

Refrigeration mechanic



Description of the trade

- Installs, overhauls, alters, repairs, and maintains refrigeration and air-conditioning systems

ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

- Present to the CCQ proof of completion of DEP - Refrigeration and of a job guarantee from an employer registered with the CCQ, for at least 150 hours spread over three consecutive months. This leads to an apprentice competency certificate in the trade.
- Measures are in place to increase the presence of women on construction sites by 2018. Consult them at mixite.ccq.org.

APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

- Have completed the four apprenticeship periods of 2,000 hours each (8,000 hours total) in order to be eligible for the provincial qualification examination that leads to obtaining the journeyman competency certificate for the trade.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Acquire basic knowledge of mathematics, physics (pneumatics, hydraulics, and electricity), use of a computer, and reading plans and specifications
- Have an analytic mind
- Be resourceful and careful
- Have good manual dexterity
- Be able to work in a team
- Apply workplace health and safety rules with regard to electricity, mechanics, and handling of hazardous products

Average annual salary*

Apprentice**	\$22,609
Journeyman***	\$64,492
Journeyman working at least 500 hours	\$75,934
Proportion****	84%

* Includes premiums, overtime hours, and compensation for paid statutory holidays and the obligatory annual vacations provided in the collective agreements.
 ** Average salary of graduates admitted in 2014, for the 12 months following their admission.
 *** Average salary in 2015 of those having reported at least one hour of work.
 **** Proportion of journeymen in this trade having accumulated at least 500 hours in 2015. Does not include income that may have been made for work not falling under the construction collective agreements.

Integration into the labour market

	Annual average 2012-2015	2016
New admissions to the CCQ	216	182
Placement rate of graduates*	7.2%	n/a

* Source: *La Relance au secondaire en formation professionnelle*, survey by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec. New graduates are asked about their employment situation on June 1, after they have obtained their diploma.

Hourly wage* according to the collective agreements

	Industrial, institutional and commercial	Civil engineering and roadwork	Light residential
Apprentice			
1 st period	\$19.00	\$19.01	\$17.83
2 nd period	\$22.79	\$22.81	\$21.39
3 rd period	\$26.59	\$26.81	\$24.96
4 th period	\$32.29	\$32.31	\$30.30
Journeyman	\$37.99	\$38.01	\$35.65

*Wage in May 2016.

Volume of work per sector



Job prospects



- The number of refrigeration mechanics active on construction reached 3,503 in 2016. A total of 719 companies used their services.
- The work is performed primarily in the institutional and commercial sector (86% of hours), where activity will diminish in coming years. Refrigeration mechanics, however, are not dependent solely on new construction, because maintenance and repairs also provide a great deal of work. Jobs therefore are available year-round. In addition, growing use of air conditioning in buildings favours this trade.
- In 2016, the industry brought in 182 new apprentices, slightly below the average for the past four years (216). Apprentices can earn an average of \$22,600 in the first year, while journeymen working at least 500 hours (84% of journeymen) can hope to earn more than \$75,900 a year. The annual average hours worked rank among the highest for all trades.
- Job prospects are quite good for refrigeration mechanics, with employment rising slightly. Note that part of the workforce demand will be met by workers currently available. Despite this, graduates find work very easily.

Training

Study program:

Diploma of vocational studies (DEP) - Réfrigération (5315) and Refrigeration (5815)

Duration of training: 1,800 hours

Academic prerequisite: Category 1*

* The academic prerequisites for all trades and occupations in this brochure are described on page 74.

Training generally offered in the following regions:

- Capitale-Nationale
- Centre-du-Québec
- Estrie
- Laval
- Montérégie
- Montréal*
- Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean

* Training also offered in English in this region.

To find out which public facilities are authorized to offer this study program, consult the website www.inforoutefpt.org



Number of employed workers in 2016

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	53
Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie	65
Côte-Nord	18
Estrie	135
Island of Montréal	324
Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière	1,101
Mauricie-Bois-Francs	230
Montérégie	897
Outaouais	70
Québec	475
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	105
Outside of Québec and Baie-James	30
Total	3,503

Number of employed women 13

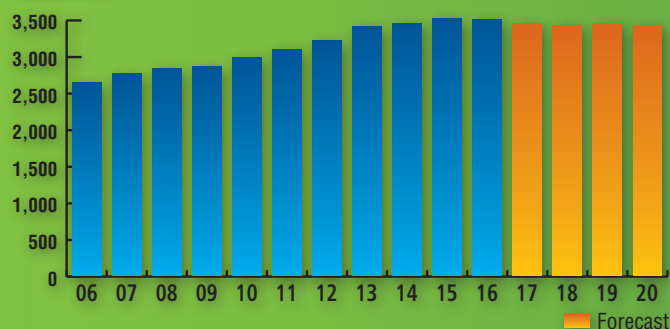
Worker mobility

Proportion of workers who travel from one region to another:*

Refrigeration mechanic	12%
All trades and occupations	17%

* Excluding travel between the Montérégie, Island of Montréal, and Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière regions.

Number of employed workers from 2006 to 2020



Age of the workforce in 2016

	Average age	Under 30 years	30-54 years	55 years and over	Total number of workers
Apprentice	29	66%	33%	1%	1,048
Journeyman	41	12%	76%	12%	2,455
Total, refrigeration mechanics	38	28%	63%	9%	3,503
All trades and occupations	39	26%	58%	16%	153,700