

Understanding the BuildForce Canada Forecast and the COAA/GoA Projection

As owners, engineering firms, construction companies, labour providers and educational institutions seek to understand the supply/demand for skilled labour and the potential impact on planned project execution, it is beneficial to have two independent looks into the crystal ball.

Because the COAA/GoA Projection is based on known, planned projects, it provides a direct estimate related to construction in progress or soon to start. Beyond two or three years into the future, the projection drops off – not necessarily because the level of construction activity is expected to drop off, but because many projects in the mid- and long-term future have not yet hit the planning stages and are therefore not included in the model. At present, demand projections are made for 18 key trades relevant to heavy industrial construction.

The BuildForce Canada Forecast reflects longer term economic trends, so better represents the longer term expectation for growth or decline in capital investment (and hence the number of construction workers) in Alberta. The forecast includes all sectors of construction: residential, commercial/institutional and heavy industrial (engineered construction).