

Glaziers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Glaziers [NOC 2021: 73111 / NOC 2016: 7292]

May also be called:

- glazier apprentice
- plate glass installer
- stained glass glazier
- structural glass glazier

1. What Would I Do?

You cut, install and replace glass in buildings of all types and in furniture and other products.

Your duties include:

- reading and interpreting blueprints
- measuring, marking, tinting and cutting glass
- installing prefabricated glass, mirrors or glass products on walls, ceilings or exteriors of building
- fabricating metal frames for glass installation
- preparing and installing skylights, aquariums and stained glass in churches, museums and other buildings
- replacing damaged glass or faulty sealant
- preparing cost estimates

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Glaziers**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **Careers in Construction**
<https://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/glazier>
- **Career Cruising** (Profile for Glazier)
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Important skills:

- *good manual dexterity*
- *good eyesight and hand-eye coordination*
- *good math skills*
- *physically fit and able to lift heavy objects*
- *comfortable with heights*

The work can be physically demanding and involves a lot of bending, kneeling, and lifting. You often work outside, sometimes in bad weather. You may have to work on scaffolding at great heights.

You may work alone or with a team of other construction professionals.

Safety is a top priority. You are trained to work safely and wear special equipment to protect against injury.

Sources: Career Cruising & Careers in Construction

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the median annual salary for glaziers is \$56,311. Your wages are affected by your experience, location and area of expertise.

In BC's regions, you can expect to make:

Community/Area	Low (\$/hour)	Median (\$/hour)	High (\$/hour)
British Columbia	19.50	27.87	35.70
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	19.19	28.00	36.00
Thompson–Okanagan Region	20.00	24.00	34.00
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	20.00	29.00	35.00

Table from Job Bank Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Construction work usually pays more per hour than repair/service work, but the construction industry is more dependent on the economy. If the economy is poor, there is less work available. Specializing in an area of work such as motor vehicle glass or window repairs offers more stable employment.

If you work full-time you may receive benefits such as dental coverage, paid vacation time, and paid sick days.

You may also be a member of a union. This means that your wages and benefits are negotiated on your behalf by union representatives

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

There are approximately 2,100 glaziers employed in BC. Industry sources indicate that not enough people are entering this occupation to meet future demand, mainly due to a lack of knowledge about the job.

Employment Outlook

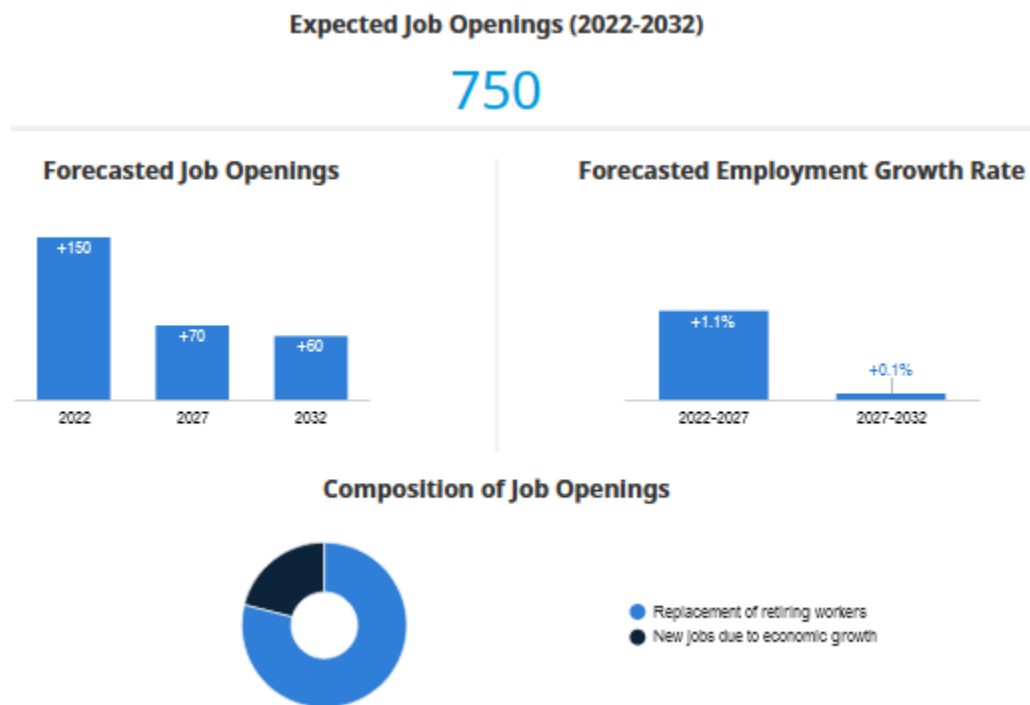


Chart from WorkBC

Due to the seasonal nature of this occupation, employment opportunities vary depending on the time of the year.

Job growth largely depends on trends in the construction, manufacturing and retail industries, where the work is mainly concentrated. Work in the retail and manufacturing sectors is less affected by economic cycles than in the construction industry.

Source: WorkBC

5. How Do I Become a Glazier

Glazier is an Inter-provincially recognized Red Seal trade. With a Red Seal, you can work in this trade anywhere in Canada.

Completion of secondary school is recommended, but not required.

Although trade certification is not mandatory to be a glazier in B.C., it will likely increase your job opportunities. You become certified by completing a four-year apprenticeship program.

Once you complete the apprenticeship program and successfully pass the Interprovincial Red Seal exam, you become certified as journeyman. After passing the Interprovincial exam (the final exam for this trade), you also automatically have a Red Seal endorsement through SkilledTradesBC.

If you have significant work experience as a glazier but have never been certified in Canada, you may apply to challenge the certification. This includes completing 9,600 hours of work in the trade and successfully writing the Interprovincial Red Seal exam.

More information:

- **SkilledTradesBC**
<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/glazier>
- **Red Seal Program**
<https://www.red-seal.ca/eng/w.2lc.4m.2.shtml>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

Glaziers work for:

- *construction glass installation contractors*
- *retail service and repair shops*
- *glass fabrication shops*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
- **Fenestration & Glazing Industry Association BC Region**
<https://www.fen-bc.org/jobs.php>
- **WorkBC Job Postings**
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs>
- **Construction Job Centre**
<https://www.constructionjobcentre.ca/>

Finding “Hidden Jobs”

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below help you with finding jobs in this “hidden” job market.

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use company directories to produce lists of employers who employ glaziers in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **British Columbia Construction Association Membership Directories**

<https://bccassn.com/get-involved/become-a-member/#regional-associations>

Find your regional construction association, then search the membership directory for that region

- **Fenestration & Glazing Industry Alliance Member Directory – BC Region**

<https://fgiaonline.org/members?region=FENBC>

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "glaziers" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

**You can also try entering "construction" to find more company names

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database.*

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities▪ **Volunteer BC**

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

▪ **Volunteer Connector**

<https://www.volunteerconnector.org/>

▪ **Habitat for Humanity**

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

(can volunteer at construction sites or at ReStores)

For additional tips see:

▪ **Networking for Employment**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>

▪ **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience.

Use the library catalogue <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

▪ **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

With education and experience you can move into positions such as:

- foreman
- maintenance or service manager
- consulting or estimating
- project coordination and management
- sales with industry-related products
- You may also start your own business.

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **STEP**
<https://www.stepbc.ca/>
no-fee employment program to help newcomers enter the construction industry
- **Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance – BC Region**
<https://www.fen-bc.org/>
- **BC Construction Association Integrating Newcomers Program**
<https://bccassn.com/skilled-workforce/bcca-integrating-newcomers/>
- **Careers in Construction**
<https://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/careers/career-finder>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>
- **BC Fastest Growing Industries: Construction**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/industry-profiles/fastest-growing-industries-construction>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central 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>.