Apprenticeship Program Annual Update 2025-26
Welder

Welder Apprenticeship Education Program (AEP) Overview

Consists of three periods of training at 8 weeks each.

All periods consist of 1560 on-the-job instruction hours.

The AEP was updated in August 2026. This resulted in an updated curriculum standard, and record book.

All periods of classroom instruction training are offered at 11 post secondary institutions (PSIs) and through 2 labour unions.

AIT has received Minister approval to **de-designate** the **Wire Process Operator (WPO)** branch of the Welder trade, effective January 30, 2027. Alberta no longer accepted WPO apprenticeship and trades qualifier applications after April 21, 2026.

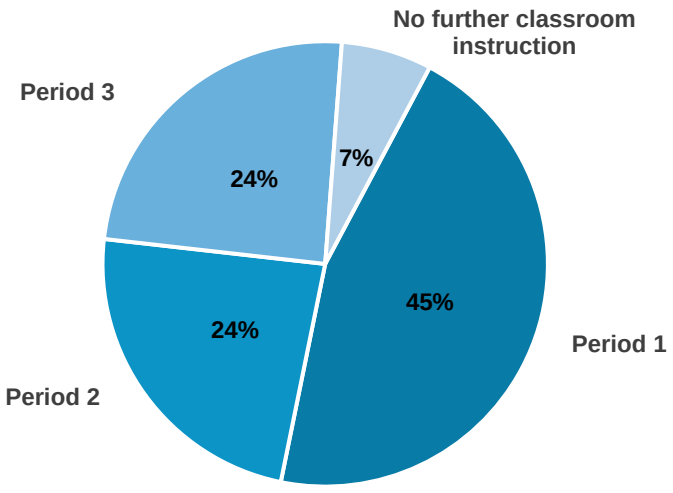
Helpful Tradesecrets Links for Apprentices

- **Welder trade profile:** a detailed overview of the trade, giving a clear picture of what the trade involves, how training works, and what certification requires.
- **Classroom instruction:** provides detailed information on training content, enrollment, attendance expectations, delivery methods, and the policies apprentices must follow.
- **Class Catalogue:** an online tool that lets apprentices look up all available apprenticeship training classes for their specific trade and training year.
- **Apprenticeship Awards and Scholarships:** information on financial support for apprentices and high-school students entering or progressing through the trades.

2025-26 Alberta Welder Statistics

Registered Apprentices by Period (as of November 06, 2026)

Percentage Breakdown



Number of Apprentices Per Period

Period 1	3046
Period 2	1582
Period 3	1637
No Further Classroom Instruction Required	441

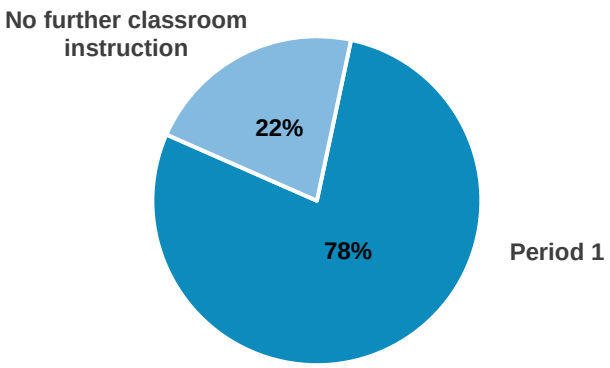
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Apprenticeship Program Annual Update 2025-26
Welder

2025-26 Alberta Wire Process Operator Statistics

Registered Apprentices by Period

Percentage Breakdown



Number of Apprentices Per Period

Period 1	18
No Further Classroom Instruction Required	5

Apprentices by Office

Trade	Bonnyville	Calgary	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hinton	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Peace River	Red Deer	Slave Lake	Vermillion	Inter-provincial Services	Trade Total
Welder	131	1490	2798	229	427	163	384	156	58	569	106	167	28	6706
WPO*	1	7	12	1	1					1				23

* *Alberta no longer accepted WPO apprenticeship applications after April 21, 2026.*

Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Exams Pass Rates

Provincial pass rates and exam averages between August 1, 2025 and November 6, 2026.

Welder

Exam	Pass	Fail	Supplemental	Total
Entrance Exam	159	189	0	348
Period 1 Theory	1600	551	190	2341
Period 2 Theory	1159	124	89	1372
Period 3 Theory	886	43	28	957
Total trade	**3804**	**907**	**307**	**5018**

Classification: Public

Wire Process Operator*

Exam	Pass	Fail	Supplemental	Total
Entrance Exam	2	1	0	3
Period 1 Theory	6	3	1	13
Total trade	**8**	**4**	**1**	**16**

* *Alberta no longer accepted WPO apprenticeship applications after April 21, 2026.*

Interprovincial Red Seal Program

- Welder is a Red Seal trade and is designated in all provinces and territories in Canada. The current Red Seal Occupational Standard was finalized in 2023.

Welder Red Seal Alberta Results

The Red Seal exam results for Alberta between August 1, 2025 and November 6, 2026.

Red Seal Exams	Pass	Fail	Total
Interprovincial (Red Seal) Program	**361**	**333**	**694**
Trade Qualifier Program	**79**	**291**	**370**
Total trade	**440**	**624**	**694**

Red Seal Endorsements*	2022	2023	2024	2025
Apprentices issued Red Seal Endorsements	366	298	300	378
Other Individuals issued Red Seal Endorsements	20	8	38	56
Total trade	**386**	**305**	**338**	**434**

**Note: Red Seal endorsements are also issued to individuals other than those who have completed the Alberta apprenticeship program. The number includes individuals issued a Red Seal endorsement who were certified through Alberta's Trade Qualifier Program or industry training and certification program, and to individuals who successfully completed the interprovincial examination in Alberta rather than in the jurisdiction in which they were originally certified.*

Trade Qualification Program

Wire Process Operator*

The Qualification Program exam results for Wire Process Operator Trade are as follows (August 1, 2025 and November 6, 2026):

Exam	Pass	Fail	Supplemental	Total
Qualification Theory	3	10	0	13
Qualification Practical Assessment	3	3	1	3
Total trade	**6**	**13**	**1**	**16**

**Note: Alberta no longer accepted WPO trade qualifier applications after April 21, 2026.*

Directing the Future of Alberta Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship education and the direction of the skilled trades in Alberta is a partnership between apprentices, employers, industry, training providers and government. The Alberta Board of Skilled Trades and the My Skilled Trades Network are two groups with responsibilities for directing the future.

Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (ABST)

ABST is responsible for advising the Minister of Advanced Education on the direction of Alberta's designated trades certification system. To learn more about ABST and its members, visit ABST.

My Skilled Trades Network (MySTN)

MySTN is the AIT consultation network where experienced tradespeople can volunteer to provide feedback that helps shape apprenticeship education, exams, and training resources. It is hosted on the Tradesecrets website and is open to anyone with experience in an Alberta designated trade. To apply to join the network and learn more, visit MySTN.

We value your feedback!

If you have specific feedback about this trade you want to share with us, please email

TradeIndustryFeedback@gov.ab.ca

and include the trade name in the subject line.

Classification: Public