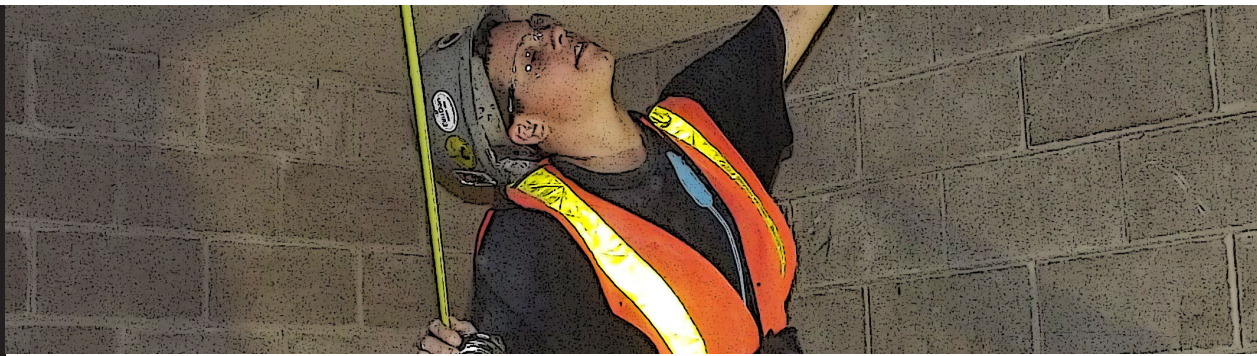


CARPENTER



ANNUAL SALARY: \$59,000 - \$82,000* | NOC: 7271 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade¹

** Based on a 40-hour work week at current collective agreement rates for journeypersons. Does not include benefits.*

WHAT WE DO

Carpenters are responsible to make, renovate and repair structures made of materials like wood, steel and concrete. They may work for construction firms, building owners, developers, or government departments. Using blueprints, drawings and sketches, they determine project requirements, lay out projects in conformance with building codes, and measure, cut, shape, assemble and join wood, wood substitutes, steel studs, and other materials. While on the job site, they make foundations, lay out beams, subflooring, walls and roofs, and fit and install doors and other access points. They may have to **work alone or in a team, perform heavy lifting, work at heights, and work under occasionally poor weather conditions**, are expected to have **strong work ethic**, be **detail-oriented**, and have **safety awareness, math ability, and hand-eye coordination**. Many carpenters specialize in forming, framing, finishing, interior systems, or renovation on commercial and industrial sites. Experienced tradespeople may progress to roles as foremen or superintendents, or be self-employed. Typically, carpenters are involved in every part of building construction, which affords them an advantage when applying for supervisory positions.²

PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- 500 hours toward apprenticeship can be obtained from approved public school programs and experiences like Cooperative Education, Skilled Trades, the Options and Opportunities (O₂) Program, and Building Futures for Youth. 16- to 19-year-olds can become a Youth Apprentice.³
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of NS
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁴

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS⁵

- Memorial Composite High School (<http://www.cbv.ns.ca/mchs>) Carpentry Program worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credit when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)
- 12-week Carpentry Development Program at the Carpenter Millwright College in Lower Sackville (worth 420 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credit through challenging an exam)⁶
- Constructing the Future (Bridging to Apprenticeship) Program worth 375 apprenticeship hours from the Black Business Initiative (<http://www.bbi.ca/training>)
- One-year Carpentry Certificate (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training), two-year Carpentry Diploma (worth 2000 apprenticeship hours and Levels 1 and 2 technical training), and two-year Heritage Carpentry Diploma (worth 2000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 and some Level 2 technical training) from the Nova Scotia Community College⁷

DIRECT ENTRY⁸

- Gain employment in a workplace and optionally register as an apprentice under a journeyperson
- Complete 7200 hours on the job and technical training sessions running 5, 6 and 8 weeks if an apprentice
- Can write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA if the above requirements are met
- Other options for training are available through the Atlantic Canada Regional Council of Carpenters, Millwrights and Allied Workers

¹ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. Certification/apprenticeship is not presently needed in this trade in NS, but encouraged.

² <http://www.red-seal.ca>, <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca>, <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/carpenter> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/347>

³ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁴ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqcarp.htm>

⁵ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁶ http://www.cmtctradescollege.ca/programs_cdp.html

⁷ http://www.nsc.ca/learning_programs

⁸ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqcarp.htm> and <http://www.acrc.ca>

CARPENTERS' CAREER PATHWAY

Cooperative Education: Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit.

Skilled Trades: High school courses satisfying academic requirements and providing 110 apprenticeship hours per course credit (Grades 10 and 11) and a 100-hour co-op placement.

O₂ Program: In-school learning and on-the-job training through 100-hour co-op placements. Available in select high schools. The *Building Futures for Youth Program* is offered primarily for students already enrolled in O₂ or cooperative education and provides upwards to 300 apprenticeship hours in 3 co-op credits.

Youth Apprenticeship: Ages 16-19. Paid hours that can be counted toward trade designation. Find a certified employer and register with the province (\$14.89 fee for identification). May overlap with co-op placements in high school.

Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent

Other Education Programs:

Complete a college or trade school program for advanced credit or experience. Find an employer and register with NSAA for \$148.18 as a new adult apprentice (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice).

Direct Entry:

Obtain employment on own or by contacting a union for indenturing and register with NSAA for \$148.18 (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice and continuing under the same employer).

Technical Training for the Nova Scotia Carpenter Apprenticeship Program

(\$90.20 per week. In some cases, it is available in online format. Youth apprentices are exempted until after high school.)

Level 1 – 8 weeks

After 1st yr. (1800 hrs.***)

Level 2 – 5 weeks

After 2nd yr. (3600 hrs.)

Level 3 – 5 weeks

After 3rd yr. (5400 hrs.)

Level 4 – 5/6 weeks

After 4th yr. (7200 hrs.)

0-900 hours of employment at 55% of journeyperson rate*

901-1800 hours of employment at 60% of journeyperson rate

1801-2700 hours of employment at 65% of journeyperson rate

2701-3600 hours of employment at 70% of journeyperson rate

3601-4500 hours of employment at 75% of journeyperson rate

4501-5400 hours of employment at 80% of journeyperson rate

5401-6300 hours of employment at 85% of journeyperson rate

6301-7200 hours of employment at 90% of journeyperson rate

\$15.95 –
\$23.79 / hr**

\$18.85 –
\$27.76 / hr

\$21.75 –
\$31.72 / hr

\$24.65 –
\$35.69 / hr

Interprovincial Standards
Examination for Designation
(\$148.18)

* Carpenter Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay for Industrial and Commercial work (major and non-major projects, interior systems/lather, sheeting, and heavy civil and small jobs) under collective agreement rates for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island apprentices as of summer 2016. Apprentices may also be able to access employment insurance benefits while in class and tax incentives (refer to <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/about/financial-assistance>).

*** 6 months of work is considered equivalent to approximately 1000 credit hours. If a program is taken that is pre-approved for advanced credit, an apprentice may be credited with equivalent on-the-job hours and technical training credits.

Note: NS apprenticeship registration and technical training fees are current as of April 2016. If an individual applies to be certified on past experience, they must go through the trade qualification program (<http://nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/forms/TQGP.pdf>) at a cost of \$740.77.