

## 2022 Construction Cost Adjustment Factor Review

From condominiums to custom-built residences, Chubb knows our clients have worked hard to make their houses feel like a home. If something unfortunate happens that damages their home and they need to repair, replace, or rebuild, it's our goal to make sure it still feels like their home after the restoration process has been completed. That's why each year, Chubb establishes an annual Construction Cost Adjustment Factor (CCAF), based upon insights from decades of experience and that of other trusted industry sources, to help ensure your clients maintain adequate coverage over the years as construction costs rise.

### How We Establish the CCAF

We frequently evaluate data from trusted industry sources such as:

- RSMeans
- ISO Verisk
- Statistics Canada
- Marshall Swift/Boeckh (MSB)
- Engineering News Record (ENR)

We then combine this data with local Chubb claims loss trends, as well as information provided through interviews with local contractors who specialize in building and restoring high-value homes.

### Trends That Influence the Average

A variety of economic factors have continued to increase the cost of overall reconstruction, labour and residential building materials, including lumber, copper and steel. These are the main factors:

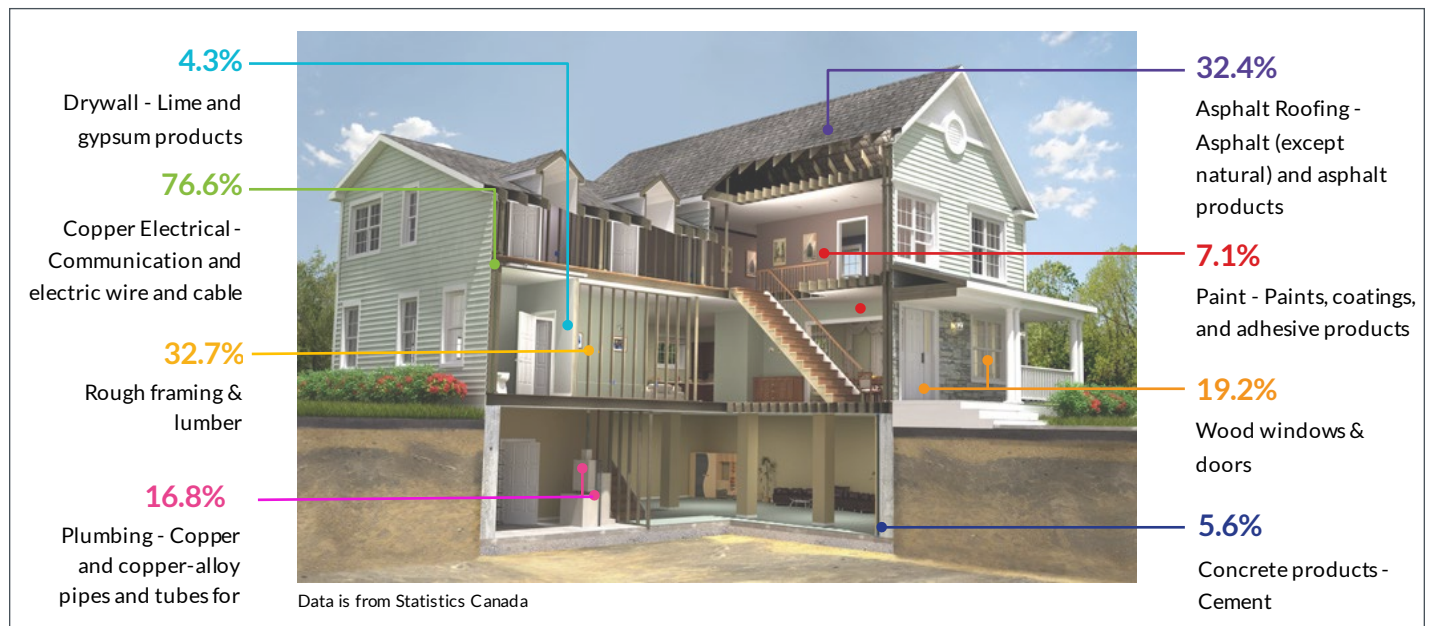
- Shortage of skilled labour: The sector will need to recruit 148,000 workers by 2030 to meet increased labour force demands and replace retiring workers.<sup>1</sup>
- Supply chain challenges: What started with COVID-related factory shutdowns continues with shipping challenges, as construction materials are stuck in ports or rail yards. With demand still up for renovations and new construction, this means higher costs and longer lead times.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast\\_summary\\_reports/2021%20Residential%20Summary\\_0.pdf?language=en](https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast_summary_reports/2021%20Residential%20Summary_0.pdf?language=en)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.ilconline.com/business/coping-with-material-shortages-0>

## Residential Construction Material Costs Increases

The materials used in home construction and renovations represent year-to-date average increases from the prior year, not including labour or installation. Some examples include:



### Other Factors That Influence CCAF Calculations

Our overall CCAF calculations also consider additional cost factors that go beyond basic inflationary changes in labour and material costs as a result of the customizations and expertise that are often required to rebuild high-value homes. These considerations include:

- **Unreported upgrades.** Clients will often make upgrades and improvements to their home that they don't consider "significant" or may forget to tell their broker. Over the years, these improvements add up — often substantially — and can leave the home underinsured.
- **Our clients have the freedom to choose their own contractors.** Clients often choose to use their own contractors, which can remove the competitive bid process and result in higher rebuilding costs. In addition, when appropriate, we also factor in the use of architects, interior designers, reconstruction consultants, and on-site supervisors who specialize in rebuilding high-value homes, which also increases the labour costs.
- **We want your client's home to look just like it did before the loss.** Our homeowner policies look to match the quality and appearance of damaged materials or finishes with those of adjoining, undamaged areas. For example, if a brick wall or fireplace is damaged, we'll attempt to make the replacement brick look like the old brick, rather than simply installing new brick that might be brighter in color or obviously different.

- **Most high-value homes include high-end finishes and upgraded features.** These may include custom woodwork and cabinetry, smart home technology, and complex audio/visual systems. These factors are not fully represented in "standard" material costs.
- **Rebuilding a single home is more expensive.** Costs can increase for builders when they are rebuilding a single home instead of multiple new homes because it reduces their economy of scale on labour and materials.
- **We'll rebuild to new codes.** Unlike many standard policies, our policies ensure homes are rebuilt to comply with current and continually evolving building codes, including more efficient energy and more stringent fire codes.
- **Environmental remediation.** Expectations for additional environmental remediation, including use of hygienists and specialized abatement contractors, are extending the length and cost of home repairs.

We consider all these factors when we develop our Construction Cost Adjustment Factors to help ensure our clients have adequate coverage for their home and to support our ability to deliver an unparalleled claims experience that focuses on making our clients whole again quickly and fairly.

Based on the aforementioned factors, Chubb's average CCAF for Canada is 5% and is based on our experience and the multiple sources cited above. However, the actual percentage is subject to change given the fluidity of market costs in the current environment.

Chubb. Insured.<sup>SM</sup>