

Post-Pandemic Recovery Planning Report Summary: Construction Industries in Sarnia Lambton

Detailed findings and recommendations for local stakeholders reported in the Post-Pandemic Workforce & Economic Recovery in Sarnia Lambton are available at www.slwdb.org/pandemic-recovery.



Highlight on Local Impacts

- Construction remained a great driver of economic recovery in the earliest stages of recovery following the first wave of the pandemic
- Main challenges faced by the sector included:
 - disruption in the building materials supply chain
 - project cancellations due to COVID-19 public health restrictions
 - increased difficulty accessing required skilled labourers
- Reported drops in employment early in the pandemic, the residential construction sector rebounded and surpassed pre-pandemic levels by December 2020
- Levels of commercial and industrial construction continue to lag since the onset of the pandemic, a trend noted across Canada
 - attributed to a decreased demand for commercial work spaces and a shift towards expanded virtual-based business operations

Highlights on Labour and Skills Shortages

- Since the onset of pandemic, there have been over 170 job opportunities in construction based on data from WISL
 - this does not capture the many positions filled using means other than online job boards
- Over 50% of Ontario contractors struggled find the required skilled trades-people required to complete a project (Ontario Construction Secretariat)
- Top in demand occupations in construction (June 1 2020 - March 1 2021)



Construction trades helpers
and labourers
(NOC 7611)

51

Carpenters
(NOC 7271)

38

Construction managers
(NOC 0711)

27

Job posting data source:

WISL
WORK IN SARNIA LAMBTON



Recommendations for Strengthening our Local Workforce

- Develop a network of training resources, apprenticeship supports and skilled trade employers to facilitate the recruitment and retention of talent to the local skilled labour force
- Create incentive programs for entering in demand occupations in the sector
- Micro-credential programs allowing flexible delivery of training programs to increase accessibility for workers with a broad range of educational backgrounds and lifestyles
- Review of local, intra-provincial, national and international trade supply chains including labour mobility