

# Workforce Focus

From the South Western Ontario Industry Education Council

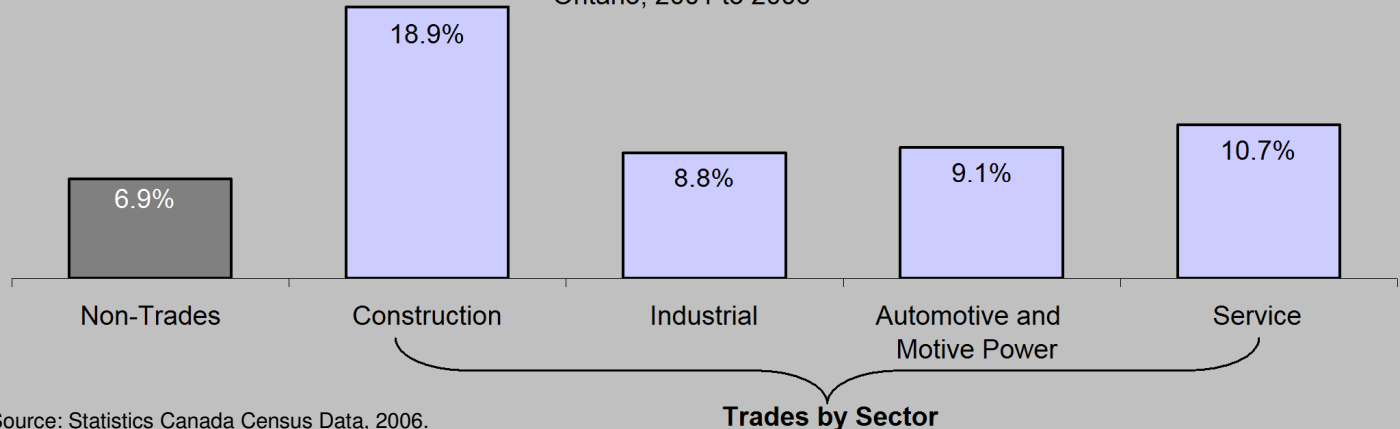
**In this Issue:**

**Skilled Trades**

- Growth
- Demand
- Trends

## Employment Growth

Ontario, 2001 to 2006



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

## Trades Growth

From 2001-2006, employment in the trades occupations grew collectively by 12.1% in Ontario. Several policy measures have supported this growth and are continuing to address employment shortages in the trades:

- Apprenticeship incentive grants help cover tuition, travel and tools, to encourage the completion of apprenticeships.
- Apprenticeship job creation tax credits are non-refundable tax credits for employers who hire apprentices.
- Tradesperson's tool deductions help cover the cost of new tools for employed tradespersons.
- While still in high school, students can work towards an apprenticeship through a cooperative education placement.

Source: Pyper, Statistics Canada, 2008.

### The Recession Impact

Since 1996, the unemployment rate for trades occupations has collectively been similar to that of non-trades. During economic downturns, building and construction projects are hit particularly hard and as a result unemployment in construction trades has been substantially higher than average in past recessions. Mechanics and electricians have consistently had a lower than average unemployment rate.

Source: Pyper, Statistics Canada, 2008.

### Self-Employment

In Ontario the self-employment rate in the trades occupations is 11%, slightly higher than that of the non-trades (10%). Of self-employed trades people, 39% have employees.

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

### Increasing Female Presence

The share of women in Ontario's trades occupations was 28.9% in 2006, an increase of 3.7% from 1996. The share of women in non trades increased by 1.3% during this time, and is now at 51.0% of the workforce. The following trades experienced the greatest growth in their share of women from 1996 to 2006:

Machining tool operators	+8.3%
Drafting technologists and technicians	+7.4%
Jewellers, watch repairers and related occupations	+7.4%
Petroleum, gas and chemical process operators	+6.1%
Landscape and horticultural technicians and specialists	+6.0%
Chefs	+5.0%
Bakers	+4.9%

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

### Immigrants

Collectively, 5.6% of the people who work in Ontario's trades occupations are recent immigrants. Trades with the greatest share of recent immigrants are:

Machining tool operators	12.2%
Drafting technologists and technicians	10.0%
Bakers	9.8%
Chefs	9.8%
User support technicians	8.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

### Education

The well-known increase in education levels seen across all occupations has also been seen in the trades. In Ontario, 58% of people working in the trades occupations have a post secondary education.

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO INDUSTRY EDUCATION COUNCIL

# SWOIEC

Enhancing Workforce Development In Our Community

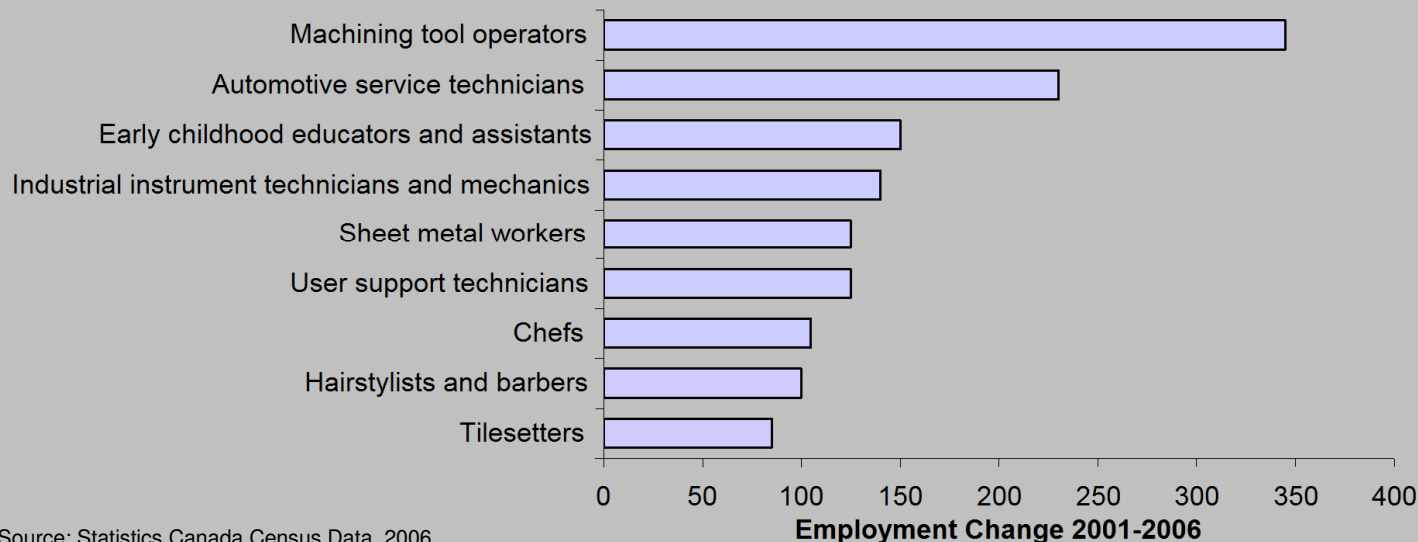
For information contact The South Western Ontario Industry Education Council at: Box 9-2000 Talbot Rd. Windsor ON. N9A 6S4 (519) 972-2727 [www.swoiec.com](http://www.swoiec.com)

An original publication of the Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Local Training Board

Created by : Dane Rice

## Top 10 Growth Trades

Essex-Kent, 2001-2006



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

Machining tool operators were the largest growing trades occupation in this region from 2001 to 2006, gaining approximately 340 workers.

### Replacement Ratio

When the ratio of entrants (age 25 to 34) to near-retirees (age 50 to 60) is below one, it points to a potential net out-flow of workers. This could reflect less demand for a trade, but could also indicate a local employment gap. Trades employment in this region collectively has a replacement ratio of 1.14. The following local trades have a low replacement ratio:

#### Replacement ratio (1.0 = Full replacement)

Essex-Kent, 2006

Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics (except textile)	0.33
Butchers, meat cutters and fishmongers	0.45
Industrial instrument technicians and mechanics	0.50
Plumbers	0.56
Steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers	0.56
Crane operators	0.60
Sheet metal workers	0.61
Industrial electricians	0.68
Heavy equipment operators (except crane)	0.69
Cooks	0.83
Automotive service technicians	0.83

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

### Local Concentration

Trades employment collectively represents an average share of the total workforce in this region. A low concentration of a particular trade could reflect a different industrial composition, but could also indicate a local employment gap. The following trades have a low local concentration relative to provincial averages.

#### Relative local concentration (1.0 = Average)

Essex-Kent, 2006

Structural metal and platework fabricators and fitters	0.31
User support technicians	0.36
Waterworks and gas maintenance workers	0.44
Telecommunications line and cable workers	0.60
Plasterers, drywall installers and finishers	0.64
Electronic service technicians (household and business equipment)	0.69
Painters and decorators	0.70
Chefs	0.71
Electrical mechanics	0.72
Landscape and horticultural technicians and specialists	0.73
Roofers and shinglers	0.73
Insulators	0.75

Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2006.

**EMPLOYMENT  
ONTARIO**

SEE MORE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION  
ON THE WEB AT [WWW.SWOIEC.COM](http://WWW.SWOIEC.COM)



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO.