00 per hour

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-inspectors>

Construction Manager [NOC 2021: 70010 / NOC 2016: 0711]

You organize, direct and evaluate the activities of a construction company or a construction department. You plan and oversee the building of all kinds of structures, including skyscrapers, houses, roads, and bridges.

Requirements:

- a university degree in civil engineering or a college diploma in construction technology is usually required;
- master's degree in project management may be required
- several years of experience in the construction industry, including experience as a construction supervisor, are usually required
- extensive experience in the construction industry may substitute for post-secondary education requirements
- construction trade certification may be required by some employers

Skills:

- ability to solve problems quickly and efficiently
- thorough, detail-oriented, highly organized
- good oral and written communication skills needed to effectively communicate with engineers, architects, tradespeople, clients, and suppliers

Wages: median hourly wage \$40.38 per hour

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-managers>

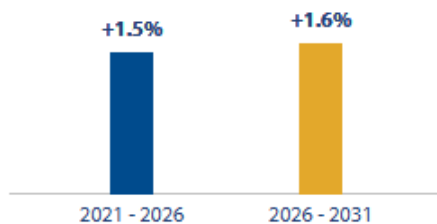
2. Employment Outlook

Architectural Technologists and Technicians

The demand for architectural technologists and technicians is expected to continue to grow over the next few years. The non-residential construction, new housing construction and renovation projects, and investments in major resource and infrastructure projects in northern BC are the biggest contributors to job creation.

Job Opening Outlook: Architectural Technologists and Technicians

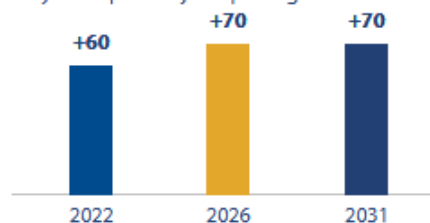
Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 670



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

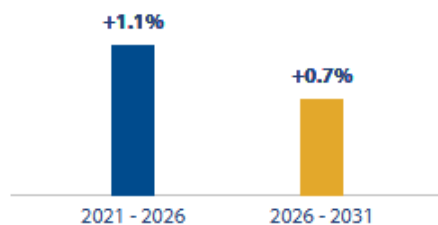
Source: Work BC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/architectural-technologists-and-technicians>

Construction/Cost Estimators

Industry reports there is a shortage of qualified estimators. In particular, smaller companies need highly trained estimators who can also serve as project managers or schedulers.

Job Opening Outlook: Construction / Cost Estimator

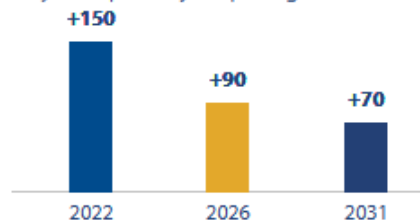
Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 970



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

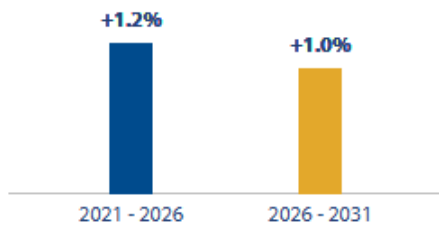
Source: Work BC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-estimators>

Construction Inspectors

Growth in construction activities supports demand for construction inspection services by both local governments and private buyers. Building inspection services for prospective home buyers is also growing source of employment.

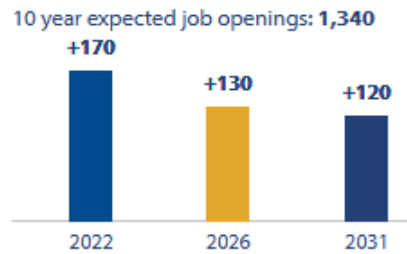
Job Opening Outlook: Construction Inspectors

Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

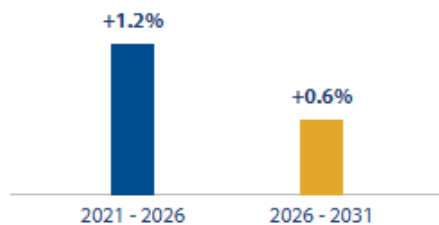
Source: Work BC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-inspectors>

Construction Managers

WorkBC identifies this as a high opportunity occupation. Construction managers work in all construction sectors: New Home Building and Renovation, Industrial, Institutional and Commercial, and Civil Engineering.

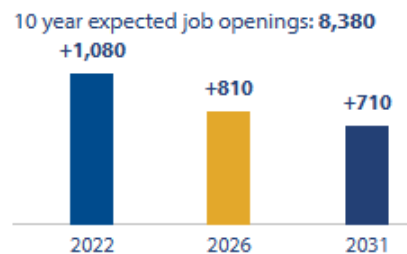
Job Opening Outlook: Construction Managers

Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Source: Work BC <https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/construction-managers>

3. Retraining

You may want to consider upgrading your skills to increase your employment options in this field. The following courses may improve your current skill set:

Public Works Association of B.C. (PWABC) Emerging Leaders Program

<https://pwabc.ca/emerging-leaders/>

BCIT School of Construction and the Environment

<https://www.bcit.ca/construction-environment/>

Canadian Construction Association Gold Seal Certification

<https://www.cca-acc.com/workforce-excellence/gold-seal/>

4. Searching for Jobs

Construction Job Centre

www.constructionjobcentre.ca/

Indeed.ca

www.indeed.ca

Talent.com

<https://ca.talent.com/>

T-Net British Columbia: BC Technology Job Search

<https://www.bctechnology.com/jobs/search.cfm>

TechJobs.ca

<https://www.techjobs.ca/en/>

5. Volunteering in the Field

Volunteering can help you to explore a new career and learn more about architecture and technical work in B.C. You will meet new people and build a network of contacts that may lead to information on job openings and an inside connection at a potential employer.

Go Volunteer

<https://govolunteer.ca/>

Volunteer BC

<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

Habitat for Humanity

<https://www.habitatgv.ca/applytovolunteer>

can volunteer at construction sites or at ReStores

Architectural Institute of British Columbia Volunteer Opportunities

<https://aibc.ca/about/opportunities/volunteer-opportunities/>

6. Helpful Resources

Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC)

<https://asttbc.org/>

Architectural Institute of British Columbia

<https://aibc.ca/>

British Columbia Construction Association Integrating Newcomers Program

<https://bccassn.com/skilled-workforce/bcca-integrating-newcomers/>

Vancouver Regional Construction Association

<https://vrca.ca/>

STEPBC

<https://www.stepbc.ca/job-seeker/>

Fastest Growing Industries: Construction

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/industry-profiles/fastest-growing-industries-construction>

Click on 'Job Search Resources' at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/> for help on:

- resumes & cover letters
- getting Canadian work experience
- networking for employment
- online social networks
- Canadian workplace culture

***Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library,
Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.***

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.