



# How Much Do They Make?

New evidence on the early career earnings of trade certificate holders

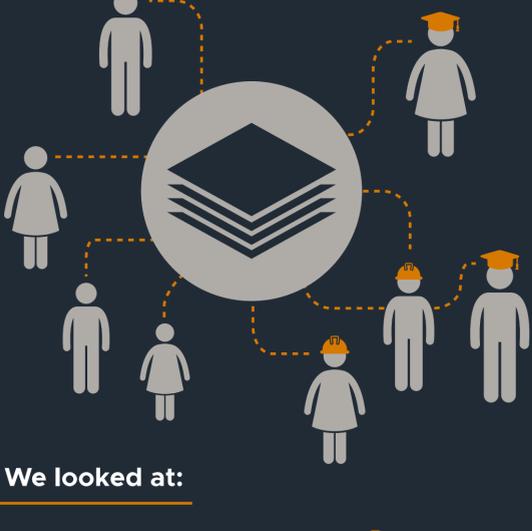


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EPRI Education Policy Research Initiative  
Initiative de recherche sur les politiques de l'éducation

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Our research used Statistics Canada's Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP).

This platform anonymously links individuals in apprenticeship programs with CRA tax information.

## We looked at:

- 385+** Skilled trades
- 56** Red Seal trades
- 417,000** Journeypersons
- 2008–2016** Certification year
- Up to 9 years** Earnings from 2009–2017

We focused on the annual earnings of journeypersons who received their certificate in 2009 for the following trade categories:

Earnings are only one factor that Canadians consider when deciding to pursue education and training. The labour market information students want the most are: earnings information, benefits, contract status and hours worked.

- Mechanical**
- Electrical**
- Vehicle & related**
- Architecture & construction**
- Metal**
- Other**

**What is a Red Seal Trade?**  
Red Seal Trades have common standards to assess the skills of tradespeople across Canada. We follow individuals with certificates in the 56 Red Seal trades, whether they have the Red Seal endorsement or not.

**3/4** of journeypersons have a certification in a red seal trade.

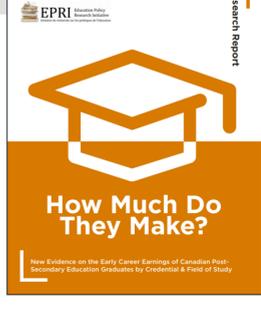
Skilled trades are important to the Canadian economy and can be a viable career path.

Average earnings for all trades after the first year of education  
 First year earnings: **\$62,200**  
 Eighth year earnings: **\$71,600**

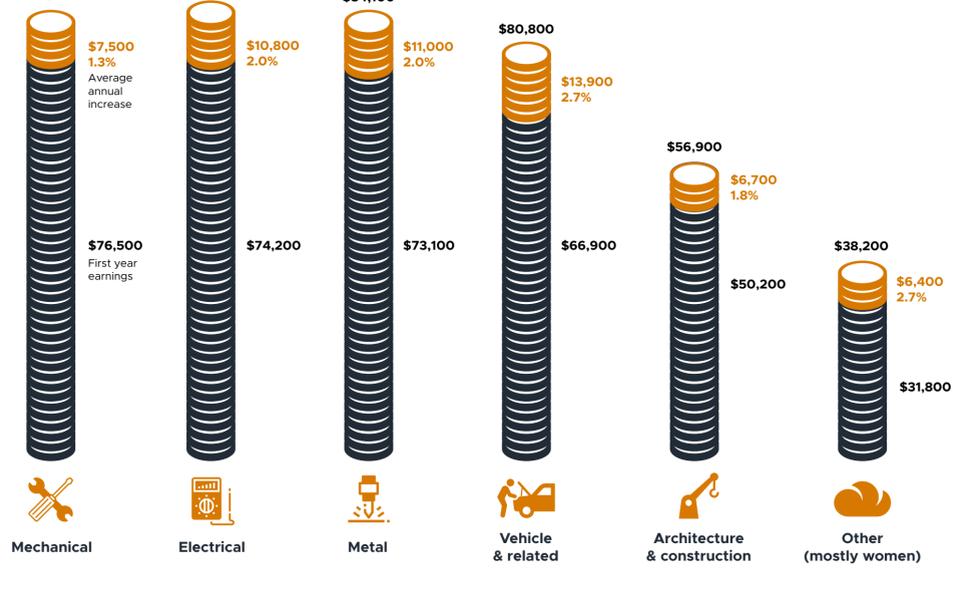
**2.0%** Average annual growth in earnings over eight years following certification.

**\$64,000**  
Average first-year earnings for individuals in Red Seal trades.

**How Much Do They Make?**  
Learn more about earnings of 2011–2015 Canadian post-secondary graduates.  
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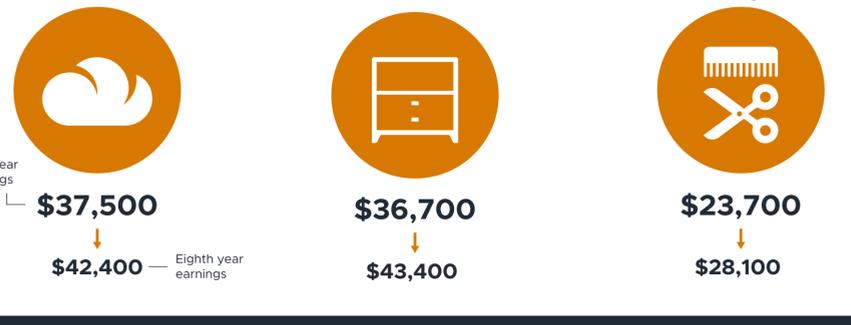
There are considerable earnings differences depending on the trade certificate held



## Highest earning trades



## Lowest earning trades



Women are concentrated in trades such as Hairstylists, Cooks and Bakers, which are among the lowest earnings of a journeyperson

Percentage of women represented in all Red Seal trades: **9%**

**54%** The largest gender earnings difference, however, is observed in the Other trade category, where women are substantially overrepresented, earning just 54% of what men earn in the first year.

**89%** The lowest earnings gap is in mechanical trades, where women earn 89% of what men do in the first year.

**47%** Across all Red Seal trades, in the first year following certification, women earn on average \$31,400 or 47% of what men earn (\$67,200).

## Journeypersons vs. select post-secondary graduates, 2010 cohort

We compare trade certificates with PSE for women and men where the earnings levels are most similar.

