

Trades Foundation Infographic Report

*Results from the 2017 BC Student Outcomes Survey
of Former Trades Foundation Students*

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

Publication date: May 20, 2020

Introduction

Trades foundation programs, which usually offer training in both classrooms and shop settings, are designed to give students the key skills and knowledge needed for entry into a particular trade. Most foundation programs link to apprenticeship and can provide credit for the first level of technical training and for some of the work-based training hours that are required to complete an apprenticeship. *Note: Trades foundation students include graduates only.*

Trades foundation 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 Industry Training Authority (ITA), and the Province of British Columbia.

About the Report

This report presents results for the 2017 BC Student Outcomes Survey of Former Trades Foundation Students. In total, 5,817 former trades foundation students were eligible to complete the survey. Of these, 2,734 completed the survey for an overall response rate of 47 percent.

Trades Foundation Program Groups	Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Automotive & Other Mechanics	452	17%
Carpentry	266	10%
Culinary Arts & Personal Services	374	14%
Electrician	471	17%
Industrial & Heavy Duty Mechanics	403	15%
Plumbing	169	6%
Welding & Precision Production	583	21%
Other Trades Foundation Programs	16	1%
Total Trades Foundation Respondents	2,734	100%

Contents

Who were the 2017 trades foundation students?	4
What were their in-school experiences?	6
Did they borrow to study?	9
Did they pursue an apprenticeship?	12
Did they pursue further education?	13
What are their employment outcomes?	14
About BC Student Outcomes	18
Survey Methodology	18

Click [here](#) to find out more about the survey of trades foundation students and see the questionnaire.

The 3 most common program groups were:

- Welding & Precision Production
- Electrician
- Automotive & Other Mechanics

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

Who were the 2017 trades foundation students?



81%
were **men**



39%
took **previous post-secondary** education



22
was the **median age**
at the time of the survey



1 out of 4
relocated to
attend school

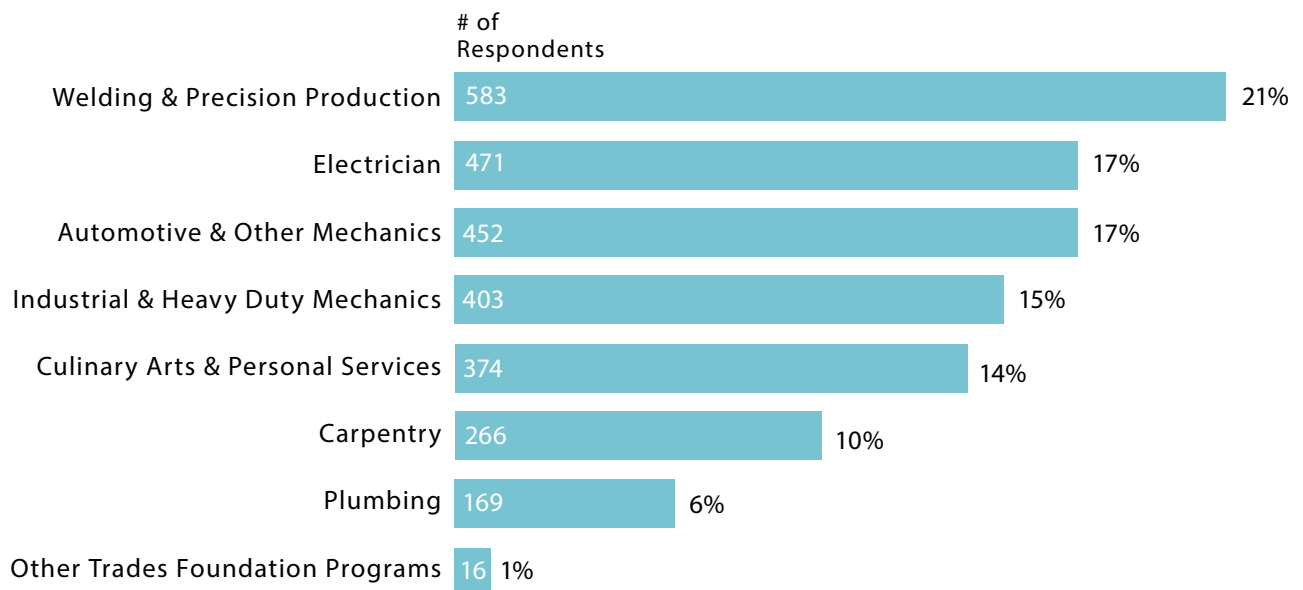


9%
self-identified
as **Aboriginal**

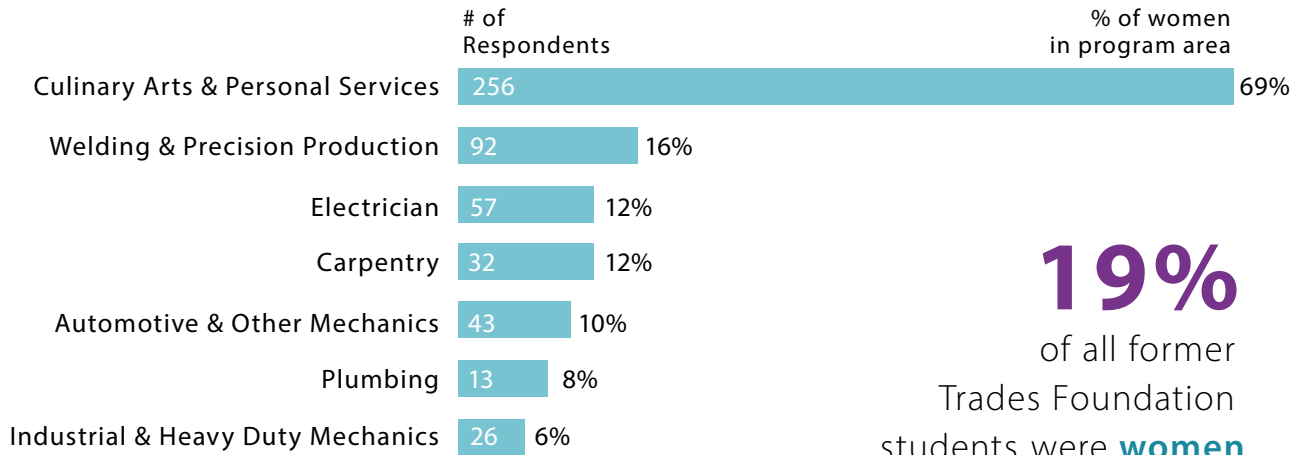


18%
moved after
leaving school

PROGRAMS TAKEN



WOMEN IN TRADES FOUNDATION PROGRAMS



MEDIAN AGE

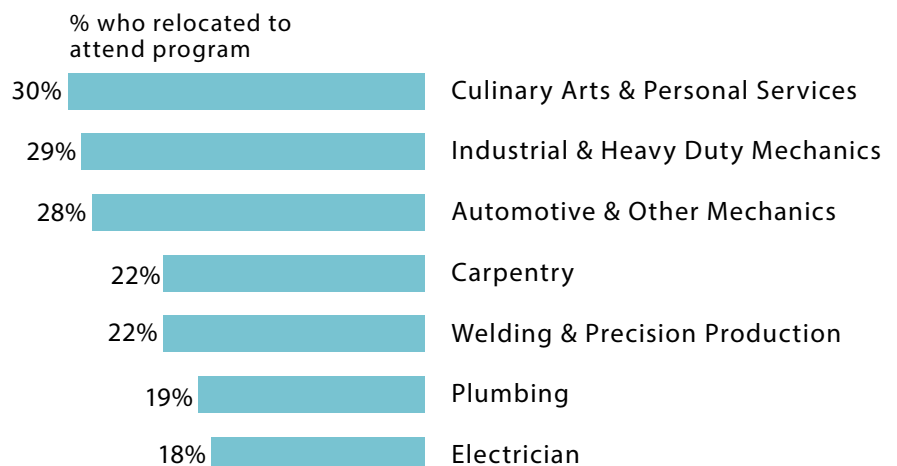
At the time of the survey, **22** was the overall **median age**.

In almost all program areas, former students tended to be in their early twenties.

The median age ranged from a low of 21 in Carpentry to a high of 26 in Other Trades Foundation programs.

RELOCATED TO STUDY

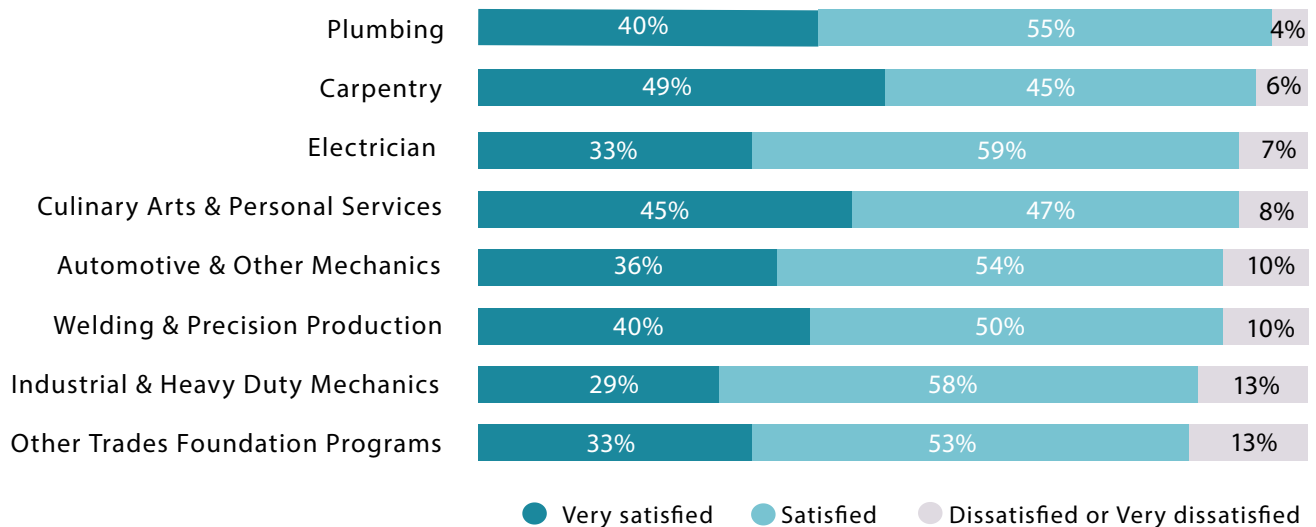
24% of all former Trades Foundation students **relocated to attend their program**



What were their in-school experiences?

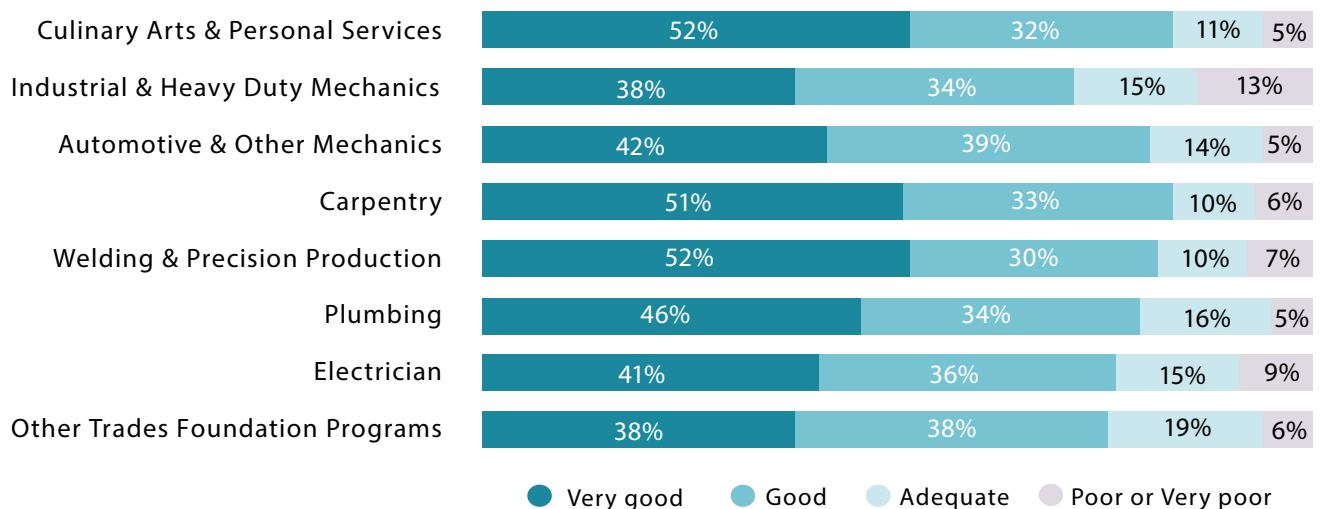
SATISFACTION WITH IN-SCHOOL TRAINING

Overall, **91%** were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their **in-school training**



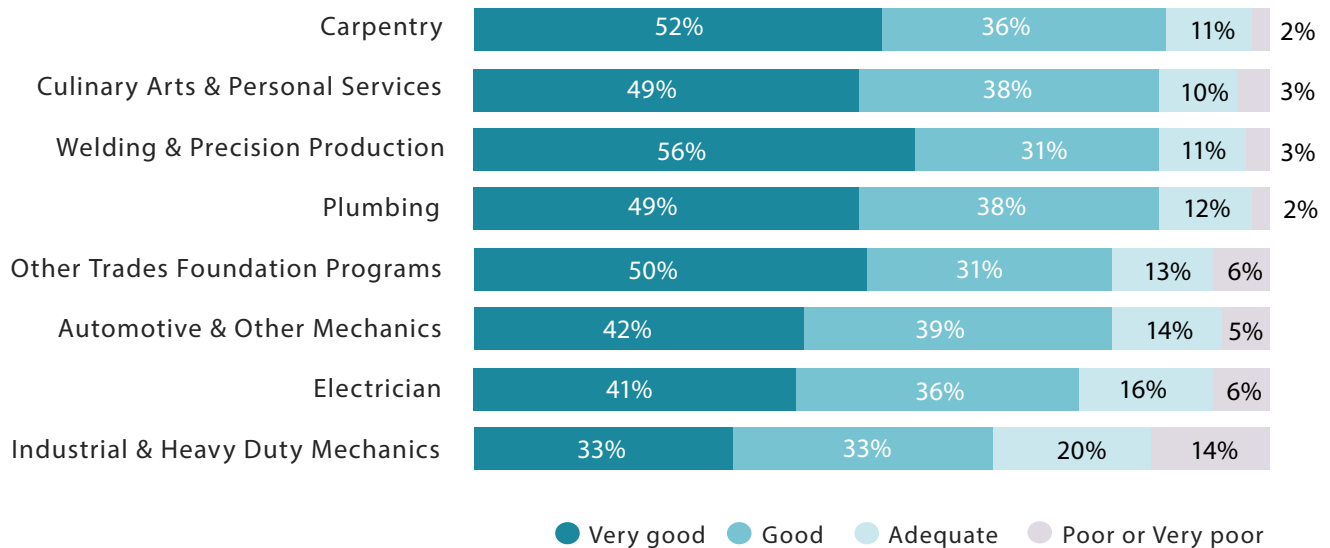
QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

Overall, **80%** rated the **quality of instruction** as *very good* or *good*



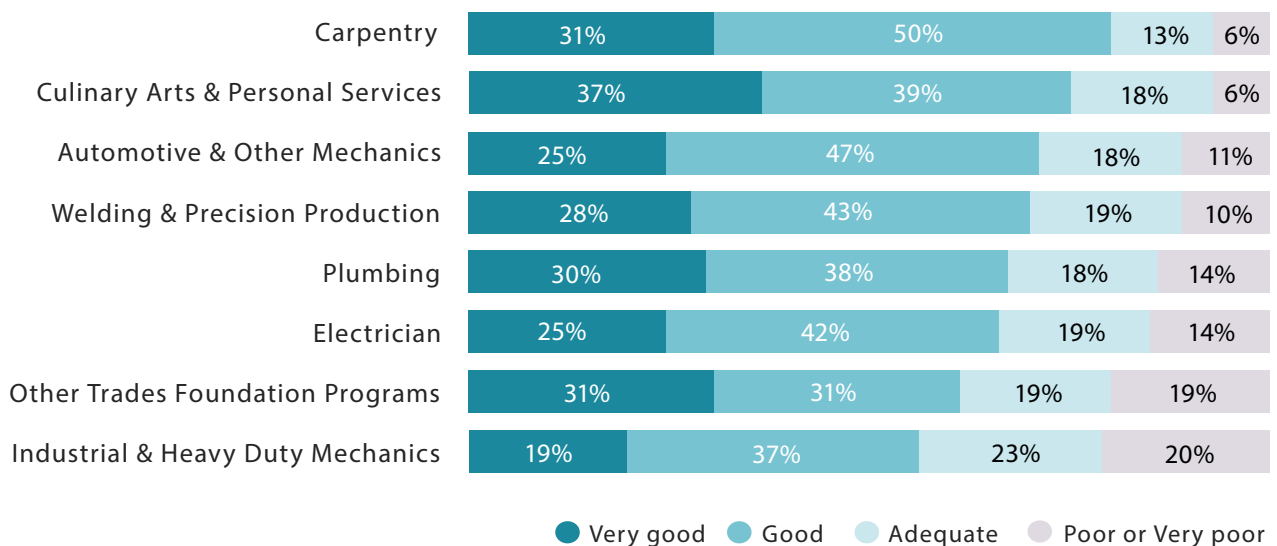
AMOUNT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

81% of all former Trades Foundation students said the **amount of practical experience** was *very good* or *good*

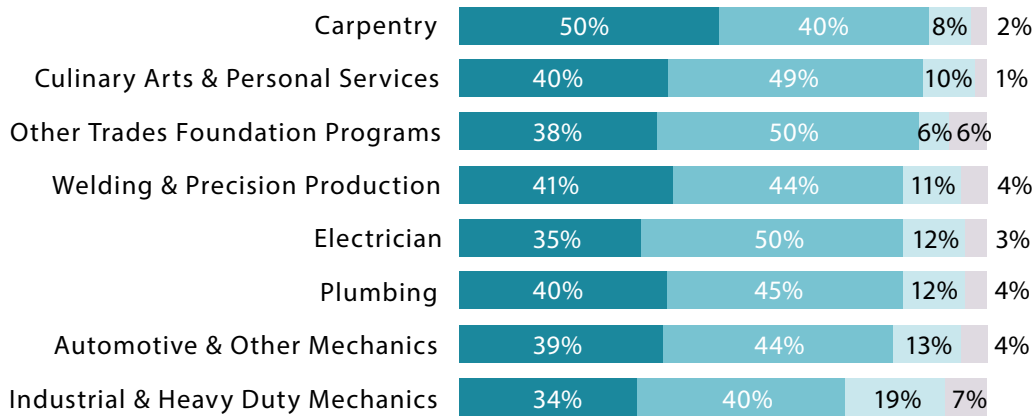


ORGANIZATION OF PROGRAM

70% of all former Trades Foundation students said their **program's organization** was *very good* or *good*



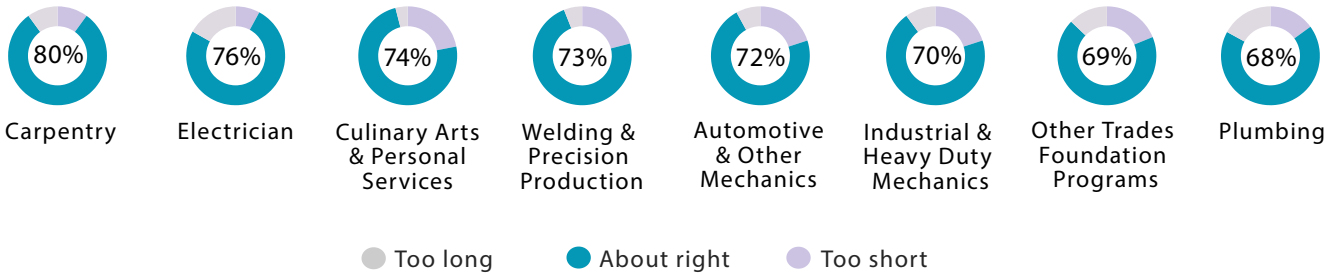
COVERING TOPICS RELEVANT TO THEIR FIELD



84% gave high ratings to the **coverage of topics** relevant to their field

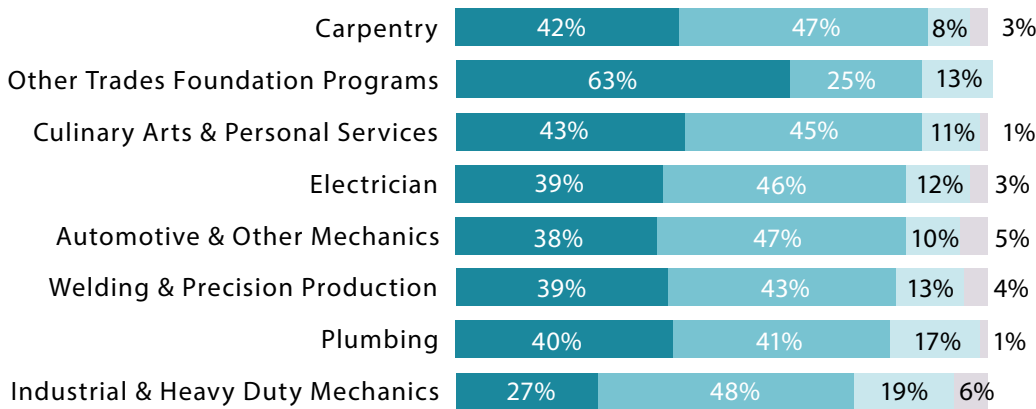
● Very good ● Good ● Adequate ● Poor or Very poor

Overall, **73%** said their program was about the right length



● Too long ● About right ● Too short

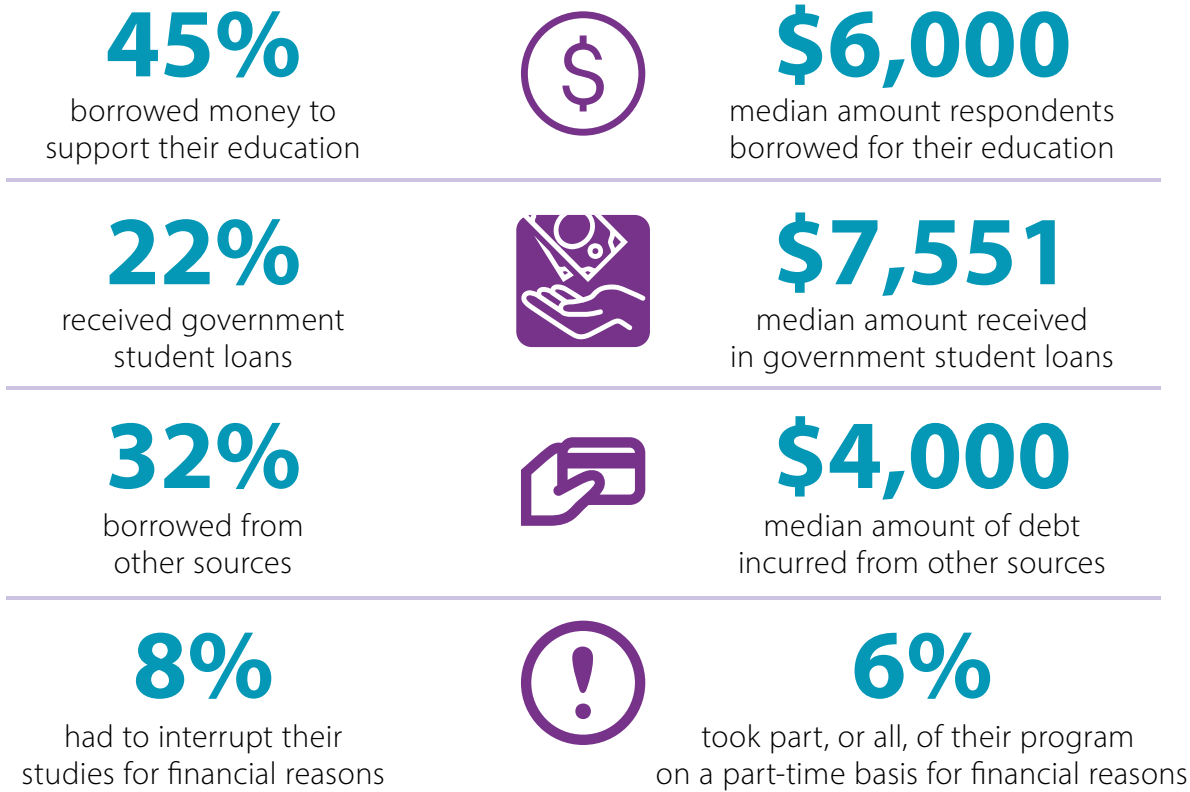
COVERING STANDARDS USED IN THEIR FIELD



84% gave high ratings to the **coverage of standards used** in their field

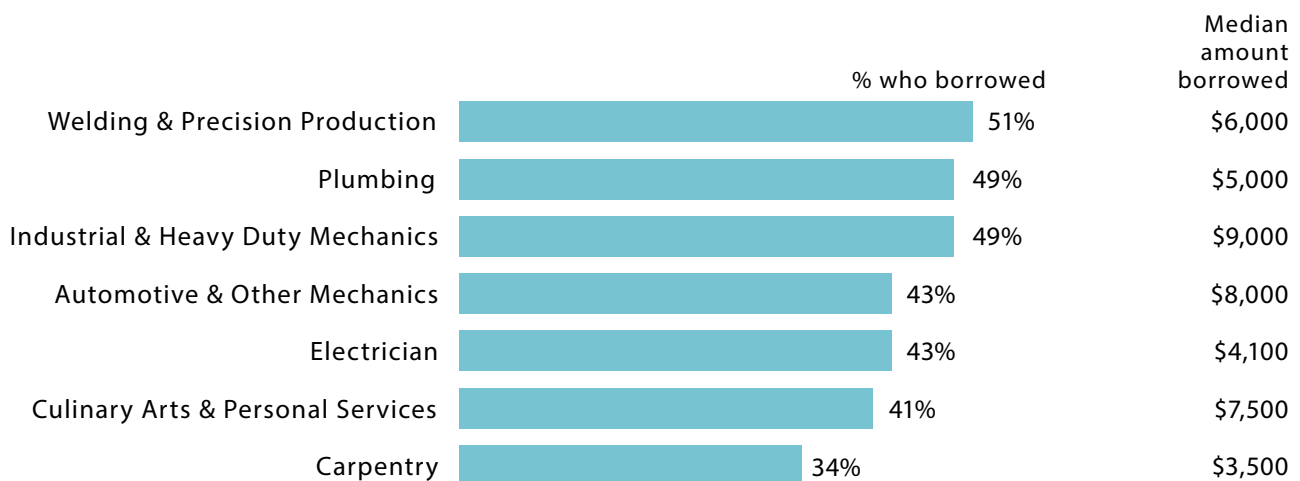
● Very good ● Good ● Adequate ● Poor or Very poor

Did they borrow to study?



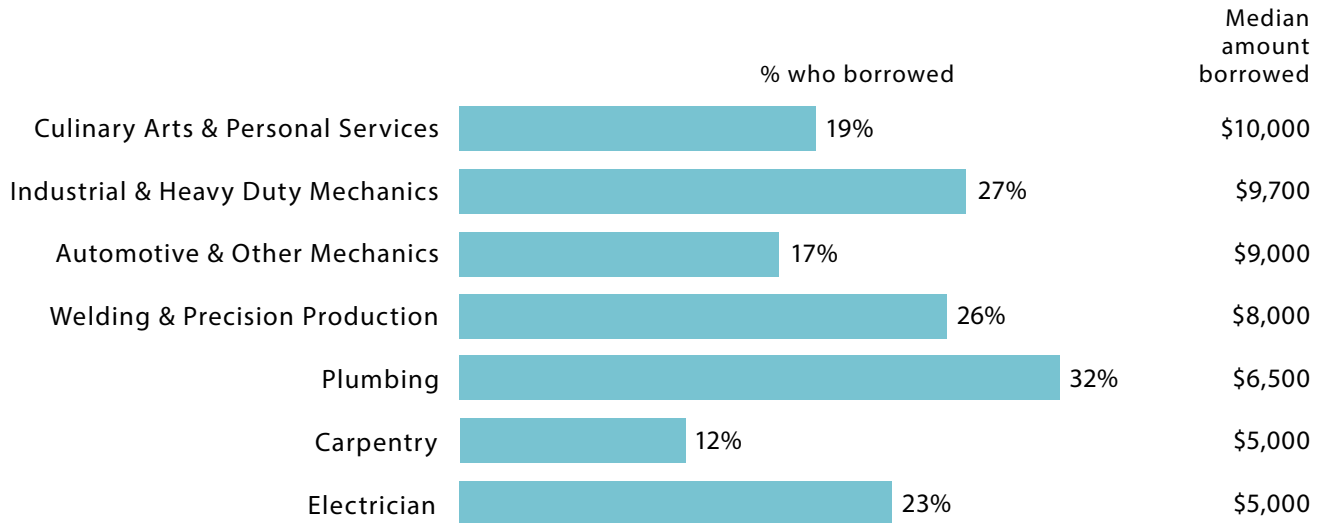
Note: Questions about finances were asked of a 50% random sample of respondents.

BORROWED TO ATTEND SCHOOL



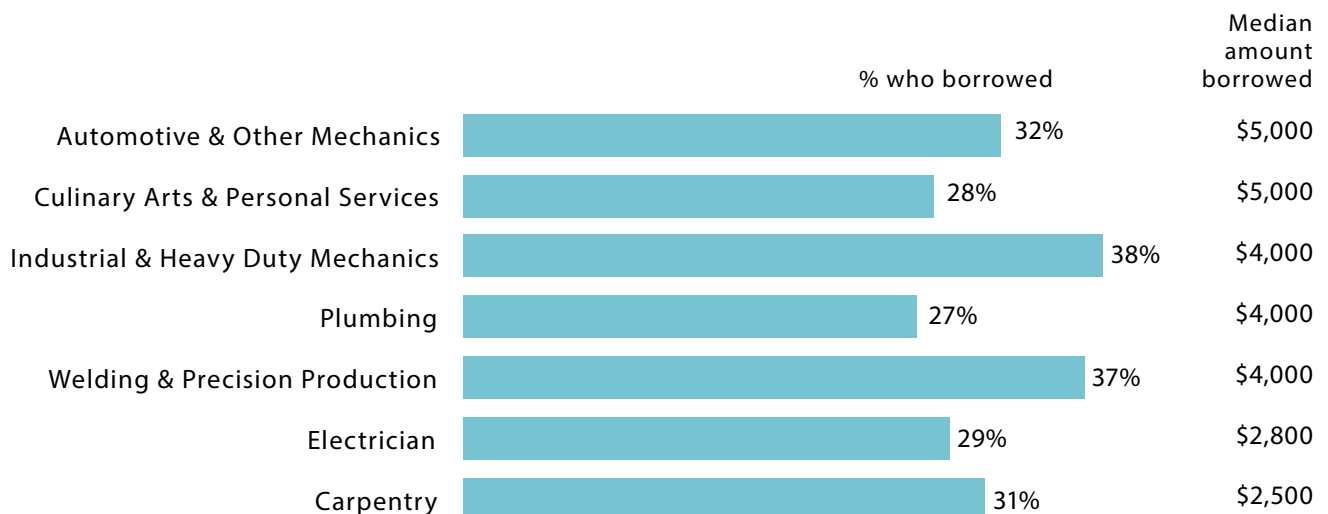
RECEIVED GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS

Former Trades Foundation students from **Culinary Arts & Personal Services** programs **borrowed the most government student loans**, on average.
Former **Plumbing** students were most likely to **have government student loans**.



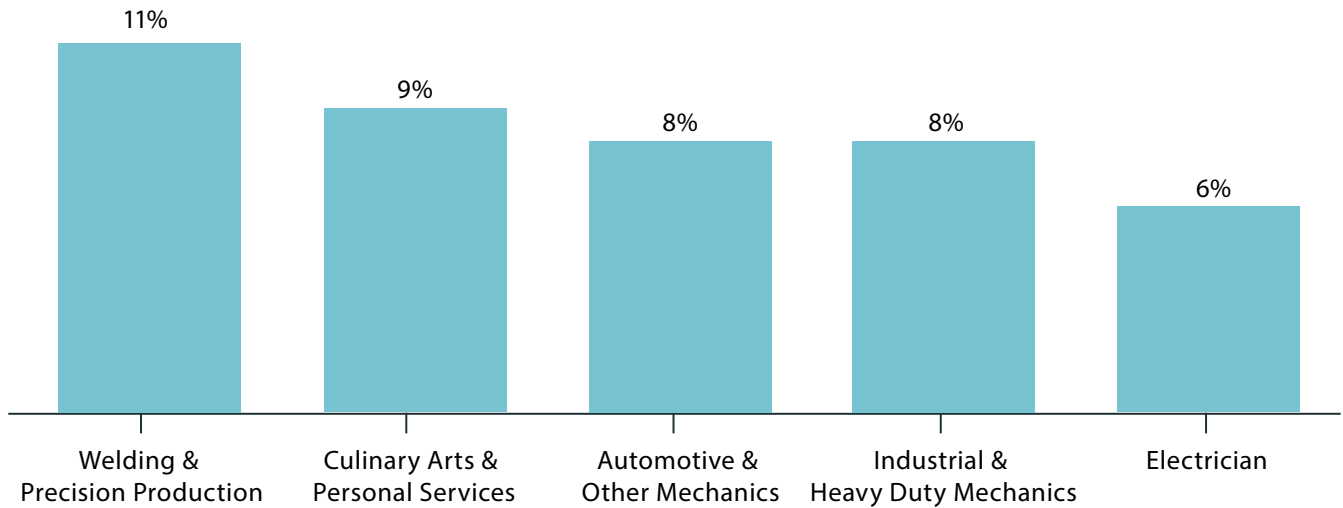
BORROWED FROM OTHER SOURCES

Former Trades Foundation students from **Welding & Precision Production** and **Industrial & Heavy Duty Mechanics** programs were **most likely to borrow from other sources**.



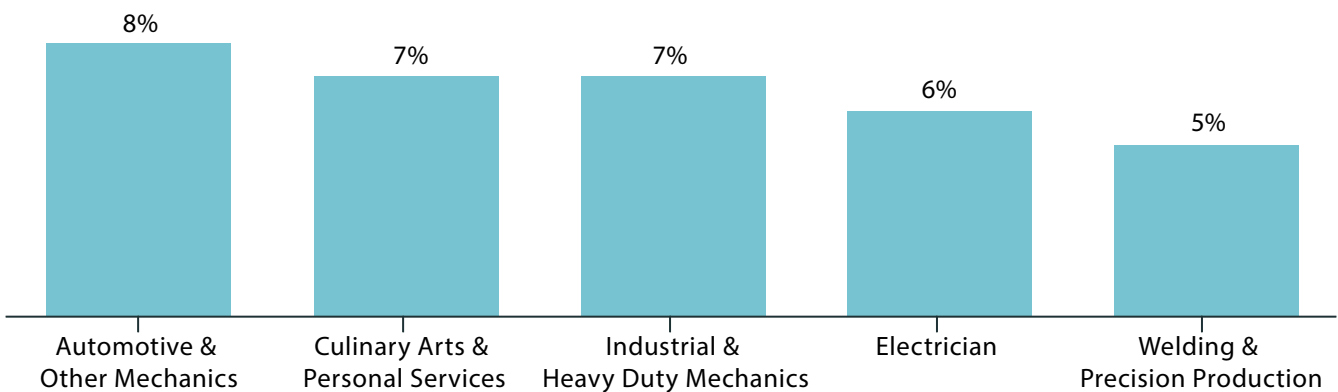
EDUCATION INTERRUPTED DUE TO FINANCES

8% of all former Trades Foundation respondents **interrupted their studies** for financial reasons



STUDIED PART-TIME DUE TO FINANCES

6% had to take part, or all, of their program on a **part-time basis** for financial reasons

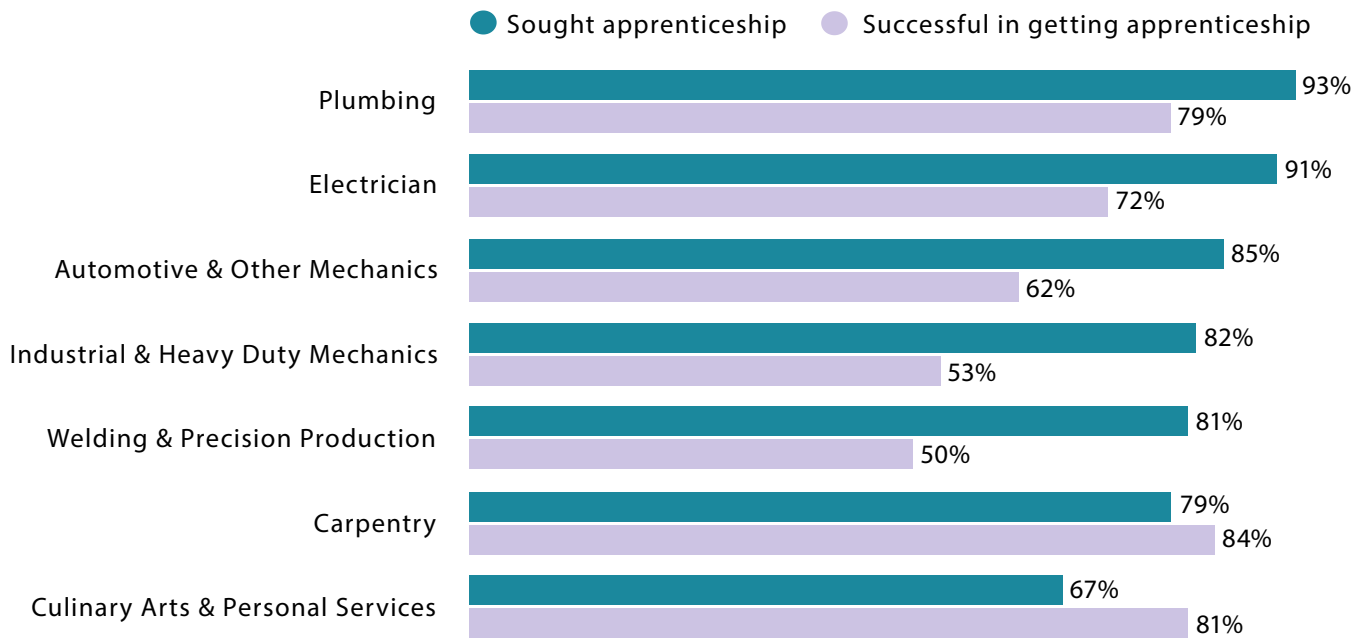


Note: Programs with low numbers have been excluded to preserve confidentiality of respondents. Finance questions were asked of a 50% random sample of respondents.

Did they pursue an apprenticeship?

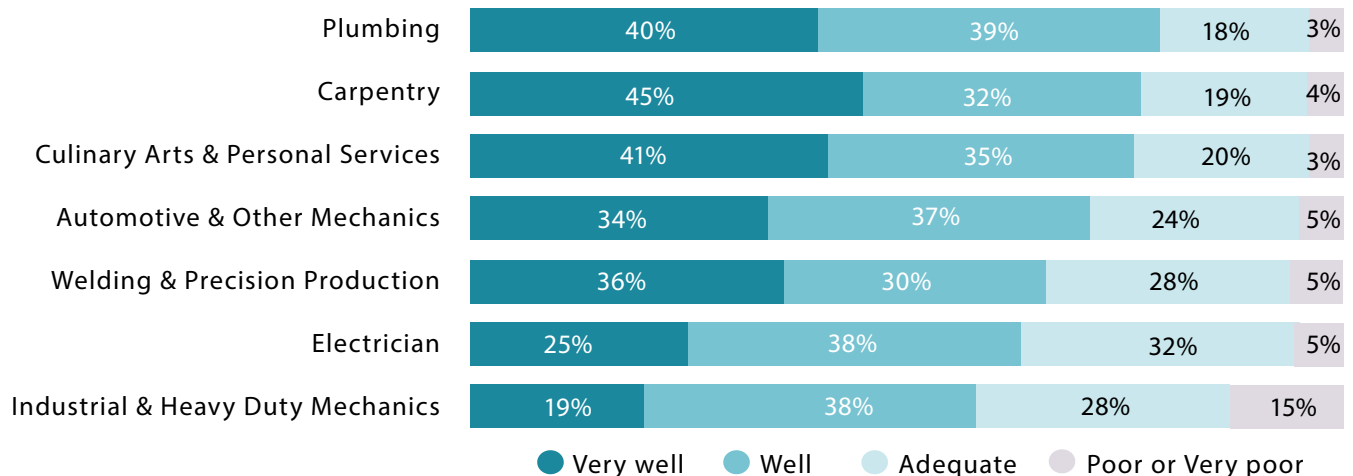
82% of former Trades Foundation respondents **sought an apprenticeship** after leaving their program

↳ **65%** of those who sought an apprenticeship **were hired as an apprentice**



PREPARED FOR APPRENTICESHIP

69% of those who were hired as an apprentice said their **program prepared** them *very well* or *well*

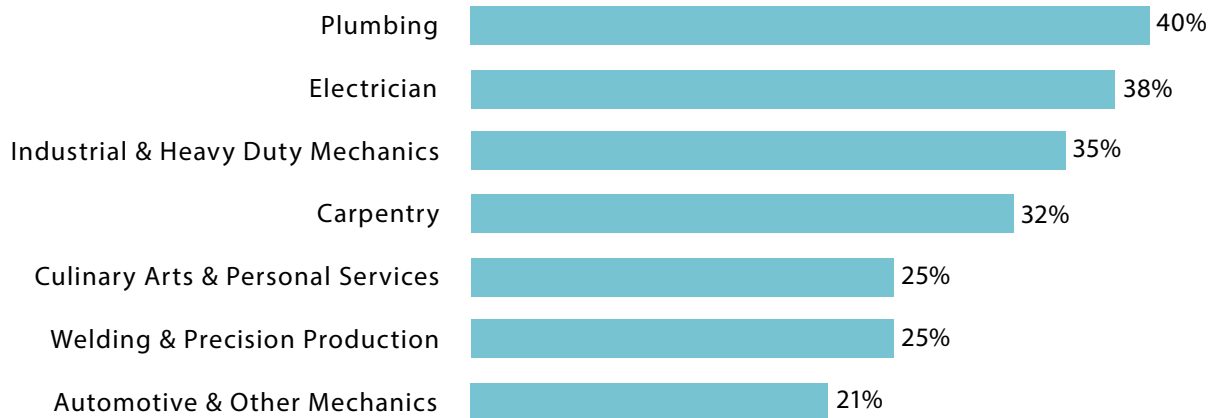


Did they pursue further education?

TOOK FURTHER STUDIES



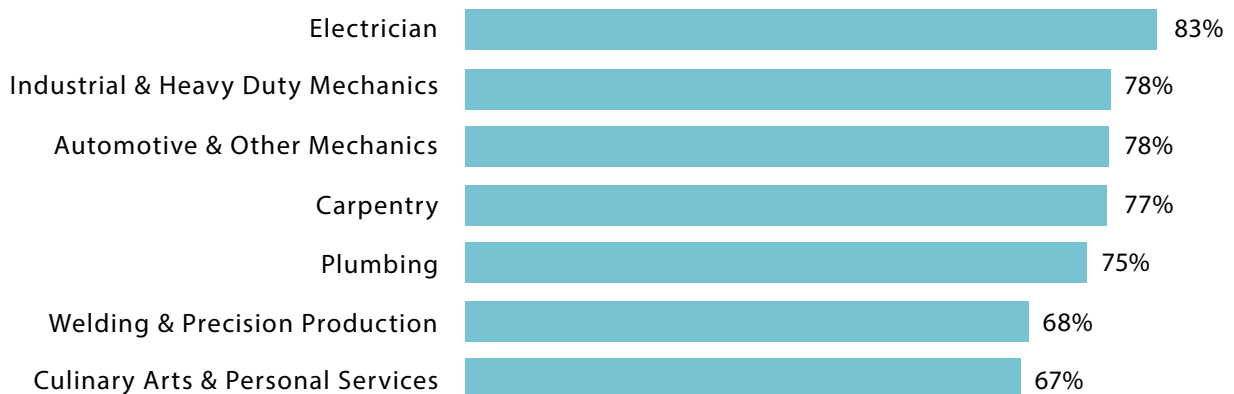
30% of former students had **taken further studies** after leaving their trades foundation program



STUDYING AT TIME OF THE SURVEY



76% of those who had taken further studies **were studying at the time of the survey**



What are their employment outcomes?



92%
are **in the labour force**
(working or looking for work)



70%
of employed respondents
have a **training-related job**



11.7%
are **unemployed**



13%
of employed respondents
have **more than one job**



37%
had a **job within one month**
of completing their program



68%
had a **job within two months**
of completing their program

OF EMPLOYED RESPONDENTS...

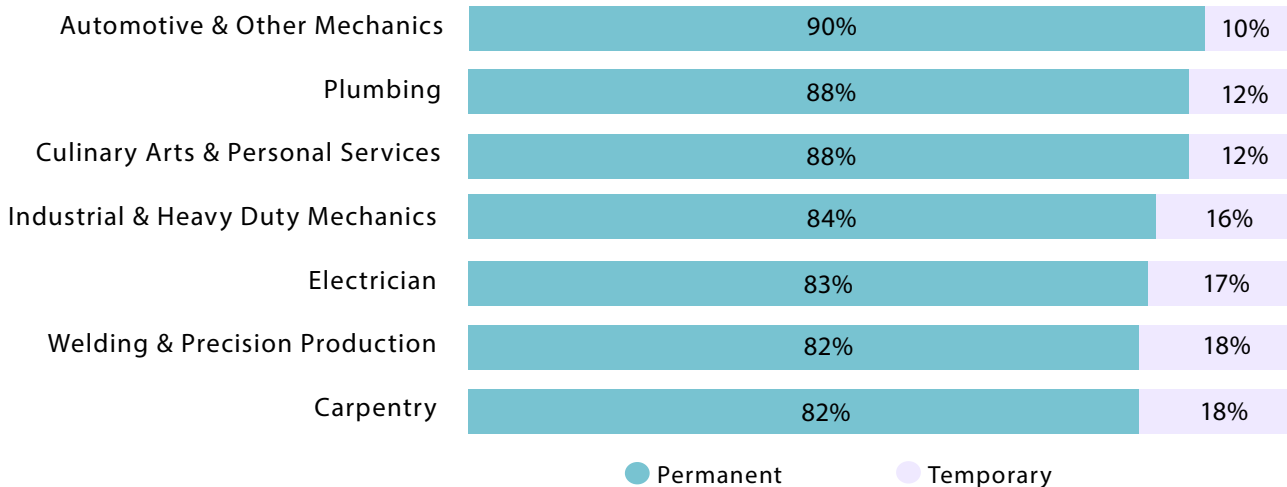
85%
have a
permanent position

4%
are
self-employed

22%
have the **same job** as when
attending their program

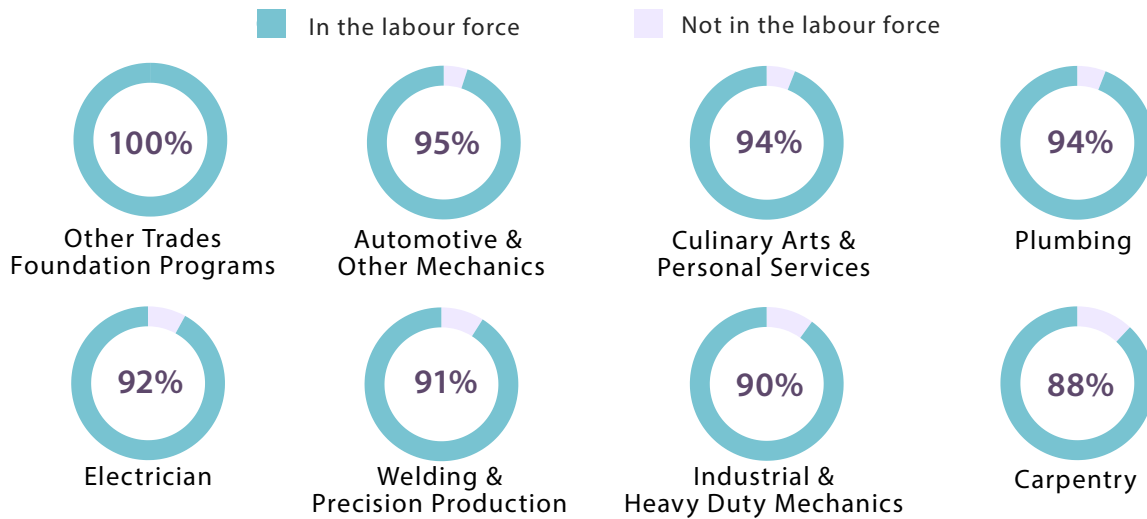
\$17
is their
median hourly wage
at their main job

WHO HAD PERMANENT WORK?



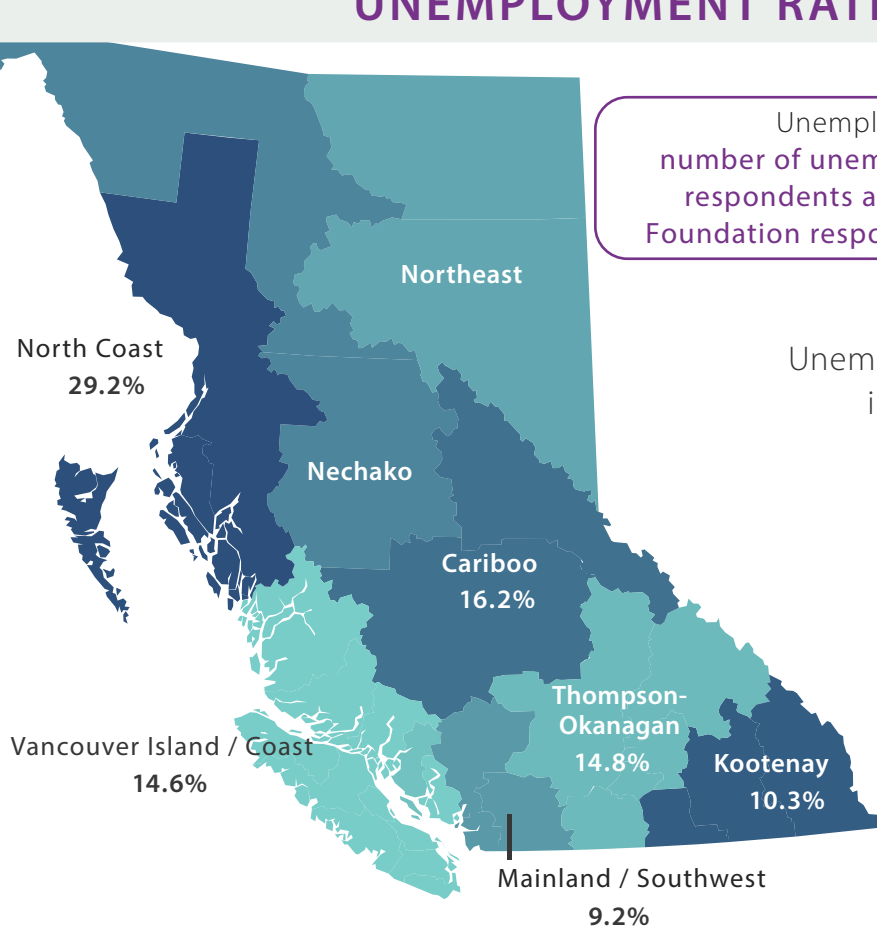
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Across all program areas, a large majority of Trades Foundation respondents were in the labour force—**that is, they were either employed or looking for work.**



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

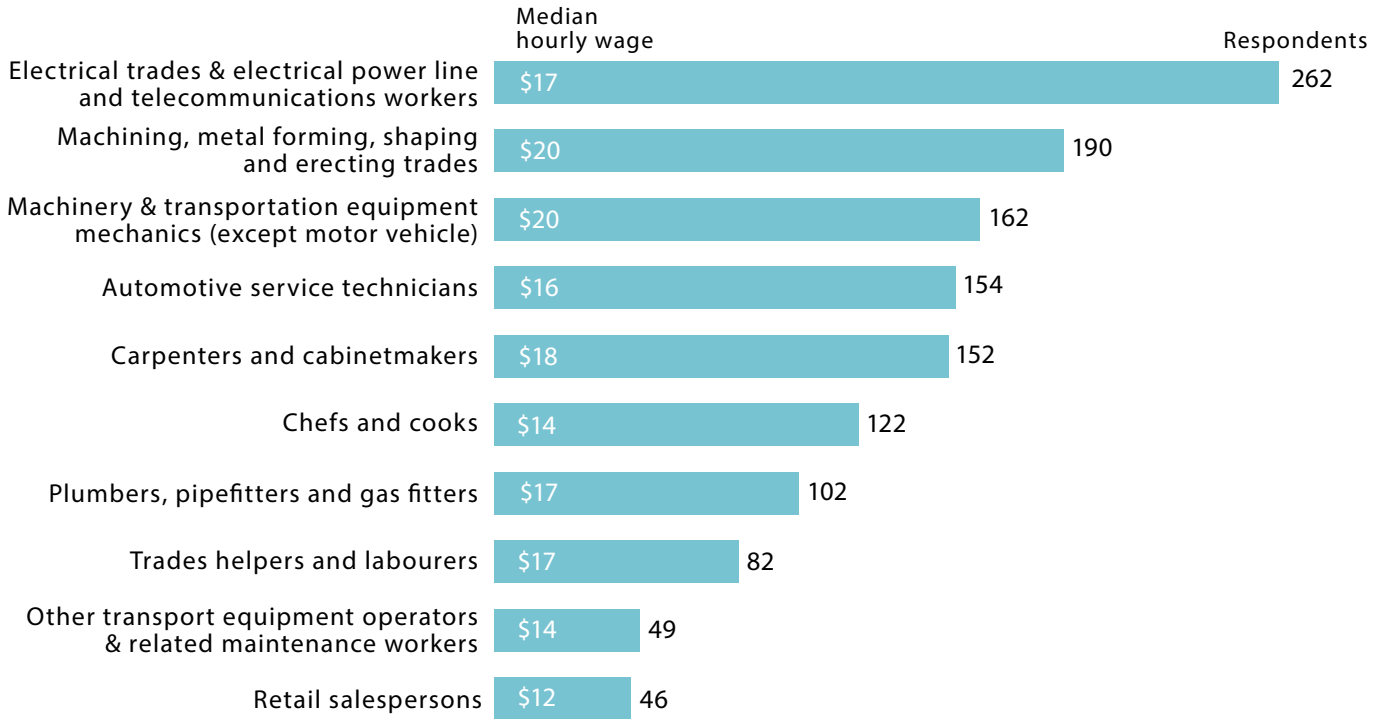
Unemployment rate is the number of unemployed trades foundation respondents as a percentage of Trades Foundation respondents in the labour force.



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

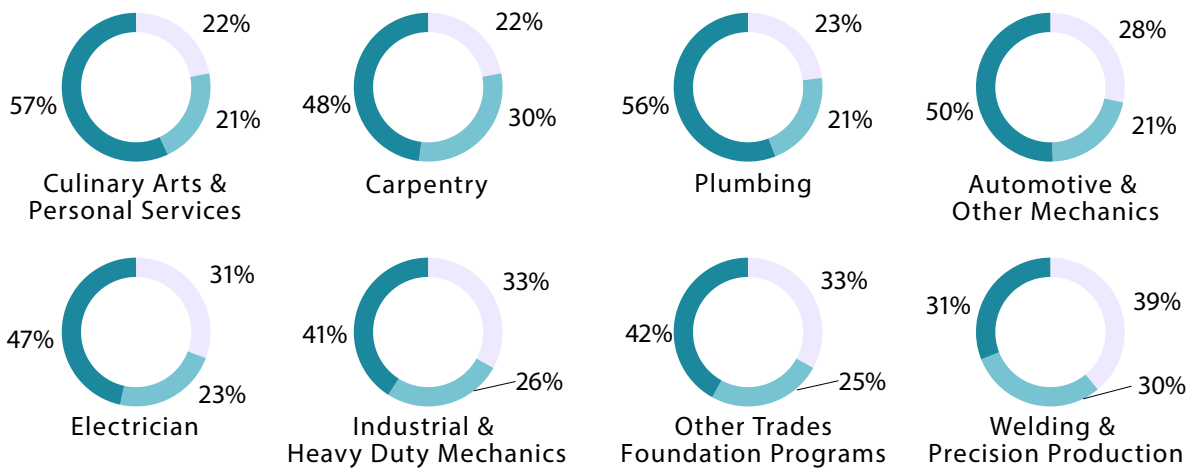
Note:
Percentages for the Northeast and Nechako regions are based on low numbers and have not been reported to preserve confidentiality. See the 2017 Trades Foundation Infographic Report Methodology section for additional information about region and unemployment rate.

TOP OCCUPATIONS



TRAINING-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

More than **75%** of former Trades Foundation students from **Culinary Arts & Personal Services**, **Carpentry**, and **Plumbing** programs had a **training-related job**

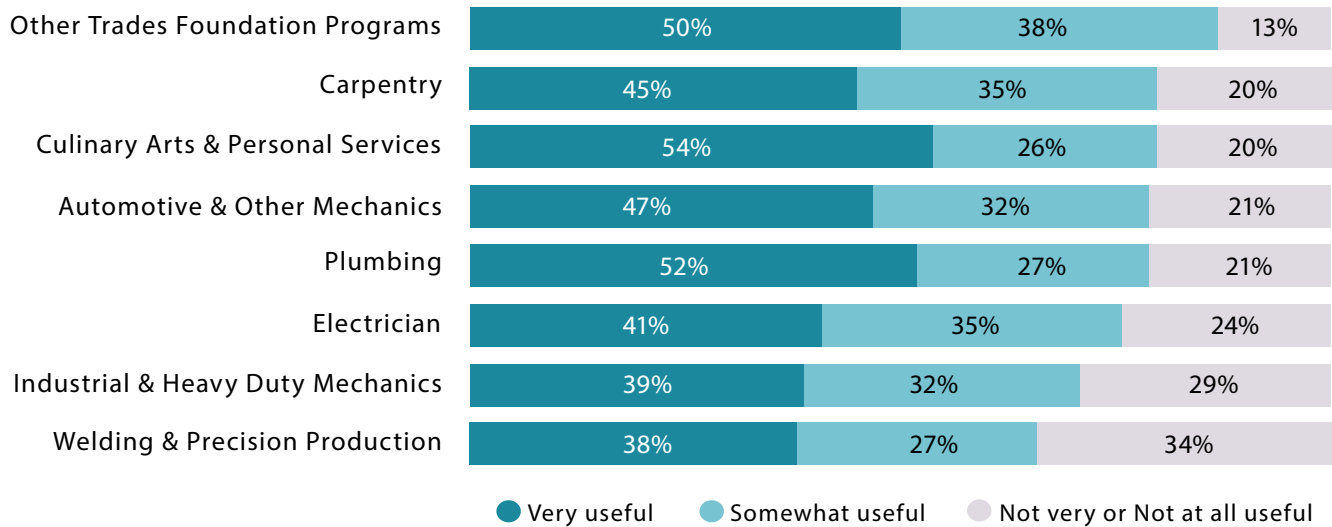


MAIN JOB IS: ● Very related to training ● Somewhat related to training ● Not very or Not at all related to training

EDUCATION USEFUL IN GETTING JOB

75%

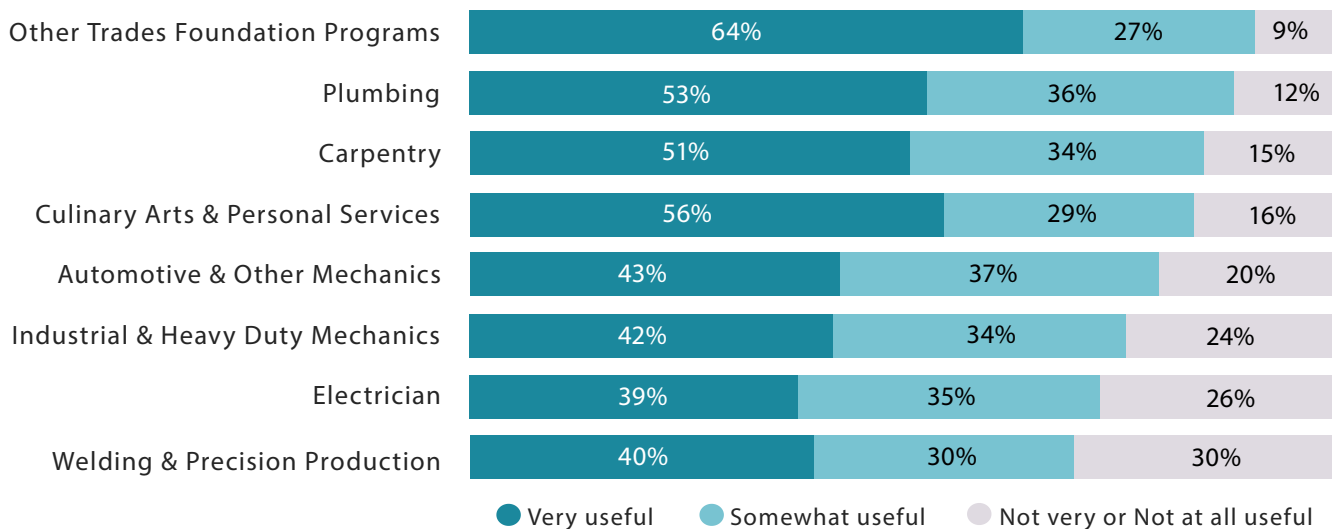
of employed former Trades Foundation students said their **education** was *very or somewhat useful* in getting their **main job**



KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED USEFUL IN PERFORMING JOB

78%

of all employed respondents said the **knowledge and skills gained** in their in-school training was *very or somewhat useful* in **performing their job**



About BC Student Outcomes

The annual Survey of Former Trades Foundation 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 Trades Foundation Students.