



Blaster-driller

Description of the occupation

- Performs blasting work and all other work requiring the use of explosives
- Fragments or cuts up bedrock
- Demolishes structures
- Breaks up isolated rocks
- Removes tree roots
- Dynamites trenches
- Breaks up ice jams
- May have to use various tools and equipment linked to drilling, including manual, pneumatic, and hydraulic drills

ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

- Individuals who show to the CCQ proof of graduation with a DEP - Forage et dynamitage may register for the 15-hour course Cours de connaissance générale de l'industrie de la construction (CCGIC), in order to obtain an occupation competency certificate.
- The number of places reserved for the CCGIC depends on labour needs established annually by the construction industry.

AND

- To perform the occupation of blaster on a construction site, individuals must hold a shotfirer certificate (issued by the CCQ for the CSST) a general explosives permit (issued by the Sécurité du Québec), and an occupation competency certificate.
- Measures are in place to increase the presence of women on construction sites by 2018. Consult them at mixite.ccq.org.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Like to work outdoors and be able to work outdoors under all climatic conditions
- Acquire knowledge related to application of concepts of geology, mineralogy, mathematics, physics, and chemistry
- Be physically strong
- Be independent, disciplined, responsible, and careful
- Respect the workplace health and safety rules
- Be available to travel to various regions

Average annual salary*

Blaster-driller**	\$42,267
Those working at least 500 hours	\$62,270
Proportion***	64%

* Includes premiums, overtime hours, and compensation for paid statutory holidays and the obligatory annual vacations provided in the collective agreements.

** Average 2015 salary of those having reported at least one hour of work.

*** Proportion of workers in this occupation having accumulated at least 500 hours in 2015. Does not include income that may have been earned for work not falling under the construction collective agreements.

Integration into the labour market

	Annual average 2012-2015	2016
New admissions to the CCQ		
Blaster	8	7
Driller	15	11
Placement rate of graduates*	15.9%	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
Blaster	\$36.18	\$36.18	\$29.86
Blaster class 2	\$30.75	\$30.75	—
Driller	\$36.18	\$36.18	\$30.84
Driller class 2	\$30.75	\$30.75	—

*Wage in May 2016.

Volume of work per sector



Job prospects



- The number of blaster-drillers active in the construction industry dropped to 517 in 2016.
- In 2016, 125 construction companies hired blaster-drillers, most operating in the civil engineering and roadwork sector. Blaster-drillers are some of the most mobile workers in construction, and about half work outside their home region.
- These workers' average annual income is \$42,300, but 64% of blaster-drillers work more than 500 hours a year and this group earns an average income of \$62,300 a year.
- A total of 18 new employees entered the industry in 2016, less than the average for the past four years.
- Job prospects for blaster-drillers are rather limited. Employment is dropping sharply and some of the workers currently available could meet workforce needs in coming years. It must be noted, however, that the workforce is aging and there is high turnover in this occupation.

Training

Study program:

Diploma of vocational studies (DEP) -
Forage et dynamitage (5092)

Duration of training: 900 hours

Academic prerequisite: Category 1*, be over 18 years of age, and meet the requirements for obtaining the general explosives permit issued by the Sûreté du Québec.

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

Training generally offered in the following regions:

- Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Côte-Nord
- Estrie
- Nord-du-Québec



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

Employed workers in 2016

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	18
Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie	37
Côte-Nord	29
Estrie	56
Island of Montréal	11
Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière	99
Mauricie-Bois-Francis	33
Montréal	49
Outaouais	19
Québec	106
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	57
Outside of Québec and Baie-James	3
Total	517

Number of employed women 2

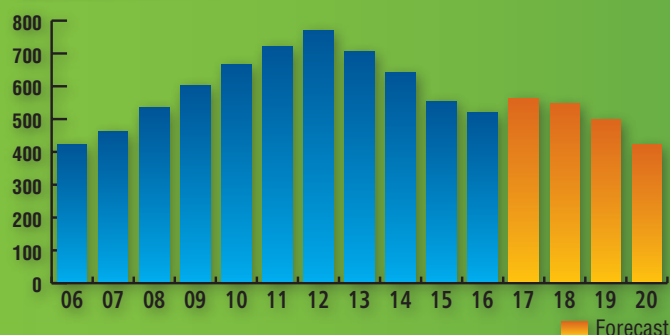
Worker mobility

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

Blaster	46%
Driller	55%
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
Blaster	38	30%	58%	12%	164
Driller	43	16%	62%	22%	353
Total, blaster-drillers	41	20%	61%	19%	517
All trades and occupations	39	26%	58%	16%	153,700