

Construction Sector Summary



25,872
workers

21.1% of total*



7,325
businesses

33.2% of total*



56
education programs

9.1% of total*



15,652
available jobs

19.2% of total*

*Refers to total across six priority sectors (manufacturing; health care; professional, scientific, and technical; tourism; agriculture and agri-food; and construction).

Key Takeaways

Simcoe County's construction workforce was concentrated in building equipment contractors, residential building, and building finishing.^{1,2} This sector comprised 7,325 businesses, 33.2 percent of all businesses in the County and the largest sector by businesses.^{3,4}

The workforce expanded by 6,185 workers during 2015-21, and the number of businesses rose by 877 during this period.^{5,6,7} Business expansion was planned by 66.5 percent of survey respondents.

¹ NAICS Business Counts, Simcoe Census Division, Statistics Canada, 2021

² Stiletto Analysis, 2022

³ NAICS Business Counts, Simcoe Census Division, Statistics Canada, 2021

⁴ Stiletto Analysis, 2022

⁵ NAICS Business Counts, Simcoe Census Division, Statistics Canada, 2021

⁶ NAICS Business Counts, Simcoe Census Division, Statistics Canada, 2015

⁷ Stiletto Analysis, 2022

Construction education and training programs were under-represented relative to the size of the workforce, with only 9.1 percent of education programs supporting this sector. Almost half of jobs in the sector required a diploma or apprenticeship, and stakeholders shared that additional in-depth technical training would be valuable to the sector, particularly training that included work placements.

About the Study

The 2022 County of Simcoe Labour Market Research Study examined workforce, industry / business, and education assets in the six priority sectors of manufacturing; agriculture and agri-food; tourism; professional, scientific, and technical services; health care; and construction. The study identified how the County of Simcoe could build on strengths and harness opportunities to strengthen its labour market and promote long-term prosperity.

Construction Sector Recommendations

Recommendation	Potential Implementation Partners (Examples)		Implementation Complexity		
	Lead	Support	Low	Medium	High
Establish new sector-specific events similar to Innovation Summit and create spaces and places to share data and trends, and continue to effectively communicate these findings. Events like Innovation Summit create opportunities for collision and knowledge-sharing between stakeholders in a specific sector, creating and strengthening sector networks and clusters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal and regional partners County of Simcoe Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board and Literacy Network (SMWDBLN) Local associations such as Simcoe County Home Builders' Association, and Barrie Construction Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-secondary institutions Chambers of commerce 	✓		
To reach students at an early age (e.g., primary school), work with local school boards to ensure students are aware of career pathways. In addition, work with industry and post-secondary schools to articulate the diversity of career options in construction. Leverage existing groups such as the local Young Leaders Group to host school events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School boards Local associations such as Simcoe County Home Builders' Association, and Barrie Construction Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County of Simcoe Post-secondary institutions 	✓		
Develop and expand access to professional networks among newcomer populations to alleviate barriers to entering the construction industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Immigration Partnership Ethnic Mosaic Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County of Simcoe Local associations such as Simcoe County Home Builders' Association, and Barrie Construction Association 		✓	
Facilitate conversations with stakeholders across the ecosystem to explore funding opportunities related to early mentoring and career pathway development, particularly among young equity-denied individuals who may not usually have access to such supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County of Simcoe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post secondary Local area associations (such as Simcoe County Home Builders' Association) Local Immigration Partnership Ethnic Mosaic Alliance 		✓	

Source: Stiletto Analysis