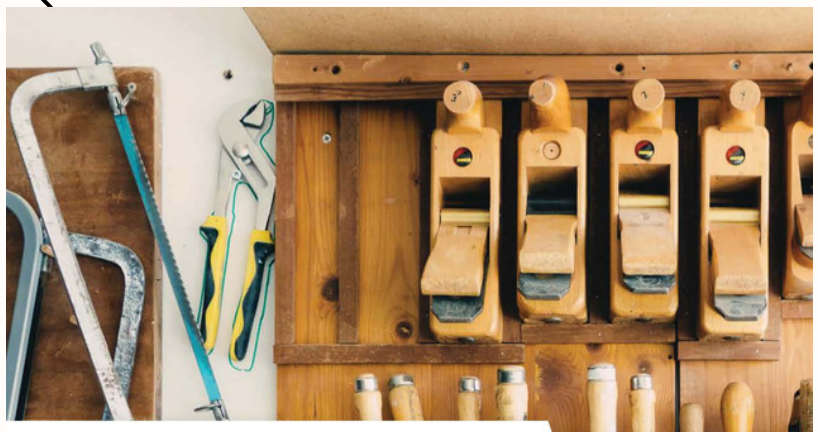


UNDERSTANDING AND ADVANCING THE PRESERVATION TRADES

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



Understanding and Advancing the Preservation Trades

NORTHEAST REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE PRESERVATION TRADES

The Northeast Regional Initiative for the Preservation Trades

The Preservation League of NYS, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and Maine Preservation joined forces with University of NH Cooperative Extension to identify ways to expand education, recruitment, and retention in the preservation trades, while creating a more robust, diverse, and sustainable workforce.



University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

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Thank you to our funders

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preservenys.org/preservation-trades

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The research

Across the Northeast, a growing number of historic properties and older homes are in dire need maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation and can't get it. The number of tradespeople who have specialized knowledge in restoration techniques and an in-depth understanding of how to work with traditional materials is dwindling.

Understanding and Advancing the Preservation Trades provides an overview of the current status of these professions in the Northeast, offering a wealth of insight gathered from a survey, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews with tradespeople, educators, workforce development professionals, and preservation specialists. These perspectives inform a variety of recommended actions suitable for individual practitioners, businesses, nonprofits, training programs, and other stakeholders who aim to strengthen the preservation trades workforce.

Building on the strengths of these careers and fostering a robust future workforce are key concerns of the Northeast Regional Initiative for the Preservation Trades. The group is developing action plans, engaging new business and educational partners, and building awareness and enthusiasm for these creative, highly-rewarding, hands-on career paths.

Key Findings

"This is the coolest job I have ever had."

- 95% of survey respondents agreed that preservation trades can provide an interesting, fulfilling, and profitable career path.
- 96% of respondents were satisfied with their career.
- There are severe workforce shortages in plastering, masonry, carpentry, materials conservation, decorative finishes, windows, and iron work.
- More than 1/3 of respondents reported that their clients must wait a year or more for their services.
- 75% of respondents believe the demand for preservation trades is growing.
- 88% of respondents feel that training programs could play a greater role in recruitment and workforce development.
- 93% of respondents agree that young people lack knowledge about career possibilities in preservation trades.

Interviews with these professionals suggest that they are increasingly able to "name their price" due to high demand.

The full report can be accessed online:
preservenys.org/preservation-trades