

Registered apprenticeship training programs, 2012

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Apprenticeship training programs across Canada received 104,280 new registrations and reinstatements in 2012, up 6.8% from 2011. This marked the highest number of new registrations and reinstatements (individuals who were reinstated in 2012 after a year or more of absence) since the beginning of the economic downturn in 2008.

Total registrations in apprenticeship training programs across Canada increased 4.3% from 2011 to 444,672 in 2012.

New registrations in Red Seal trades were up 6.8%, but the number remained below 2008 levels. New registrations in non-Red Seal trades were up 11.5% from 2011. (For more information on the Red Seal Program, see the note to readers.)

In 2012, 56,913 certificates were awarded to both apprentices and trade qualifiers/challengers, up 2.7% from 2011.

Of the total certificates awarded, 41,481 were granted to apprentices who completed their training, up 0.8% from 2011. This annual growth was much lower than the increases registered over the previous two years.

In 2012, certificates awarded to trade qualifiers/challengers increased for the first time since 2008, up 8.2% from the previous year to 15,429.

Less than half (19,701) of the apprentice certificates awarded were Red Seal certificates. For the first time since 2008, the number of apprentice certificates with Red Seal endorsements (-2.6%) declined while the number of certificates for trade qualifiers/challengers with Red Seal endorsement (+5.2%) increased.

Among the top 10 Red Seal trades, the construction electrician trade recorded the largest number of new registrations, up 10.9% from 2011 to 9,714 in 2012, and surpassed the carpenter trade, which was down 13.2% to 7,881. The number of new registrations in the construction electrician trade has increased every year since the end of the economic downturn. The steamfitter/pipefitter trade (+45.7%) posted the largest annual increase in new registrations in 2012, followed by the welder trade (+41.7%), where the number of new registrations exceeded those recorded in 2008.

The proportion of females registered in trades has been constantly increasing over the years. In 2012, females accounted for 14.2% of all registrations. The highest number of new registrations for females was in the user support technicians major trade group (4,095), where for the first time, new registrations exceeded those in the hairstylists and estheticians group.

Note to readers

A **Certificate of Qualification** in a trade can be obtained by registered apprentices who have completed their training and successfully passed their examination. A Certificate of Qualification can also be obtained by individuals known as "**trade qualifiers**"/"**challengers**." These individuals have extensive experience and knowledge in a trade but have not completed a formal apprenticeship training program. However, they can write ("challenge") the examination and, if successful, receive their Certificate of Qualification.

Certificates granted each year are either awarded in Interprovincial Standard Red Seal endorsed trades or in non-Red Seal endorsed trades. The **Red Seal endorsed trades** were established to provide mobility for anyone who has obtained the Red Seal endorsement on their certificate, allowing them to work in any province or territory that recognizes the Red Seal endorsement, without that individual having to re-write their examination.



Table 1
Registered apprenticeship training: Registrations

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008 to 2009	2009 to 2010	2010 to 2011	2011 to 2012
	number					% change			
Total registrations	390,705	409,041	430,452	426,283	444,672	4.7	5.2	-1.0	4.3
Red Seal registrations	331,863	333,591	343,170	331,209	340,806	0.5	2.9	-3.5	2.9
Non-Red Seal registrations	58,842	75,447	87,282	95,076	103,866	28.2	15.7	8.9	9.2
Total new registrations and reinstatements	98,553	84,885	92,568	97,605	104,280	-13.9	9.1	5.4	6.8
Red Seal trades	79,311	60,204	66,111	70,935	74,601	-24.1	9.8	7.3	5.2
New registrations	73,872	54,636	59,700	63,609	67,923	-26.0	9.3	6.5	6.8
Reinstatements	5,439	5,568	6,411	7,326	6,678	2.4	15.1	14.3	-8.8
Non-Red Seal trades	19,242	24,681	26,457	26,673	29,676	28.3	7.2	0.8	11.3
New registrations	18,603	23,754	25,770	25,701	28,662	27.7	8.5	-0.3	11.5
Reinstatements	639	927	687	972	1,014	45.1	-25.9	41.5	4.3

Table 2
Registered apprenticeship training: Certifications

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008 to 2009	2009 to 2010	2010 to 2011	2011 to 2012
	number					% change			
Total certificates	47,739	48,501	51,864	55,422	56,913	1.6	6.9	6.9	2.7
Total apprentice certificates	29,091	30,888	36,009	41,163	41,481	6.1	16.6	14.3	0.8
Certificates with Red Seal endorsement	14,811	16,683	18,816	20,220	19,701	12.6	12.8	7.5	-2.6
Certificates without Red Seal endorsement	14,313	14,220	17,202	20,940	21,786	-0.6	21.0	21.7	4.0
Total trade qualifier/challenger certificates	18,615	17,598	15,846	14,262	15,429	-5.5	-10.0	-10.0	8.2
Certificates with Red Seal endorsement	7,143	6,456	6,165	5,508	5,796	-9.6	-4.5	-10.6	5.2
Certificates without Red Seal endorsement	11,472	11,142	9,681	8,751	9,630	-2.9	-13.1	-9.6	10.0

Table 3
Registered apprenticeship training: Registrations in the top 10 Red Seal trades

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008 to 2009	2009 to 2010	2010 to 2011	2011 to 2012
	number					% change			
Total registrations in the top 10 Red Seal trades									
Carpenter	49,869	49,575	50,880	50,238	48,870	-0.6	2.6	-1.3	-2.7
Construction electrician	46,038	46,614	48,087	48,321	49,611	1.3	3.2	0.5	2.7
Automotive service technician	25,995	25,740	25,602	22,809	22,539	-1.0	-0.5	-10.9	-1.2
Plumber	18,441	18,645	19,539	18,840	18,546	1.1	4.8	-3.6	-1.6
Hairstylist	17,646	18,690	19,869	18,462	18,993	5.9	6.3	-7.1	2.9
Steamfitter/pipefitter	14,697	15,798	15,573	15,150	16,077	7.5	-1.4	-2.7	6.1
Cook	12,078	10,323	11,214	11,304	12,228	-14.5	8.6	0.8	8.2
Welder	15,735	14,259	13,533	13,245	14,781	-9.4	-5.1	-2.1	11.6
Industrial electrician	6,264	8,703	11,511	10,095	11,049	38.9	32.3	-12.3	9.5
Industrial mechanic (millwright)	11,493	11,268	11,082	10,512	11,049	-2.0	-1.7	-5.1	5.1
New registrations in the top 10 Red Seal trades									
Carpenter	10,656	8,043	9,276	9,075	7,881	-24.5	15.3	-2.2	-13.2
Construction electrician	10,191	7,422	8,085	8,757	9,714	-27.2	8.9	8.3	10.9
Automotive service technician	4,959	3,705	3,651	3,612	3,567	-25.3	-1.5	-1.1	-1.2
Plumber	4,329	3,135	3,723	3,051	3,423	-27.6	18.8	-18.0	12.2
Hairstylist	4,302	4,320	4,650	4,302	4,071	0.4	7.6	-7.5	-5.4
Steamfitter/pipefitter	4,110	1,908	2,094	2,358	3,435	-53.6	9.7	12.6	45.7
Cook	2,838	1,725	2,472	2,523	2,517	-39.2	43.3	2.1	-0.2
Welder	3,429	2,466	2,352	3,360	4,761	-28.1	-4.6	42.9	41.7
Industrial electrician	1,317	1,188	1,491	1,668	1,566	-9.8	25.5	11.9	-6.1
Industrial mechanic (millwright)	2,205	1,431	1,485	1,938	2,196	-35.1	3.8	30.5	13.3

Available in CANSIM: tables 477-0053 to 477-0055, 477-0072 and 477-0073.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3154.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).