



About the Skilled Trades

What are the skilled trades?

A skilled trade is a career path that requires hands-on work and specialty knowledge. Skilled trades are learned through an apprenticeship, which means that skills of the job are learned while working.

There are 4 sectors of skilled trades in Ontario, each with diverse career opportunities: Construction, Motive Power, Industrial, and Service.

Construction

- Carpenter
- Plumber
- Brick and stone mason

Industrial

- Machinist
- Welder
- Industrial mechanic millwright

Motive Power

- Automotive service technician
- Auto body repairer
- Truck and coach technician

Service

- Hairstylist
- Chef/cook/baker
- Child development practitioner

For more information visit the [Skilled Trades page on the government of Ontario's website.](#)

Why choose a career in the skilled trades?

Skilled trades are highly respected career choices. Skilled tradespeople in Ontario and Canada are generally well paid, have good job security, and have opportunities for career advancement. Tradespeople can work for large or small companies, work as part of a union, or can even be self-employed. This means that there are opportunities for employees as well as entrepreneurs in the trades.

Skilled tradespeople are already in high demand, and with the older generation set to retire, the demand for skilled tradespeople is only increasing.

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