BC Student Outcomes
Shaping Post-Secondary Education

Apprenticeship Infographic Report

Results from the 2017 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Former Apprenticeship Students

ita
YOUR TICKET.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The *Apprenticeship Infographic Report: Results from the 2017 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Former Apprenticeship Students* has been prepared by BC Stats for the BC Student Outcomes Research Forum.

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Introduction

The apprenticeship training system in B.C. includes public post-secondary institutions, the Industry Training Authority (ITA), private training institutions, and employers. Currently, apprenticeship training is available in more than 100 trades, including 49 Interprovincial Red Seal trades.[1] The majority of apprenticeship training is provided on-the-job, while approximately 20 percent is delivered as in-class technical training through a post-secondary institution or private training provider.

The majority of apprenticeships require a minimum of four years to complete, though they vary by occupation, ranging from one to five years. A successful apprentice is one who completes the in-school technical training and the required work hours, passes examinations, and is recommended for certification by their sponsoring employer to earn a "ticket" in a skilled trade. That credential, a Certificate of Qualification (C of Q), is issued by the Industry Training Authority on behalf of the Province of British Columbia.

Former apprenticeship students are surveyed as part of BC Student Outcomes, an ongoing research program that gathers information from former students for B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions, the ITA, and the Province of British Columbia.

About the Report

This report presents results for the thirteenth annual survey of former apprenticeship students. In total, 4,662 former apprenticeship students were eligible to complete the survey. Of these, 95 percent had taken traditional apprenticeship programs, which are programs with multiple levels of in-school technical training taken during block release periods from work. These programs result in certification only upon completion of all levels of the program.

The remaining 5 percent had been enrolled in progressive credential programs, which provide both on-the-job training and in-school technical training. Progressive credential programs result in certification upon completion of each sequential training course for certain programs.

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Click here to find out more about the survey of apprenticeship students and see the questionnaire.

Apprenticeship Program Groups	Respondents	Percentage of respondents
Automotive & Other Mechanics	269	11%
Carpentry	203	8%
Culinary Arts & Personal Services	131	5%
Electrician	432	18%
Industrial & Heavy Duty Mechanics	442	18%
Plumbing	227	9%
Welding & Precision Production	452	19%
Other Apprenticeship Programs	277	11%
Total Apprenticeship Respondents	**2,433**	**100%**

The 3 most common program groups were:
- Welding & Precision Production
- Industrial & Heavy Duty Mechanics
- Electrician

Note: Percentages in the report may not add to 100 due to rounding.

1 The Red Seal is recognized across Canada as a signal that the apprentice has passed a standardized national exam.

Who were the 2017 apprenticeship students?

92%
were **men**

14%
took an **apprenticeship program in high school**

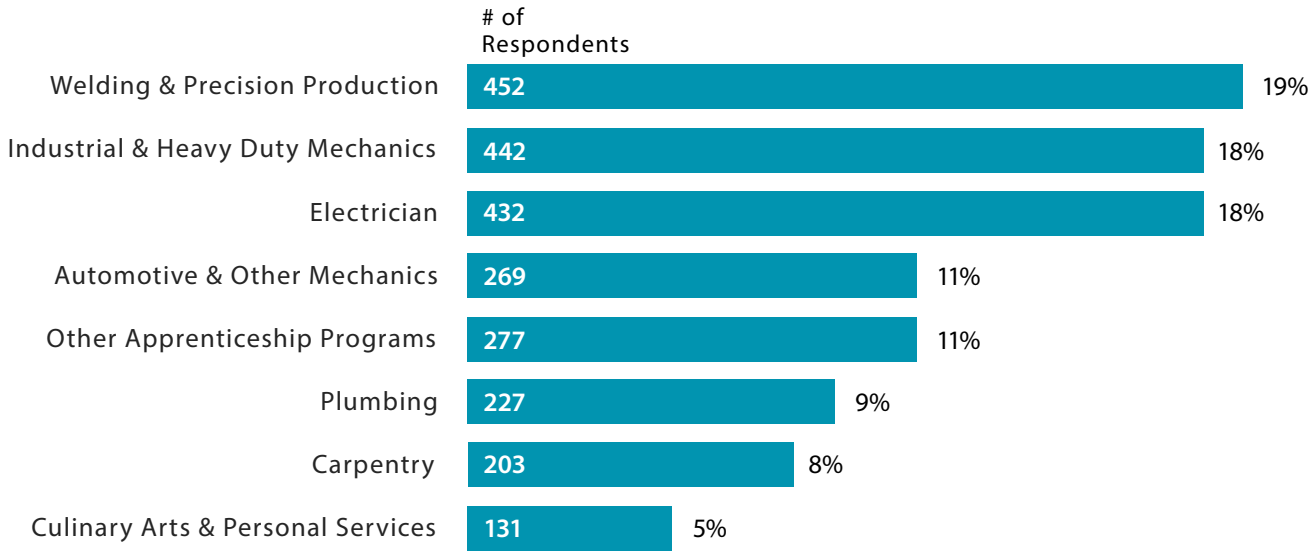
29
was the **median age** at the time of the survey

1 out of 3
relocated to attend school

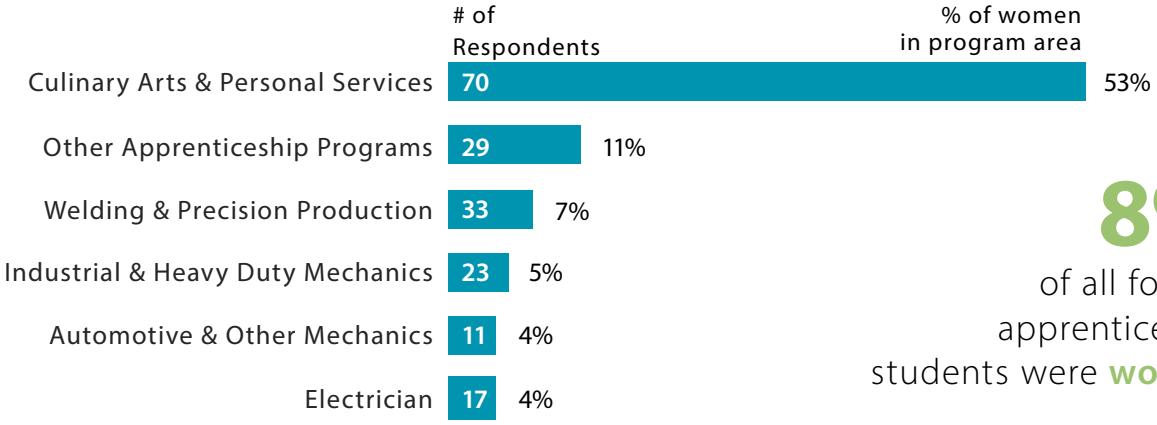
7%
self-identified as **Aboriginal**

87%
received their **Certificate of Qualification**

PROGRAMS TAKEN



WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS



8%
of all former apprenticeship students were **women**

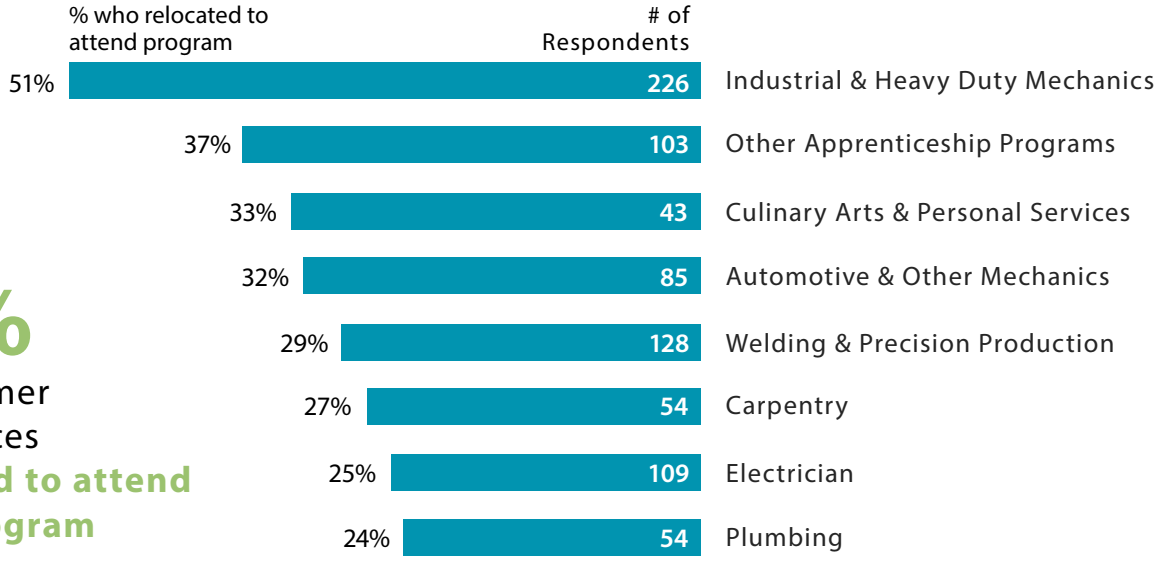
Note: Programs areas with low counts have been excluded to preserve confidentiality.

MEDIAN AGE

At the time of the survey, **29** was the overall **median age.**

Former apprentices from **Automotive & Other Mechanics** programs tended to be younger than those from other program areas, with a median age of 26.

RELOCATED TO STUDY

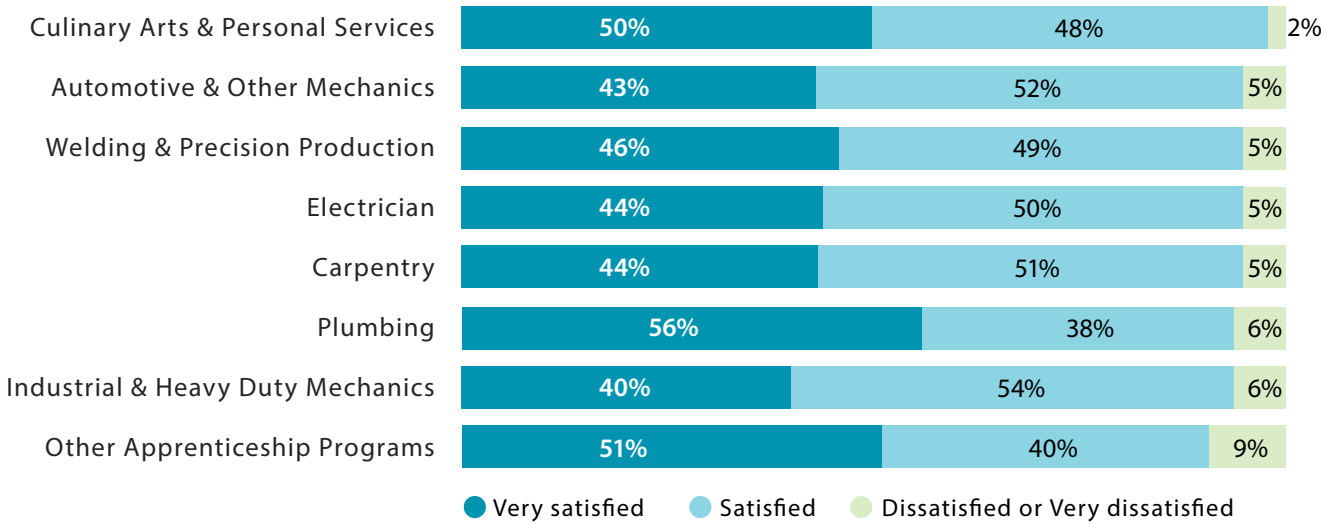


33%
of all former apprentices **relocated to attend their program**

What were their in-school experiences?

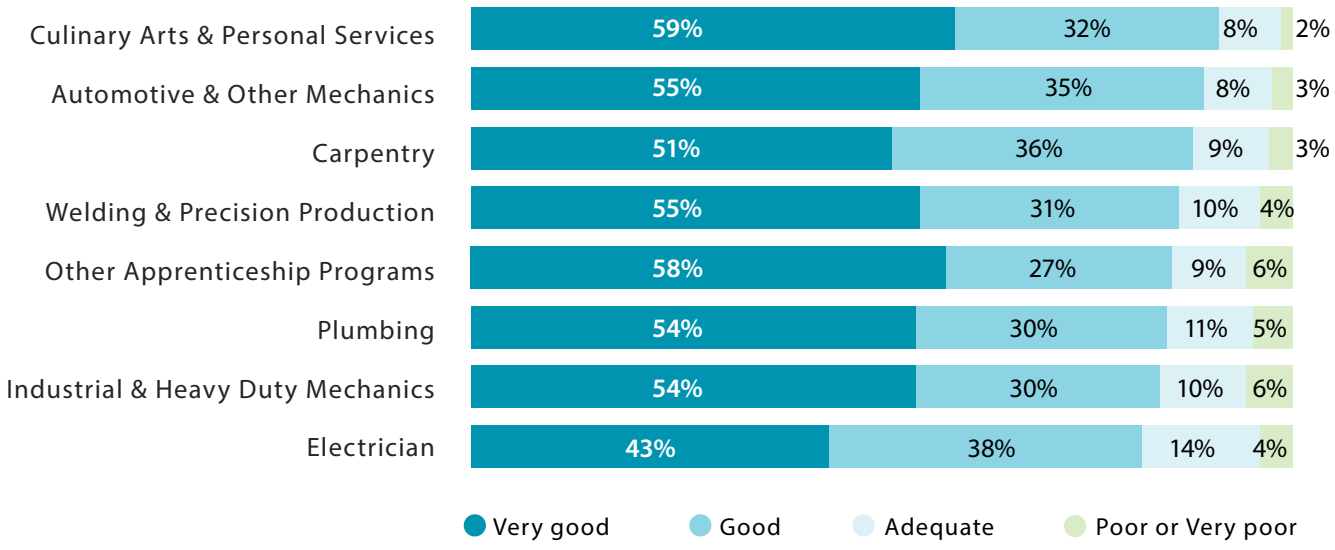
SATISFACTION WITH IN-SCHOOL TRAINING

Overall, **94%** were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with **their in-school training**



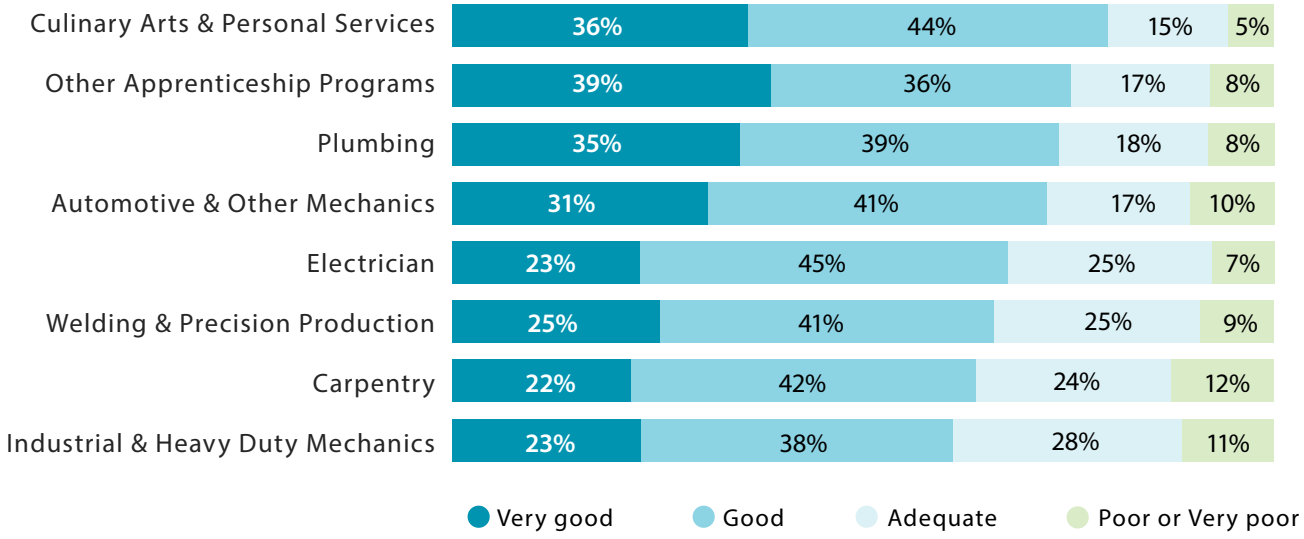
QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

Overall, **85%** rated the **quality of instruction** as *very good* or *good*



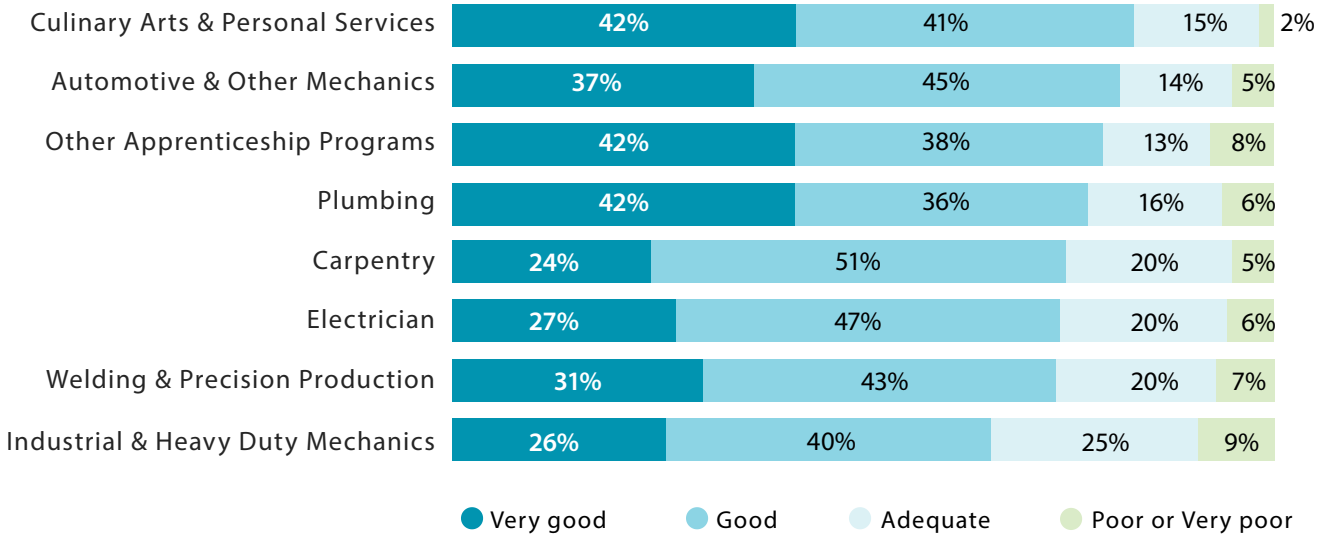
UP-TO-DATE COURSES

69% of former apprenticeship students said their program was *very good* or *good* at keeping courses **up to date**



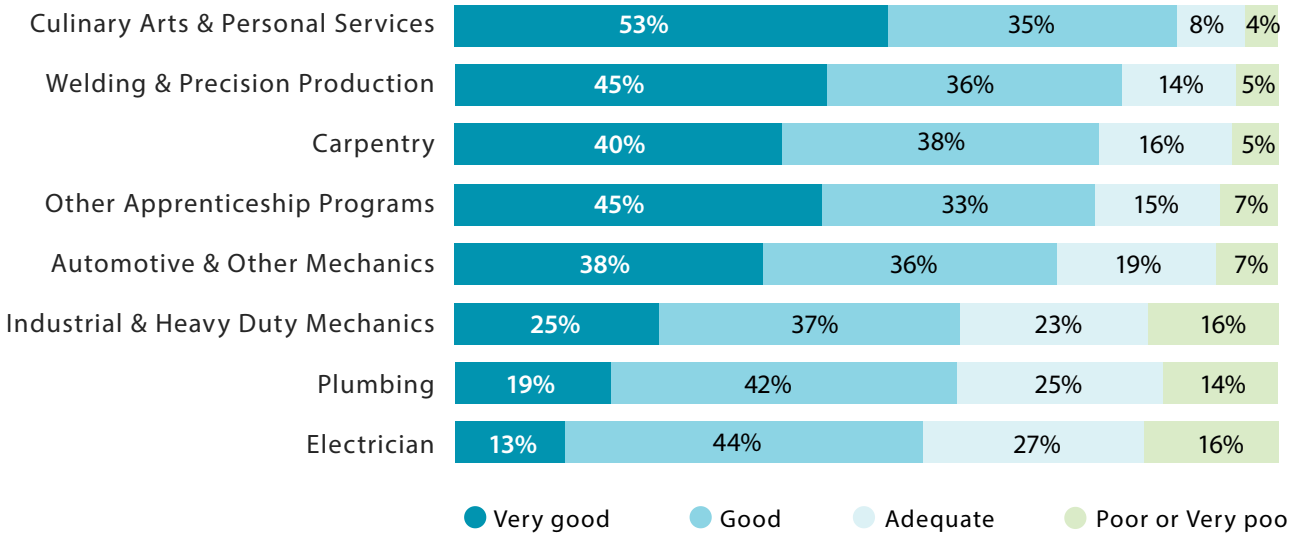
COVERING RELEVANT TOPICS

75% of former apprenticeship students said their program was *very good* or *good* at **covering topics relevant to their field**



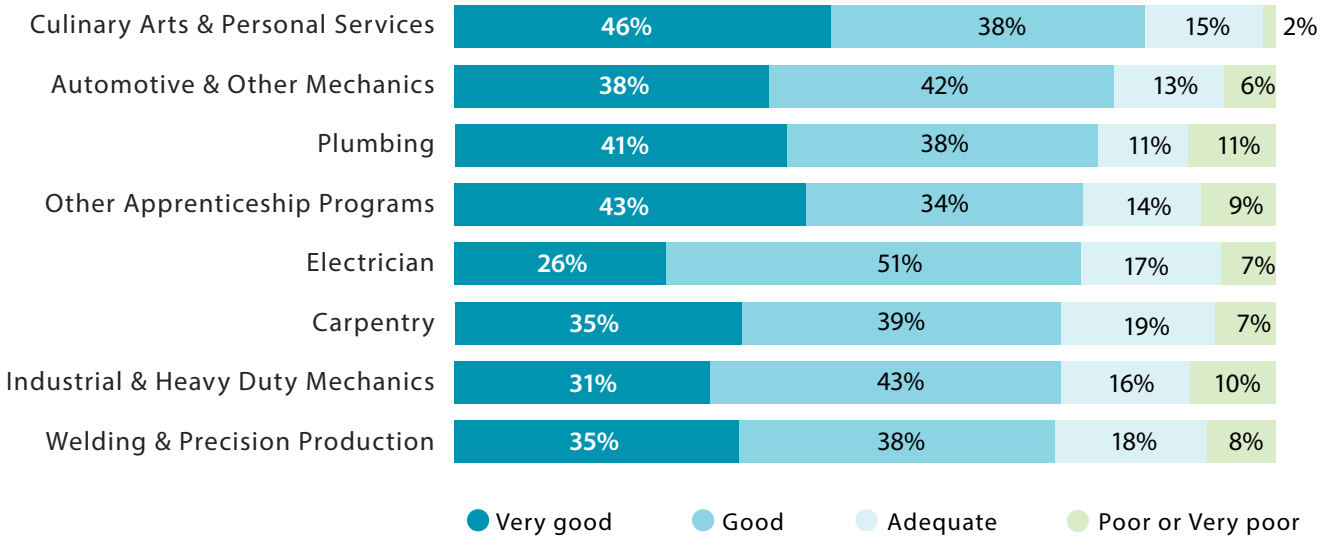
AMOUNT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

70% of all former apprenticeship students said the amount of **practical experience** was *very good* or *good*

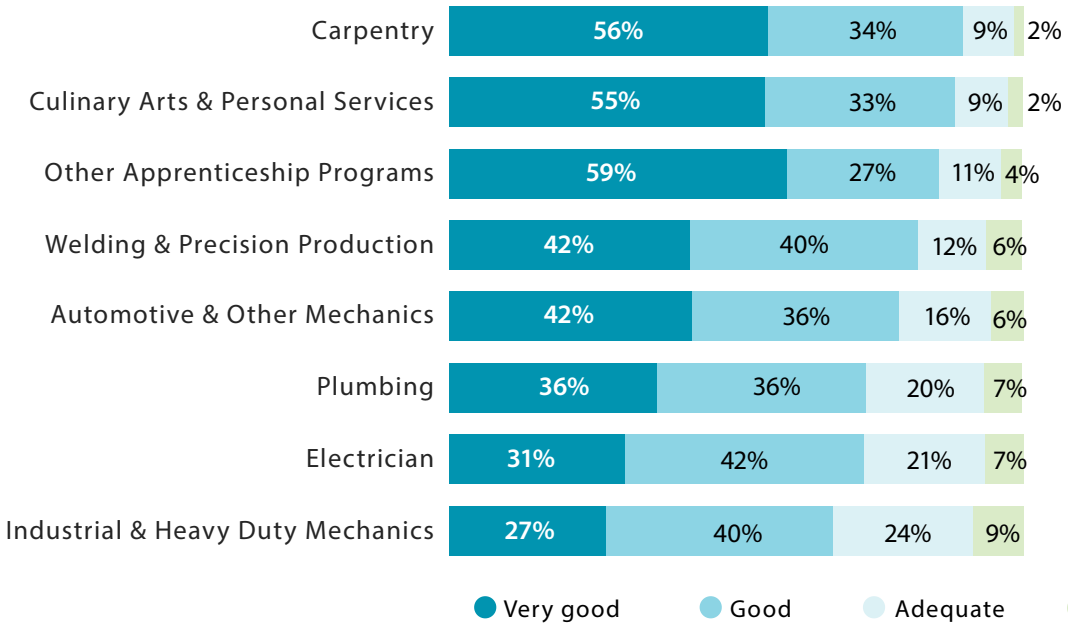


PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

76% of all former apprenticeship students said their **program's organization** was *very good* or *good*



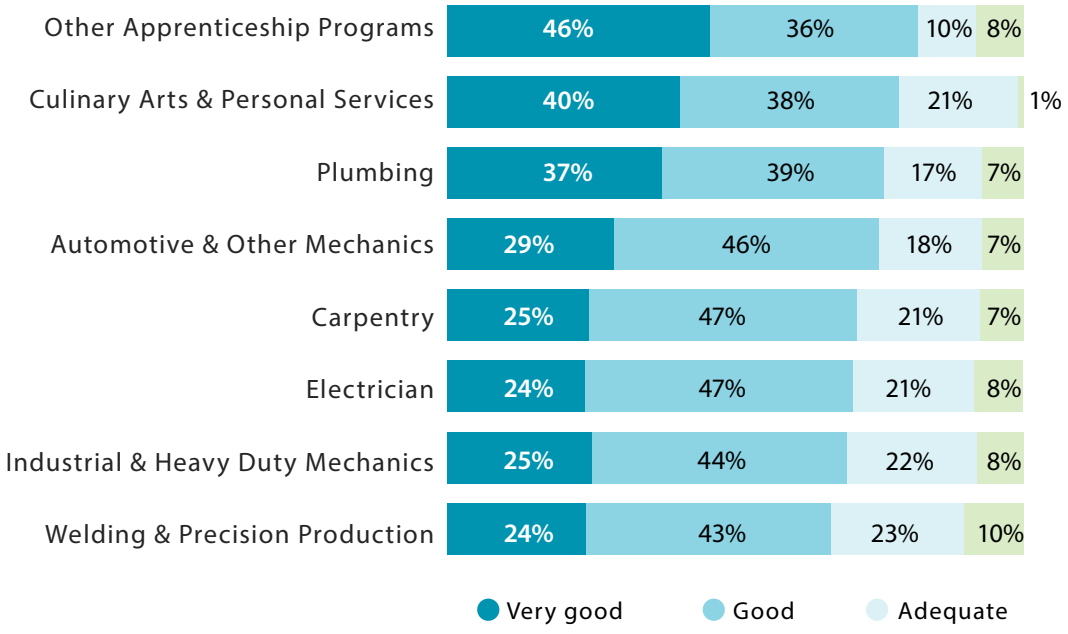
QUALITY OF TOOLS & EQUIPMENT



78%

gave high ratings to the **quality of the tools & equipment** they used in their program

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS



72%

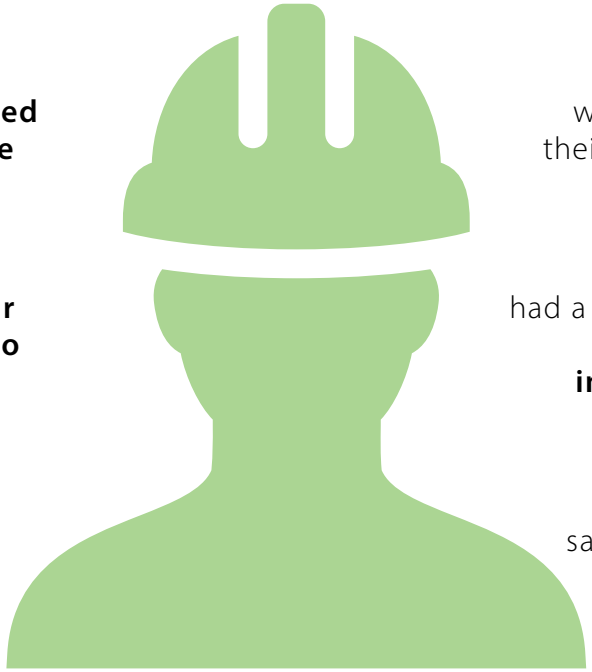
gave high ratings to the **textbooks & learning materials** they used in their program

What were their workplace experiences?

93%
had been **employed** as an **apprentice**

85%
had a **job in their trade to return to** after training

87%
received their **Certificate of Qualification**



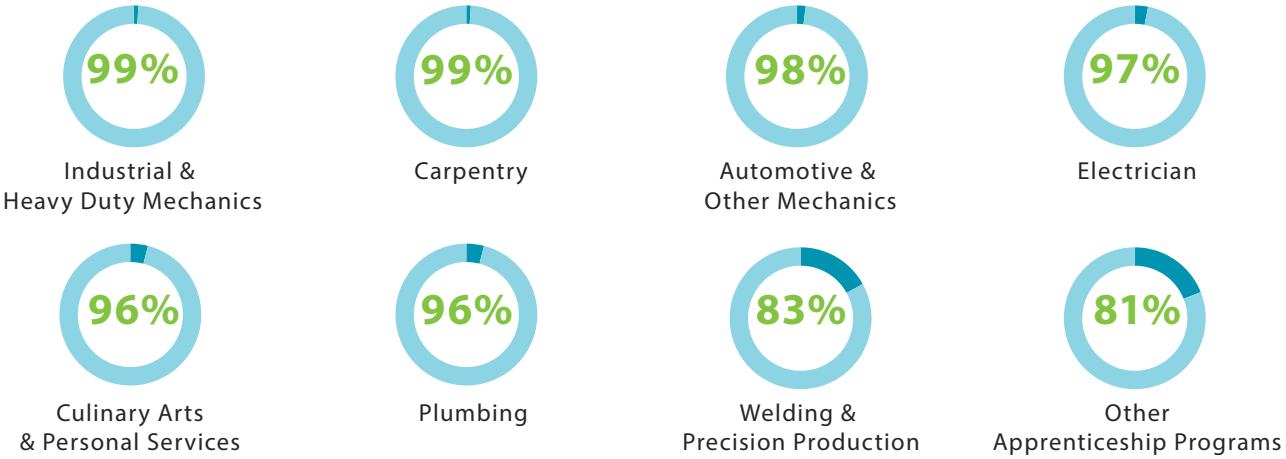
92%
were **satisfied** with their workplace training

88%
had a workplace experience **related to their in-school training**

93%
said the **knowledge & skills** gained were **useful in their job**

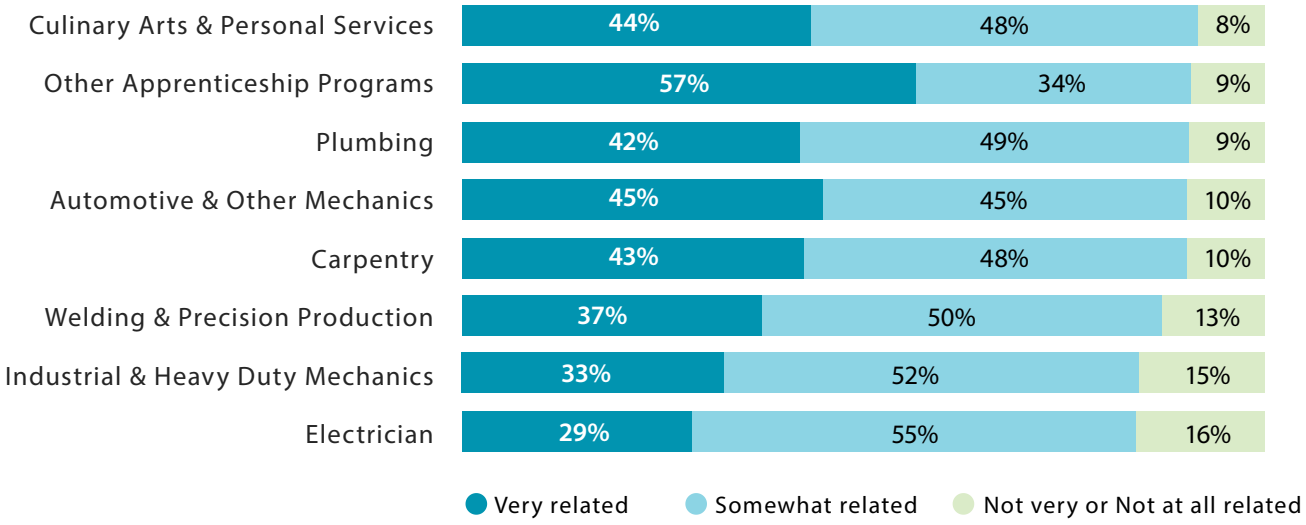
APPRENTICESHIP OR WORK PLACEMENT

In all but 2 areas, more than **95%** reported they had an **apprenticeship or work placement** outside of their institution



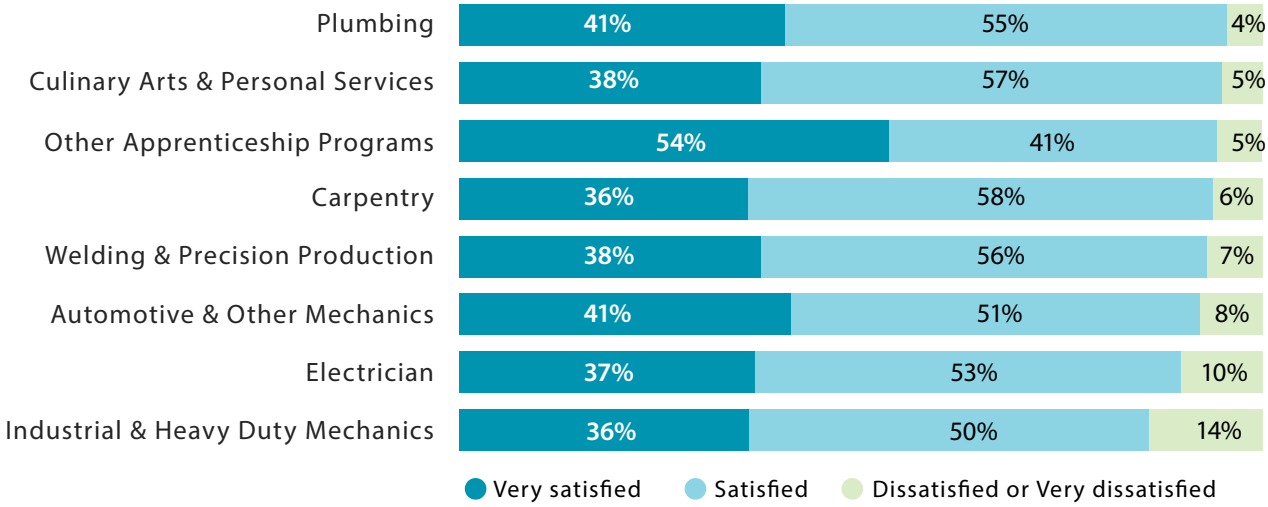
IN-SCHOOL TRAINING RELATED TO WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

88% of former apprenticeship students said their **in-school training and workplace experience** were related



SATISFACTION WITH WORKPLACE TRAINING EXPERIENCE

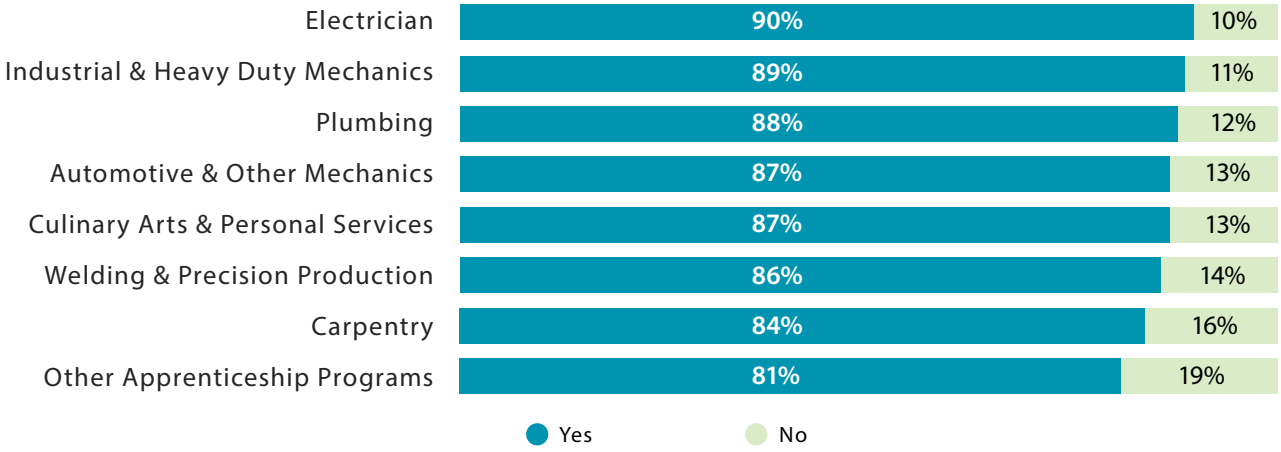
92% of former apprenticeship students were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their **workplace training experience**



What happened after their training?

RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

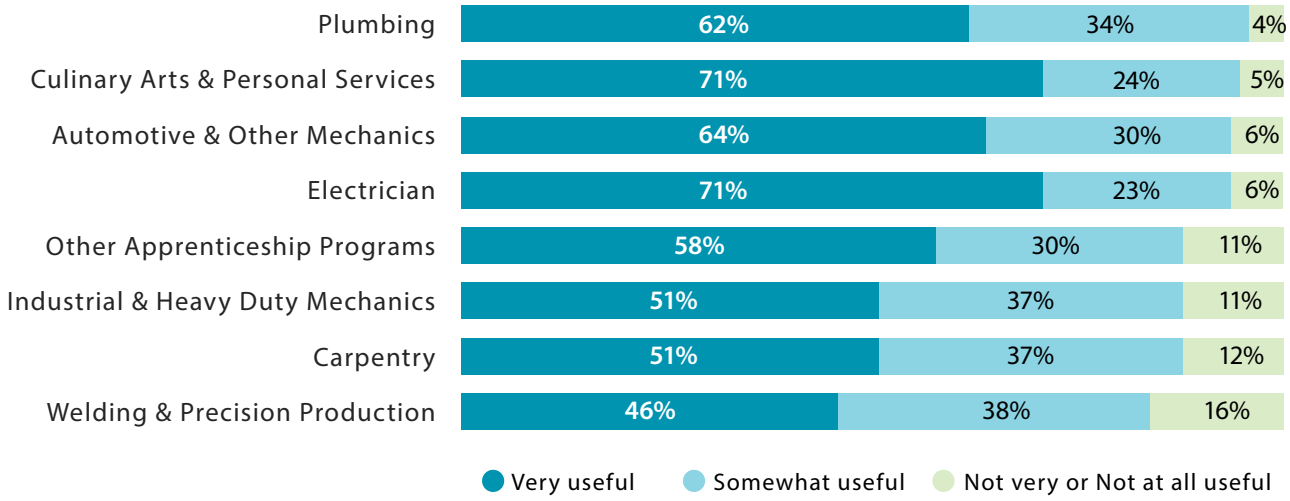
Overall, **87%** received their **certificate of qualification**



To receive the B.C. Certificate of Qualification, apprentices must successfully complete a number of work-based hours, complete or successfully challenge all required levels of technical training, pass examinations, and be recommended for certification by their employer-sponsors.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS USEFUL IN EXAM PREPARATION

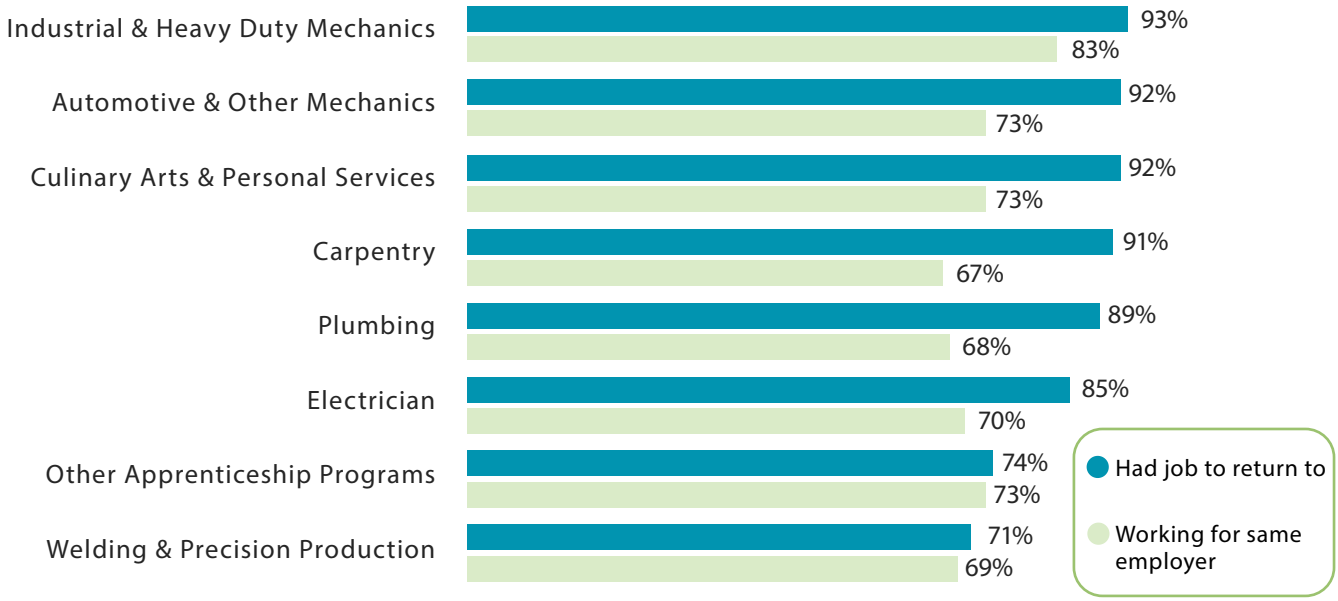
Overall, **90%** said the **knowledge and skills they gained** were useful when preparing to **write their exams**



HAD JOB IN TRADE TO RETURN TO AFTER TRAINING

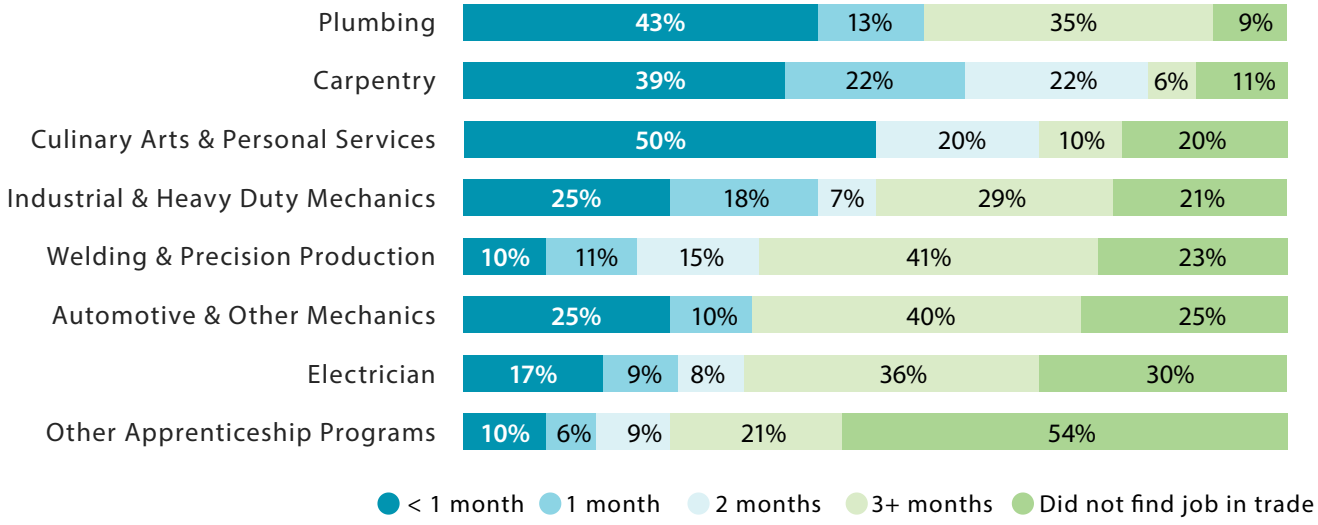
85% of apprenticeship respondents **had a job in their trade to return to** after leaving their program

73% of those who had a job to return to were still **working for the same employer**



LENGTH OF TIME TO FIND JOB IN TRADE

Within 2 months of completing their program, **39%** of former apprentices had **found a job in their trade**



What are they doing now?

98%
are **in the labour force**
(working or looking for work)

90%
of employed respondents
have a **training-related job**

5.7%
are **unemployed**

7%
of employed respondents
have **more than one job**

OF EMPLOYED RESPONDENTS...

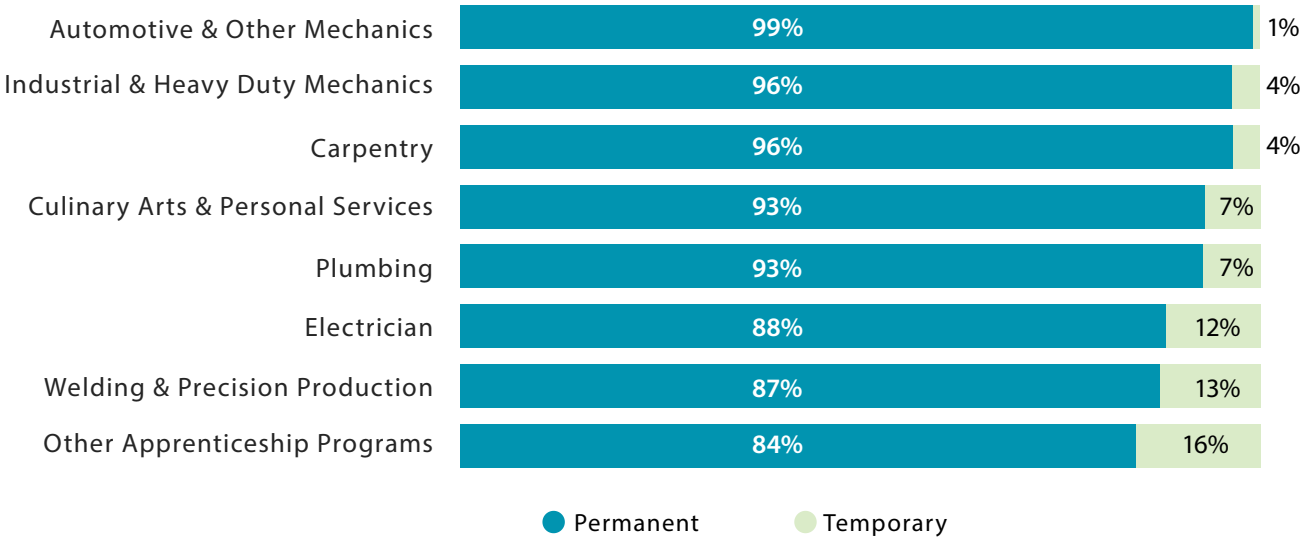
92%
have a
permanent position

4%
are
self-employed

29%
work **more than**
40 hours per week
at their main job

$31
is their
median hourly wage
at their main job

WHO HAS PERMANENT WORK?



LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Across all program areas, almost all former apprentices were in the labour force—
that is, they were either employed or looking for work.

In the labour force

Not in the labour force

Electrician

Industrial & Heavy Duty Mechanics

Automotive & Other Mechanics

Carpentry

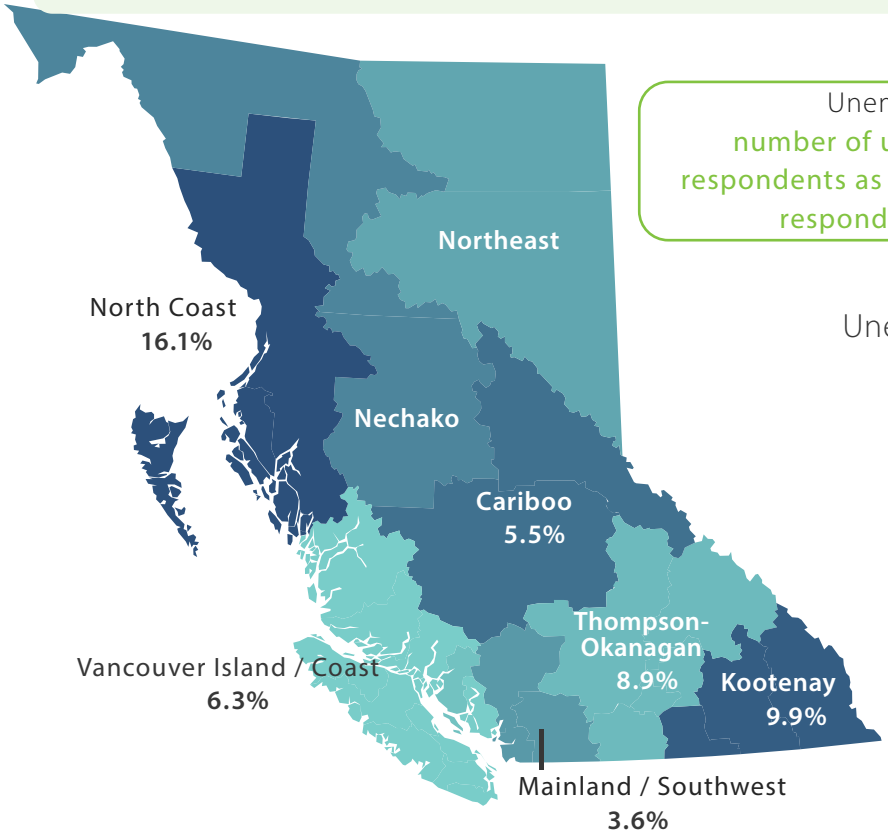
Plumbing

Culinary Arts & Personal Services

Welding & Precision Production

Other Apprenticeship Programs

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

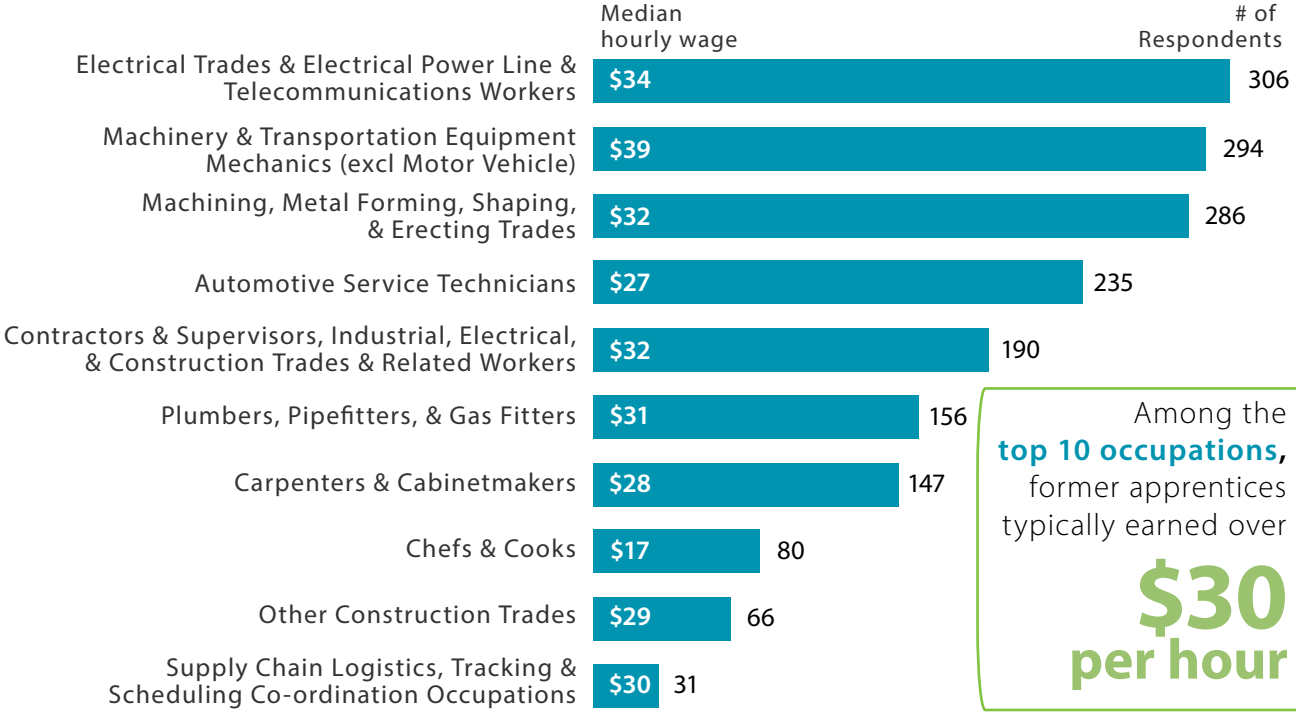


Unemployment rate is the number of unemployed apprenticeship respondents as a percentage of apprenticeship respondents in the labour force.

Unemployment rates were **lowest** in the **Mainland/Southwest** region and **highest** in the **North Coast** region.

Note:
Percentages for the Northeast and Nechako regions are based on low numbers and have not been reported to preserve confidentiality. See the 2017 Apprenticeship Infographic Report Methodology section for additional information about region and unemployment rate.

TOP OCCUPATIONS

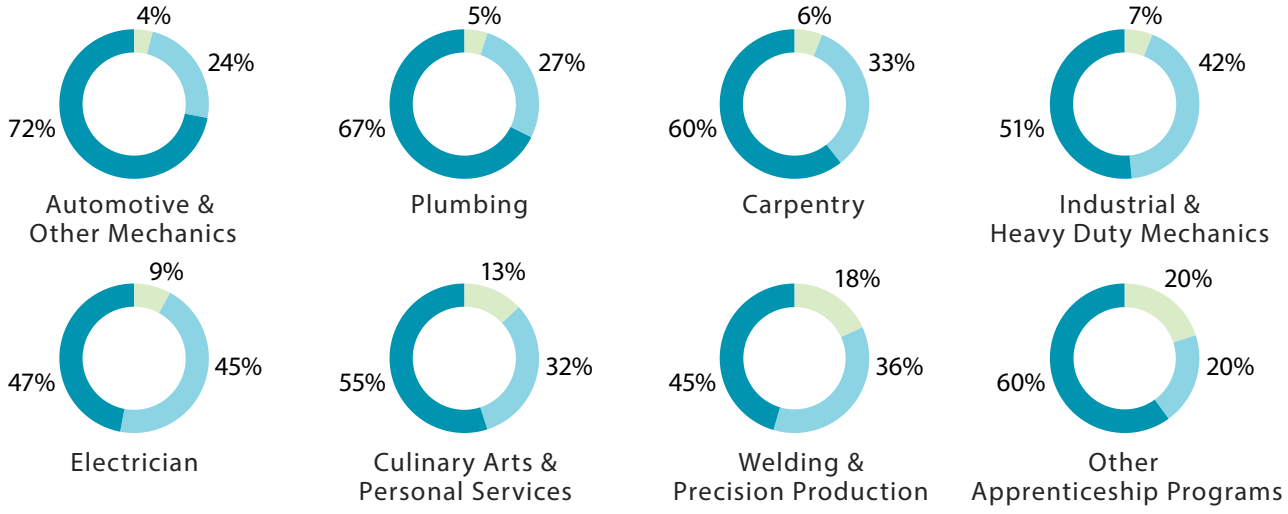


Among the **top 10 occupations**, former apprentices typically earned over

$30 per hour

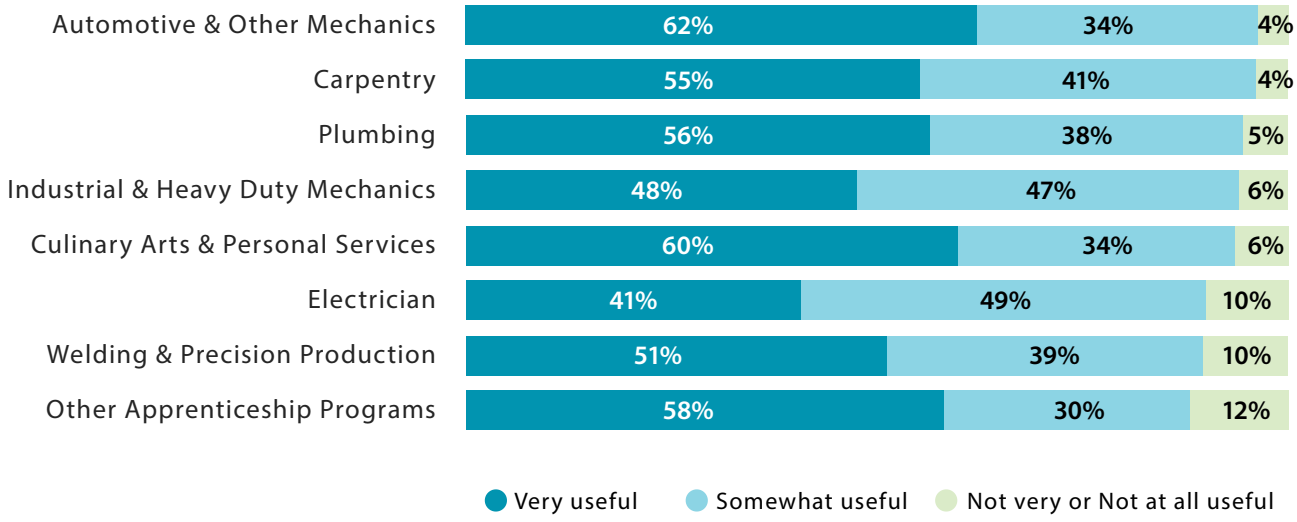
TRAINING-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

Overall, **90%** of employed former apprentices had a **training-related job**



KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS USEFUL IN PERFORMING JOB

Overall, **93%** of employed respondents said the **knowledge and skills they gained** were **useful when performing their job**



About BC Student Outcomes

The annual Survey of Former Apprenticeship Students is one of the BC Student Outcomes surveys that collects information from former post-secondary students. Those who respond are asked to evaluate their educational experiences and to talk about their employment and further education. For more information, see the BC Student Outcomes website.

Methodology

Click here for a description of the survey methodology employed for the BC Student Outcomes Survey of Former Apprenticeship Students.