



## Description of the trade

- Operates all types of mechanical shovels, cranes equipped with a clamshell or dragline bucket, robotic arm excavators and any other similar excavation equipment on wheels or tracks, fixed or mobile.

# Shovel operator

## ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

- Present to the CCQ proof of completion of DEP - Conduite d'engins de chantier 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](http://mixite.ccq.org).

## APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

- Have completed the apprenticeship period of 2,000 hours 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 knowledge related to application of concepts of mathematics, mechanics, hydraulics, and electricity, and the reading of plans and survey monuments
- Have dexterity and good physical coordination

## Average annual salary\*

Apprentice**	\$13,664
Journeyman***	\$38,237
Journeyman working at least 500 hours	\$56,675
Proportion****	64%

\* 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	113	61
Placement rate of graduates*	12.4%	n/a

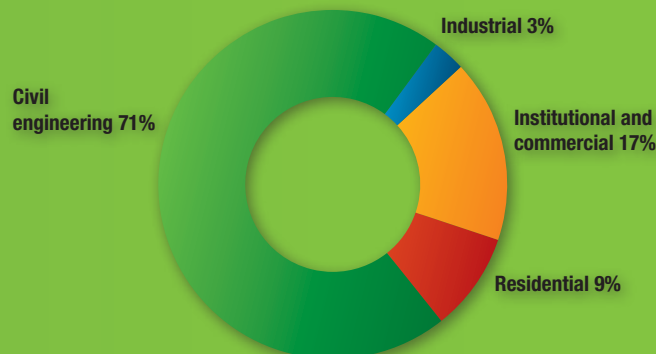
\* Source: *La Relance au secondaire en formation professionnelle*, survey by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec. New graduates are asked about their employment situation on June 1, after they have obtained their diploma.

## Hourly wage\* according to the collective agreements

	Industrial, institutional and commercial	Civil engineering and roadwork	Light residential
Apprentice – Class AA	\$32.81	\$32.28	–
Journeyman – Class AA	\$38.60	\$37.98	–
Apprentice – Class A	\$31.80	\$31.38	\$29.08
Journeyman – Class A	\$37.41	\$36.92	\$34.21
Apprentice – Class B	\$30.78	\$30.45	\$28.19
Journeyman – Class B	\$36.21	\$35.82	\$33.16

\*Wage in May 2016.

## Volume of work per sector



## Job prospects



- In 2016, there were 6,825 shovel operators, active mainly in the civil engineering and roadwork sector. More than 2,350 employers hire shovel operators.
- Activity should be stimulated by major civil engineering and roadwork projects in coming years, such as the Turcot interchange and the Champlain Bridge.
- The number of new apprentices in the industry dropped sharply, to 61 in 2016, compared with an average of 1,113 a year from 2012 to 2015. Entering a site poses a challenge, because operating these machines requires a great deal of composure by apprentice and employer alike! Although an apprentice's average income in the first year of work is just \$13,700, a journeyman working at least 500 hours (64% of workers) can earn \$56,700 a year. Seasonal variations have a major impact on annual income.
- Job prospects are quite good for shovel operators. The aging workforce will create demand for new workers, although this will be partly met by workers currently available.

## Training

### Study program:

Diploma of vocational studies (DEP) -  
Conduite d'engins de chantier (5220)

**Duration of training:** 1,095 hours

**Academic prerequisite:** Category 2\*

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

### Training generally offered in the following regions:

- Chaudière-Appalaches
- Montérégie



To find out which public facilities are authorized to offer this study program, consult the website [www.inforoutefpt.org](http://www.inforoutefpt.org)

### Number of employed workers in 2016

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	221
Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie	488
Côte-Nord	285
Estrie	363
Island of Montréal	172
Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière	1,295
Mauricie-Bois-Francs	531
Montérégie	1,281
Outaouais	220
Québec	1,410
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	547
Outside of Québec and Baie-James	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,825</b>

**Number of employed women** 38

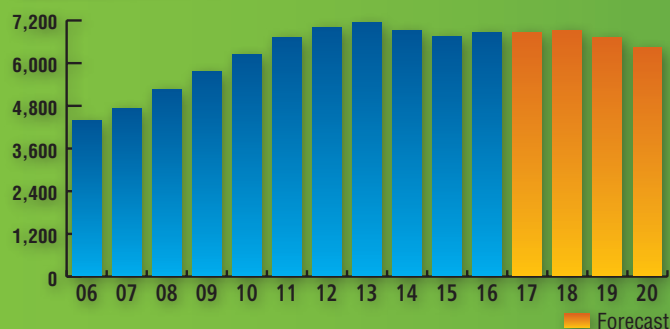
### Worker mobility

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

Shovel operator	19%
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	38	36%	50%	14%	753
Journeyman	44	14%	61%	25%	6,072
<b>Total, shovel operators</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>6,825</b>
All trades and occupations	39	26%	58%	16%	153,700