



Canadian economy - expanding **job opportunities**

- Canada is a fast growing economy.
- The Canadian job market is similar to that in other developed countries. The majority of jobs are in the service sector, with the remainder in manufacturing and natural resources. Unemployment is 6.8%. The labor force numbers 17m.
- The majority of Canada's economic growth is concentrated in the four major cities: Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Montreal. Unemployment is highest in the Atlantic Provinces, such as Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island.
- 22000 additional jobs were created in December 2010 alone.
- A noteworthy amount of improvement has been witnessed in various sectors like transportation, manufacturing, warehousing and natural resource sectors.
- Canada's position as a net exporter of base commodities got strengthened with the increased world demand for raw materials.
- After reaching its lowest level in January 2002, the Canadian dollar has appreciated 46% over the last five years.
- About 318,000 employers in Canada (17 per cent) have at least one environmental professional on staff, which in total amounts to 682,000 environmental jobs throughout Canada. Top occupational areas for environmental jobs include environmental health and safety, waste management, site assessment and reclamation, communications and public awareness.
- For a well-paid professional position, high English language ability is essential. In Quebec, companies will require excellent knowledge of the French language. English-French bilinguals are in demand; many companies have to do business with both English and French-speaking Canada.
- Depending on the job, qualifications are weighted differently. While the universal requirement for almost any position is some prior relevant experience, many well-paid jobs require that you possess a university/college degree and some other skills and abilities (i.e. computer, communication, etc.). Voluntary work and participation in sports are also some of the favorable characteristics that employers seek because in this time of teams and collective work, team participation capability is an essential factor.
- Major industries: trade, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, professional, scientific and technical services, education, health and social care, accommodation and food services.
- Recent growth areas: service industries and information technology.
- Industries in decline: primary sector, manufacturing and utilities.
- Shortage occupations: health sector (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists and technicians, nurse aides), management occupations, trade (especially home builders and renovators), occupations related to the oil and gas sector, IT, occupations in social science and government service (including university teachers).
- Average graduate starting salary: the average starting salary for graduates with an Honors degree is \$48,885, ranging from \$43,000 for health services to \$60,000 for investment banking.
- Average College diploma holder starting salary: the average starting salary for college diploma-holders is around \$41,000. It may be much higher for some specific professions.